



FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER

High School Highlights
Page 7



SURVIVING THE DUSTBOWL

Film Review
Page 16

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 6 - NO. 18

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 7, 2008

Erving Seeks Cable Access

NICHOLE CLAYTON - The town of Erving is seeking equal cable access opportunity for its citizens, and is looking to Comcast Cable Company to help unify the three separate villages of town - Farley, Erving Center and Erving - into one cohesive town.

The Erving cable committee held a public hearing at the Erving Elementary School on Monday, February 4th, to allow community members to air their opinions on the future of cable services for Erving as the contract between the town and Comcast comes up for renewal next year. Expanding cable access to the village of Farley - and perhaps other parts of town - from Erving, the only village where cable television is now available, is one of the main focuses of the present negotiations.

George Bohrer, chair of the town's cable committee, took the floor with

an opening statement on Monday, calling on citizens to be aware, "We have an opportunity now to accomplish some things. If we do not do it now, it will be ten years before we can approach cable access again, as we are negotiating a ten year contract with Comcast at this time."

About fifteen residents attended the hearing, and Bohrer asked them to talk about their hopes and concerns for the town's cable access, and he introduced Steve FitzGibbons, director of governmental affairs for Comcast, who was there to hear residents' opinions.

In addition to extending access to Farley and other parts of town, the other main concern being raised in this negotiation is the possibility of Comcast providing funds (derived from a surcharge on cable subscribers' monthly bills) to equip and pay for a local cable

see **ERVING** pg 10



DETMOLD PHOTO

BY ALEX

GOTTSCHALK

TURNERS FALLS - The redoubtable Shea Theater, an institution in Turners Falls since its creation in 1927, ushered in the New Year with high hopes and a new director. But after a month on the job, Steve Stoia has resigned as executive director of the Shea.

The highly qualified Stoia, who became executive director on January 1st, 2008 replaced Debra J'Anthony, who had served as the theater's executive director for the past sixteen years. He came highly recommended after a thirteen-year stint producing community theater as the arts director for leisure services for

the town of Amherst, where his productions broke attendance records year after year. Before that, Stoia, who lives in Northfield where he manages a bed and breakfast with his wife Joan, had a long career as a producer of independent theater at venues large and small throughout the four counties of Western

Massachusetts with the non-profit company he founded, the New England Puppetry and Family Theater.

Reached by phone this week, following a meeting of the Shea board on Monday, January 28th, Stoia said, "This past Monday, I said I was going to resign. The board

see **SHEA** pg 10

Strathmore Roof Under Repair

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS - Against the vast backdrop of the Strathmore Mill, they look like brave mountaineers, rappelling on the slopes. But, come wind, come rain, come sleet or snow (and in the last two weeks, plenty of weather has blown their way) the men from Renaissance Builders are hard at work on the roof of Strathmore Building #1.

Last year, it was a warm spring morning when someone apparently slipped into the adjacent 19,000-square-foot three story Building #10, packed with tinder in the

form of rolls and bales of recycled paper, and set the place on fire. In the early hours of May 26th, the resulting conflagration reduced that structure to a pile of smoking rubble, and set the roofs of Building #11 (parallel to the canal; abutting Southworth Paper) and the pitched roof of Building #1 (closer to the river) on fire.

The remnants of Building #10 remain in a jumbled pile beneath four-story Building #1, the oldest of the Strathmore Mill buildings, originally constructed in 1871. The heap of

see **ROOF** pg 9

Town Energy Committee Proposed

BY ALEX

GOTTSCHALK

Plans are afoot for Gill to establish an energy committee for locals who may have questions about the best way to reduce their energy consumption, thereby saving money and helping the environment.

The idea for the committee was put forward by two Gill residents, Claire Chang and John Ward, who made the proposal to the selectboard at their Monday evening meeting on February 4th. Ward said the town energy committee would be a "go to" place for anyone interested in issues



LITCHFIELD PHOTO

Claire Chang and John Ward of Gill proposed forming a town energy committee at the Monday night Gill Selectboard meeting. They are shown here in front of their Riverside home's solar panels.

around energy consumption in town.

Inside town hall, the idea was met with approval by the selectboard. "We see costs going up and up and up. Something like this is important," said board member Ann Banash. Banash recommended the two see how other towns in the area are dealing with ever increasing energy costs. "See what other towns are doing, because we do have the vehicles to get the word out on things," said Banash, referring to Gill's bi-

see **ENERGY** pg 11

PET OF THE WEEK

Hard Knock Life



Flopsy

My name is Flopsy, and I'm a 1-1/2-year-old, neutered, male black and white longhair cat in need of a good home. I have had a hard life, but I am a big softie. You can see from my special little ear that life has not been easy, but all I want to do is be pet and curl up in your arms. I have some cute little kitty habits, like purring, and kneading blankets with my big furry paws. I need shelter, love, and kindness. Life on the streets is not for me! For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email leverett@dpvhs.org.

THE SHADY GLEN



BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

Lunch Specials from 11:00 a.m.
 Mon: American Chop Suey
 Tues: Chicken Fricassie
 Wed: Chicken Souvlaki, rice
 Thurs: Corn Beef & Cabbage
 Fri: Fried Scallops
 Sat: Yankee Pot Roast

Open Sundays 7-2
863-9636

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
 58 4th Street
 Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

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

Local Subscription Rates:
 \$20 for 6 months

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Omnivore's Dilemma Book Discussion

BY LINDA HICKMAN

A Book Discussion of *the Omnivore's Dilemma* will be held on Tuesday, February 26th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. Join Librarian Linda Hickman for a group discussion of Michael Pollen's fascinating book about our food and where it comes from. A limited number of copies are available for borrowing at the Carnegie Library. This program is cosponsored by Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center. For more information, call 863-3214.

Preschool Story Hour

Preschool Story Hour at the Carnegie Library is held on Wednesday Mornings at 10:15 A.M. Young children and their families are invited to come and enjoy stories, crafts, music, activities and snacks with artist Ruth O'Mara. On Wednesday, February 6th the theme will be

'Owls'.

February 13th, we will be reading stories about love and valentines. On February 20th, there will be stories and crafts about Color. February 27th, we will be reading *Mice Tales*. The weekly free series is designed for ages 3 to 5 and their parents, grandparents, and other caregivers. Siblings of any age are welcome. For more information, please call 863-3214.

Valentines Party

There will be a Valentine's Party at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, February 9th, starting at 10:30 a.m. Children of all ages and their families will make fun valentine-inspired crafts, cards, and heart themed projects with Ruth O'Mara and Linda Hickman. This is a free program and the craft materials will be provided. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the Carnegie Library, 201 Ave. A, Turners Falls, 863-3214.

ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

An Evening of History

"Spirits of '76: Taverns, Tipplin & Gentlemen Topers"

Program by Kim & Carol Gregory at Erving Public Library Friday, February 8th, at 6:30 p.m. Space is limited, pre-register by calling the library at 423-3348.

The Erving Public Library will host Erving residents, Kim and Carol Gregory, for this evening of history, education and fun. In costume, as the innkeeper and serving wench, the Gregorys will bring the history of tavern culture to life. They will talk about taverns, inns, food and drink of the 1700s, and will serve samples of drinks popular at the time.

A scholar of Early American history, Mr. Gregory re-enacts the role of Town Crier for Historic Deerfield.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Erving Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Erving Public library is located on Route 63 just south of Route 2. Library hours are Mondays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m., Tuesdays 3 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays 1 to 4 p.m., and Thursdays 5 to 8 p.m. For more information or to register for the program, call the Library at 413-423-3348.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- February 11th - 15th

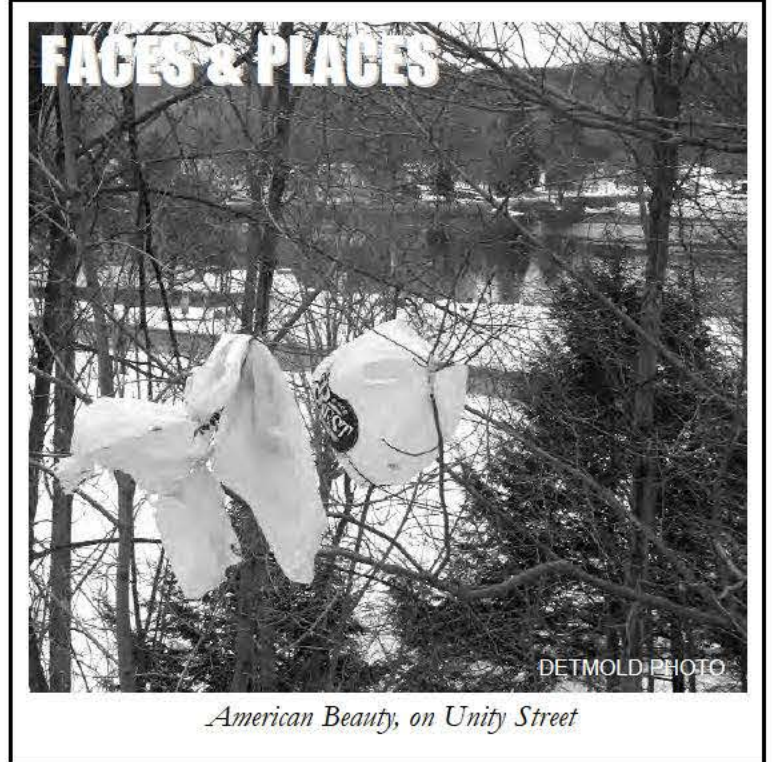
GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Council-on-Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided.

Monday, 11th
 Closed for President's Day
Tuesday, 12th
 9-2:30 p.m. AARP tax prep
Wednesday, 13th
 10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
 12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 14th
 1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 15th

10 a.m. Senior Aerobics
 11 a.m. Easy 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 413-422-2584.

Monday, 11th
 9:30 a.m. Exercise
 9:45 a.m. Library
 12 Noon Pitch
Tuesday, 12th
 9 a.m. Aerobics
 12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, 13th
 9:00 a.m. Line Dancing
 10 a.m. Weight Loss Group
 12 Noon Bingo



American Beauty, on Unity Street

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Surviving the Dust Bowl

WENDELL - The one-hour documentary, *Surviving the Dust Bowl* (see review page 16) will be shown at the Wendell Free Library on Wednesday, Feb. 13th at 7 p.m. and also at the New Salem Public Library on Friday, Feb. 15th, also at 7 p.m. The film features interviews with witnesses and remarkable archival film footage and photographs as it tells the heart-wrenching story of the determined people who clung to their homes and way of life for nearly a decade enduring a series of almost Biblical scourges, from drought and famine to a plague of jackrabbits and death. This film is featured as supplement to the book, *The Worst Hard Time*, about the dust bowl that residents in seven area towns are currently reading. The film is free and open to all. A brief informal discussion follows.

Thursday, 14th
 9 a.m. Aerobics
 10:15 a.m. Pool

WENDELL Senior Center, located in the town offices on Wendell Depot Rd. Call Kathy Swaim at 978 544-2020 for info, schedule of events or to coordinate transportation.

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

NANCY L. DOLE
 BOOKS & EPHEMERA

 Buying and selling used books
 32 BRIDGE STREET, 2ND FLOOR
 SHELBOURNE FALLS, MA
413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

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

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

Sicard and Dalrymple Join Sokolosky Realty

BY KATHY LITCHFIELD
TURNERS FALLS - Jean Donovan was crossing the bridge into town recently and found herself appreciating the 19th century brick buildings, lanterned main street and the river that wraps itself through and around this historic area.

She has lived here all her life, selling real estate since 1973, carrying on the business her father - Chester Sokolosky - founded in the 1950s, and moving into the agency's present headquarters on 4th Street in the early 1980s when its former tenant,

Rist Insurance, moved around the corner to Avenue A.

Continuing its 50-year, well-established history in Turners, Donovan said Sokolosky Realty is also embracing the future with the addition of two new real estate agents - Terry Sicard and Craig Dalrymple, both of Gill - who bring diverse backgrounds in sales, interior design and retail shop ownership to the agency.

Sicard, co-owner of the beauty salon on 5th Street, A Turning Point, was born and raised in Turners Falls and

has owned several area businesses through the years including co-owning the Red Apple Christmas Shop on Route 2 in Gill. He earned his real estate license in September and said, "I have always been passionate about real estate. I've owned four homes in my life, and I just enjoy it."

"I've used Terry as an informal consultant over the years," said Donovan. "He has a real interest in homes and so, after awhile, I said you have such a vast knowledge of homes and people, you should be selling real estate. And when we talked about it, I thought, Craig knows the building aspects of a home . . . I thought he would also be a real asset for us. They both work on 5th Street, and we are all local people, and dear friends."

A native of Halifax, VT, Dalrymple moved to Massachusetts in 1987, working in Colrain and Charlemont before co-owning the Red Apple Christmas Shop in Gill with Sicard, among other retail businesses. He works at A Turning Point with Sicard, and also became a licensed real estate agent in September.

"Just seeing people get where they want to be and be happy with their home (is

most rewarding)," said Dalrymple, who enjoys using his interior design background to increase the attractiveness of homes to potential buyers.

Sicard added, "When I go and meet with other realtors, they say, 'you're with the best, Jean Donovan.' I think that's a great compliment."

Sicard and Dalrymple join Donovan's daughter-in-law Megan Donovan and Barbara Bodenstein of Turners Falls at Sokolosky Realty.

Bodenstein is a Boston native who has lived in Turners for 35 years and raised four children here. She served on the school committee for 12 years and worked at Sokolosky 20 years ago, rejoining four years ago part-time after her children were grown.

Megan Donovan, a native of North Carolina, became licensed and joined the agency four years ago when she and her husband moved to Turners. She graduated from North Carolina State University and brings five years of advertising and sales experience to the agency.

For Jean Donovan, it's rewarding to continue the legacy of Sokolosky begun by her father all those years ago. "It's a connection to him and to his love of real estate.

Turners is a wonderful place... I love the buildings and the streetscape and the brick sidewalks and the buildings becoming re-awnings," she said.

*To All Family,
 Friends and
 Community Members
 who
 made the
 celebration of Anna
 Garbiel's life a day
 she would have been
 amazed by, we thank
 you with all of our
 hearts.
 - Anna's Family*



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Montague Briefs

Montague Business Association Meeting

You are invited! Don't get caught standing out in the cold, or... on the outside looking in.

Come and join us at 7:30 a.m. on **Friday, February 15th**, at the Great Falls Discovery Center, the gateway to beautiful, downtown Turners Falls!

Come find out what the steering committee for the Montague Business Association has been doing for the past two months.

There will be a light breakfast fare available, plenty of

networking, lots of fun, a chance to win prizes, plus a progress report on the MBA to date. Bring your business cards to exchange.

With the holidays behind us, let's all regroup and re-energize together. Feel free to invite a friend or two. Pass the word.

This is *the* place to be on the 15th. We promise to have you out in plenty of time to make Friday a productive day.

- Linda Ackerman
 Montague

Turners Falls Fire District Nomination Papers

Nomination papers for the annual Turners Falls Fire District elections are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the district office, 226 Millers Falls Road.

Open to all district residents, the offices to be decided are prudential committee member, water commissioner, district treasurer, district clerk, and district moderator. These offices are for three-year terms.

Completed nomination papers must be returned to the district office not later than 4:30 p.m. on March 4th. The elections are to be held at the above address on April 22nd.

Polls open at noon and close at 7:00 p.m. All registered voters residing within the district are encouraged to vote. District residents wishing to register to vote may do so at the town clerk's office, 1 Avenue A.

The Montague Reporter Presents

A Love Poem Reading by You at The Voo!

Read us your love poems at The Rendezvous. We're looking for good, bad, bold, beautiful, silly, and sexy love poems. Got any old-filled poems from when you were 16? Your wedding vows? Rejection journals? Goofy haiku and loving sonnets? Bring them!

Get published in the Reporter! Submit your poems by end of day 2/12 in person at the reading. Or to reporter-poems@montaguema.net Or to The Montague Reporter, 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Date: 2/12/2008
Time: 7 PM, free!
Where: At the Rendezvous rendezvousfma.com 78 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA (413) 863-2866

Be our valentine!
 Bring supplies and make funny valentines too for an especially loving craft night at The Voo!

The Montague Reporter: the voice of love in the villages

EDWARDS TREE SERVICE

Storm Damage Prevention & Restoration
 Cabling & Bracing
 Shade Tree Maintenance
 Tree Removal

978-544-7452

The Rendezvous

BAR WITH FOOD

Fri, 2/8 9pm, \$1 DJ's XML & TBA

Sat, 2/9, 9pm, \$3 WOOD GREEN EMPIRE sweet gypsies of jazz

Sun, 2/10, 8pm, free TNT KARAOKE (sing, people, sing!)

NEW VOO FOOD NOW! EXPANDED MENU!

78 THIRD STREET TURNERS FALLS, MA RENDEZVOUSTFMA.COM TEL: 413-863-2866

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

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

THE COUNTRY JEWELER

Come in and see what's on **SALE!**
 Everything Heart Shaped: Locketts, Earrings, Necklaces & More

772-0859
 Corner of Main Mon-Sat.. 9:30-5:30
 & Chapman Streets, Greenfield www.countryjeweler.com

SINCE 1888

A.H. Rist
 INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

159 Avenue A
 Turners Falls, MA 01376

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

Tracey Kuklewicz 863-4373
 Vice President

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**

Greenfield Center School
 K-8TH GRADES

Knowing Children
 since 1981

SOCIAL JUSTICE CURRICULUM

TWO TEACHERS PER CLASSROOM

PROJECT BASED

RIGOROUS ACADEMICS

Now Accepting Applications

Greenfield, MA • 413-773-1700 • www.centerschool.net

BAKER
 Office Supply

• Soy-based Bean Pod Candles
 • Ty Plush
 • Photo Albums & Scrapbooks

All our greeting cards 50% off EVERY DAY!

(413) 774-2345
 310 Main Street, Greenfield
 www.bakerofficesupply.com

The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

Editor

David Deimold

Assistant Editor

Kathleen Litchfield

Editorial Assistants

Hugh Carr
David Brule

Circulation

Suzette Snow Cobb
Don Clegg

Layout & Design

Kathleen Litchfield
Boysen Hodgson
Karan Hoyden
Karen Wilkinson
Suzette Snow Cobb

"The Voice of the Villages"

Photography

Joe Parzych
Shawn Woolsey

Technical Administrators

Michael Muller
Michael Farick

Founded by
Harry Brandt David Deimold
August, 2002

Arthur Evans

The Results Are In What Happened?

After the last two stolen presidential elections, it is inspiring to see Americans turning out in record numbers this year to reclaim the democratic process, upending party hierarchy, pollsters and pundits, and giving the world a lesson in grassroots insurgency in the process. After the vicious slapdown of our Constitution administered by the oil barons who usurped the Oval Office in the Supreme Court putsch of 2000, followed by the Diebold Ohio coup of 2004, democracy has been on the ropes stateside, as indeed throughout the world. With assassination, ballot stuffing, repression of the press, and the consolidation of wealth and power among the global corporatists the order of the day, the power of people to express their will, effect change, ameliorate their own living conditions, open up dialogue with people throughout the world suffering similar depredations, and come together to begin the urgent healing of the planet has been, shall we say, somewhat in doubt.

Here at home, despite the feeble attempts of our elected representatives to rein them in, Bush and Cheney and their gang continue to trample on our rights, intercepting our phone calls and computer messages without warrant, depriving prisoners of the ancient right of habeas corpus, torturing them, and prosecuting an illegal, undeclared war in defiance of world and domestic opinion, squandering thousands of American lives and 500 billion American dollars to date on the oil rich sands of Iraq.

But we are encouraged by signs of re-emergent hope. With everyone from Mitt Romney to Mike Gravel campaigning as an agent of change, perhaps there is some hope we might even break the Jello mold of the status quo before we all end up in baked Alaska.

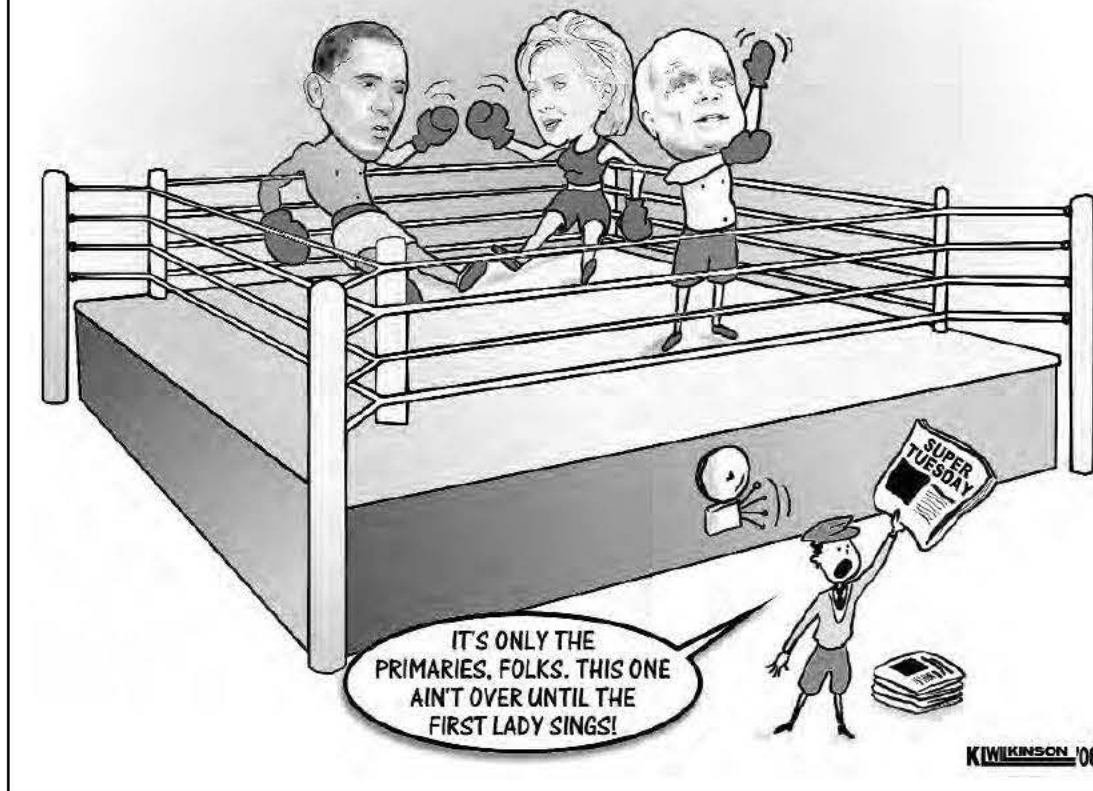
As the dust settles on this week's Fat Tuesday primaries, some campaigns are left in tatters, while others sail proudly on, mobilizing vast movements in their wake. McCain, written off for dead last year, is now the clear frontrunner for the Grand Old Party, and the likely standard bearer for the George W. Bush 'War Without End, Amen' platform in the November general election. Women who value the right to control their own reproductive choices have reason to fear for the future if McCain is elected, with two of the last liberal holdouts on the Supreme Court even older than he is.

On the Democratic side, the spirited fight between Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama shows no sign of letting up before the August nominating convention in Denver, where it may come down to the old guard party officials - the superdelegates - to decide which of these two gets the nod. Reading the tea leaves in the wee hours of Super Tuesday, it was interesting to watch Clinton's lead in the bell-weather state of Missouri evaporate as the hours ticked by. She went from a commanding ten point lead in the early returns to a narrow 49 to 48 margin by midnight, as the results from St. Louis were counted, and finally, shortly before dawn, the Show-Me state showed up in Obama's column, by a 10,000 vote margin out of 800,000 cast. Any doubts that a son of Kansas and Kenya can win across the nation's breadbasket were put to sleep along with the weary vote counters there.

The Dems are fired up, nationwide, and seem cheerfully engaged in an intramural brawl behind two credible, competent candidates. Clinton is well versed on the issues, and focused like a laser beam on matters that matter to the middle class: health

see RESULTS pg 5

AND THE WINNER IS?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Snowman Sighting in Montague Center

One could hardly be anything but impressed with the 'Colossus of Roads,' built by the Coltons and Skarzynski kids (*Off the Beaten Track: MR VI #14*). However, the reporter stated that there had been "no sign of snowmen or snow women in these parts." We must set the record straight.

On the Sunday before Christmas, my son David and two granddaughters, Cintamani and Tulasi Bridges from San Diego, built this 'classic' snowman, complete with carrot nose, scarf, and straw hat, at 21 Center Street in Montague Center.

Due to the cold and snowy weather, he lasted well into



the week following the holiday. Many people commented on our 'visitor' for the holi-

- Peg Bridges
Key Largo, FL

Coffeehouse Thanks

Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse would like to express special thanks for the January Full Moon Coffeehouse. That event brought in more than \$600 to help restore the Wendell Meetinghouse! We made more than three times what we expected to make, partly because so many generous, talented and thoughtful Wendell bakers kept our refreshment table so full of incredible gourmet treats throughout the evening.

We also were the grateful recipients of a good part of the 'door,' which was very lucrative since the place was packed. And the Gypsy

Wranglers not only got everybody dancing, they also donated all of their CD profits that night to the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse!

We are so lucky to be in this community where the Full Moon Coffeehouses fill the Wendell town hall with such a helpful and enjoyable event every month. The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse committee deserves a lot of credit for being such a hardworking and incredibly efficient team. From booking the performers and doing all of the arrangements and outreach, as well as all of the coffee and tea serving all evening, they really make a difference in this community.

Cheers and thanks,

- Molly Kaynor
Wendell

Sign Me Up!

\$20 for 26 issues (local) \$25 out-of-area

The basic price of subscriptions barely covers distribution and mailing costs. Sustaining subscribers help the paper grow!

Sustaining Subscribers: \$30 \$50 \$100
 Other _____

The Montague Reporter

58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

American Dead in
Iraq and
Afghanistan
as of 2/5/08



(Casualty sign temporarily located next to Wagon Wheel Restaurant on Rte. 2 in Gill)

RESULTS from pg 4
care, mortgage relief, college tuition among others. But we have not forgotten her vote to authorize the Iraq War.

Obama is a bit vaguer on policy positions, forgoing specificity for a generational challenge and inspirational rhetoric.

Clinton brings with her, Willy Nilly, the Jerry Springer baggage of her last stay in the White House, with all the antics of her less than housebroken husband clattering behind. But 90s nostalgia works both ways, and many

party faithful recall those years with pleasure as a time rising middle class prosperity and federal budget surpluses. Republicans, undoubtedly, are sharpening their knives with glee at the prospect of another Clinton to run against.

Obama is harking back to an even more bygone era in our nation, trying to don the golden mantel and employ the second person plural orations of JFK's Camelot. Jaded elders view him with a jaundiced eye, but the young are flocking to his banner.

Locally, we find it interesting, and we await the reasoned explanation for the 19 point spread between Clinton's victory over Obama in Massachusetts Tuesday and her loss to him 60 miles down the road in Connecticut. Could it be that Bay Staters conflated Obama's skin color with our Governor's, and his 'Yes We Can!' slogan with Deval Patrick's 'Together We Can!' mantra and decided, after

watching an inspirational figure try to govern for the last year, that 'No We Can't', we'd just as soon trade the roulette table for the policy wonk's laptop?

Nationally, we are less than thrilled with the results of early voting in primary elections. The 160,000 voters who mailed in for Edwards in California may be ruing their decision today, along with a good percentage of the hundreds of thousands who cast

ballots before Obama's 2 to 1 victory in South Carolina changed the momentum of the national race.

But it's a new day. And everyone can look forward eagerly to the match-up in November. Whoever the major party standard bearers are, we can rejoice that a certain weasel from Texas won't be around to steal another election, this time.



Beyond Salvage

After reading yet another article in the *Reporter* about the former Railroad Salvage building, it is quite clear that the town administration will have to determine the fate of this historic structure. I refer to this building as a 'structure' very loosely. Its deterioration and dilapidation is steadily increasing. Meanwhile, Mr. Kasuda, the owner of this property, continues to ignore the Housing Court's demands that he either fix the building or have it demolished.

Apparently, Mr. Kasuda has provided the town with a plan for how he's going to turn this pile of rubble into affordable apartments and lucrative commercial space. He even delivered an old crane to the Railroad Salvage site last year.

Although Mr. Kasuda's plan may look good on paper, it is unlikely that he has the resources to implement it. Most of the roof has collapsed; the remaining structure poses a very

dangerous situation to passers-by. An entire neighborhood is being held hostage, and a town road has been left blocked off for a year and a half.

If Mr. Kasuda is unable to find a solution to the dilemma, then the town of Montague must make some serious decisions, sooner rather than later. It only takes a quick glance at this property to know that it cannot be salvaged.

- Mike Crabtree
Turners Falls



BORDEAUX WHINE

by denis bordeaux



ELECTION RESULTS in our READERSHIP AREA

ERVING:

Democrat for President
Edwards - 5
Clinton - 146
Dodd - 1
Obama - 123
Kucinich - 2

Republican for President
McCain - 50
Huckabee - 13
Paul - 5
Romney - 26
Giuliani - 1
Green - Rainbow - 2

Total turnout: 377 out of 1072 registered voters: 35%

GILL:

Democrat for President
Edwards - 6
Clinton - 173
Dodd - 1
Obama - 230
Kucinich - 1

Republican for President
McCain - 52
Huckabee - 10
Romney - 30
Paul - 10

Working Family - 1
Green Rainbow - 1

Total turnout was reported-ly 516 out of a total of 1,073 registered voters, or 48.09%.

MONTAGUE:

Democrat for President
Edwards - 44
Clinton - 1018
Biden - 5
Dodd - 1
Gravel - 6
Obama - 958
Kucinich - 10
Richardson - 1

Republican for President
McCain - 256
Huckabee - 20
Romney - 110
Paul - 24
Giuliani - 3

Working Family - 4
Green-Rainbow - 18
Total turnout: 2546 of the 5623 registered voters: 45.2%

WENDELL:

Democrat for President
Edwards - 8
Clinton - 85
Obama - 187
Kucinich - 5

Republican for President
McCain - 17
Huckabee - 5
Romney - 6
Paul - 4
Giuliani - 1

Working Family Party - 2
Green - Rainbow Party - 4


Total turnout: 326 out of 652 registered voters: 50%

REYNOLDS PROPERTIES
256 North Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01002

Lynn Reynolds
ABR GRI CRS

"Aiming for
Astonishing Service"

413-367-2425 lynnreynolds@verizon.net



**LETOURNEAU
APPLIANCE SERVICE**

413-863-8291

Washers • Dryers • Refrigerators • Ranges
Dishwashers • ALL MAKES, ALL BRANDS
Senior Citizen Discount


24 Hour Service • Paul Letourneau

MontagueWebWorks.com



build | manage | create | 413.522.4808

Simply Computing
computer set-up
training
QuickBooks



Debbe Dugan
774-5451

Your Pace at Your Place

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

KUSTOM AUTOBODY
MA Reg #RS2066

48 Randall Road
Montague
Phone/413-863-3780

Mike Fuller, Owner

2ND STREET
BAKING CO.



Fresh Baked Bread Daily!

- World's Best Scones
- Cheesecakes
- Pies
- Cookie Platters
- Cakes to Go or to Order

69 2nd St., Turners Falls
863-4455
OPEN TUESDAY-SATURDAY 7-6 AND SUNDAY 8-1

GREENFIELD IMPORTED CAR SALES
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner

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




BUY A HOME WITH NO \$ DOWN

- 100% LOAN - LOW 30 YEAR FIXED RATE
- CLOSING COSTS CAN BE INCLUDED IN LOAN
- NO MORTGAGE INSURANCE REQUIRED
- MINIMUM CREDIT QUALIFICATIONS MUST BE MET

Now is a great time to buy your dream home!

NATIONAL CITY MORTGAGE CALL **TIM PREVOST**
413.773.8984

Program subject to change without notice



Locally owned since 1941



Foster's SUPER MARKET
GREENFIELD, MA

Full Service Market
Fresh Fish from the Boston Market

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

Remembering Edna Parzych

GILL - Edna (Carleton) Parzych died at home in Gill on January 31st. She was born February 1st, 1929 in Windham, VT, to George and Bertha (Shueller) Carleton. She graduated from Chester High School, where she met commencement speaker Eleanor Roosevelt. Edna worked at American Optical and New England telephone in Brattleboro, VT, and later at the Strathmore Paper Company in Turners Falls.



Edna Parzych

After marrying Joseph A. Parzych in 1953, they lived in various parts of the country, including California, finally settling in Gill. She was the caring mother of four children, Deborah, Joann, Joseph and Christine who is multiply handicapped and who lived at home for 38 years. Deborah died in 2005.

While raising her children and helping operate the family business, Edna served as a volunteer for hospice, helped out at the ARC of Franklin County and worked as a home health aide. She loved dancing of all kinds, RV touring, as well as traveling to places such as Seattle, Hawaii, Florida and the Amish country in Pennsylvania.

Loved by her grandchildren Matt, Nick, Joey and Katie, Edna is the last of ten siblings. Besides her husband of 55 years, she leaves a brother-in-law, Louis Parzych, who was married to her sister Mabel, who died in 2004. Edna also leaves son-in-laws Thomas Olsen and Michael Lambert.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Franklin County, 329 Conway St, Greenfield, MA 01301.

Celebrating Anna Garbiel

BY LINDA ACKERMAN

MONTAGUE CENTER - The cars started streaming into Montague Center on January 27th to secure a parking space about an hour before the open house started.

The crowd began to line the front sidewalk of the Montague Center School about a half hour prior to the doors opening, and never thinned out until at least an hour and a half had passed.

Hundreds of people filled a standing room only auditorium with an overflow into the lobby and hallways.

They came as friends, neighbors, farmers, runners, cyclists, students,

Montague Regional School District and then in the Athol Royalston District. Montague Center School shone as a beacon of light for the children educated under Anna's guidance, mentoring and leadership. Children flourished with the enriched programs Anna strove to provide.

Shifting gears to a new school district, Anna continued carrying the torch for education. She contributed to the fiscal stability of this district while writing grants amounting to over one half million dollars for an after school program.

Anna was first a friend, companion and always a loving,



PEG BURNS PHOTO

Anna Garbiel, left, was marshal of the parade at Old Home Days in Montague Center on August 18th, 2007. Her husband Marc Greene sits at her side. She said that day would be one of the happiest memories of her life.

alumni, colleagues, peers, bank presidents, politicians, superintendents, and above all, family. Everyone came to the "school that Anna built" as her husband, Marc, lovingly stated. We all came to share in a celebration of the life of our beloved Anna Garbiel.

Anna was many things to many different people. But above all, she was a native daughter of Montague Center, born and raised on the rich farmlands along the Sawmill River and Meadow Road. It was a land she loved and hungered for all the days of her life. "Jukey," a nickname given by her father for resembling an energized, always playing "jukebox" thrived working the farm with her family, especially her brother, Chipper. Anna excelled as an educator first in the Gill

supportive wife to her soulmate, Marc. Whether it was a friendly competitive bike race to South Deerfield or a hike along a favorite trail, Anna and Marc were there for each other. Her determination, dedication, devotion and dignity through her long ordeal further cemented Marc's unwavering love for Anna.

For the hundreds of us who came to "Celebrate Anna," we heard the stories.

We laughed, we cried, we hugged, we shared, we remembered, we paid tribute, we showed respect and most of all, we loved.

It was Anna who brought us all together. There will never be another like her. As Marc proclaimed with devotion, Anna was "Outstanding!"

WE HAVE IT ALL FOR YOU
TRACTORS FOR FARM, HOME & CONSTRUCTION

We Carry John Deere and Kubota Tractors, Stihl Chain Saws, Blowers, Tractor Mowers, Ariens Snow Blowers.

Also:

- Wood Chippers
- Log Splitters
- Winches
- Materials Handling Equipment
- Fire Proof Safes

Sales • Service • Parts
SERVING THE AREA FOR OVER 46 YEARS

SIRUM EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC.
 310 FEDERAL STREET • RTE. 63 • MONTAGUE
 413-367-2481

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

Mary Lou Emond
 Certified Residential Specialist

COHN & COMPANY
 Real Estate Agency

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

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

Seth and Eva's

115 Avenue A
 Turners Falls, MA.

Open Tue.-Sat 10-6 Sun. 10-5

New, Brand Name Women's Clothing
 New and Used Guitars, Amps & Equipment
 Fine Art
 Hand blown Glass
 Local Crafts
 Unique Gifts

Montague Yoga Spa
 Licensed Massage Therapy
 GIFT CERTIFICATES
 KRIPALU YOGA
 Montague Center
 413-367-7530
 Norman Lerchen, M.A., LMT

ED L Dealer in Used Home Furnishings
 SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTABLES • DECORATIVES
 374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield

featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets
 Cookery Figurines End Tables

I Make Lamps Lite!
 Open 7 Days a Week

GOOD USED USABLES

Avenue A Cafe
 Home of Cup O' Joe

Now open Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings until 8 p.m.
 Come by for a hot meal and great conversation!

Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 6am-8:00pm • Tues, Thurs 6am-5pm
 Sat 7am-3pm • Sun 8am-1pm

111 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
 (413) 863-2800 / www.avenueacafe.com

SUPER DEALS ON CDs, DVDs, LPs, TAPES, VIDEOS

TURN IT UP!

NORTHAMPTON • KEENE • BRATTLEBORO • EASTHAMPTON • TURNITUP.COM

TFHS National Honor Society to Sponsor Fashion Show to Benefit 'Invisible Children'



BY ALI URBAN - Members of the George F. Wrightson Chapter of the National Honor Society will host a prom fashion show on Wednesday, February 13th, at 7 p.m. in the high school theater. The annual fashion show is held in conjunction with Aliber's Bridal Shop in Greenfield, which provides the latest in prom fashions to be modeled by members of the honor society. Local hair stylists will provide styling services.

This year, the annual fundraiser will benefit Invisible Children Inc., an organization founded by filmmakers Jason Russell, Bobby Bailey and Laren Poole from San Diego. Their goal is to create awareness regarding the plight of the people of Northern Uganda, caught in the midst of a civil war between the government and Joseph Kony's

Lord's Resistance Army, a rebel group that makes extensive use of kidnapping children and making child soldiers.

"We chose this charity because it is a great cause with a focus on education," said NHS vice president Alix Ackerman. "We thought it was fitting because we are a school supporting a school. We often take our education for granted, but it is something that all children should have."

NHS advisor Lisa West said



Senior Molly Perry chooses dresses to model in TFHS's National Honor Society Prom Fashion Show. Tickets for the Feb 13 show can be purchased before the 7 pm start at the TFHS theater.

the show offers members the opportunity to learn about an organization benefited by the fundraising, and to educate the audience about the charity.

"It also provides a special

program for the community and allows students to learn organizational skills, including working with the public, creating advertising, decorating and providing commentary," she said.

She explained the mission of the National Honor Society is to promote scholarship, leadership, service, and character, and, West said, the fashion show accomplishes these goals. "Doing the show provides an opportunity to raise money for a worthy cause; it

promotes many leadership and organizational related skills in that we ask all of the members to be in charge of one of the aspects or jobs that need to be done," she added.

Doris Brown of Aliber's Bridal Shop is excited about sharing the latest in prom fashion with the students and their parents. "The show provides for us an opportunity to showcase our beautiful dresses and invite students into our store while at the same time helping (the National Honor Society) to achieve their goal of raising money for charity," she said.

Tickets for the fashion show are \$5 each, and will be available at the door. Door prizes donated by local business will also be raffled.

For more information, call Turners Falls High School at 863-7200.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Disturbances and Emergencies

Tuesday, 1-29

11:07 p.m. Report of suspicious auto on Central Street in Turners. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with OUI liquor, operating to endanger, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, failure to wear seatbelt, open container in a motor vehicle.

Wednesday, 1-30

4:55 a.m. Report of accident with property damage on Ferry Road, Montague.
8:33 a.m. Report of accident with property damage at Route. 63 and Gunn Road, Montague.
2:42 p.m. Report of unwanted person at a Fifth Street address, Turners. Investigated.
3:30 p.m. Medical emergency at a 3rd Street address. Subject removed to hospital.

Thursday, 1-31

8:24 a.m. Report of accident with property damage on Montague City Road, Montague City.
12:29 p.m. Report of an unwanted

person at a Second Street address, Turners. Peace restored.

2:21 p.m. Report of assault on Avenue A at Third Street, Turners. Investigated.
3:03 p.m. Report of a fight on Lake Pleasant Road at Walcott Street, Lake Pleasant. Services rendered.

Friday, 2-1

6:20 a.m. Report of general disturbance at a Henry Avenue address in Turners. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with assault and battery domestic, threat to commit a crime, possession of a firearm without an FID card (5 counts), unlawful possession of ammunition.
1:13 p.m. Report of burglary, breaking & entering at 12th Street and G Street, Turners. Investigated.
7:32 p.m. Medical emergency at a Third Street address, Turners. Subject removed to hospital.
9:50 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at a G Street address, Turners. Investigated.
11:53 p.m. Medical emergency at an

East Taylor Hill Road address, Montague. Subject removed to hospital.

Saturday, 2-2

12:35 a.m. Report of accident with property damage on Sunderland Road, Montague.
4:48 p.m. Medical emergency at a Fifth Street address, Turners. Subject removed to hospital.
8:28 p.m. Report of a fight at a Fifth Street address, Turners. Investigated.
11:39 p.m. Medical emergency at a Third Street address, Turners. Subject removed to hospital.

Sunday, 2-3

12:24 p.m. Walk-in report of larceny. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with failure to register as a sex offender, subsequent offense.
5:20 p.m. Medical emergency on Avenue C, Turners. Subject removed to hospital.
7:25 p.m. Walk-in report of assault at East Main Street address. Millers Falls. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with assault & battery domestic and threat to commit a crime.

9:40 p.m. Report of vandalism at Exxon on 3rd Street. Investigated.

10:10 p.m. Officer wanted at Second Street Sports Bar, Avenue A, Turners. Peace restored.

Monday, 2/4

7:37 a.m. Report of restraining order violation at a Fairway Avenue address, Turners. Summons issued.
10:29 a.m. Report of unwanted person at a Fairway Avenue address, Turners Falls. Investigated.
5:24 p.m. Medical emergency on Montague Street, Turners. Subject removed to hospital.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Flooding and Speeding

Tuesday, 1-29

7:05 a.m. Report of traffic complaint on Forest Street. Vehicles traveling at a high rate of speed. Requested patrols.
2:20 p.m. Report of dog complaint, Moore Street. Owner not at home.

Wednesday, 1-30

12:40 p.m. Medical emergency at Old State Road. Assisted EMTs. Subject transported by ambulance.

Thursday, 1-31

11:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with arrest.

Friday, 2-1

9:20 p.m. Request for officer at a West High Street address for unwanted person. Removed same.
10:45 p.m. Report of flooding at Central and Moore Streets. Contacted Highway Department.

Saturday, 2-2

1:30 a.m. Medical emergency at Pratt Street address. Assisted EMTs and ambulance personnel.
3:00 a.m. Report of noise disturbance at a Pratt Street address. Subjects advised to keep it down.

Greenfield Center School

Open House

February 10th

2-4pm
preceded by
free children's music show
with singer/songwriter
Sarah Pirtle
1-2pm
refreshments provided
ALL WELCOME

71 Montague City Rd
Greenfield, MA 01301
413-773-1700
www.centerschool.net

TOP TEN REASONS TO CHECK OUT THE CENTER SCHOOL:

- * Social Justice Curriculum
- * Rigorous Academics
- * K-8th Grades
- * Two Teachers per Classroom
- * Arts Integration
- * Social/Emotional Learning
- * Warm Community
- * Project-based Work
- * Your kids will love to come to school
- * 27 years of exceptional education!

A Custom Touch

Interior / Exterior Painting & Home Repairs

Anthony C. Tucker: 863-4833

70 Oakman Street, Turners Falls

H₂O MARKETING

BOYSEN HODGSON

Designing the change you wish to see in the world.

GRAPHIC DESIGN | WEB SITES | LOGOS | MARKETING

413-303-9193 | www.h2-om.com

GOOD DIRT POTTERY

Original designs
in clay
by Artist
Jaye Pope

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

call for hours

Clay is Good Dirt

MORE NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Improvements Planned for Village Parks

BY DAVID DETMOLD – Montague parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz would like to retire some of the old play structures at Unity Park in Turners Falls and replace them with modern units that meet Americans with Disability Act requirements, while expanding the total play area at the popular park. Over in Lake Pleasant, Dobosz wants to continue the effort to improve Norma's Park, on the west side of Lake Pleasant Road, by organizing volunteers to build a picnic pavilion, and establish a community garden flower bed there.

Recognizing the importance of these projects to their respective villages, Dobosz came to the selectboard on Monday, February 4th to announce dates for public hearings on his department's renovation plans for the parks.

A public hearing for the Unity Park enhancement plan will be held on Wednesday, February 20th at 7 p.m. at the Unity Park field house.

The public hearing for the planned improvements to Norma's Park will take place on Wednesday, March 12th at the Spiritualist Alliance Hall in Lake Pleasant.

"We've got a lot of antiquated playground units at Unity Park," said Dobosz. "Some of them have been around since before I was born."

Dobosz added, "The park has considerable regional appeal. It pulls in a lot of people."

He promised to hold additional public hearings before the park improvement plans are finalized. "We want all ideas to be addressed."

Over at the considerably

quieter park in Lake Pleasant, Dobosz said a number of the old play structures had been exchanged for newer models last summer, and a fence was installed between the park and the busy county road. This year, Dobosz said, "We want to re-energize that project." He said the parks and recreation department would be seeking donations of materials for a picnic structure and volunteers to help with park improvements in Lake Pleasant. "It's a small park, but very nice," he said.

Selectboard member Allen Ross asked if Dobosz had any plans to open up the Unity Park basketball courts for nighttime play, which used to be available at the courts behind the police station.

Dobosz replied, "Technically, the park closes at dusk. We'd like to keep it

that way. In the evening, vandalism and anti-social behavior become concerns."

WPCF Progress

Wastewater pollution control facility supervisor Bob Trombley reported that construction of the wet weather chlorine tank was proceeding smoothly and on schedule. While he did not want to make any predictions until the concrete was poured, Trombley said he hoped savings in the cost of the second phase of construction of the ongoing sewer system upgrade would enable the town to consider restoring one major item that had been cut from the project earlier: a solids dewatering press, which, at a cost of more than \$1.4 million is admittedly a big ticket item, but one that would lead to major cost savings in plant operations, if the town eventually opts to purchase it. Installing the sludge handling unit would trigger other code issues at the plant, which would up the final price tag, Trombley warned.

He also sought the board's approval to lobby against an expensive series of reports that may be required as part of the plant's five year National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System permit, which authorizes the town to discharge treated sewage and combined sewer overflow (now much reduced) to the Connecticut River. Trombley said some of the reports the DEP may require for this permit run to the tens of thousands of dollars, and would require him to devote his fulltime energy to compiling the paperwork for the next year, and more, if he were to meet all the reporting requirements.

"Bottom line: it's crazy, in my opinion," said Trombley. He asked the board to send a letter supporting that contention during the upcoming public comment period on the NPDES permit.

Before concluding his remarks, Trombley advised the board the town of Montague, like other municipalities along the Connecticut, may soon fall

under federal mandate to limit the amount of nitrogen discharged into the river. The nitrogen, which eventually reaches the waters of the Long Island Sound, has been adversely impacting the amount of available oxygen for marine organisms there. But Trombley said an initial cost estimate some years ago for what it might cost Montague to reduce nitrogen discharge from the waste water treatment plant ran to \$4 million, which sum does not include lowered limits on the eight industries that are major contributors to the sewer system in town.

"We've sidestepped local limits for ten years. We'll have to revise limits for all industries in town. It has a domino effect."

"On the positive side," board chair Pat Allen remarked, "They are trying to improve our environment."

In other news:

- The board decided to move the date of the annual town meeting from May 3rd, to June 14th - Flag Day - to allow time for firmer budget numbers from the Gill-Montague schools and from the state to come in before the town holds its annual budget setting session.

- Agreed to hold a meeting on February 19th, a Tuesday, following the Monday President's Day holiday that week.

- Confirmed a meeting with Peter Welch from the Massachusetts Aeronautic Commission regarding the Turners Falls Airport on February 25th at 4 p.m. at town hall.

- Noted that more trailer trucks were scheduled to remove a seventh and an eight load of recycled paper from the former Strathmore Mill, according to former owner Jerry Jones, by the end of this week. Jones estimates a dozen more loads remain in the mill.

- Accepted \$300 in anti-trust settlement money from the Mass Attorney Generals office on behalf of the Carnegie Library.

HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) are currently applying for funding for the Towns of Erving, Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, Montague, Northfield Rowe, Orange, Shelburne & Whately. At this time we are establishing a waiting list for each town.

Income eligible applicants who qualify for a full-deferred payment loan will be able to borrow up to \$30,000.00. This is a 0% interest, deferred payment loan, the loan is secured by a lien placed on your property, and the loan is due when you sell or transfer the property.

The goal of this program is to enable low to moderate-income homeowners to bring their homes into code compliance, handicap accessibility, do needed repairs and weatherize their homes.

Homeowners and any tenant families must have an annual gross income equal to or less than the following amounts:

# In Household	Gross Annual Income
1	\$40,150.00
2	\$45,900.00
3	\$51,600.00
4	\$57,350.00
5	\$61,950.00
6	\$66,550.00
7	\$71,100.00
8	\$75,700.00

If you are interested in applying for the Housing Rehab program please call Charity Day @ (413) 863-9781 ext. 132 or email at cday@fchra.org

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

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

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

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

LOCAL PICK-UP & DELIVERY



Gerri Johnson
 CRB, CRS, GRI

Seniors Real Estate Support

Gerri Johnson & Associates REALTORS

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



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



UPINNGIL

411 Main Road
 Gill, MA 01354
 413-863-2297

Farm store open daily, 8 - 7.
 Fresh milk, farmstead cheeses, eggs, and butter.
 Also selling Gill trash stickers and the Montague Reporter.
 Pick-your-own fruit and farm stand vegetables seasonally.




ROOF from pg 1

bricks and moldering paper has made it difficult to maneuver a hoist into position to make it easier to position workers on the edge of Building #1; and when the crane company finally delivered a lift to the site last week it turned out to be too short to extend the full distance across the rubble, on the angle needed.

Gill's Renaissance Builders president and founder Stephen Greenwald said, "The salesman from the boom company miscalculated. They'll have a new one here from Albany tomorrow (Thursday)." That should make the lower edge of the roof more accessible.

But it won't help with hoisting materials. "The floor [of the fourth floor] is only rated for so many pounds per square inch, so all the materials have to be carried up by hand. We can't have a crane boom them up and drop them."

Despite these obstacles, and the adverse weather, Greenwald's company - which knows a thing or two about renovating old brick buildings in Turners Falls - has been making rapid progress.

Rubberneckers passing on Canal Street watch as the old mill building has been swiftly stripped down to the sheathing, and the burned out southwest bays peeled back to the purlins.

Renaissance has taken pains to replace 35 feet of those purlins, damaged in the fire, using hemlock sawn to the original dimensions, (rather than the original southern yellow pine or fir). Purlins are the horizontal structural members supporting the vertical beam trusses and rafters, and the integrity of the roof depends on a careful restoration to carry the load.

But not all of the roofing material Greenwald and company have uncovered in Building #1 is original to the 1871 construction. The original shingles were probably made of slate; the asphalt ones are obviously of modern vintage.

and beneath these Renaissance found plywood - plainly visible on the top right of the photo below - layered on top of the older sheathing.

the structure is fine."

Building inspector David Jensen said the town had awarded Renaissance - the second lowest bidder on the job

#11, Mowry and Schmidt of Greenfield is starting up work on the temporary repair of that roof, also severely damaged in the May 26th blaze. Rather than

undertake an extensive historical renovation in the middle of winter on the cornice work and underlying framing at the northeast end of that building, which was cut away by the Turners Falls fire department to finally extinguish the fire, Jensen accepted the plan to build a temporary roof on that end of the building. Awarding the bid for the job at around \$10,000, the town saved about \$40,000



Building #1, Strathmore Mill: Room to Grow

Greenwald estimated the roof will be completed in the next three to four weeks.

More rain has poured into the interior of the mill as work proceeds, but the building has withstood worse, with evidence of a previous fire plain to see by the northeast gable. But Greenwald assured, "The rest of

- with the \$80,000 roof contract for Building #1 after the lowest bidder was disqualified for lack of appropriate insurance. But looking across the canal at the height and slope of that roof, insurance be damned, we're just glad those guys are wearing safety harnesses.

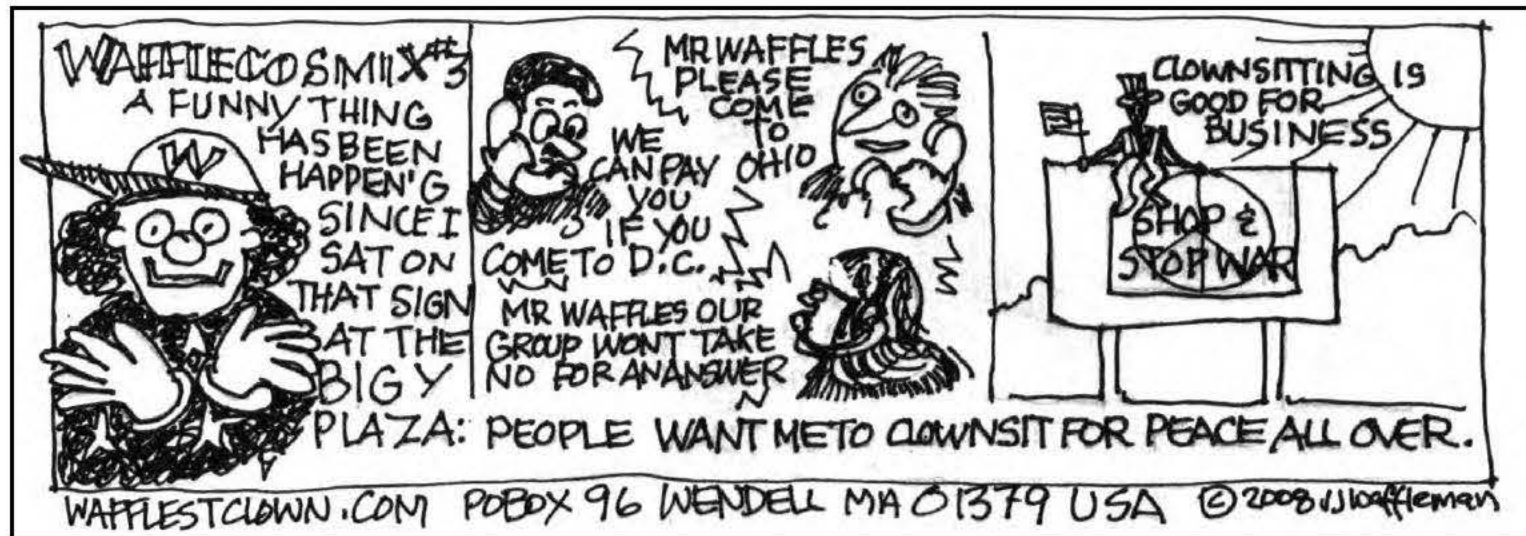
On the flat roof of Building

from its original estimate for roof work on Building #11.

The bid on Building #1 also came in lower - by about \$60,000 - than first estimated, although extra money for time and materials could still be expended before the two roofs are finally buttoned up.

But, if all goes as planned, the town may find itself the proud owner of a buttoned up mill, with a rewired fire alarm system and a retrofitted sprinklers (both those systems are in the final stage of completion) for about \$100,000 less than it had anticipated when town meeting approved the repairs on October 11th of last year.

That should help pay for plenty of advertising to find a new owner to take the 244,482-square-foot mill complex on to its next stage of productive development.



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 97th Anniversary!

RISTORANTE Di Paolo

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

HANDYMAN FOR HIRE
Remodeling & Renovation
TODD MULLER
413-775-3575
"One Call Does It All"
Serving the entire Montague Reporter readership area
HIC# 149347

RISTORANTE Di Paolo
FINE ITALIAN DINING
Denise DiPaolo, Owner
Hilton Dottin, Chef
TEL 413-863-4441
FAX 413-863-4421
166 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
LIVE JAZZ EVERY MONDAY NIGHT!
WWW.RISTORANTEDIPAULO.COM

Dillon CHEVROLET
54 MAIN STREET GREENFIELD, MA 01301
BOB ANDERSON
Sales Representative
(413) 773-3678
FAX (413) 774-5746

UPPER HAND • SNOW HOME DEFENSE OPTION
Specializing in
• Civilian Firearms
• Training for Home Defense
863-2964
Cell: 413-843-1692
Lee Laster • Alan Lambert
Certified Instructors
www.upperhandonline.com

Negus & Taylor, Inc. Monuments
NEGUS & TAYLOR, INC.
fine memorials since 1893
We engrave memories that last forever
People often come to see us because their parents and their grandparents did. We're proud to have that kind of loyalty, and we work hard to keep it.
- Gary and Nancy Melen
MAIN OFFICE 773-9552
10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA
"The perfect remembrance"

EDWARDS TREE SERVICE
Matthew Edwards
☛ Storm Damage Prevention & Restoration
☛ Cabling & Bracing
☛ Shade Tree Maintenance
☛ Tree Removal
☛ Owner
☛ Climber
☛ Insured
Wendell • **978-544-7452**

SHEA from pg 1

told me to relax, and that it was a slow time. But after seeing the bills come in and seeing what it cost per month, I said I didn't feel they could afford full time staffing at this point," Stoa said.

He continued, "The problem with the situation is that the Shea has been weak for several years. It needs to be community supported on the civic center model. There's a reluctance to share [finances] with the community, but it needs the community to look at it closely," he said.

Stressing that he bore no ill will towards the Shea and its board, Stoa closed his comments with this: "I'd like to say that I wish the best for the Shea, and I hope that they succeed."

It has been plain from the Shea board's appearances at selectboard meetings in the past two years that the Shea is struggling to meet operating expenses, and has had to turn to the town of Montague, which owns the 80-year-old theater, for periodic cash infusions. Town accountant Caroline Olsen confirmed that the Shea board had asked for \$5,000 dollars in November of 2007 and \$5,000 dollars in December of the same year, from the town's program income fund, to bail the theater out from a difficult cash flow position.

At the November 12th selectboard meeting, member Allen Ross responded to the Shea board's request for \$5,000 in program income funds by say-

ing, "The Shea is one of our cultural institutions, a bare-bones operation - but we need income sources. How can we develop income sources in the next years?"

At that meeting, Shea board chair Robin Paris assured the selectboard that the theater was striving for self-sufficiency.

This week, Paris responded to the departure of the newly hired executive director by saying, "Steve resigned because he felt we couldn't afford to keep full time staff at the present time. But it was done in a positive way. Financially, the Shea has been here before, but the Shea is alive and well. The show must go on, and in fact the show will go on. We've got an exciting season coming up, thanks to the work of the Arena Civic Theater, Ja'Duke Productions and the Community Players".

The main reaction to Stoa's resignation for the directors of these resident companies was one of surprise, but also well wishes. "We really don't know much about what happened. We were just informed that he stepped down. It's a bit of a shock; he's a great guy," said Sondra Radosh of the Arena Civic Theater.

Radosh went on to stress the importance of the Shea Theater in local life. "It's been there for everyone. It's not a personal institution. It's a gem in the middle of Franklin County."

Radosh was similarly vocal about the economic plight of the Shea. "The theater is badly in need of financial resources; it

would be great for the public to get behind it. We haven't raised our ticket prices in over ten years. Part of our mission was to have affordable prices for the community."

By way of example, Radosh said it had taken the Shea ten years to raise enough money to install air conditioning.

Nick Waynelovich, director of Ja' Duke Productions, another of the Shea resident companies, simply said, "I'm 100% supporting the Shea. We're doing everything we can to keep it a positive place."

Marvin Shedd of the Community Players had this to say about the present state of affairs at the Shea: "I really haven't been briefed on what's going on (with Stoa's departure). However, I do know the Shea has a committed board that wants to be part of the revitalization of Turners Falls."

Suzanne Davis, a member of the Shea board of directors, said the board had decided to take individual responsibility for making sure the Shea programs run as scheduled during this period of staffing change. "The board has stepped up, and every one of us has taken on a different aspect of running the organization." She noted that program income was assured for the future, but acknowledged that operating expenses had soared in recent years with the spiraling cost of utilities. "Energy costs have more than doubled," she said. But Davis said the board has a plan for working their way back to fiscal health, with the

The Shea Must Go On!

TURNERS FALLS - On January 28th, 2008 the Shea Theater received a generous donation from Greenfield Savings Bank to help offset the financial hardship the theater is facing. The contribution is a \$4000 matching gift that will be used as a benchmark for the launch of a public fundraising campaign for the Shea.

As the only fully functioning theater and rental venue in the surrounding area, the Shea Theater is of central importance to the preservation of the arts and cultural community within Franklin County and beyond. Located in the heart of downtown Turners Falls, the Shea Theater had over 24,000 people walk through its doors this past year. However, the high costs of heating fuel and the traditionally slow winter months have taken their toll on the resources of this local historic institution.

With this matching donation of up to \$4,000 dollars from Greenfield Savings Bank, the Shea Theater is

reaching out to members of the community for their support. The Shea board of directors hopes, through community donations, to match or surpass the \$4000 donation from the Greenfield Savings Bank. The money will be used to pay for operating expenses, as well as help the theater move towards a new mission as a community center for art and education.

A phone-a-thon will be held later this month as a formal kick off to the campaign. In a collaborative effort and in continued support of their home, the resident theater companies of the Shea will join the Board of Directors and community volunteers in manning the phones.

If you are interested in making a donation to the Shea Theater or in becoming a Shea volunteer you can contact the Shea Board of Directors at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 or by email at shea@vallnet.org

- the Shea Board of Directors

ERVING from pg 1

broadcasting station for the town of Erving. The possibility of Erving sharing Montague's local access television station, located in Turners Falls, was an idea supported by Michael Muller, president of Montague Cable Corporation, Inc. The town of Erving has also advanced the idea of locating an access station in the elementary school.

Several townspeople who attended the hearing said they are not only seeking access to cable television from Comcast, but also high speed internet and

phone service. Trevor Skerritt of Farley mentioned he had "done the numbers" on his own and said "for residential homes, the cost would be significantly less than for households that are currently having to pay several different providers."

Dan and Kathy Hammock of Wheelock Street have been trying to run a small business out of their home, and said they have found it difficult due to the lack of opportunity in the village of Farley for cable and internet access, compared to other areas in their own town.

Charlene Galenski, principal

of Erving Elementary School, though not a resident of town, expressed her support for the cable committee's negotiations. "It would be very nice to have the opportunity to broadcast school events, as well as to have the children learn about the equipment used to broadcast locally. It is a very competitive world out there, and any background we can provide to the children is great."

Several community members are seeking local channels in order to stay in touch with what is happening locally in their own town. They said local news and

community's support.

"We are asking for help. It's a short period of time we will need help. Wintertime is slow."

Paris noted that the Shea had recently received a considerable grant from the Greenfield Savings Bank, and said the

board would be asking for grassroots support from town residents and donor members to help match the gift. Donations and inquiries are encouraged to: The Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Todd R. Howe, President
Steering Committee Member, Montague Business Association
PROVIDING ACCOUNTING & COMPUTER SERVICES TO LOCAL BUSINESSES
"CFO FOR HIRE", BOOKKEEPING, INTERNAL AUDIT, WEB DESIGN, DATABASES

Attention QuickBooks Users:
Ever wish you could get more out of it?
We can link to your accounting data & create custom forms and reports in Access.
We can also design tables to add detailed customer notes to your QuickBooks data.
The possibilities are endless. Call today for a free consultation.

Caddie Consulting
www.caddieconsulting.com
(413) 863-9990

Todd R. Howe, President
Steering Committee Member, Montague Business Association
PROVIDING ACCOUNTING & COMPUTER SERVICES TO LOCAL BUSINESSES
"CFO FOR HIRE", BOOKKEEPING, INTERNAL AUDIT, WEB DESIGN, DATABASES

Is your business still not on the Internet?
We can get you online for about \$500.
We can take your existing marketing materials and turn them into web pages.
For example: www.anewfacedayspa.com and www.dancefeverdancestudio.com
The possibilities are endless. Call today for a free consultation.

Caddie Consulting
www.caddieconsulting.com
(413) 863-9990

Todd R. Howe, President
Steering Committee Member, Montague Business Association
PROVIDING ACCOUNTING & COMPUTER SERVICES TO LOCAL BUSINESSES
"CFO FOR HIRE", BOOKKEEPING, INTERNAL AUDIT, WEB DESIGN, DATABASES

Are you getting timely financial reports?
If not, we can help you run your business.
We will pick up all of your documents and return with checks to sign & key reports.
Imagine handling all of your accounting needs & processes in one weekly meeting.
The possibilities are endless. Call today for a free consultation.

Caddie Consulting
www.caddieconsulting.com
(413) 863-9990

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR
Propane Filling Station
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT
Foreign and Domestic
Cooling System Specialist
Rte. 2, Gill
863-4049 1-800-439-4049
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

T.L.C.
TURNS LAWN CARE
Specializing in all aspects of Lawn and Property Maintenance.
LOOKING FOR NEW SNOWPLOWING CUSTOMERS!
Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured
45 Main Street, PO Box B-6 Montague, MA 01351
Gary Turn, Owner Phone: 367-0230 Cell: 522-2563

CopyCat PRINT SHOP
full color offset printing
digital copies
oversize copies
files accepted via email
21 Years of Making Copies and Still the Original!
up-to-the-minute technology * old-fashioned personal service
180 Main Street, Greenfield • 413-774-3500 • greenfield@copycatprintshop.com

Gill Schedules Budget Setting Town Meeting for February 25th

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The town of Gill canceled the \$93,000 override vote that had been scheduled for this past Tuesday. The town issued a press release explaining the decision to cancel that vote, as follows:

"Now that Gill's board of assessors has finished its work with the revaluation and recollection of data, and the new growth figure has been certified by the state, making an override election unnecessary, Gill is ready to set a date for a special town meeting -- February 25th, 7:00 p.m.

"In addition to voting on the increase in the Gill-Montague Regional School District assessment (a number the town is bound to regardless of vote) town meeting members will also consider whether to change the regional school district agreement concerning the procedure to close a school, and whether to form a capital improvement planning committee. Voters will also

be asked if the town should accept the provisions of Chapter 43D of the Massachusetts General Laws regarding expedited permitting, and whether it should file a formal proposal designating the Mariamante parcel as a priority development site under the statute and apply for a technical assistance grant to do so."

The press release concludes, "Lastly, voters will be asked if the town should implement a quarterly tax payment system. The meeting will be held upstairs at town hall."

Gill had been waiting for months for the state Department of Revenue to certify values for the town's triennial revaluation. Those numbers finally emerged at the end of January, after the warrant for the override election had already been posted.

The certified figures showed enough of a boost in new growth this year to more than make up for the \$93,000 operating deficit

the town was facing in the current budget year. Gill administrative assistant Tracy Rogers said the town's new growth generally equals \$30,000 in a given year, but this year it equaled \$122,000. Asked how this big hike came about, Rogers said, "It's because of the FirstLight dam under the Gill-Montague bridge."

Apparently, for many years, neither Gill nor Montague has assessed taxes on the part of the dam that sits on the Gill side of the river. When Mayflower Consultants came to help the town perform a complete recollection of data during last year's reval, they noticed the omission, and included the dam in this year's commercial assessment.

Catching this error added about \$5 million in valuation to the town's commercial property, said Gill assessor Greg Snedeker. While this undoubtedly accounted for the lion's share of this year's new growth, Snedeker said the careful work Mayflower

did in assisting the town with a thorough revaluation, including townwide site visits of all residential and commercial property, along with the implementation of a new software system to track the data at town hall, resulted in the discovery of numerous back lots and previously unassessed residential additions, all of which helped swell the new growth figure.

Snedeker said the decision by town meeting two years ago to spend \$65,000 and go with Mayflower Consultants and simultaneously update the assessors computer tracking system more than paid for itself this year, and averted the need for the override into the bargain. "I'm really pleased we did it," said Snedeker. "If we didn't do the recollection of data, we'd be in a pretty tough position now."

Snedeker noted the Riverfront tax assessment neighborhood, created to some controversy at the last major reval, had seen no property sales in the last three

years. Therefore, during this year's reval, the state ordered the assessors to compare sales of similar riverfront parcels further down the Connecticut River to come up with new property values in this district, and the state actually ordered a steep drop in the value of land in the Riverfront district this year, Snedeker said, from \$286,000 for a building lot, down to \$210,000. But, he said the value of the buildings on the riverfront rose, keeping overall property values more or less flat in the new district. Assessments in Riverside and Gill Center rose by a higher percentage, Snedeker said.

Many residents in these parts of town say they have noticed steep increases in their property values. But the proof will be in the pudding - in terms of people's tax bills - when the town finally sets the tax rate, which Rogers said will happen shortly after the special town meeting on February 25th.

ENERGY from 1

monthly newsletter and cable television bulletin board.

Chang agreed it was important to investigate what other towns are doing to promote energy conservation before officially starting the committee. "This isn't something I have to bulldoze my way through," she said.

Indeed, the Riverside couple's idea may have a familiar ring to longtime residents, who may recall that Gill, like 17 other towns in Franklin County, enjoyed the services of a volunteer-based citizen energy committee in the late 70s and early 80s. Arthur Cohen, of Mount Hermon Station Road, led that effort, both in Gill and as chair of the Franklin County Energy Task Force.

The countywide task force, Cohen recalled, was established

under the auspices of the Franklin County Commissioners, after safe energy activists like Randy Kehler of Colrain and Betty Bell of Gill sponsored and won town meeting resolutions to create town energy committees in 18 Franklin County towns. This was in the years immediately following Montague resident Sam Lovejoy's weather tower toppling act of civil disobedience at the site of Northeast Utilities' planned twin nuclear power plant on the Montague Plains on Washington's Birthday in 1974.

Those grassroots citizen energy committees, and the countywide task force that coordinated them under the directorship of Jake Plante, of Bernardston (whose position was paid for by federal CETA funds for several years) went to work inventorying Franklin County's 135 hydropow-

er sites (including the second largest dam in the county, still sitting idle, in Conway, which once provided power for an electric railroad to transport Franklin County wood products down to Connecticut). The task force also put on workshops to teach homeowners how to insulate their homes and hot water heaters, got a similar program underway for low-income residents through the Franklin County Action Corporation, and organized local hardware stores to offer a 10% reduction on the cost of energy conservation materials such as plastic for windows, door sweeps and insulation rolls to people who participated in these workshops. The task force also published a book called *GroundWork* about the volunteer method they used to establish the citizen energy committees. A number of European

governments got interested and requested copies of the book, Cohen recalled, hoping their citizens could duplicate the bottom-up rather than top-down approach of galvanizing energy conservation efforts Franklin County pioneered.

In Gill, Cohen said the former town energy committee was instrumental in performing an energy audit of town buildings, workshops for low income residents to insulate their homes, and also built a recycling shed at the town 'dump'.

In other selectboard news, Tony Mathews of the Gill conservation commission turned up Monday to ask if he could display a handcrafted table in town hall. The table, which Mathews built from pine, sugar maple and cherry, is one of five such tables Mathews has produced in order to

future development.

Interested citizens who wish to help the Franklin Land Trust in this effort can donate a tax deductible \$450 to the Trust, at which point Mathews will sell them one of the tables for one dollar.

After reviewing the legalities and ethics of the request, the board agreed that Mathews could display the table in town hall with a note on it explaining the fundraising process. Board chair Leland Stevens noted, "This is something that benefits the town itself; it's not something private."

Mitch Lata of Jan's Package Store and his neighbor John Shaw appeared before the selectboard to transfer Lata's liquor license to Shaw. Lata, who has run the store for the last 27 years, said he may be moving on to another business, or out of the area entirely.

"It's time for some new blood, said Lata. "It's been a great ride; it's been wonderful but it's time." Jan's has been in business 53 years as a liquor store at the southern end of Main Road.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

Unlicensed Drivers, Accidents and Medical Emergencies

Wednesday, 1-30

5:20 a.m. Report of accident on Rt. 10, no injury.

6:10 a.m. Report of accident on Rt. 10, no injury.

7:50 a.m. Report at station of neighbor dispute on Riverview Drive.

Thursday 1-31

11:05 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency at Stoughton Place.

11:50 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with operating a motor vehicle after license suspension on French King Highway.

Friday, 2-1

7:55 a.m. Report on West Gill Road of property damage.

10:16 a.m. Report on West Gill Road of property damage.

3:45 p.m. Medical emergency on Main Road.

9:31 p.m. Assisted Erving police on West High Street with unwanted subject.

Saturday, 2-2

10:22 a.m. Medical emergency on the Mount Hermon campus.

Sunday, 2-3

6:05 p.m. Arrested Jason Secord age 27 of

Washington Street, Greenfield. Charged with OUI of alcohol (3rd offense), speeding, marked lanes violation, operating to endanger, unregistered motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle, attaching license plates, possession of open container of alcohol in vehicle, operating after license revocation.

Tuesday, 2-5

7:05 a.m. Report of accident on Rt. 10, no injury.

4:18 p.m. Two vehicle accident at Main Road and French King Highway, no injuries.

help raise money for the Franklin Land Trust. The trust needs to raise \$3,500 in order to help preserve the Remillard Farm on Bascom Road from

A sumptuous array of silk, heirloom whites, velveteen,

WINTER SALE

20-50% off now through February 15th


Delectable Mountain Cloth

125 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

www.delectablemountain.com

please visit our website or the store for even more

(802) 257-4456



Stephen Greenwald

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

Pam Veith Real Estate




75 Main Street
Northfield, MA 01360

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


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

"My Office is Always Open to You!"



Antique Clocks

Bought & Sold



BOB PACY

(781) 438-8489
(508) 633-2552

NAWCC No. 0101315
WILL TRAVEL
STONEHAM, MA 02180

WASTE NOT: MERCURY

SAFE DISPOSAL OF COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

BY AMY DONOVAN - The recent mercury scares in Turners Falls may have made you think about mercury in your own home. Below are some common household items which contain mercury, and the procedures for safe disposal. The information below is reprinted from the Franklin County Solid Waste District website: www.franklin-countywastedistrict.org

Mercury is toxic and should not be thrown out in the trash. This element is a silvery metal liquid that is commonly used in thermometers and wall mounted thermostats. Mercury is not hazardous to humans when it is in a sealed device. The danger to health and the environment arises when mercury-containing articles are broken and discarded in the trash. (Or broken after being discarded in the trash.)

Mercury produces an odorless gas when exposed to the air. Breathing that gas may be harmful. Mercury can cause neurological damage and is harmful to the kidneys and liver.

If mercury is released into the environment, airborne mercury is deposited on lakes and streams with rain and snow. Fish eat smaller organisms that eat the mercury and it ultimately builds up in the fish. The mercury is then transferred to humans that eat the contaminated fish. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health has issued a fish consumption advisory for many rivers and lakes throughout the state. For more on fish advisories for this region of the state, please go to <http://db.state.ma.us/dph/fishadvisory/>.

cury forms a vapor that is easily inhaled. Symptoms of acute exposure to mercury can include numbness around the mouth, tunnel vision, and tingling toes and fingers. Prolonged, high level exposure can cause neurological and kidney damage, vision problems, and behavioral abnormalities.* These dangers are increased for younger children and pregnant women.

Exposure to mercury vapor from broken thermometers is preventable by using a safe alternative, such as a digital thermometer. The Solid Waste District will exchange your mercury fever thermometer for a safer digital one for free. Simply bring the mercury thermometer in its original case or in a sealed plastic bag to our office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield and receive a new digital thermometer in return. Please call the district office at (413) 772-2438 before bringing your mercury thermometer in to make sure a staff member is available.

The most common items found in a home that may contain mercury are:

- Fluorescent Light Bulbs (including the new energy saving spiral compact fluorescent bulbs)
- Heating and Cooling Thermostats (these contain 3000 times more mercury than compact fluorescent bulbs)
- Fever Thermometers
- Silent Light Switches
- Furnace or Boiler Controls

Mercury Spill Information

If you accidentally spill mercury there are certain things you must do to protect yourself and

others:

1. Ventilate the area. Open a window or outside door.
2. Evacuate the spill area for 15 minutes.
3. Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the spill.
4. Use two index cards or other stiff paper to push the mercury together into a ball. Carefully, scoop up the mercury onto one of the index cards or paper. Put it all, including the index cards or paper, into a plastic bag and seal. If possible, place the sealed plastic bag into a glass or plastic jar with a screw-on lid.
5. Call the district at 413-772-2438 for directions on where and when to dispose of the mercury.

Mercury Disposal Information

It's free for residents to bring thermostats and thermometers to the district office at 50 Miles Street, Greenfield.

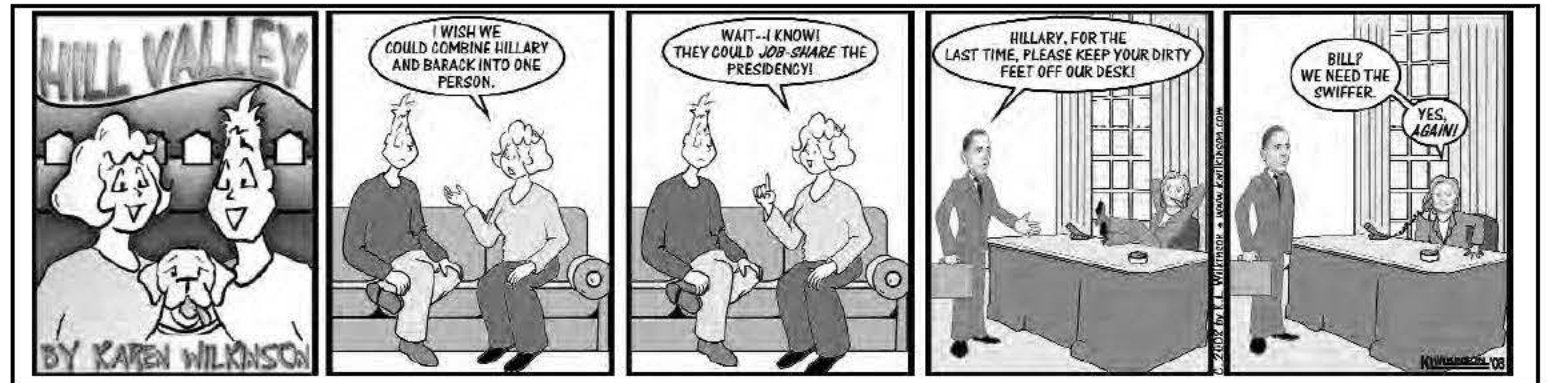
District residents are encouraged to bring any articles that contain mercury to one of the district's household hazardous waste facilities located in Bernardston, Colrain, and Conway. Items such as fluorescent light bulbs, mercury fever thermometers and thermostats can be dropped off at the special sites and will be properly shipped and recycled. For more on the sites, including hours, location, and fees, see www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/supersites.html, or call 413-772-2438. Montague residents may bring fluorescent light bulbs to the Montague Transfer Station. A small disposal fee (.50-\$1.00) will be charged.

Amy Donovan is the Program Director for the Franklin County Solid Waste District.

*Source: US Food and Drug Administration, January 2001

Mercury Thermometer Exchange Program

Mercury thermometers are still commonly found in many medicine cabinets. If a mercury thermometer breaks, it can threaten human health and the environment. For example, the mercury from one fever thermometer can contaminate all of the fish in a 20-acre lake. When a mercury thermometer is broken, the mer-



MCTV Schedule: Feb. 8-14

Eagle Cam: Friday 1P-5P; Saturday 1P-5P; Sunday 12P-5P; Monday 130P-5P; Tuesday 12P-5P; Wednesday 12P-5P; Thursday 130P-5P; If We Have a Signal You Will Have a Picture.	8:30am Veteran's Day 2007 9:00 am Independent Voices 42 9:30 am Cities & Towns build our Economic Future 10:00 am Montague Grange Variety Show 11:30 am UN Panel 6:00 pm Common Man: Cowbell Prescription 7:00 pm Montague Select Board: (Live) 9:00 pm Movie: Senses of Place 10:30 pm Positive Profiles in Courage
Friday, February 8 8:00 am Montague Update: 3D Collaborative 9:00 am Montague Select Board (2/4/08) 10:30 am Common Man: Eric Goodchild 11:30 am Veteran's Day 2007 12:30 pm Mik Tv 6:00 pm Over the Falls: Community Owned Retail 7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (1/29/08) 9:30 pm Chronicles of Czestochowa: Vol 25 10:00 pm Movie: Senses of Place	Tuesday, February 12 8:00 am Common Man: Cowbell Prescription 9:00 am Movie: Senses of Place 10:30 am Positive Profiles in Courage 6:00 pm Bermanke 7:00 pm GMRSD (Live) 10:00 pm Movie Short: Flight 10:30 pm Changing Face of Turners Falls
Saturday, February 9 8:00 am Over the Falls: Community Owned Retail 9:00 am GMRSD Meeting (1/29/08) 11:00 am Chronicles of Czestochowa: Vol 25 11:30 am Movie: Senses of Place 6:00 pm Movie Short: Refusal 7:00 pm Physician Focus: Emergency Preparedness 8:00 pm Preachin the Blues 9:00 pm Sustainable Energy 10:00 pm Carlos W. Anderson: A House Divided	Wednesday, February 13 8:00 am Bermanke 9:00 am Movie Short: Flight 9:30 am Changing Face of Turners Falls 6:00 pm Independent Voices: 42 6:30 pm Road to Recovery: Improving the Bottom Line 7:30 pm Preachin the Blues 8:30 pm Montague Update: John Hanold 9:30 pm Veteran's Day 2007 10:00 pm Peoples Harvest
Sunday, February 10 8:00 am Movie Short: Refusal 8:30 am Physician Focus: Emergency Preparedness 9:00 am Preachin the Blues 10:00 am Sustainable Energy 11:00 pm Carlos W. Anderson: A House Divided 6:00 pm On the Ridge: Youth Pheasant Hunts 6:30 pm Veteran's Day 2007 7:00 pm Independent Voices 42 7:30 pm Cities and Towns build our Economic Future 8:00 pm Montague Grange Variety Show 9:30 pm UN Panel	Thursday, February 14 8:00 am Independent Voices: 42 8:30 am Road to Recovery: Improving the Bottom Line 9:30 am Preachin the Blues 10:30 am Montague Update: John Hanold 11:30 am Veteran's Day 2007 12:00 pm Peoples Harvest 6:00 pm Over the Falls: Community Owned Retail 7:00 pm Montague Select Board: (2/11/08) 9:00 pm Peske Park Dedication 9:30 pm Discovery Center: Woodpeckers 10:30 pm Coffee House: Jeff Martell Pheasant Hunts
Monday, February 11 8:00 am On the Ridge: Youth Pheasant Hunts	

OUTSIDE THE BOX
Repair and Custom

European, Domestic, Asian & Heavy Truck
Preventative Maintenance
Aftermarket Parts, Installations
Performance Modifications
Suspension Upgrades
General Repair • Rust Repair
Custom Exhaust • Detailing

144 Shelburne Rd. Greenfield
Sam and Zack
773-0091

SALON 107
\$7.00 cuts

to all disabled, veterans, and senior citizens!
We are willing to travel to the houses of elderly who can no longer get out much.
(Now hiring 3 licensed and experienced stylists or barbers to start immediately either FT or PT)

114 Wells Street Greenfield, MA 01301 772-0284

Looking to hire stylist or barber! Debra Mathey owner and stylist

GREENFIELD
Est. 1991
Veterinary Clinic

Robert J. Sagor, D.V.M.

18 French King Highway Greenfield

Office Hours by Appointment
(413) 774-9919

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

CREATIVE HAIRCUTTING PERMS & COLORS
Men, Women & Children

CASTINE'S HAIR CREATIONS

You can get there from here...
863-2022
74 PROSPECT ST. TURNERS FALLS

BLACK JUNGLE
Terrarium Supply

Rare, Exotic, Tropical & Carnivorous Plants
Poison Dart Frogs

413-863-2770
www.blackjungle.com
370 Avenue A, Turners Falls MA, 01376

Mercury Spills in Turners Falls

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Back in December, a local heating contractor replaced the boiler in the basement of 111 - 115 Avenue A, the building owned by Tom Cameron of Easthampton. During the course of that work, a small amount of mercury was spilled on the basement floor. A building tenant called the Board of Health to report the spill, weeks later, in early January. Out of concern for tenant safety, on January 4th, Montague health agent Gina McNeely ordered the residential tenants to evacuate the premises, and closed the first floor storefronts: the Avenue A Café and Seth & Eva's consignment shop, for a 24 hour period, while she called in the Department of Environmental Protection, who sampled air quality in the second story apartments and first floor commercial space. The DEP detected trace amounts of vaporized mercury from the basement spill.

Cameron contracted with Environmental Compliance

Services of Agawam to clean up and retest the premises. On Saturday, January 5th, ECS manager Bruce Tease was standing in the alley beside the building, as his clean-up crew wrapped up work. He had this to say about the incident: "When the boiler was replaced several weeks ago, the old boiler may have had a mercury thermostat or switch," which was probably broken as the contractor changed out the unit.

Although Cameron had cleaned up the mercury carefully weeks earlier, McNeely said, using duct tape to collect it off the basement floor and sealing it in a glass jar, some amount of the mercury probably "volatized" at the time and dispersed around the building, most likely by people walking in and out of the basement to the upper floors.

Tease said that by January 5th, the amount of mercury detected in the air of the building with a Jerome Meter was below minimum safety levels set by OSHA

for workers, (.1 micrograms per cubic meter) and below levels deemed safe for residences in Massachusetts (.025 micrograms per cubic meter). The first floor spaces average .02 micrograms per cubic meter, Tease said, while the upstairs apartments averaged .015 micrograms per cubic meter.

Tease said the board of health called in the DEP because, "They realize it could be a threat. Mercury is a metal that can accumulate in the body, and can affect internal organs, [mainly by] causing neurological damage."

But Tease said, "These levels are so low, even on the day it spilled it wasn't much of a risk," to public health.

On January 5th, Cameron called the town's response to the incident "an over-reaction."

But McNeely was not buying that. At the end of January, she ordered additional NIOSH testing, "a very accurate test" to determine if there is any residual mercury in the building's air.

Those tests have not come back yet, McNeely said. She said Cameron had been "extremely compliant," in contracting once again with Tease to conduct the follow-up tests.

A few weeks later another, more mysterious case involving spilled mercury cropped up in town, this time involving a head of broccoli reportedly purchased at Food City by a Randall Road family. The family said they brought the broccoli home, cooked it, and while having dinner noticed a small amount of mercury in the cooked vegetable, after having consumed some. They brought a sample of the mercury down to Food City on Thursday, January 24th, and the store immediately pulled all the broccoli off the shelves and conducted a thorough clean-up. But no mercury was found there.

The DEP came in to test the store on Monday, January 28th, and the Pioneer Valley Hazmat Team followed up the next day, said Montague board of health

member Jay di Pucchio, who took the lead investigating the family's complaint, with McNeely out that week on sick leave. Neither team found any trace of mercury at Food City, and subsequent tests at the family's home picked up only scant traces of mercury on the kitchen rug. Authorities ruled out intentional tampering, and are now tracing the route of the broccoli back through the supplier.

DiPucchio said the board of health first learned of the matter when the family's doctor, Daniel Zinn, of Greenfield, notified them, after testing the child who had eaten the contaminated broccoli. Zinn ordered a urine test to see what level of mercury the child might have ingested, but the results of that test are not available yet, McNeely said.

DiPucchio said, "We've all been scratching our heads on this one. It could have been a broken thermometer on a refrigerated truck delivering broccoli from Mexico this time of year."

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

"Your Teeth are Like Stars; They Come out at Night."

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - *Q. I have vivid memories of my mother's dentures in a glass next to her bed. As I enter my 70s, is this what I have to look forward to?*

Let's start with a definition. 'Dentures,' - also called 'complete dentures' or 'plates' - are for people with no teeth. Dentures cover your entire upper or lower jaw. There are removable partial dentures, too; these are made of replacement teeth attached to plastic bases, which are connected by metal framework.

If you practice good dental hygiene, you should be able to avoid dentures as you get older. Losing your teeth is not considered a normal consequence of aging. Teeth are designed to last a lifetime

Advancements in treatment and better oral hygiene have made dentures less necessary.

One reputable survey showed

that the rate seniors lose their teeth has dropped by 60 percent since 1960.

But, if you are among the unfortunate who require dentures, here is some useful information.

Those dentures your mother wore can't compare to the modern choppers. The latest technology and better materials make the dentures of today more comfortable and better looking.

Dentures are placed on the gums, which are over bone. Sometimes one or more natural teeth are kept and they fit under the denture. A denture that is anchored by real teeth is called an "overdenture."

An overdenture is more stable; it inhibits shifting in the mouth. Teeth used in overdentures are usually given a root canal, which replaces the pulp with filling material. The pulp is known commonly as the tooth's "nerve."

Immediately after dentures are made, they often feel odd in the mouth. There's a period of adjustment. One difficult challenge is eating, which is never the same as it was before dentures.

The following are some pointers for eating with dentures:

- Do't bite with your front teeth or pull your food outward from your mouth.
- Chew food on both sides of your mouth simultaneously to stabilize your dentures.
- Cut food into small pieces.
- When you first eat with your dentures, you should avoid sticky foods, raw vegetables and hard-to-chew meats.
- It is more difficult to feel inside your mouth when you wear dentures, so be careful with hot foods and anything with small bones.

And here are some more challenges that usually confront denture-wearers:

- Speaking is a different experience. You should try speaking slowly at first, and practice by reading aloud.
- You may have more saliva in your mouth.
- When you sneeze, cough or yawn, your dentures may loosen.
- Dentures have to be removed at least once daily to rest the tissue below them. Most denture-wearers remove their plates before bed, and store them a cleaning solution.
- After you have been wearing dentures for years, your jaws become smaller, and the dentures don't fit as well. Slippage, gum irritation and odor indicate that your dentures may not fit correctly.

If your dentures need a correction, go to your dentist. Relining and rebasing are alterations that adjust your dentures. Rebasing involves making an entirely new denture base, while relining modifies the existing



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

one. Both procedures maintain the denture's existing artificial teeth.

It is also a good idea to make regular visits to the dentist. In addition to tending to your dentures, your dentist can examine your mouth for bone loss, oral cancer, infections and other conditions.

One last note about adhesives. They make wearing dentures easier. However, adhesives should not be used to compensate for dentures that don't fit correctly.

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



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


BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.

TELEPHONE 413.863.9299
email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com

65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

Renaissance Excavating

COMPLETE SITE WORK



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

DOUGLAS EDSON (413) 863-4462



413-256-6217

fine instruments bought and sold repaired and restored

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



COUNTRY OIL
SINCE 1988
HEATING-COOLING-PLUMBING

- Annual Heating System Cleaning
- Plumbing Repairs
- LICENSED TECHNICIANS

540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992
www.countryoil.com 413-648-9912 #M10588 (MA)

Simons & Simons

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Thomas G. Simons • Gerry G. Simons

Estates • Wills • Real Estate
Personal Injury

**77 Fourth Street • Turners Falls, MA
(413) 863-9506**

CASH PAID FOR YOUR

CDs
LPs
DVDs



TURN IT UP!

NORTHAMPTON • EASTHAMPTON • BRATTLEBORO • KEENE • TURNITUP.COM
413.582.1865 413.527.3850 802.261.8015 803.358.6933

JEP'S PLACE: Faith, Hope and Other Disasters Part LXV

BRUNCHA

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - It was shortly after Miss Pogoda got married that

our red cow, Bruncha, went lame and couldn't get up one morning. Her hindquarters were paralyzed.

"Someone must have fed her too much corn," Pa said. "Too much corn will cripple, every time." I think he would have said that if an animal had broken a leg.

Bruncha was pregnant and Pa said he hated to lose both her and her unborn calf. He dragged her into the hay barn. She pulled herself along with her front feet, while Pa hauled her paralyzed legs along with a pulley block and tackle. Once he got her into the hay barn, he rigged up two slings to support her body. He attached the pulley block to an

overhead barn beam, and hoisted her up so that her feet rested lightly on the floor. With the weight of her body off her legs, he hoped she'd begin using them again.

In a few days, it became obvious that the slings were cutting into her body, causing her pain and swelling. Pa lowered her. Bruncha's hind legs crumpled and she lay on her right side, from then on. Hay stacked against the barn windows blocked the light and made the interior of the hay barn dark and gloomy when the door was closed. She dragged herself around in a big circle.

Ma saved potato peels, bits of cabbage leaves, and other

vegetable greens to vary Bruncha's diet of dry hay. When I opened the barn door, she turned to face me. She seemed happy to see me. While she ate her treat, I'd talk to her and pet her. She seemed to listen as she munched her goodies in that dim light. When I went out the door she'd turn her head to watch me leave.

"Goodbye, Bruncha; see you tomorrow," I'd say, and close the door, shutting out the light.

When the day came for Bruncha to give birth, the calf's forefeet came out just a bit. She couldn't push them any farther, no matter how hard she tried. When the legs

stuck out for several hours of labor, it became obvious Bruncha was never going to give birth by herself. Pa summoned a couple of neighbors to help. He let me stay to watch.

"The boy will learn a bit of what life's about," one of the men said, making me feel grown up. I felt indebted to Pa for allowing me to stay. He wrapped a rag around the calf's legs and tied a rope in a slip-knot over the rag. The men lined up, holding the rope. Each time Bruncha pushed, they pulled. At long last, the calf came sliding out, to lie there in a wet heap.

... continued next week

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, General Laws, as amended, the inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that The Montague Parks & Recreation Department will be discussing the future development of Unity Park. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 20 at 7:00pm, at the Unity Park Fieldhouse, 56 First Street, Turners Falls MA. Public participation is encouraged.

REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS CALL 863-8666, FAX 863-3050

20 words for \$6.15 cents each extra word. 3rd week free.

APARTMENT FOR RENT - 134 Second Street, Turners Falls. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, \$695 plus utilities, near park. Call 775-3424.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Plow Frau & Bow Wow is a VERY successful "clean-out, hauling, and snow plowing" business. Community oriented, environmentally friendly, FUN, interesting, and unique. Please call Sita for details: (413) 834-7569.

CARPENTRY - No Job Too Small - General Carpentry and home repairs. Custom shelves a specialty. Call David, (413) 863-9296.

MASONRY - Stephen Cahill Masonry. Brick and stonework fireplaces, chimneys, patios, walkways, steps, repointing, foundation repairs. Insured. Free estimates. Please call (413) 824-9717 or email doosel9@yahoo.com.

FOR RENT - Isla Mujeres (Mexican Caribbean) Vacation Rental. Available by

day (\$50) or week (\$300) lovely, newly constructed and fully furnished 1-bedroom bungalow with large living room/dining room, private bath & efficiency kitchen. Close to beach. Info @ <http://lacasaroja.weebly.com/> or call Luis 413-475-2982 or Jessica 413-475-2981.

FOSTER PARENTS WANTED - Since 1964, Dare Family Services has provided foster care for abused and neglected children who are not able to live with their biological families. We are looking for foster parents in Franklin County for our So. Deerfield Office. Please join us in enhancing the lives of children in need. Dare offers training, ongoing support and a daily \$50 tax-exempt stipend. For more details, call Krista Harrington at 413-684-2222 or 800-244-DARE. Also ask about our \$300 referral bonus!

OPEN HOUSE - Pioneer Cooperative of Franklin County Open House, 308 Montague City Road, February 9th, 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Building Community Through Affordable Housing.

Wolf Tree Program Brings Ancient Skills to the Present

MONTAGUE - An interactive presentation new to the Pioneer Valley brings to life how indigenous peoples of the Eastern Woodlands prospered prior to the influence of western culture.

In the event titled "A Window Into the Past: A Primitive Studies Program," Neill Bovaird, Director of

Wolf Tree Programs, uses authentic replicas and technical demonstrations to recount the progression of ideas, skills, and tools that enabled ancient societies to survive from the last ice age up to the Contact Period (circa 1600).

Topics covered include tool production, local tree and plant

uses, food gathering, primitive fire making, hide tanning, cooking techniques, trade and more. This indoor program is ideal for all ages.

The program will be offered this Saturday, January 9th, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., at the Montague Grange, across from the town common in Montague Center.

Please support our advertisers!
The Montague Reporter

FOOD SERVICE SEEKS WAREHOUSE WORKER/ DELIVERY DRIVER

Squash, Inc., a full service fresh food distributor seeks worker for full-time, benefited position. Job involves handling and delivery of fresh food. Prior food experience, Class A or B license a plus.

Apply in person at:
Squash, Inc.
1315 Federal Street (Route 9)
Belchertown, MA
413-256-8929

Death by Chocolate Fund-Raiser in Athol

The New England Equestrian Center of Athol will hold a "Death By Chocolate" fundraiser from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Athol Town Hall on Saturday, February 16th. Light jazz by Ralph Hills and Friends along with samples of over 30 decadent chocolate recipes made by NEECA members. Tickets are \$15.00 per person, and can be pre-purchased by calling Lynne Goodnow at (978) 249-7400, email lgoodnow@yahoo.com or at the door that evening. For more info, go to: www.equinecenter.org.

ROUTE 63 ROADHOUSE
LIVE MUSIC

Our Kitchen "GOOD FOOD" open Tues-Sat. 6 p.m. - til late night

Friday, Feb. 8
Lost in the Groove
Rock & Roll, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb 9
Curly Fingers Dupree Band
Rock & Roll covers, 9:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 10
Second Sunday Comedy
3 Comics \$5, 7 p.m.

Wednesdays: Ottomatic Slim Harmonica-driven Rocken Blues 7 - 10 p.m., no cover

Thursdays: Open Mic hosted by Peter Kim & Jimmy Arnold along with new host guitarist weekly 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. no cover

www.r63roadhouse.com 413-659-3384

Special Offer for Reporter Subscribers!

Any paid subscriber to the Montague Reporter may have one free classified ad in 2008, up to 20 words. Contact us at 413-863-8666 or reporter@Montaguema.net (Pay for a second week, get a third week free!)

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

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

Culvert / Sewer Pipe
Precast Concrete
Retaining Wall Block

Ideal

298 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA
Phone: 413-863-4322

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Patrick Smith
HIC #134741
Insured

Montague, MA 01351

EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
Specializing in Cellulose Insulation
Infrared Quality Assurance Guaranteed

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

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

Brian R. San Soucie
Locksmith - CRL

Serving the Area for over 30 years Certified • Bonded • Insured

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

- 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

CARSENSE AUTOMOTIVE
Your Automotive Answer

Check Engine Light on? We Can Help!

TELE: (413) 772-8862 — CELL: (413) 512-0413
409 DEERFIELD STREET • GREENFIELD

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8th
Open Swim at Turners Falls High School Pool. Family Swim 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Adult Lap Swim 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Also March 7th.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Falls Coffee House, 7 to 9 p.m. Amandla Community Chorus performs music from around the world. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. \$6-\$12 donation.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Eric Love - Rock, no cover. 9 to 11 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: DJs' Holiday: XML & TBA (lounge/dance) 9 p.m., \$1 cover.

Chocolate Festival at Harmony Lodge, Turners Falls. Hand dipped fruit, chocolate fountain, Valentine gifts. 10 to 2 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Rock & Roll covers: Lost In The Groove, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9th
Historic Deerfield: Colonial Chocolate Celebration, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Just in time for Valentine's Day, Info. www.historic-deerfield.org.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Richard Chase Group - Acoustic Folk Rock, no cover. 9 to 11 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Rock & Roll covers: Curly Fingers Dupree, 9:30 p.m. Come to dance!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10th
Deja Brew, Wendell: Steve Crow - Acoustic Trio, no cover. 8 to 10 p.m.

Childrens' Music Show with singer/songwriter Sarah Pirtle, 1 - 2

p.m. at Greenfield Center School, 71 Montague City Road, Greenfield, 773-1700, FREE. Refreshments. Open House to follow, 2 - 4 p.m.

The Dead of Winter Film Series at the Montague Bookmill, Montague Center. Free film for the frozen: *Rebecca* (1940) Joan Fontaine and Laurence Olivier star in Hitchcock's classic. 7 p.m. Food & drink at the Lady Killigrew & the Night Kitchen.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Eat, Drink and Laugh at the Second Sunday Comedy series: Smokin' Joe Holden, Heath Jennings and Dave Yubrich. 7 p.m., \$5.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: TNT KARAOKE! (come sing to us), 8 p.m., free.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11th
Live jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, Mark Applegate & John Vanepps, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, 78 Third Street, Turners Falls: Slope Editions Slopez-voe Reading Series, #2, writers TBA.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12th
The Montague Reporter Presents: A reading and publication of love poems -- the good, bad, ugly, bold, and beautiful. Come read your love poems at The Vou! 7 p.m. Submit your love poems for publication in The Montague Reporter's Valentine's Day edition by 2/12.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH
Surviving the Dust Bowl Documentary film featuring interviews with witnesses and remarkable archival film footage and photographs as it tells the heart-wrenching story of people who endured a series of almost biblical scourges, from drought and famine to a plague of jackrabbits, 60 min., 7 p.m. at Wendell Free Library.

Athol Bird and Nature Club presents: Musk Turtle Ecology in Central Massachusetts. Antioch Graduate Student Lori Johnson will present her research on this topic, 7 p.m., information (978) 248-9491.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Nathan Hobbs, Julia Read, Matt Lorenz, 9 p.m, \$3 cover.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14th
At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Valentine's Lovefest with Rust Knuckle Raptor and the Falltown String Band, 9 p.m., \$3 cover.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15th
Surviving the Dust Bowl, see 2/13 listing description, 7 p.m. at the New Salem Public Library.

Green Trees Gallery, Northfield: Joe Graveline and the Ferne Bork-Dan Timen-Bruce Kahn trio benefit con-



Sarah Pirtle performs a FREE children's concert, 1-2 p.m. at Greenfield Center School, 71 Montague City Road, Greenfield.

cert for the Friends of Schell Bridge, 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation \$10-\$20. Children are welcome.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Cheaters' Club, DeAngelo Nieves, Spouse ("rock", etc.) 9 p.m. Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Last in The Groove, rock & roll covers, come to dance 9:30 p.m.,

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16th
Seed Swap 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. held in the upstairs meeting room of Green Fields Market, Greenfield. Free. Novices to experts welcome. Bring seeds to exchange with other participants. Homegrown, organic and heirloom varieties are encouraged. melindamccreven@hotmail.com.

At the Montague Grange, Montague Center: *The Joy of Qi Gong: Rejuvenating the Energy Field*, 10 - 4:30 p.m. Registration and info: contact Chris Marano 367-2781 or chris@clearpathherbals.com

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: ROCKITQUEER 5 Dance PAR-TAY, 9 p.m., free.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Turn It Loose, come to dance 9:30 p.m. **FRIDAY TO SUNDAY,**

FEBRUARY 15th - 17th
Ja'Duke Inc. performs Disney's *High School Musical* at the Shea Theater. 2/15 & 2/16 at 7p.m. and 2/17 at 2 p.m.. Tickets at the Shea Theater box office 863-2281. Continues February 22 to 24th

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17th
The Dead of Winter Film Series at the Montague Bookmill, Montague Center. Free film for the frozen: *Don't Look Now* (1973) Gorgeous, chilling tale of death and psychic phenomena in Venice. From a story by Daphne Du Maurier. 7 p.m.

Montague Grange, Montague Center: *The Tibetan Practice of Tonglen: Compassion, Integration and Healing*, 10 - 4:30 p.m. Registration: Chris Marano 367-2781, chris@clearpathherbals.com

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18th
Live jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, *Interplay Jazz Band*, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20th
The Plow that Broke the Plains, Historic documentary (made in 1934) depicts the social and economic history of the Great Plains from the settlement of the prairies by cattlemen and farmers through the WWI boom to drought and depression, 30 min., 7 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24th
Textile History Museum of Historic Deerfield: Winter Lecture Series. *The Basics: Linen and Cotton*, 2 p.m., White Church Community Center, Deerfield. Diane Fagan Affleck, Director of Interpretation presents, free.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26th
Book discussion led by Linda Hickman at Carnegie Library. *Omnivore's Dilemma*, by Michael Pollan. Join Linda Hickman at the Carnegie Library, Turners Falls for the first of our Eating Local Series programs. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. For ages 12 and older Copies of the book are available for loan at the library.

ONGOING
On display at Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls: Paul Taylor *Themes and Variations* at Gallery 85, Susan Kae Grant *Night Journeys* at Gallery 52 & 56. Photographs displayed till March 16th.

BOOK & MELL
MONTAGUE-MA
FREE FILMS FOR THE FROZEN
Sunday, February 10th 7pm
Don't Look Now
(1973) Gorgeous, chilling tale of death and psychic phenomena in Venice from a story by Daphne Du Maurier.
Food & Drink available at The Lady Killigrew & the Night Kitchen
www.montaguebookmill.com (413)367-9206

GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS
Main St. Greenfield, MA 413-774-4881
www.gardencinemas.net
Showtimes for Friday, Feb 8th - Wednesday, Feb 13th

- 1. JUNO PG13 DAILY 6:30 9:00
- 2. FOOL'S GOLD PG13 DAILY 6:30 9:00 R in dts sound MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- 3. ATONEMENT R DAILY 6:30 9:00 MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- 4. THE BUCKET LIST PG13 DAILY 6:45 9:15 MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 5. 27 DRESSES PG13 DAILY 6:45 9:15 MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 6. THERE WILL BE BLOOD R DAILY 7:00 in DTS sound MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:30
- 7. RAMBO R in DTS sound DAILY 7:00 9:30 MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

Dona Med
Cafe & Pub
Draft Beer Fine Wine Great Food
Open Wed-Sun at 4 p.m.
Friday 2/8 9 - 11 p.m. Rock: Eric Love
Saturday 2/9 9 - 11 p.m. Acoustic Folk Rock: Richard Chase Group
Sunday 2/10 8 - 10 p.m. Acoustic Trio: Steve Crow
No Cover Any Night
978-544-BREW
57A Lockes Village Road
Next to the Wendell Country Store

THE LADY KILLIGREW:
still proudly serving
BROWN RICE SALAD

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

Upcoming at the Great Falls Discovery Center
www.greatfallsma.org 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls 863-3221
Winter hours open: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday & Saturday & by special arrangement

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8th
Great Falls Coffee House, 7 to 9 p.m. Amandla Community Chorus performs music from around the world. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. \$6-\$12 donation suggested.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9th
Winter is Wonderful and Ice is Nice Join Gini Traub of DCR for this adventure. Become animals and discover ways to keep warm in winter. Bring your hat and mittens to see how they help keep us warm. Use ice to change cream into ice cream and taste its sweetness for a pre-Valentine's Day treat. 1 to 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16th
Special Exhibit Tours 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Join Refuge staff on this special tour of the exhibits.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21st
Water, Snow, and Ice: How does wildlife cope with changes in weather and water? Discover survival strategies. 11 - 12 p.m.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 28th
Green River Landscapes by Frank Gregory on Display in the Great Hall.

TOGNARELLI HEATING & COOLING

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

bryant Heating & Cooling Systems **413-863-2295** **SPACEPAK** Central Air - Anywhere

123 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Specializing in unique hair designs

Bella THE SALON

312 MONTAGUE CITY ROAD 774-4003
Stylists seeking booth space encouraged to call!

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

SURVIVING THE DUST BOWL



FILM REVIEW

BY DAVID DETMOLD

LEVERETT - In a time of economic gloom and ecologic upheaval, the national psyche is seared with images of catastrophic storms and the mass migration of peoples. These images, caught by documentary filmmakers as they were still unfolding and poorly understood, played before a small, tense audience in the Leverett Library on Sunday, February 3rd.

Was it Al Gore's *Inconvenient Truth*? No, but it could have been its prequel. The film was the PBS American Experience feature *Surviving the Dustbowl*, written and produced by Chana Gazit, which will air again at the Wendell Free Library on Wednesday, February 13th at 7 p.m. and at the New Salem Library on Friday, February 13th at 7 p.m. in connection with the seven-town community read of National Book Award winner Timothy Egan's bestseller, *The Worst Hard Time: the Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Dust Bowl*.

In a word, the film was harrowing.

The one-hour documentary employs the now familiar Ken Burns-style format of talking heads interspersed with period photos, but *Surviving the Dust Bowl* excels with the use of gripping archival footage of the actual dust storms moving across the Southern Plains in the 1930s - their huge black

thunderclouds of topsoil billowing across the horizon like the army of some vengeful Old Testament God - engulfing everything in their path. By 1936, one storm had dropped, "12 million tons of dust on Chicago," and rolled on across the East, enveloping Washington D.C. even as one Congressional committee debated a new agricultural policy that would catapult soil conservation to the top of the nation's land use policy.

But that's not how it all began. As the companion film *The Plow that Broke the Plains*, (showing at the Sunderland library on Tuesday, February 12th at 6 p.m. and the Wendell library on Wednesday, February 20th at 7 p.m.) makes clear, in the Roaring 20s, state and federal governments teamed up to convince farmers from the North and East to settle in the Southern Plains, and swap horse team for tractors to break the sod that had kept the thin crust of topsoil rooted in place there through centuries of cyclical drought. For a while, wheat and corn yields were phenomenal. As long as the rains held.

As the narrator intoned, over images of waving grain, "The land was green and lush, and the soil so rich, an observer noted that it 'looked like chocolate where the plow turned the sod.' A record wheat yield in 1931 seemed proof positive that "there was no better place to be a farmer than the Southern Plains."

Then the rains quit, and for eight successive summers drought reigned in the panhandles of Texas and Oklahoma, the plains of western Kansas, eastern Colorado and New Mexico. The only thing harvested in the Southern Plains through the remainder of the 30s was dust.

The tale of those who fled the devastation - a quarter of the population of the Southern Plains - the 'Okies' made famous by the writings of Carey McWilliams and John Steinbeck (the movie version of *The Grapes of Wrath* will air at the Sunderland library on Wednesday, February 20th, at 6 p.m.; and at the Leverett library on Sunday, March 2nd at 3 p.m.), is well known. But the less familiar tale of those who actually stuck it out, and continued to try to farm the wastelands of the Southern Plains through a decade of economic depression, foreclosures, bank failures, blistering heat, and endless wind is a testament to human endurance against conditions that would have laid lesser mortals low.

You see the faces and hear the memories of a number of those whose parents stuck. J.R. Davison, of Oklahoma, recalled, "They kept breaking this country out and they plowed up a lot of country that should never have been plowed up. They got the whole country plowed up nearly and, ah, that's about the time it turned off terribly dry."

dust rather than mustard gas fouling the air." Crops withered and animals died. Among human beings, an epidemic of so-called 'dust pneumonia' became rampant.

One of the most affecting narrations was that of Margie Daniels of Hooker, Oklahoma, whose composure broke down as she told the story. "I had a little brother that had pneumonia three times. And I've always felt it was caused from too much dirt.

"I remember Mother gave him his medicine in the spoon. I stayed in the room with her, because we had to sit up with him all night. And she put this medicine in a spoon and put it in his mouth and he... he swallowed it, and laid back in her arms and died. (Crying) Excuse me. But I'll never forget how that affected my mother. She started screaming and she just held him so tight. And even though she had several children, you know, you have people say, 'Well, you have several children. If you lose one, it won't matter.' That's not true, because this affected Mother in a way that she was never the same again."

As if the dust and wind was not enough to drive them from the land, J. R. Davison, of Texhoma, Oklahoma recalled a plague of starving jackrabbits descending from the hills by the hundreds of thousands in 1935, eating every green thing still growing. Men lined up and herded the jackrabbits by the

thousands into pens, where they "clubbed them to death. I can imagine what the Humane Society would say about that now," said Davidson, wryly.

At about this same time, the federal government came up with a program to exterminate the farmers' starving livestock, offering \$16 a head for cattle, \$3 for calves, slaughtering them at gunpoint.

Besides the many first person witnesses, the movie also features documentary footage of a number of colorful dust-bowl characters, like John McCarty, editor of the Dalhart, Texas newspaper, who formed the Last Man Club, a confidence boosting organization dedicated to remaining in the Dust Bowl, no matter what. McCarty came up with the following pledge, and found a large number of takers to sign on: "In the absence of an act of God, serious family injury, or some other emergency, I pledge to stay here as the last man and to do everything I can to help other last men remain in this country. We promise to stay here 'til hell freezes over and skate out on the ice."

Sounds like the kind of blame fool thing a small town newspaper editor would come up with.

In the spring of '35, the wind blew for 27 days and nights without cessation. April 14th, 1935, dubbed 'Black Sunday', saw the worst dust storm of all, with black clouds stretching across the horizon "like the wrath of God." As Avis Carlson wrote in the *New Republic*, "People caught in their own yards grope for the doorstep. Cars come to a standstill, for no light in the world can penetrate that swirling murk. . . . The nightmare is deepest during the storms."

In time, conservation measures promulgated by the Department of Agriculture mitigated some of the worst effects of the indiscriminate row plowing of the 20s. But it was not until the rains finally returned in the spring of '39 that the dust finally settled on the Southern Plains.

Go to your nearest library to pick up a copy of *The Worst Hard Time*, by Timothy Egan, and get on the same page with communities throughout southeastern Franklin County who are studying the lessons of man's effect on nature, to better understand the challenges of our present predicament in an age of global warming.

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

AJ's CYCLE
274 Rt. 2, Gill

- gloves
- boots
- accessories
- gift certificates

(413) 863-9543
Allan • David
email: AJCYC@CROCKER.COM
WWW.AJCYCLE.COM




RENAISSANCE PAINTING
SINCE 1970
LICENSED, INSURED™
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING, ALL PHASES • POWER WASHING

BRIAN McCUE, PRESIDENT
240 GREENFIELD ROAD • MONTAGUE, MA
PHONE & FAX: 413-367-9896

Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager

HallKeen
Real Estate Management and Investment

Power Town Apartments
152 Avenue A
P.O. Box 48
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Tel: 413.863.9433
TTY: 800.439.0183
Email: hkptown@verizon.net



