



**ANTI-WAR RALLY IN D.C.**  
A Local Man's Account / Page 7



**WEST ALONG THE RIVER**  
Winter Bird Count/ Page 16

*Image by Louis Agassiz Fuertes*

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 17

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 1, 2007

## Wendell Weighs Cost of Late Completion of Town Building

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

With three weeks remaining to February 15th, the date specified for completion of the new town office building, the Wendell selectboard spent most of the January 24th meeting discussing the pace of town building projects.

Frank Petrucci, on-site representative for the project's lending agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said it is the obligation of the general contractor - Handford Construction - to inform the town if they need more time to complete the building. Board member Christine Heard said the penalty for late com-

pletion was \$250 a day, but was not sure if there are issues that might exempt Handford from paying that penalty. Board member Dan Keller said, to be fair, some of the construction delay was caused by the town itself, through change orders and selection of materials that were slow in arriving. However, he agreed most of the project's tardiness resulted from Handford Construction's slow start. He said Handford is doing quality work now, and has beefed up the construction crew.

Delayed completion of the new town office see **WENDELL** pg 12

## A Bridge Too Far

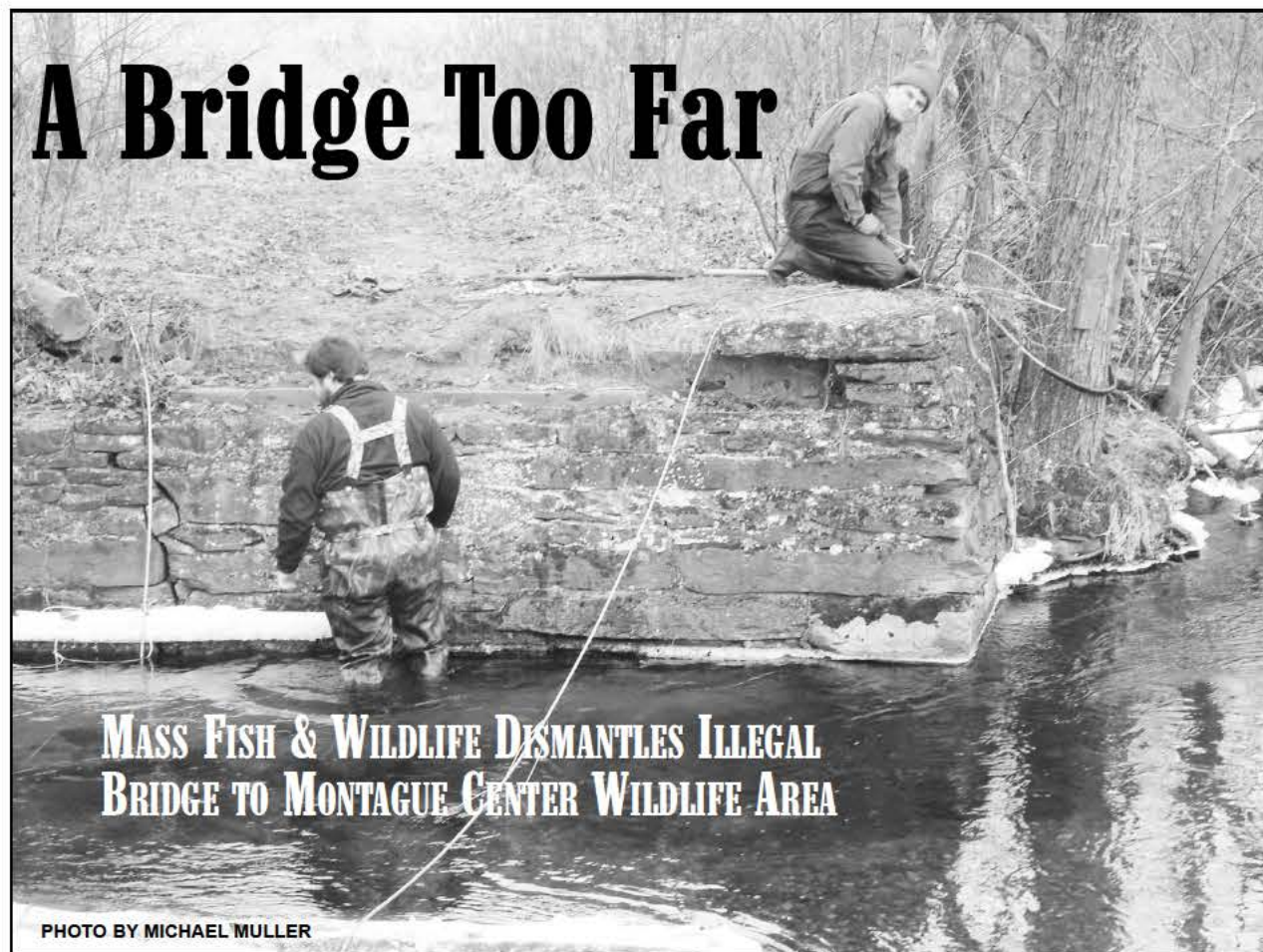


PHOTO BY MICHAEL MULLER

On Wednesday, January 24th, employees of Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife, who declined to give their names, took down an illegally installed bridge across the Sawmill River at the Montague Center wildlife management area, at the end of North Street.

BY DAVID DETMOLD  
When the Sawmill River flooded a few years back, one of the only casualties

was an old farm bridge that spanned the river at the end of North Street. The cresting water took

the top of the bridge right off the abutments, but local residents found it a short way downstream

and hoisted the beams and crossties back into position. see **BRIDGE** pg 10



## HUONG YONG PING RETROSPECTIVE A HISTORIC OCCASION AT MASSMoCA

BY DAVID DETMOLD  
NORTH ADAMS - On Saturday, January 27th, thousands of people from around the region flocked to the former Sprague Electric mill in North Adams - now home to the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASSMoCA) - to take advantage of the once a

year day of free admission, and tour the extensive galleries of modern art.

The vast space holds more than the eye can absorb in one afternoon. In the company of our tour guide, Jason Grand, we viewed parts of two of exhibits: A historic Occasion: Artists Making

History, and House of Oracles, a Huang Yong Ping Retrospective.

The first exhibit looked at the work of a number of young artists who are examining the modern epoch through the lens of various media. As you enter the first gallery, eight documentary-style photographs by Nebojsa

Seric-Shoba greet you, from his *Battlefields* series. They examine some of the renowned battlefields of recent centuries as they appear today: the rolling farm fields where Napoleon's forces fought and died at Waterloo, a butcher's lorry with glistening sides of beef hanging from

hooks parked beside a sidewalk café in Paris, a grassy meadow with a road sign on a bordering rural highway pointing to a nearby McDonald's in Verdun.

Seric-Shoba was attending the Academy of Fine Arts in Sarajevo when war broke out in Bosnia in 1992. He fought in the Bosnian army for the next four years, and continued to make art in the ruined studios of the Academy's basement using found materials like shrapnel, shell fragments, and broken glass. He includes a photo of his native city in the exhibit: with houses stepped against a hillside, some, on close inspection, still missing doors and windows, the treeline blasted.

Saturday happened to be the day of international remembrance of the Holocaust, designated by the United Nations General Assembly two years ago. Among Seric-

Shoba's photos was a particularly arresting image of Auschwitz, with its rectilinear precision of dormitories (resembling tobacco barns), barbed wire, and railroad sidings. From the foggy rear-ground, three black-clad personages march down the central tracks toward the viewer, trailed by other indistinct figures, lacking all features. January 27th marked the 62nd anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, where 1.1 million Jews were exterminated during the five years the death camp operated.

"The images in these photographs are plain," said Grand, "but they show places that are loaded with history; they show scars."

Behind a scalloped curtain, New York City artist Allison Smith has arranged mock Civil War rifles and sidearms in graceful mandalas, evok-

see **ART** pg 11



## PET OF THE WEEK Spring Me!



### Fluff

Hi! The name's Fluff. Guess why? I'm a female five-year-old long hair grey tabby in need of a good home. I came here with my older sister Camilla, who looks like a short hair version of me. I think I'd get along great in any home where I can be kept indoors and where there are no small children that might scare me. Most of all, I need your help. Spring me from this joint! For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dphvs.org.

Support our Advertisers,  
tell them you saw it in the  
**Montague Reporter**

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

**NANCY L. DOLE**  
BOOKS & EPHEMERA  
**BOOKS**  
Buying and selling used books  
32 BRIDGE STREET, 2ND FLOOR  
SHELBURNE FALLS, MA  
413-625-9850  
ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

**The Montague Reporter**  
Published weekly on Thursday,  
(Every other week in July and  
August. Wednesday paper fourth  
week of November. No paper last  
week of December.)  
PHONE (413) 863-8666  
FAX (413) 863-3050  
reporter@montaguema.net  
Postmaster: Send address  
changes to  
The Montague Reporter  
24 3rd Street  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
Advertising and copy deadline  
is Tuesday at NOON.  
This newspaper shall not be liable  
for errors in advertisements, but  
will print without charge that part  
of the advertisement in which an  
error occurred. The publishers  
reserve the right to refuse adver-  
tising for any reason and to alter  
copy or graphics to conform to  
standards of the newspaper  
Subscription Rates:  
\$20 for 6 months

## CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

### Saturday Music and Movement Series

BY LINDA HICKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** - Music and Movement with musician Michael Nix and children's librarian Linda Hickman will be held at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, February 3rd from 2 - 3 p.m. Young children of any age and their families are welcome. The session will include fun interactive songs, finger plays and other movements,

puppets, and a variety of musical instruments including guitars and banjo. This free program will be held the first Saturday of each month during February - April. The monthly Saturday series is cosponsored by the Montague Cultural Council, which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. For more info, call: 413-863-3214.

### Health Students at Franklin Tech Help 2nd Graders Stay Safe

BY GRETCHEN WERLE

**GREENFIELD** - Students in the health technology program at Franklin County Technical School are in the business of developing the knowledge and skills to be the

health care providers of the future. They are also interested in helping young children be safe and make healthy choices.

Tenth grade health technology students brainstormed ways to incorporate working with children into their curriculum. The result was a plan for the students to develop and present some health-related educational sessions to area elementary students. Tenth grade students Jennie Colby from Greenfield, Samantha Christenson from Montague, Kelsey Demers from Bernardston, Samantha Huppe from Montague, Christina Millett from Charlemont, Kimberly Chatigny from Pelham, Kayla Fisher from Orange, Emily Langevin from Montague, and Desiree Orcutt from Northfield laid the



Front row Kelsey Demers, Samantha Huppe, Samantha Christenson, Christina Millett, Desiree Orcutt, Kayla Fisher. Back row Kimberly Chatigny, Emily Langevin.

## Faces & Places



Oliver, Max and Simon Armen stand on the bridge, put up by an unnamed resident or residents across the Sawmill River at the Montague Center wildlife management area at the end of North Street. The bridge was dismantled on Wednesday, Jan. 24th by workers from Mass Fish & Wildlife. (see story page 1)

groundwork for the first presentation over several months-identifying a topic (staying safe around strangers), visiting a health promotion library and gathering resource materials, conducting on-line research, and putting all of these pieces together for a final product.

On a warm, breezy Friday after the winter break, it was finally time for the students to put their skills to the test - in a second grade classroom at the Green River School in Greenfield.

School nurse Lisa Budrawich was on hand along with teacher Brenda Bennett to watch the first team, consisting of Demers, Orcutt, and Chatigny, do their thing.

Twenty-two second graders watched and listened with interest as the students led them through a series of interactive games, activities, and discussion designed to increase their awareness of being safe around strangers.

The young students learned how to identify what a stranger is, and how to handle common situations at home, on the playground, and on their way to and from school.

The health technology students then presented the 2nd graders with certificates of safety, as well as information packets to share and discuss with their parents.

These students will continue to train and learn how to be health care providers, but working with young children will be part of this process. They're willing to do the extra work to make it happen.

## Tax Help for Seniors

BY ANNA VIADERO

**MONTAGUE CITY** - The Circuit Breaker Tax Credit was designed to help seniors. The basic rules for Circuit Breaker are: The taxpayer or spouse must be 65 years old or older as of the close of 2006.

They must own or rent property in Massachusetts, and occupy that property as their principal residence. If their property tax

plus 50% of their water and sewage exceed 10% of their total income, they are most likely eligible for the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit.

For renters who pay "fair market rent" (not subsidized), if 25% of their annual rental payment is more than 10% of their income, they are most likely eligible.

This year the credit is equal to \$870. You are also able to collect

retroactively if you were eligible before and didn't apply.

Volunteers will be providing free tax help for seniors in February, March and April at local seniors center and Councils on Aging. Please call (in Montague or Gill) 413-863-4500, (in Erving) 413-423-3308, or 413-773-5555 x296 for more info. Appointments are required.

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Feb. 5th - 9th

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

**Monday, 5th**

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics  
1:00 p.m. Canasta

**Tuesday, 6th**

9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi

**Wednesday, 7th**  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday, 8th**

1 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 9th**  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

**ERVING Senior Center**, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or med-

ical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 978 544-3898.

**Monday, 5th**  
9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library  
12 Noon Pitch  
**Tuesday, 6th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting  
**Wednesday, 7th**  
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing  
12 Noon Bingo  
**Thursday, 8th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Shopping

**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.

### Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

**Grade 7**  
Jane Booth

**Grade 8**  
Brooke Hastings  
Zhanna Bocharnikova

## WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY

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



**(413) 773-3622**



# Growing Fruit in the Home Garden

BY WESLEY AUTIO

**AMHERST** - Little surpasses the joy of viewing an apple tree in full bloom out your kitchen window or eating ripe raspberries from your own patch. Growing fruit at home can be very rewarding, but presents several horticultural challenges. This year's Mass Aggie Seminars will help home growers overcome these challenges. UMass will present 16 educational workshops, including ones on basic and advanced apples and stone fruit (peaches, plums, and cherries), on blueberries and raspberries, on grapes, and on identifying and controlling fruit pests. Many of these Saturday sessions will be hands on, allowing for real experiences with pruning, grafting, and identification of pest problems.

*Growing Fruit in the Home*

*Garden* begins on February 10th with a 3-hour morning program on the basics of growing apples. Varieties, rootstocks, nutrition, training, and pest control will be covered. The two-hour afternoon session will present the practices of pruning and training young and mature apple trees. Brooksby Farm in Peabody, MA, will host both of these sessions.

The series continues on February 24th (hosted by Tougas Family Farm in Northborough) with seminars on growing and pruning peaches, plums, and cherries. Sessions on March 10th (UMass Cold Spring Orchard in Belchertown) go beyond basics to more advanced techniques for growing peaches, pears and plums. March 24th seminars (UMass Cold Spring Orchard) go beyond the basics of apple grow-

ing and include a workshop on grafting apple trees. On March 31st (Tougas Family Farm), the basics of growing and pruning raspberries and blueberries will be the focus of the two sessions, and those on April 7th (UMass Cold Spring Orchard) focus on grapes. The last two sets of seminars, April 21st (Brooksby Farm) and April 28th (UMass Cold Spring Orchard), present the basics of pest identification, monitoring, and control, with one workshop on organic apple growing (April 21st).

Interested individuals are welcome to register for any one or all of the 16 sessions. For more information about this series or to register online, please visit the Mass Aggie website ([www.massaggieseminars.org](http://www.massaggieseminars.org)), or call: 413-545-2963.

## Tracking the Wily Coyote with Tracker David Brown

Thursday, February 8th; 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Avenue A Turners Falls  
(\$5 donation appreciated).  
For info: 413-863-3221.

This slide program presents the tracks and sign of the Eastern coyote as well as those of both red and gray foxes

Brown follows up with an outdoor snowshoe tracking program at Northfield Mountain, on Saturday, February 10th, 9 a.m., with Tracking Wild Canids. Pre-registration required for Saturday 800-859-2960.

## Valentines Day Greetings

Tell your loved ones that you are thinking of them on Valentines Day, in a special section of the February 8th *Montague Reporter*, and benefit curriculum enrichment programs at the Gill-Montague schools at the same time.

Buy a 2 inch square ad with your personalized message for \$15, or a 3 inch tall by 2 inch wide ad for \$20. Photos are welcome. The *Montague Reporter* will donate half of the proceeds from these ads to the Gill Montague Education Fund, to be used to augment students' classroom education with arts, music and special activities.

Send Valentines Day messages and photos by February 6th to: [reporter@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter@montaguema.net), or by regular mail to Montague Reporter, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

For more information, call: 413-863-8666. Tell someone you love them, and enrich our students today.

## UMass Hockey Bus Trip on Feb. 10th

BY JON DOBOSZ

**AMHERST** - Be part of Minuteman Madness! Enjoy an exciting family outing at the raucous Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst Campus, as the UMass Men's Hockey team laces up against the Providence Friars on Saturday, February 10th at

7:00 p.m. Don't worry about the driving and parking issues; join us on the bus! Families of all ages are encouraged to register; children must be accompanied by an adult 21 years of age or older.

Tickets are general admission, and are \$14.00 per ticket for Montague residents, and

\$16.00 per ticket for non-residents. Fees include ticket and transportation only. The bus leaves from Unity Park promptly at 5:00 p.m. Trips are first come, first served; registration deadlines and enrollment limits apply. Contact the MPRD office at 413-863-3216.

## Winter 5K Fun Run & Walk

In celebration of February being Heart Month, the Montague Parks & Recreation Department would like to invite everyone to participate in a Winter 5K Fun Run & Walk at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 10th. The 3.1-mile run will start and finish at Unity Park in Turners Falls. Light refreshments and the opportunity to warm by our wood stove will be provided in the Fieldhouse at the finish line. To register, or to receive race route information, please contact the MPRD office at 413-863-3216.

*GCB, a great financial partner.*



**Greenfield Co-operative Bank**  
TRADITIONAL PROGRESSIVE  
LOCALLY FOCUSED


Supporting Franklin County  
for the past 102 Years!

Greenfield, Northfield, Sunderland, Shelburne ATM  
Reach all locations...413 772-0293

MEMBER FDIC MEMBER SIF  
**BestLocalBank.com**




*Lucky in Love?*  
Valentines Day  
Cards & Gifts



**Mill Music** [ Sat & Sun  
12pm-5pm  
413-367-2062 ]

at the Montague Bookmill



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


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

*CopyCat*  
**PRINT SHOP**

- ♦ full color offset printing
- ♦ digital copies
- ♦ oversize copies
- ♦ files accepted via email

We Specialize in Impossible Deadlines!

**20 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](mailto:greenfield@copycatprintshop.com)

## 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**

**About-Face Computer Solutions**

Veronica Phaneuf  
(413) 367-0025  
[about-face@verizon.net](mailto:about-face@verizon.net)

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



## Northfield Barber Shop

Mon, Tu, Wed: Noon-5  
Thurs, Fri: 8-5 • Sat: 8-Noon

**74C Main Street • Northfield**  
**413-498-5166**

**Renaissance Builders**

Stephen Greenwald

PO Box 272  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
413/863-8316  
Fax 413/863-9712  
[www.renbuild.net](http://www.renbuild.net)



# The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

### Editor

David Detmold

### Assistant Editor

Kathleen Litchfield

### Editorial Assistants

Nina Bander  
Hugh Corr

### Circulation

Jean Hebdon  
Julia Bowden Smith  
Philippe Deguise

### Layout & Design

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

"The Voice of the Villages"

Founded by  
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold  
August, 2002

### Photography

Lisa Davol  
Joe Parzych

### Technical Administrators

Michael Muller  
Michael Farnick

## Friends in Deed

Every so often, we take time to appeal to you, our readers, for support. This is one of those times.

It costs us a minimum of \$1600 to print the paper each week. That may not seem like much, but in the dead of winter, in a town with a business district as small as ours to rely on for advertising support, that figure represents a daunting sum.

The paper has grown in circulation, but the expense of producing and distributing it has grown as well. Last fall our printer, facing mounting production costs of their own, raised our rates 20%, with little warning. Like any other business, we struggle to bring you a quality product while holding down costs and trying to make ends meet.

As you can imagine, no one involved is getting rich publishing the *Montague Reporter*. We put the newspaper together with a great deal of volunteer labor, and pay others a pittance for their work writing, laying out or delivering the paper. The cartoons, illustrations, and photos are provided to us free of charge by talented professionals, willing to donate their talents to improve the quality of the newspaper. There are more than 40 people working to bring out the paper each week; the vast majority work as volunteers, and we are

very grateful for their work.

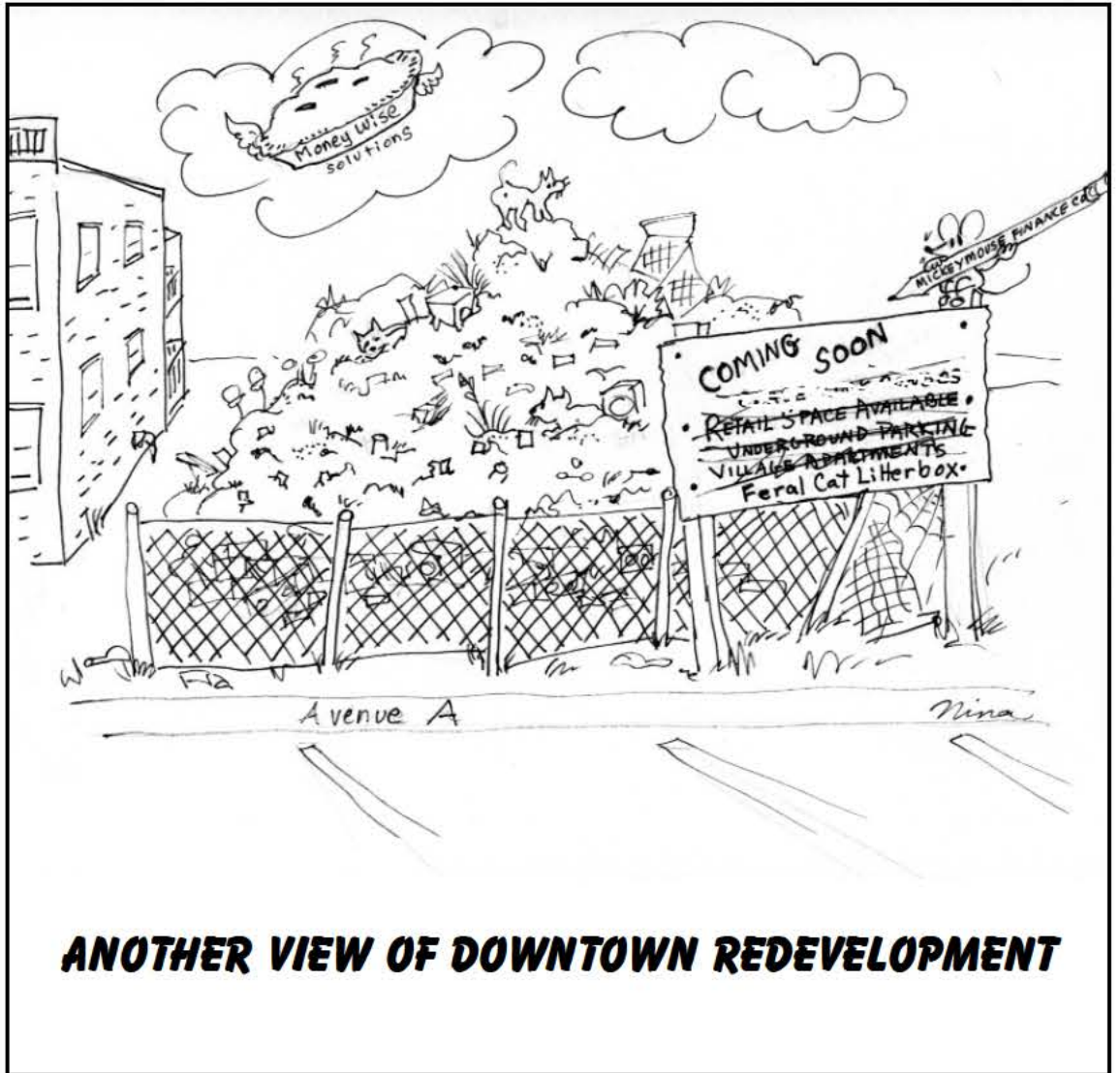
But without *your* help, there is no way we can get through rough times like these, to continue providing you with this important community resource each week.

This Sunday, at the same time many people are hunkering down in front of the TV sets to watch the Superbowl, a dedicated group of Friends of the Montague Reporter will be gathering again to think of ways to boost circulation, sell a few more ads, cook up a bake sale or a fundraising dance to support the paper. We thank them for their time and effort, and invite you to join them (at 62 Prospect Street, Turners Falls, Sunday, 6:30 p.m. Call 413-863-8666 for more details, or to find out about the next meeting of the Friends).

But you don't need to come to a meeting, or join the production team to help. More than anything right now, we just need a few more people to subscribe. If you read the paper, and have yet to take a subscription, this would be the ideal time to do so. Use the form below.

If you already subscribe, buy a gift subscription for a friend or family member.

Community, non-profit media is a precious commodity these days. If you like the newspaper you are holding in your hands, take a moment to support it.



**ANOTHER VIEW OF DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT**

## Word on the Ave

Interviews and Photos Compiled by Kevin Foley

*The School Committee has recently decided to expand the Montague Center Elementary School, and all but close Hillcrest Elementary School. What do you think of the decision and why?*



Elizabeth Johnson  
Turners Falls

"I want the Montague Center School open. The other school should be open too. They should think of the kids and how this affects them."



Tom Miller  
Turners Falls

"I don't think any school should be shut down. It shuffles kids to other places and that's not good."

### Additional Comments from Local Residents:

#### Mark Fairbrother of Montague Center

"For those people on the school committee, it's a tough decision. When you've got two groups as polarized as they are, I respect the school committee for doing their jobs."

#### Paul Roberts of Turners Falls:

"I don't really know why they're shutting (Hillcrest) down. I'm sure a lot of people are going to miss it. I can remember playing ball out back."

#### Janie Howard of Turners Falls:

"We have the resources to keep families in the community. We need reduced class sizes for a creative learning environment."



Chad Odwaszny  
Montague Center  
Sheffield Employees

"I'm slightly confused about (the decision). I've heard arguments on both sides, but what's important to me is having less inequality in class size for the students."



Em Lombard  
Park Villa  
Turners Falls

"I hate to see (Hillcrest) close. I think we still need it."

## American Dead in Iraq as of 2/1/07



## COMEDY AT THE SHEA

Sat., Feb. 3, 8 p.m.  
Tickets at World Eye Bookshop, Gill Store.  
[www.SheaComedy.com](http://www.SheaComedy.com)

We welcome your letters.  
The Montague Reporter  
24 3rd St Turners Falls, MA  
01376 PHONE (413) 863-8666  
FAX (413) 863-3050  
[reporter@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter@montaguema.net)

## Sign Me Up!

\$20 for 26 issues

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG**

**Car Accidents**

**Wednesday 1-24**

8:20 a.m. Report of loose horse on South Cross Road.

9:10 p.m. Report of erratic operator on French King Highway.

**Thursday 1-25**

5:20 p.m. Report of vehicle accident on Route 142, responded. Accident occurred in Bernardston, assisted with traffic control

**Friday 1-26**

3:07 a.m. Report of a possible jumper on the French King Bridge, responded to scene, unable to locate subject.

10:55 p.m. Report of intoxicated subject walking in the middle of Main Road. Responded to area and transported subject to his residence.

**Saturday 1-27**

11:47 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police with an investigation on Main

Road.

4:10 p.m. Assisted state police with vehicle stop on French King Highway.

5:10 p.m. Two-vehicle crash on French King Highway near Chappell Drive, with injury.

**Sunday 1-28**

12:50 p.m. Loud noise complaint on West Gill Road, party spoken to; will quiet down.

**Monday 1-29**

3:05 p.m. Two vehicle crash on Main Road near Mountain Road (South) minor injury BHA transported one to FMC for evaluation.

10:05 p.m. Assisted Gill EMS and BHA ambulance on West Gill Road.

**Tuesday 1-30**

5:40 p.m. Walk in report at station of possible identity theft that occurred to resident. Under investigation.

**GUEST EDITORIAL**



**Dairy Farms Survive and Thrive**

BY BEN GROSSCUP

**AMHERST** - Each year in Massachusetts an average of 25 dairies go out of business. For some, the reason is that the farmer is ready to retire, but for the majority, the reason is financial. The price farmers get for their milk is set by federal standards, and today that price is close to what it was 30 years ago. Even though consumers are paying more for milk in the store, conventional farmers are seeing little of that money. Moreover, farmers are paying higher energy and fuel bills to operate their dairies. Currently, there are less than 180 dairies left in Massachusetts.

Kate Rossiter, who directs the Organic Dairy Program for the Northeast Organic Farming Association, Massachusetts Chapter (NOFA/Mass), says that solutions are within reach: "By researching and talking with dairy farmers and members of agricultural organizations throughout New England, we have found that two kinds of dairies have been able to do better than the rest: those that sell certified organic milk and those that sell raw milk directly to their customers."

One goal of the Organic Dairy Program is to help dairy farms in Massachusetts remain viable despite economic challenges. The program, which began as the Raw Milk Campaign in 2003,

researches the organic dairy market, and helps farmers who want to transition to organic milk production or begin selling raw milk. NOFA/Mass provides education programs and outreach to both producers and consumers seeking local sources of healthy milk and cheese. On February 1st, March 8th and March 29th, from 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. each day, the group will be holding a series of organic dairy production workshops at the Brigham Hill Community Barn in Grafton, MA.

Farmers can earn twice as much by selling organic milk to companies like Organic Valley, Horizon and Hood, which has an organic label, than by selling conventional, non-organic milk. Unlike conventional milk, the price of organic milk is fixed so farmers know what they will earn from one year to the next and can make business plans accordingly. Although organic grain costs more than non-organic, organic dairies use the perennial grass of the pasture as the primary food source for their cows. Since farmers have to plow, till and plant fewer fields, pasturing reduces fuel costs and environmental impact.

Raw milk is milk that has not been pasteurized and therefore maintains the beneficial vitamins and nutrients that are lost in pasteurization. Farms that have been approved by the Massachusetts

Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) and have had their milk tested to meet the state's standards can sell raw milk on their farm directly to customers. Consumers are seeking out raw milk for its taste, its nutritional value and as a way to support their local dairies. By selling raw milk directly to customers for as much as \$7 a gallon, more and more dairy farmers are able to remain profitable.

For many dairy farmers, the transition to organic involves making significant changes to the way they manage their farm in order to meet organic dairy standards. For instance, transitioning farmers turn fields where feed corn has been grown for decades into pasture, and they learn how to treat sick cows with herbal remedies. Rossiter said, "The process of transitioning to organic and selling raw milk has enormous benefits for human health, the environment, and farmers, but it can be a complicated affair. That's why having programs to assist farmers by answering questions and providing direct assistance are very important."

In Massachusetts, organic and raw milk transition efforts are just getting underway. In 2005, only one dairy in Massachusetts was certified organic. By 2006, two dairies were certified organic with at least five others transitioning to organic. Likewise, in

see DAIRY pg 6

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Arrests in Turners**

**Thursday 1-25**

12:47 p.m. Report of shoplifting at Carroll's Market.

was arrested on a default warrant and also charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise.

**Saturday 1-27**

8:50 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Avenue A by Miskinis TV,

was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and no inspection sticker.

**Sunday 1-28**

2:26 p.m. After stopping to assist a motorist at the corner of Oakman Street and

Turnpike Road,

was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor.

8:33 p.m. was arrested at Cumberland Farms on a default warrant.

**Monday 1-29**

8:01 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on 3rd Street,

was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

**Tuesday 1-30**

8:55 p.m. was arrested at Cumberland Farms on a default warrant.

**BORDEAUX WHINE**

by denis bordeaux



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

**KUSTOM**  
 Montague, MA  
**Auto Body & Collision**  
 413-863-3780

**BAKER Office Supply**  
 20% Off Beanpod Candles  
 100% Soy Candles · Many Scents and Sizes!  
 310 Main Street  
 Greenfield  
 www.bakerofficesupply.com  
 (413) 774-2345 Call Bonnie today!



# High-Tech Livestock Tracking to be Discussed in Wendell

BY BEN GROSSCUP

**WENDELL** - On February 6th from 7 to 9 p.m., farmers and state officials will present at an informational forum on a controversial new federal program called the National Animal Identification System (NAIS), and recently filed legislation that would halt implementation of the program in Massachusetts.

The forum will be held at the town hall at 7 Wendell Depot Road.

The USDA says it is instituting the program to track livestock animals and contain animal disease

outbreaks.

The first step in implementing the program is to create a national database on the locations of every livestock animal in the country. Eventually, USDA wants livestock holders to place a unique identification number on every one of their animals and report each time an animal is moved from one property to another.

Meanwhile a growing movement of farmers and consumers in Massachusetts is contending that the program will be ineffectual and cost prohibitive.

The Tuesday night forum will include Mike Cahill of the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources (MDAR), and Jack Kittredge, owner of Many Hands Organic Farm in Barre and Social Action Coordinator for the Massachusetts Chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA/Mass).

Sharon Gensler, of the Wendell Agricultural Commission said, "Small farmers, homesteaders and animal owners are asking questions about NAIS and how it relates to them. The

Agricultural Commission wants to respond to the needs of our resident farmers and animal owners, as well as do everything possible to keep agriculture alive and healthy in Wendell. That's why we are setting up this educational forum. It's an opportunity for NAIS to be explained and our questions and concerns to be raised."

Critics of the program say NAIS would provide no solutions for diseases like bird flu and mad cow, which can affect humans.

Jack Kittredge, spokesman for NOFA/Mass, said,

"Promoting small-scale and sustainable husbandry methods can help prevent diseases while also providing access to safe, nutritious, and local food. But NAIS would create unnecessary and burdensome regulations that would most hurt the very producers whose sustainable methods already make them upstanding guardians of the public health. Tracking may tell government database managers where animals have been, but won't make us safer."

For more information call Gensler at (978) 544-6347.

## MCTV Schedule

Channel 17: February 2nd - February 8th

<b>Barton Cove Eagles:</b> 7A-8A Daily, 2P-3P Daily 4P-5P Daily	9:00 am Conservation Workshop: "Listen To the River"	6:00 pm GED Connection #26
<b>Friday, February 2</b> 8:00 am Early Transportation in the Pioneer Valley	11:30 am Geo History of Connecticut Valley 12:30 pm Montague Update: David Detmold 6:00 pm Montague Music Train	7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting 1/30/07 10:30pm The Well Being "The Art and Science of Herbs"
9:00 am Montague Select Board 1/29/07 10:30 am Montague Update Ben Lechter 6:00 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #4 6:30 pm On The Ridge: Jay Herron 7:00 pm GMRSD meeting 1/30/07 10:30 pm Mass Wilderness: Winter	7:30 pm Wind Changer 10/17 #3 8:00 pm "Its Dan Seidens Show #7 9:00 Discovery Center Presents: "What's Happening with the Eagles" 10:00 pm New Beginnings	<b>Wednesday, February 7</b> 8:00 am GED Connection #26 8:30 am GMRSD Meeting 1/30/07 12:00 pm The Well Being "The Art and Science of Herbs" 6:30 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #4 7:00 pm GED Connection #27 7:30 pm Valley Idol 9:30 pm Living In The Shadow of Vermont Yankee
<b>Saturday, February 3</b> 8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #4 8:30 am On The Ridge: Jay Herron 9:00 am GMRSD meeting 1/30/07 12:30 pm Mass Wilderness: Winter 6:00 pm The Well Being: "The Art and Science of Herbs" 7:00 pm Conservation Work Shop: "Listen To the River" 9:30 pm Geo History of Connecticut Valley 10:30 pm Montague Update: David Detmold 11:30 pm Turkey Day Game	<b>Monday, February 5</b> 8:00 am Montague Music Train 9:30 am Wind Changer 10/17 #3 10:00 am "Its Dan Seidens Show #7 11:00 am Discovery Center Presents: "What's Happening with the Eagles" 12:00 pm New Beginnings 6:00 pm Over The Falls: Deb Kats & John Ward 7:00 Montague Select Board Live 10:00 pm Montague Update: David Detmold 11:00 pm There and Back with Karen Adams	<b>Thursday, February 8</b> 8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #4 8:30 am GED Connection #27 9:00 am Valley Idol 11:00 am Living In The Shadow of Vermont Yankee 6:00 pm Discovery Center Presents: "Whats Happening With The Eagles" 7:00 pm Montague Select Board 1/29/07 8:00 pm Conservation Workshop: "Listen To The River" 10:30 pm Montague Update: David Detmold 11:30 pm Positive Profiles In Courage
<b>Sunday, February 4</b> 8:00 am The Well Being: "The Art and Science of Herbs"	<b>Tuesday, February 6</b> 8:00 am Over The Falls: Deb Kats & John Ward 9:00 am Montague Update: David Detmold 10:00 am There and Back with Karen Adams	

## DAIRY

continued from pg 5

2004, there were only nine dairies approved by MDAR to sell raw milk. Now there are more than 15.

Meanwhile, Maine, New York and Vermont, are each on their way to having more than 100 organic dairies. Farmers in these states are transitioning with great success with the help of organic dairy programs run by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners

and NOFA sister chapters in New York and Vermont. Through workshops and one-on-one assistance, these programs help farmers design a suitable pasture management system, suggest resources and remedies for treating sick cows and help find local sources for organic grain. "We want to help more farmers in Massachusetts successfully transition," said Rossiter.

For questions about the workshops and programs, contact Kate Rossiter,

NOFA/Mass Organic Dairy Coordinator at krositer@nofa-mass.org and 413 625-0118 or Don Franczyk, Baystate Organic Certifiers, at baystate-organic@earthlink.net or by calling: 978 297-4171. The dairy program maintains a page on the NOFA/Mass website: (www.nofamass.org) that lists both local organic and raw milk dairies. For updated details about the workshops, visit www.baystateorganic.org.



## MCTV Complimented at Performance Review

**MONTAGUE** - The Montague Cable Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, January 23rd to conduct a public hearing and the first annual performance review for MCTV, the town's cable television access provider. Although the meeting had been well publicized, and the hope of both the CAC and MCTV was that the community would come out to express their opinions about MCTV's performance during their first year of operation, only selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt was in attendance. The committee, however, had plenty to say.

Having reviewed MCTV's fourth quarterly report, available (as are all MCTV

reports) at the MCTV website, montaguetv.org, chair John Reynolds, began the meeting by reading the report for those viewing on Channel 17. He said he was enormously pleased by the "transparency of the financials, the detailed inventory of equipment, and the overall progress MCTV has made during their start-up year." He also said he was glad to see MCTV on budget, and the number of shoots and new programs growing.

Committee member Chris Sawyer-Laucanno echoed Reynolds' remarks, congratulating MCTV on a job well done. He pointed out that he had reviewed the organization's original

proposal and was duly impressed. "You have not only done what you proposed, but have exceeded what you proposed to do in almost every respect. I had high expectations, and you surpassed them." He also commented on how pleased he was with the way MCTV had worked with the schools, and praised Douglas Finn, at the high school (and formerly at GCTV) for working with the students to create an ongoing news show at the TFHS.

Committee member Eileen Dowd also expressed her pleasure with the report. "You are doing exactly what we hoped you'd do, and we look forward to more of the same."

Specializing in unique hair designs

# Bella

THE SALON

312 MONTAGUE CITY ROAD 774-4003

Stylists seeking booth space encouraged to call!

## REYNOLDS PROPERTIES

256 North Pleasant Street  
Amherst, MA 01002

Lynn Reynolds  
ABR GRI CRS

"Aiming for  
Astonishing Service"

413-367-2425

lynnreynolds@verizon.net



**Dillon**  
CHEVROLET  
54 MAIN STREET  
GREENFIELD, MA 01301

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

**LaBelle & Leitner**  
Auto Sales

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

Locally Owned for 27 Years

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

**Chinatown**  
CHINESE RESTAURANT

FREE DELIVERY!

(Min. \$15.00)



863-8988 • 51 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS

中城

"Your #1 Source For Subaru!"

Serving the community since 1978



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

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

www.flintsgaragesales.com

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



# On the National Mall



PHOTO: KARL MEYER

Protesters face the stage at the anti-war rally in Washington, D.C. Saturday, January 27th.

BY KARL MEYER

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On the National Mall, the atmosphere was spring-like. A red-tailed hawk wheeled overhead in near-60 degree weather as a raft of invited speakers held forth. Elm tree buds were beginning to swell, the Democrats had recently taken back the House and Senate, and polls showed two out of three Americans opposed the Bush administration's Iraq policy. So the event, sponsored by United for Peace and Justice, Moveon.org, the National Organization for Women, Veterans for Peace, CodePink, and other organizations, seemed equal parts celebration and call to action.

The excited and largely hopeful crowd, estimated at near 100,000, arrived by bus, train and car. Their numbers created something of an opposition "Green Zone" at the capital - an enclave for peace hunkered down on America's front lawn. In sharp sunlight, the mix of seniors and students, union activists

and veterans, mothers and daughters, peace activists and puppeteers, listened attentively as over three dozen speakers addressed them - taking turns skewering President Bush's "surge" strategy of sending an additional 20,000 troops to Iraq.

Both the audience and speakers were on message: "End the War, Now!" To a one, they clapped in support of the troops, and booed at the mention of administration policy. The signs read: Bush Lies; End the War; Drive out the Bush Regime; Not One More Dollar, Not One More Life; Impeach Bush; Zero Tolerance for Torture; and Peace, Now!

The speakers, from politicians, to veterans, to whistleblowers, actors, and women's groups, showcased the message of the day. Jesse Jackson noted that the 8 billion dollars a month spent on the Iraq War constituted a war on the poor, "Not more troops in Iraq - we need money here at home," he exhorted. "If our leaders can't lead today, they can't lead in

2008 either."

California representative Maxine Waters offered a laundry list of Bush administration assertions that later proved false. She mocked the President's new policy. "He's not the decider, he's the liar," she told a cheering crowd, stating she wouldn't be cowed by fear-mongering, "I'm not afraid of President Bush; I'm not afraid of Dick Cheney." Ohio representative and presidential hopeful Dennis Kucinich received a warm welcome and stumped for his own plan to end the war, directing the audience to his website; while the remarks of long-time progressive Democrat, Representative John Conyers of Michigan, also received extended cheers.

But some of the most enthusiastic applause came when Medea Benjamin, founder of CodePink: Women for Peace, came to the podium. She spoke of her group's exhibit, Walk in Their Shoes - a work-in-progress being assembled that day, just

200 yards down the Mall. On short notice CodePink had collected over 6,500 pairs of shoes by putting out a call to marchers headed to the rally. Those shoes were now overflowing a ten foot tall by six foot wide Plexiglas tower, and continued to arrive. Each pair was symbolically tagged with the name, age, and gender of an Iraqi civilian killed in the war before being added to the overflow pile. One small pair of grey-green sneakers read simply, "Fatima Rekaad. 4 years. Killed by air strikes." President Bush has asserted

that, though the administration does not collect data on civilian casualties and maiming, he thinks just 30,000 Iraqi citizens have been killed in the war.

"Walk in Their Shoes" is intended as a permanent, ongoing Capitol Hill display, Ms. Benjamin noted. It serves, in part, as a counterpoint to the Bush administration's guesstimates. Other estimates have put civilian casualties in Iraq as high as 650,000. But all Iraqi civilian casualty assertions came into sharp focus last October when scientific data collected in a door-to-door, on-the-ground study in Iraq were released. That study, designed and coordinated by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, concluded that a minimum of 100,000 Iraqi citizens had died as a result of the American invasion - a number roughly equal to the size of the crowd assembled on the National Mall this Saturday.

Concluding comments came from a small but familiar contingent of actor-activists.

These included Jane Fonda, who spoke briefly at her, "first anti-war rally in thirty-four years." Fonda, though widely impugned by many veterans groups for her anti-war efforts during Viet Nam, pointed out that she'd arrived together with her daughter and two grandchildren, and chose to speak out this day because, "Silence is no longer an option."

Actress Susan Sarandon offered a sobering account of the return of a veteran of the current Iraq war - his disappointment caused not by an indifferent public, but by an administration that continues to cut funds for returning veterans - including money for medical and psychological services. Her partner, actor Tim Robbins, offered concluding remarks that gave a stiff nudge to new Democratic leaders who've said they won't pursue impeachment against President Bush. Robbins repeatedly asked the crowd whether impeachment should be "off the table." He listed Bush's public statements leading to early Congressional votes in support of the war - including assertions that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, and that Saddam Hussein had been shopping African nations in search of uranium for weapons. The crowd took up his chant for impeachment.

With the rally finished, a hip-hop group took front stage - and the drum-pounding, sign-carrying crowd did a slow shuffle toward Third Street. The march would take them on a two-hour segment leading around the Capitol and past the Russell Senate Office Building - a building some marchers intended to visit the following Monday to lobby elected officials in support of the non-binding resolution against President Bush's "surge," slated for debate on the Senate floor this week.

*Karl Meyer is a resident of Colrain, Massachusetts.*

**NATIONAL CITY MORTGAGE** Call **TIM PREVOST**  
@ National City Mortgage

Tim Offers You . . .

- Experience
- 100% Financing
- Great Service
- Construction/Rehab Loans
- Professionalism
- FHA/VA Loans

Whatever your needs, call Tim for a Free Pre-Approval

MA LENDER #0544 **413-773-8984** EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

**AJ's CYCLE** **MOTO GUZZI**  
now available **BREVA 1100**  
**GRISO 1100**

274 Rt. 2, Gill

- parts & accessories
- helmets
- books
- apparel

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

**RISTORANTE Di Paolo**

**BENCHMARK & PRATT**

**YETTER BUSINESS CENTER**  
525 Bernardston Road  
Greenfield, MA 01301

**(413) 774-1200 X121** **Bernie Monkiewicz**  
Realtor

413-256-6217

*fine instruments bought and sold repaired and restored*

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

**RISTORANTE Di Paolo** **FINE ITALIAN DINING**

Denise DiPaolo, Owner  
Hilton Dottin, Chef

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

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

166 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

WWW.RISTORANTEDIPAULO.COM



## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Montague to Inspect Houses in Millers for Sump Pumps

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - Due to a continuing problem with inflow and infiltration in the sewer lines in Millers Falls, wastewater treatment plant supervisor Bob Trombley received approval from the selectboard on Monday, January 29th to conduct inspections in houses on Franklin and Crescent Streets in Millers Falls, to determine if any of the clean water identified in the sewer lines on those streets is coming from illegal sump pump hook ups. Trombley has sent letters to the homeowners on those streets, asking for their cooperation, following an inspection of the sewer lines conducted with the Montague Highway Department.

Trombley said sump pumps and storms drains connected to the sewers may be one of many factors contributing to an estimated "20,000 - 30,000 gallon a day flow in both these lines."

Among other problems, Trombley said, Crescent Street's sewer is still clay pipe, although the rest of Millers Falls sewer lines were replaced in the early 90s.

The Crescent Street sewer is "so permeated with roots, we can't even get our cameras down it," Trombley said.

Once roots penetrate a sewer, they permit surrounding ground water even easier access than would be the case through normal hydraulic motion through the joints of clay pipes, which tend to loosen with the annual freeze and thaw cycle.

Trombley said lateral sewer connections are also prime suspects for infiltration of ground water, which may be contributing to the problem on Crescent and Franklin Streets.

He said the town of Erving, which is contemplating an extensive upgrade of the Erving treatment plant, is "very eager" for Montague to control the excessive flow from their side of the river.

Trombley said systemwide, the town of Montague is paying something on the order of \$100,000 a year to treat clean water entering town sewers, either as inflow from illegally connected sump pumps or roof drains or as infiltration from subsurface ground water. In a given year, 44% to 55% of the water coming into the Montague wastewater treatment plant is a result of inflow or infiltration, Trombley said.

"It is very difficult to elimi-



DETMOULD PHOTO  
At Peskeomskut Park, concern over wheelchair accessibility on the pea stone surfaces has led the town to close the walks until a study of the problem can be completed in spring.

nate." Trombley said town personnel would knock on homeowner's doors to request permission to inspect for sump pump and roof drain connections, and would not enter without the owner's cooperation. He said there would be no punitive measures, if sump pumps were discovered connected to town sewers. His letter asked homeowners to call to set up an appointment (863-3200) to "help reduce the town's inflow and infiltration assessment."

over use of pea stone to coat the surface of asphalt walks in the interior of the park, which may impede passage for people in wheelchairs. Other concerns include the use of compacted wood chips under the tot lot play structure, the lack of easily accessed viewing stations (paved areas) near the bandshell, and the lack of van parking on 6th Street. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the latter problem was being immediately addressed by re-

## In Other News

The town of Montague has received an extension from the state Architectural Access Board until April 1st to address accessibility concerns at Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls, where a recent \$342,000 upgrade left questions about wheelchair accessibility in four different areas. The town was cited by the Access Board

stripping the parking lines to allow for van parking there. He said the construction engineer for the park project contends the play area surface will meet ADA requirements with proper maintenance (keeping the wood chips smoothed out). He said the town was committed to providing additional viewing stations near the bandshell. And he said the town had closed the walkways in the park interior until a determination about the suitability of the pea stone surfacing could be made, by April 1st.

DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron received approval for his request for a transfer of \$5,000 from reserve funds to go toward the purchase of snowfighting equipment for a six-wheel International dumptruck the DPW is purchasing with \$126,801 in state Chapter 90 funds. The state funds cannot be used for snowfighting equipment, and Bergeron needed the extra funds to add to the \$16,857 he had set aside from other accounts to help pay the \$21,000 price tag of the needed snowfighting equipment.

The board granted a one-day beer and wine license for the Turners Fall RiverCulture project, for a comedy event at the Shea Theater on February 3rd.

# War Protest Sign Vandalized for a Second Week

## BY ERIC WASILESKI

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - A permitted sign protesting the War in Iraq placed by a Taylor Hill resident in a selectboard-designated "Free Speech Zone" on the Montague Center town common has been vandalized for a third time in two weeks. Eric Chester put up the hand-lettered sign two weeks ago, six months after he first requested permission from the selectboard to place the sign on the town common. Chester has said he sought equal time on the town common in response to the selectboard's annual permitting of a crèche scene put up by the Firemen's Relief Association, and to protest U.S. foreign policy, specifically in Iraq. The sign, on a free-standing sandwich board, reads, "U.S. out of Iraq" on one side and, "Stop U.S. Imperialism" on the other.

According to Chester, "I put the sign up on Wednesday the

17th. The next day I found the sign folded up and hidden behind a telephone pole. I put it back where it was. When I came by around noon, Friday the 19th, I saw that somebody had really wrecked it. They had torn off the hinges and destroyed one of the boards."

Chester continued, "I couldn't get the sign back up until Wednesday the 24th." After that, "It was OK for a few days. On Saturday, I found that someone had ripped the paper sign off the wooden support."

Asked about the process he has gone through to mount his war protest sign, Chester said, "I requested to put up the sign in June of '06; it took the board until mid-December to draft a rule, [which was finalized] in time to put up the nativity scene. According to a ruling in state court, if one private group can set up a display or sign, then anyone can. So, I am exercising

my right to free speech."

Chester added, "The United States should never have gone to war in Iraq to begin with. We should get out immediately. The U.S. occupation is what is causing the chaos in Iraq. We need to get out and let the Iraqis handle their own problems. I am opposed to U.S. foreign policy in general, over the past forty years, and Iraq is just another case in point. I guess my sign had some effect, or nobody would have bothered to vandalize it three times. I don't think it was kids. Someone who disagrees with the sign's message did this. They are violating my right to free speech, and that is a hate crime."

Ferd Wulkan, who lives at 38 Main Street, directly across from the common said, "Being of Jewish heritage, the crèche never really sat well with me, without other spiritual or political displays. Now that it has

been declared a free speech zone I am much more comfortable with the entire thing. I have been quietly supporting Eric in his work. The town did the right thing, a little shocking how long it took but eventually they got it right. What they finally came up with was quite reasonable."

Commenting on the vandalism of Chester's sign, Wulkan said, "It makes me very angry. I feel like free speech is a core value of our political system. Everybody, whether they are on the left or right, says they support free speech. In that sense an attack on free speech, like this vandalism, is an attack on our core values." He added, "This vandalism isn't just about Iraq or the war. It is an attack on free speech. If a free speech zone is being set up, then it needs to be protected. I hope (the perpetrators) get caught, and I will be watching, and I suspect my neighbors will be as well. In our

system, unpopular and controversial speech especially needs to be protected."

Ann Fiske, a member of First Congregational Church, was sweeping the snow and noticed that the sign looked empty. "Whoever did it certainly had the intention to take the whole sign. It wasn't the wind." She said, "Mr. Chester is as entitled as anyone else is to put up a sign; we know how it feels to have a display vandalized (referring to past vandalism of the crèche). I understand how he feels."

Fiske added, "I don't think it was kids. It is sad we can't abide by the ruling of the selectboard."

Chester said, "I hope when I put the sign back up that people can just leave it alone." He said he hoped more people will take advantage of the newly designated free speech zone.



**Mary Lou Emond**  
Certified Residential Specialist



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

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

Annual  
Heating  
System  
Cleaning

Plumbing  
Repairs

LICENSED  
TECH-  
NICIANS

#M1058 (MA)

Dealer in Used  
**Home Furnishings**  
SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTABLES • DECORATIVES  
**374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield**  
featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets  
Cookery Figurines End Tables  
Open 7 Days a Week  
**GOOD USED USABLES**



**NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**

# Hearings Held on Community Development Strategy, Housing Loans

**BY KEVIN FOLEY** - The selectboard hosted two public hearings on Monday night, January 29th. One was a hearing on the town's 2007 Community Development Block Grant application for the housing rehab funds, and the other was held to discuss a draft Community Development Strategy for the town. About ten Erving residents were in attendance.

Annual Community Development Block Grants, distributed by the state, bring federal funds to local municipalities. Housing Rehabilitation Program funding is available, up to \$30,000 per applicant, in the form of no interest loans for residents with low to moderate income. A family of four earning less than \$57,350 a year would qualify. Homeowners who receive housing rehab loans through the program are not required to pay the loan back until the property changes owners.

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority's (FRHRA) Brian McHugh addressed Erving residents about the rehab loans, which have been available to income eligible applicants since 2005. This year, Erving will apply for the funds jointly with the towns of Leverett, Rowe and Shelburne.

"They are zero percent, deferred home loans to, in essence, fix up your house," said McHugh. "They're designated for people who can't go to the bank and get a home owner's loan."

In 2006, the loans helped rehab five units in Erving, with another 19 applicants on the waiting list. This year's regional funding request includes \$554,400, enough to serve 18 loans for Erving residents. The

plan also calls for \$154,000 (five loans) to be designated for Leverett residents, \$123,200 (four loans) for Rowe residents and \$92,400 (three loans) for Shelburne residents.

Landlords who receive a rehabilitation loan are required to keep apartments affordable for tenants that fall under income guidelines the rehabilitation program designates for 15 years at a price determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

To apply, residents should contact the FRHRA by phone, (413) 863-9643. Those who apply will be placed on a waiting list, and will be contacted if they are chosen as a loan recipient.

The draft Community Development Strategy hearing focused on the possibility of a new senior center for Erving. Thirty thousand dollars to fund a feasibility study to enable Erving to apply for grants to build a new senior center will be on the agenda for the February 12th special town meeting.

"The seniors in this town have been good for many years supporting things for the kids," said Andrew Tessier, chair of the selectboard. "This is a way to support them back."

The proposed site for the new senior center is on Route 63 near the elementary school, on an 80-acre town owned lot.

The selectboard approved a request from Peter Coleman, general manager for Erseco, the company that manages the town's wastewater treatment facility in Erving Center, to attend a program on total quality management in treatment plants. There is no cost to the town.

The main focus of the program is the beneficial use of

biosolids, or wastewater sewage sludge that can be used as soil amendments or fertilizer, according to the Waste Water Environment Foundation website.

Coleman wants to set up programs at the town's treatment plants to use biosolids. "It's really my time and my effort," said Coleman.

Several Erving residents inquired about the possibility of extending the town's sewer system. "I'd like to see it extended

up to Old State Road," said Tessier, who noted that there probably won't be anything done until 2009 or 2010, when Route 2 will be repaved. "Since the state is opening up Route 2, (then it will be) cheap."

Tessier stressed at the meeting that the town should focus on making an estimated \$5 - \$6 million in necessary improvements to the Erving wastewater treatment plant in the next few years.

The selectboard approved

two new police officers, recommended by police chief Christopher Blair. The new officers are James Hackett and Heath Cumming.

After some discussion, board members Jeff Dubay and Linda Downs Bembury supported Tessier's recommendation to offer 3% cost of living (COLA) raises to town employees for the coming fiscal year. Dubay and Downs Bembury had initially proposed 2½% COLAs.

## HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) are currently applying for funding for the Towns of Erving, Leverett, Montague, Rowe, Orange and Shelburne. 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	\$41,150.00
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.



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

TELEPHONE 413.863.9299  
EMAIL: JACK@SEEJACKWORK.COM

BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.

65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376



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!*

**Gerri Johnson**  
CRB, CRS, GRI  
Seniors Real Estate Support



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

REALTORS  
EQUA HOUSING OPPORTUNITY  
MLS

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



REGENCY HAMPTON EXCALIBUR SCSC

**Shanahan Construction Supply Co.**  
COMPLETE MASONRY SUPPLIES

Masonry Supplies  
Brick / Block / Pavers  
Wall Stone  
298 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

Culvert / Sewer Pipe  
Precast Concrete  
Retaining Wall Block  
Phone: 413-863-4322




Unlocking the door to your dream of home ownership!



**Mariaelena Garcia**  
REALTOR®

200 Triangle Street  
Amherst, MA 01002-2193  
(413) 549-3700 Ext 144

mgarcia@jones-tc.com  
Member National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals



**Sokolosky Realty**

56 4TH STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MASS. 01376

OFFICE (413) 863-4393  
HOME (413) 367-9970  
FAX (413) 863-4949

**Jean Donovan, CRS, ABR**  
BROKER



## BRIDGE

continued from pg 1

tion. The bridge continued to get residents and their dogs across the Sawmill to what is popularly known as "the conservation land" at the end of North Street for a few more years, until the winter of 2005, when, as local resident Alice Armen remembers it, an ice dam undermined the central bridge abutment. This time, the old bridge was damaged beyond repair. The U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, which owns and manages the 50 acres of land in the meadow between North and Main Street, south of Swamp

Road, as a wildlife management area, has not replaced it.

The loss of the bridge left local residents, many of whom raised funds in the early 90s to permanently preserve the property, scrambling - or wading - for access to the land, which had been a popular destination for nature walks, dog walks, swimming, fishing, and hunting.

Until about a month ago, when an unnamed resident or residents put up what Ralph Taylor, District Manager of the Connecticut River Valley Wildlife District of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, called "an illegal, unsafe bridge" to allow easier access to the wildlife management area. The new bridge, assembled from stout cables secured to trees on either bank, with a swaying platform made from shipping pallets in between, and handholds made from extra cables strung at waist height, was dismantled on the morning of Wednesday, January 24th, by Fish & Wildlife employees.

Since then, a flurry of phone calls and emails to Taylor and to new Montague town planner Dan La Roche have been a gauge of local sentiment about the difficulty of accessing the public land.

"I thought it was terrible they took down the bridge," said Armen. "It was wonderful to be able to walk there again."

But Taylor said taking down the bridge was an easy decision. "It was not a safe bridge. You and I would have been happy to have it on our property," but it did not meet state codes. Taylor said his agency is concerned about liability, in case anyone fell from the bridge.

"A lot of town residents feel this is a recreation area. It's a wildlife management area," Taylor explained. He said the Division of Fish and Wildlife stocks the Sawmill River "heavily" and has stocked the management area off North Street with woodcock, and, up until this year, with pheasant. "We have good flights of woodcock there," Taylor noted, but he said the land was in "too close proximity to homes" to continue encouraging pheasant hunting there.

Taylor said, "There was never a right for management [of the

area] for the town," in the agreement when Fish and Wildlife purchased the land. Taylor noted, and residents with long memories recall, that local fundraising efforts coordinated by a former citizens group called Friends of the Sawmill River raised \$40,000, and secured a \$10,000 grant to assist in purchasing the land in the early 90s.

"But that is neither here nor there," Taylor said.

Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife put up the remaining \$60,000 to complete the purchase, in 1992. The land was formerly owned and farmed by the Garbiel family.

Taylor said the land is managed in accordance with the same regulations that govern all state wildlife areas (go to MassWildlife.org for a list of these), and he said, "All of our wildlife management areas are open to the public." But, referring to the lack of a bridge to access the property, Taylor said, "Most fishermen wade."

Taylor talked of the tension between inviting more people to use the land, and encouraging hunting and fishing. But Taylor said, "I would agree to sign permits for a bridge," if the town can "get it together" and come up with funding for a bridge with a design approved by a Massachusetts certified engineer.

Taylor said "People think we have money in our back pocket," to build a bridge, but that is a misconception.

Armen is among the residents in town who have called, emailed, or driven down to Belchertown in recent days to speak with Taylor about the lack of easy public access to the public land. She said, "The problem is, the neighborhood raised \$40,000 to conserve that land. It was like a miracle. Having that land nearby makes the village a fabulous place to live."

Armen said she typically spent 45 minutes a day walking on the land, and her kids practically grew up there. "They love it in a different way. They spent their summers there, swimming, jumping off the rope swing."

"There's no other access point," said Armen. She said you can get to the land from the Book

Mill parking lot, but there is a steep embankment there, leading to a few beams laid across the river. "I took my mother that way, but it's really not accessible for older people."

Armen said she enjoyed meeting friends on the "conservation land," walking their dogs, or just enjoying the trails through the natural area. She said the trails are overgrown now with multiflora rose and poison ivy, but in winter, the red stalks of silky dogwood growing in the field the Garbiels used to hay are especially beautiful, as are the golden sedges and grasses. "The north side is very warm and sunny. Oaks grow there, black and white oaks. Where the soil is sandier, there is pitch pine. There is sassafras growing in one little corner."

Mother of three boys, Armen compared the wildlife area to "the Hundred Acre Wood in *Winnie the Pooh*."

Former planning board member Michael Bosworth recalled efforts put in by community members to protect the land from development. "The Garbiel family indicated they were interested in selling it in the early 90s. Six or seven of us got together and formed the Friends of the Sawmill River. I facilitated the meetings," which took place every few weeks at various members' houses.

Among those working on the conservation effort were Jeanne Weintraub, John O'Keefe, Lynne Stopen, Josh and Marina Goldman, Micky McKinley, Allen Ross and Karl von Kries. Weintraub put together an interactive felt map of the meadow at one Old Home Day, and folks put markers on it to indicate activities they enjoyed there. Fishing got 5 points, swimming: 22, horseback riding: 3, picnicking: 4, bicycling: 5, skiing: 11, walking: 19, hunting: 2, and bird watching: 2.


Through individual contributions, fundraising dances, a \$3,000 contribution for the Montague Conservation Commission's conservation fund, and a \$10,000 challenge grant from the New York City-based Sweet Water Foundation, the group managed to raise the \$50,000 needed to keep the land off the open market, while they sought

an additional \$60,000 to buy it outright.

Boswell recalled, "Because of their mission, Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife was the best candidate to help with this, since the land both abutted a well-known fishing stream and included fields where bird hunting took place. The decision to work with Fish and Wildlife, however, was not an easy one, as some of those who had donated were most particularly against hunting taking place on the land. In the end, it was agreed that having Fish and Wildlife step in was the only viable option, so we proceeded with that. They would later come up with the remaining \$60,000 to complete the \$110,000 purchase."

Former Montague town planner Robin Sherman said, "The history of that area is that the residents of the town of Montague raised money to protect it for its natural resource value, and for its recreational value. The state agency has a responsibility to include the needs and desires of the community in their management of the property."

DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron said he would be glad to see a paved parking area at the end of North Street, to provide parking for people using the land, and a turnaround for town plows, that now have to back all the way down North Street.

New Montague town planner Dan LaRoche said he has been fielding a number of calls from residents concerned about access to the land in the past week, and said he has been in touch with Taylor, from Mass. Fish and Wildlife. "He's amenable to the idea of putting up a bridge," a project LaRoche called "doable." LaRoche said he was researching grant possibilities, but said, "It's a tricky thing for a town to apply for money to build a bridge on state land." He said local fundraising, and possibly local volunteerism for labor and materials might be useful, once plans for an engineer-approved bridge are agreed to. He said interested residents are welcome to contact his office at 863-3200 x 207, or via email at [planner@montague.net](mailto:planner@montague.net). 



**We have**

- Organic and fair-trade chocolate
- Bakery treats
- Special soaps, lotions and oils

*for your sweetie!*



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

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

Locally owned since 1941



Full Service Market

Fresh Fish from the Boston Market

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

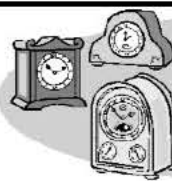
B. RUBIN &amp; SONS INC.



COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters  
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236  
10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES

MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051



**Wanted:**  
Antique Clocks of  
all kinds.

One clock or entire collection

Also wanted:

Antique pocketwatches and tools

Will pay cash. Will travel.

Bob Pacy 781-438-8489  
88 Washington Street, Stoneham, MA 02180 cell: 508-633-2552PRODUCE • CHEESE  
BUTTER • EGGS  
TRUCKING • OLIVES

"We Make Chefs Happy"

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

Next Day Delivery is a Phone Call Away!

**PLOW FRAU  
BOW WOW**  
SITA LANG  
(413) 834-7569

**CLEAN-OUTS AND HAULING & Snow plowing!**

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

Reusable goods are donated to those in need.



**The Smokin' Hippo**  
A Family Restaurant and Barbecue

20 French King Highway  
Erving, MA 01344-4444  
Phone: (413) 423-3220Barbecue and Full Traditional Menu  
Full Liquor LicenseHours: Tue/Wed/Thu: 11am-9pm Fri/Sat: 11am-10pm Sun: Noon-8pm  
Local Photographs and Hippo Paintings also available



**ART**  
continued from pg 1

ing battlefield musters of a century and a half ago. Smith, born in Manassas, VA, has concerned herself with Civil War re-enactors and the cultural memory they convey. In 2005, she staged a 'Muster of Artists' on Governor's Island in New York, where she issued an old-style Public Address, (reproduced in fine calligraphy on an adjoining wall):

*"WHEN, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for people to solidify the creative, intellectual, and political bonds that connect ourselves to one another, a respect to the opinions of Everyone requires that we should Declare the Causes which impel us to the confederation. It is to this ultimate end that I wish to address you, that this proclamation be heard by All who find themselves in the midst of War.*

*This is a Call to Art!"*

One artist who seems to have heard that call, though he was half a continent away at the time, is Dario Robleto, who lives and works in Austin, TX. Robleto creates strange metamorphoses out of the common clay of human experience shaped in the crucible of violence and loss. Entering his part of the gallery, you pass male and female human pelvises, mounted sideways to the viewer. Grand mentioned the bones of the statue are fashioned from the ashes of Robleto's parents' records, (45s and 12-inch discs) crushed and reconfigured as conjoined hips. The piece is called, *Our Sin Was in Our Hips*.

In an adjoining gallery, another Robleto sculpture mounted in a Plexiglas box is titled *War Pigeon with Message*. It represents the skeletal remains of a Carrier Pigeon, with WWI ID tag and message

still clutched in one claw. The message, Grand explained, is made from the pulp of a human rib bone, ashes from a letter to a Confederate commander from a Union soldier's wife, pleading for his release, the slag from a melted WWI bullet, and ground up fragments of the Berlin Wall, along with pulverized ribbons, rose petals, rust and dirt.

"He uses sampling, like a hip-hop DJ," Grand explained.

Yinka Shonibare, born in England in 1962 and raised in Nigeria, contributes a gallery of African fashion on headless manikins, and a video montage of a masked ball called *Un Ballo en Maschero*, showing the assassination of King Gustav III of Sweden through the deconstructed sequencing of the dance.

Standing by the manikins, Grand noted, "These patterns are original to Indonesia. Dutch settlers brought them back to the Netherlands and took them to Africa," where they now appear - to America viewers of the 21st Century anyway - to be indigenous.

The artist is well aware of the ceaseless global shift of style and culture; his video montage, which features actors moving backwards in some sequences, or repeating the same scenes over and over, out of sequence, speaks of the constant shifting of memory and perspective of historical events.

Upstairs, the work of Chinese artist Huang Yong Ping, founder of the Xiamen Dada movement (a synthesis of Dadaism and Chan Buddhism) in the 80s, takes on mythic proportions in the huge gallery spaces. Suspended from the ceiling of one vast chamber is the wooden skeletal structure of a Python, whose articulating neck swoops gracefully to floor level, where, jaws agape and grinning, he greets incoming spectators.

"Yong Ping takes a mystical approach to museums," explained Grand. "We as people are being eaten, as we travel through, swallowed up in the

digestive tract of the museum, moving us and clarifying our notions of art as we feed the museum."



*Auschwitz by Nebojsa Seric-Sboba*

Beneath the midsection of the Python, a well-lit, arid, turtle-shaped cage holds various creatures, including a Curly-tailed Lizard, a pair of thumb-sized Hissing Cockroaches from Madagascar, Scorpions, Bubblegum Albino Rat Snakes, Millipedes, and other globalized denizens of the *Theater of the World*. This exhibit changes as the creatures, "none of which are used to living with each other," sometimes fight and sometimes kill and eat each other.

The *House of Oracles* is set up in a military tent, where giant carved wooden calendars share the space with a *Feng Shui* divination table, and pulp from ancient books of prophecy hang from meat hooks.

In another chamber, the *Nightmare of King George V* reveals a nearly life-sized replica of an elephant carrying a wicker cage howdah, on which a tiger balances acrobatically. Nearby, *8-Legged Hat* offers a pith helmet perched on the legs of African ibises, with a distorted map of the continents of Asia and Africa represented on the brim.

Yong Ping's work is esoteric and earthy, vast and subtle, changing shape and context as you view it, walk through it, digest it. Entrance to the *House of Oracles* is attained by passing through an airport lobby guarded by lion cages, where neon signs point one way for Nationals, another for Others. The lions lurk within, still guarding the gates of empire.



WWW.GNAM.ARTI.BENICULTURALI.IT/SO147.JPG

Yinka Shonibare's manikins speak to the culture of globalization at MASSMoCA.

For the last fifteen years, Yong Ping has made his home in Paris, where he was setting up a show when the Tiananmen Square massacre occurred. His work, and the work of many other important contemporary artists, now fill the halls where millworkers once labored, in the once dilapidated, now destination point city of North Adams, an hour's drive from Montague. Go, feed the museum.



**TURNERSFALLS RIVERCULTURE**

**Pick up brand new Turners Falls Brochures and Historic Walking Tour booklets at downtown Turners Falls businesses and attractions and log on to**

**TURNERSFALLSRIVERCULTURE.ORG**

**to find out what you are missing.**

ART + CULTURE + RECREATION  
TURNERSFALLSRIVERCULTURE.ORG



**Cup O' Joe** **New Hours, Wireless Internet**

Espresso • Cappuccino • Lattes

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

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

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

Patrick Smith HIC #134741 Insured Turners Falls, MA Patrick@Mtdata.com

**EASTERN WEATHERIZATION**  
Specializing in Cellulose Insulation Infrared Quality Assurance Guaranteed

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

**LIEBENOW AUTO BODY**  
"WE DO THE COMPLETE JOB"

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

LOCAL PICK-UP & DELIVERY

Mass Repair Shop #1839  
774-4420  
163 WELLS STREET GREENFIELD  
Quality Work on All Makes & Models Towing & Rental Cars Arranged

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** Vice President **863-4373**

**Renaissance Excavating**

COMPLETE SITE WORK

- SEPTIC & DRAINAGE SYSTEMS • SAND, GRAVEL & LOAM

MAIN ROAD, GILL  
DOUGLAS EDSON (413) 863-4462

**LAPINE MULTIMEDIA**

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

**Bill & Kathy White**  
**413-773-7747**



**WENDELL**

continued from pg 1

building will cost the town money in rent for the trailer office, electric heat for the trailers, and more work days for architect Margo Jones and project manager Mark Sullivan.

Keller suggested it might be better to go easy than to insist on late fee payments starting February 16th, and Heard suggested there might be a middle ground that will get the best work done with minimum expense. She said a call to new town counsel David Doneski might help Wendell find the best solution.

Turning to the new library project, board chair Ted Lewis complained about the condition of the cellar floor there. He said Handford should have put braces in place for the library frame by mid-July. He said if braces had been installed by then, the July 12th tornado that blew through town would not have destroyed the furnaces in the cellar. Also, Handford was supposed to save the cellar bulkhead, but instead the town had to buy a new one.

He also noted that Handford had lowered the office building five inches, which saved on sand but may cause drainage problems in the long run.

Keller said in spite of all that, they will be good buildings when they are finished. The siding is almost done on the office building, and the inside is ready for paint. The interior walls on the library are framed.

Heard asked if the delay in the water system because of ledge on Cooleyville Road would cost the town extra. Keller said the money saved by some redesign of the system may balance that out. Lewis thought that Whitney



PHOTO BY JOSH HEINEMANN

The new Wendell town office building.

Trucking would be cooperative with the town, since the town had been cooperative with them.

Most of the water line to the town hall is in place and covered, but there is a complication because the line to the old well must be disconnected at the same time the new line is connected. Electricity will be hooked up to the pump this week, and after that there can be a test of the septic system, which was completed last spring.

Lewis said once the new water line is connected, the filtration system in town hall will no longer be necessary, and the town should get an estimate of its worth and sell it.

Nina Keller is starting to line up volunteers to assemble shelving and finish other small tasks in the new library when Handford Construction is finished there.

Town accountant Janet Swem said two departmental expense accounts are short for fiscal '07: the veterans benefits line item is short because a new veteran moved into town, and the payment for the new fire truck is short on the interest payment, because the vote of the last town meeting, which authorized that interest payment, has yet to be certified.

William Dias, of Athol, met the board to ask about a house at 118 Depot Road. He said it was built by Fleet Bank, but has been unoccupied for 14 years, and the town acquired it for back taxes. The lot is not big enough to allow the required separation between the well and septic system. Diaz wondered if there was a possibility of a variance, and if he could be told when the town plans to hold an auction of its properties.

Keller suggested Dias contact the building inspector to find out if it might be possible to get an occupancy permit for the building. But it is illegal for the town to inform him about an upcoming auction, because that would be considered favoring him against another possible bidder. Dias was

advised to check the newspapers for notices, or call the town office periodically during the town coordinator's office hours. The next auction should be held in spring or early summer. Other properties would be auctioned at the same time, and one of them might offer him a better opportunity to get into a house.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said she had researched the question of adding new town constables, and found the town could appoint as many as necessary, and could also appoint two constables specifically for elections. Keller had one person he thought would be willing, but had not spoken with him yet, and thought it would be good to contact him in person before putting his name in a newspaper.

With Aldrich reading from a questionnaire sent by DCR about the Historic Landscape Preservation Program, board members answered questions about work done improving the town common: how much the planning cost the town (nothing), whether the work had an effect on privately owned properties around it (yes, the value of the

properties increased), did the work result in increased use of the facility (yes).

The board gave Clayton Davenport Trucking a good report for their work on the town center septic system in a Department of Capital Asset Management evaluation.

Aldrich read a letter that was sent by the New Salem selectboard to Governor Patrick asking the governor to support Representative Steve Kulik's initiative to increase and stabilize the state's Chapter 70 funding for education. The formula for Chapter 70 funding has changed to the detriment of small rural schools. Keller asked Aldrich to draft a short letter to Patrick in support of New Salem's letter, and pointing out that the drop in PILOT money hurt Wendell the same way the drop in Chapter 70 money hurt New Salem. He added that the new governor is no doubt aware that Wendell is the town that cast the highest percentage of its votes for him, statewide.

Senator Rosenberg has sent a follow-up letter to Senator Therese Murray, chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, asking the committee to add into the next supplementary budget an appropriation of \$171,266 to the town of Wendell for expenses the town incurred after the July tornado, and for \$38,076 for the towns that responded in mutual aid. Aldrich passed a copy of that letter to the selectboard, and Keller suggested a letter should also be sent to the governor.

In light of the selectboard's decision to hire Kopelman and Paige as the new town attorney, the board of health requested to continue using attorney John Gates for two ongoing cases.

Leonard Kopelman sent the selectboard a letter expressing his appreciation that the town selected Kopelman and Paige as town counsel, and asking that any criticism be sent to the law firm, so that a reappointment vote may be unanimous.



**SWEET ART SALE**

Floppy flowers? Factory-fresh feelings? Is that how to say "I love you?"



Saturday February 10  
10 - 4  
Montague Grange  
Montague Center

A dozen local artists and vendors offer fun, funky, elegant and delicious items for your sweetheart (s)  
From the affordable to the extravagant, it's all interesting, local and hand made

www.TheAlchemyStudio.com

**In Other News**

Phyllis Brooks arranged to rent the town hall on Sunday through Tuesday, March 4th - 6th for a three-day training in Shambhala healing. Since the training is private, she is paying the regular rental fee.

Musty **COMFORTER?** Sandy **AREA RUG?**  
or just **LOTS of Laundry?**  
**SUZEE SAYS: BRING IT ON.**  
**THE BIG WASHERS ARE BACK!**  
THIRD ST. LAUNDRY  
LENDING 971376  
**Always Hot Dryers!**  
Suzee's Gear for sale at : [www.suzeethirdstlaundry.com](http://www.suzeethirdstlaundry.com)

**LIKE NETFLIX - ONLY LOCAL!**  
**VIDEO To GO**  
**Movie Lover Accounts**  
No due dates! No late fees!  
**Starting at Just \$13 a Month**  
50 Federal Street, Greenfield 413-773-1701

**Acupressure Massage & Hypnotherapy**  
  
Janet Masucci  
413-863-8694  
Nationally Certified in Therapeutic Massage Since 1993  
64 French King Highway, Gill, MA 01376

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

**THE COUNTRY JEWELER**  
Traditional and Contemporary Jewelry  
Diamonds  
Watches  
Anniversary Bands  
Custom repair work done on premises  
Old-fashioned service!  
Call Larry: 772-0859  
Mon. - Sat. 9:30 - 5:30  
Corner of Main & Chapman Streets, Greenfield  
[www.countryjeweler.com](http://www.countryjeweler.com)



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

**MORE STORIES**

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH**

**GILL** - Ma told us about a wolf that howled one evening as a group of women began leaving Ma's home. The women beat a hasty retreat to the house.

"Tata went outside," Ma said. "The wolf howled, again. Then, we hear other wolves, 'AWOO, AWOOO.' None of the women wanted to go home."

Grandfather poured kerosene on a homemade broom, made of brush bound to a stick. He set it on fire. Raising the torch overhead, he led the frightened women home. "I always feel safe around Tata - he so brave," Ma said.

Sometimes she told about the good times in America - living in Chicago, meeting her boyhood sweetheart in Housatonic, and sharecropping at Cold Brook Farm in Montague. Sometimes the stories were sad.

Leaving Cold Brook Farm had been hard for Ma, especially

since my half sister, Mary, had stayed on to work taking care of the

new sharecroppers' baby. Mary was Ma's first-born by her husband, Franz - or Frank, as he was later known in America. Ma's other two children, Bessie and Johnny, came later. Franz was Ma's childhood sweetheart and her whole life. That former life was but a lingering memory - a memory that got better each passing year, as she reminisced about those bygone days on evenings that Pa worked the

night shift.

"If not for Mary, Johnny, and

Bessie, I think I dream it," she said, her eyes looking far beyond the pile of feathers. "This life, not like the other life.

Pa is not like my first husband. I am glad Pa took me and my children, but sometimes," she said, "too many children - his, mine, and more together - too many." She shook her head.

I knew what was coming next. Ma would sigh and wonder out loud if there would be no end to childbearing and taking care of youngsters, working in the fields, keeping house, cooking, cleaning, and scrub-

bing endless mounds of dirty laundry only to have the clothes grow dingier with each washing. Then there was a barn full of animals to feed, and water to carry. The orchard and garden meant fruit and vegetables, but with them came weeding and hoeing, picking and canning. "Too many children," she'd say. "And too much work."

Hearing her despair weighed me down with guilt for being one of the "too many children." Sometimes it made me feel resentful and frustrated, and I'd try to divert her attention by changing the subject.

"Tell us about coming though the war."

Her eyes would brighten and she'd begin, "Mary was just a baby, then. I live in Housatonic with my first husband." A trace of smile would appear and the lines in her face would soften.

"I'm not twenty years old,

yet, and I miss my Mama and Tata. I not see them for two years - maybe more. After I have Mary, I get such an ache in my heart for my family in Poland. I just want to see them again and our home in the mountains, made from big logs, smoke coming from the chimney. That's all I can think."

Ma's eyes sparkled as she backtracked to how she and her first husband met, "Franz and me, we grow up next door to each other. When he was a little boy, he says he is going to marry me some day. But life is very hard in Poland and everyone talks of going to Ameryka. One day, his family goes away with him. Where, I don't know. I only know they go to Ameryka. Later my Tata goes to Ameryka alone. We have only enough money for one ticket."

- Continued Next Week



## THE HEALTHY GEEZER

# Getting Long in the Tooth

**BY FRED CICETTI**  
**LEONIA, NJ** - Q. *I seem to be getting more cavities in my teeth as I get older. Is this another part of the aging process?*

Tooth decay - and gum disease - are caused by plaque, a layer of bacteria. This plaque can build up quickly on the teeth of older people. In addition, seniors have a greater tendency to get decay around older fillings. And we have more fillings than younger people because we didn't all grow up with fluoride.

Cavities in the roots of teeth are also more common among older adults, because the roots are exposed when our gums recede and we become "long in the tooth." The root surfaces are softer than tooth enamel and decay more easily.

Dry mouth, which is a lack of saliva, promotes tooth decay. Saliva is needed to neutralize the cavity-causing acids produced by plaque.

Most dry mouth - a condition also known as xerostomia - is related to the medications taken by older adults rather than to the effects of aging. More than 400 medicines can affect the salivary glands. These include drugs for urinary incontinence, allergies, high blood pressure, depression, diarrhea and Parkinson's disease. Also, some over-the-counter medications often cause dry mouth.

Dry mouth can also be caused by cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation, nerve damage in the head or neck, the autoimmune disease Sjogren's syndrome, endocrine disorders, Alzheimer's disease, stroke, anxiety disorders and depression.

Despite all of the dental problems related to age, seniors are holding onto their teeth longer than they used to. One reputable survey showed that the rate that seniors lose their teeth has



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

dropped by 60 percent since 1960. This improvement has been attributed to advancements in treatment and better oral hygiene.

Cleaning your teeth is especially important as you age. Dentists advise that you brush your teeth twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste and clean between your teeth with floss or other interdental cleaner.

[Personal note. I was beginning to get root cavities myself.

Then, about three years ago, I started using a high-powered electric toothbrush that cleans between the teeth. I brush after breakfast and before bed, and I don't use floss. I've had no cavities since.]

Gum disease is common among seniors because it develops painlessly over a long period of time. It is caused by plaque, but it can be aggravated by smoking, ill-fitting dentures and poor diet. Symptoms include bleeding, swollen or receding gums, loose teeth, a change in your bite, and persistent bad breath or taste.

Another change as you grow older is difficulty keeping your teeth white. Again, plaque is to blame. Because plaque can build up faster and in greater amounts as we age, older people have a hard time maintaining a bright smile. Changes in dentin, the bone-like tissue that is under your enamel, may also cause

your teeth to appear slightly darker.

If you have a question, please write to [fredcicetti@gmail.com](mailto:fredcicetti@gmail.com).

# Mesa Verde

*Eat In or Take Out!*

**BURRITOS,  
BOWLS,  
SOFT TACOS,  
QUESADILLAS**

*Now serving  
People's Pint Beer  
on tap!*

**(413) 772-2531**

10 Fiske Ave - downtown Greenfield  
Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30 am - 9 pm

**DOLAN & DOLAN**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Office Hours By Appointment

**DANIEL COHEN, D.M.D.**

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

**NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS**

**REGAL**  
**Real Estate & Modular Homes**  
**BUYING • BUILDING • SELLING**

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

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

*Growth & Transformation Through Healing*

**Joanne O'Neil, M.A.**

Psychotherapist & Herbalist \* Moonrise Medicinals Herbal Teas

P.O. Box 73, Montague, MA 01351 • 413.367.9514  
[Joanne@moonrisemedicinals.com](mailto:Joanne@moonrisemedicinals.com)

**HOMESPUN**  
by Andy's

★ Curtains ★ Braided Rugs  
★ Accessories For Your Home

Mon.-Fri. 9:30-5:30, Sat. 9:30-5, Sun. Noon-4  
329 Deerfield St., Greenfield 773-3911  
[www.andysaok.com](http://www.andysaok.com)

**FOUR DIRECTIONS HEALING ARTS**

Acupuncture  
Massage, Reiki  
Flower Essence Therapy

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







# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND**  
 First Friday Movie at Sheffield: *Open Season*. Shown by the Montague Police department and Recreation department. The family movies are funded by the Montague Elks Lodge # 2521 and are designed to provide a family night out without cost to families. 6:30 p.m.

Gallery Walk in Brattleboro. Vermont Center for Photography, 49 Flat Street, Brattleboro: *People, Buildings and Cars: New Chicago Photography*. Group Show of Six New Chicago based photographers: Mary Farmilant, Jon Gitelson, Jason Lazarus, Matt Siber, Greg Stimac, Brian Ulrich. Opening Night: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. during Brattleboro Gallery Walk. Show ends on Sunday, February 25th. Info: (802) 251-6051.

Deja Brew, Wendell, Rock with The T & A Duo. 9 to 11 p.m., no cover. (978) 544-BREW.

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, *Free Radicals*. Rock & roll from Dylan to Zeppelin, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD**  
 Wendell Full Moon Coffee House: Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem. Benefit for Franklin Hampshire County Health Coalition. Open Mic at 7:30, main act 8 p.m. \$6 - \$12. Info: www.wendellfullmoon.org or (978) 544-5557.

"Comedy at the Shea," with professional standup comedians Bob Gautreau, Joe Carroll, Mike Cote and Jean-Marc Cormier at The Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Some proceeds benefit Turners Falls RiverCulture Project. Showtime 8 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. Beer and wine served in lobby. Tickets \$15 in advance (\$18 at the box office on the night of the show), available online at www.sheacomedy.com, and at the World Eye Bookshop, Main Street, Greenfield; the Gill Store, Gill. For information or reservations, call the Shea 863-2281.

Deja Brew, Wendell, Usquabae

Jazz Ensemble. 9 to 11 p.m., no cover. (978) 544-BREW.

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls, *Factory Defect*, rock & roll great female vocals, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.



Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem at the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, Saturday, February 3rd. 8 p.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH**  
 The Montague Bookmill Presents: The Dead of Winter Free Films for the Frozen: *Out of the Past*. 1947 film directed by Jacques Tourneur. Free (with a passed hat). Food & drink at the Lady Killigrew Pub or The Night Kitchen Restaurant, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Classical Piano with Adam Bergeron, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., no cover. (978) 544-BREW.

Pioneer Valley Shambhala

Meditation Center Open House, Hadley. Open to All beginning with a talk: *Becoming A Buddhist Practitioner*. Open House begins 10 a.m. with meditation instruction and practice (sitting & walking meditation) followed by Dharma talk at 11 a.m. and socializing at noon. Join us for all or part of the morning. For info, visit our website www.pvshambhala.org or (413) 585-9848.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH**  
 Deja Brew, Wendell, Open Mic Fiddle Tune Swap, 8 to 10 p.m., no cover. (978) 544-BREW.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH & 10TH**  
 Stoneleigh-Burnham presents: *A Voice of My Own*, a history of women writers. At The Shea Theater, Ave A, Turners Falls.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH**  
 2nd Annual Sweet Art Sale, Montague Grange, Montague Center. Local artists and vendors offer fun, funky, elegant and delicious items for your sweetheart(s). Silver jewelry, pottery, illustrations, mixed-media works, locally harvested honey, elegant chocolates! Free admission.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH**  
 Scandinavian Dancing at the Montague Grange, Montague Center. Live music played by Marilyn Butler, Amy Parker and friends. Dancers with all levels of experience welcome, no partner necessary. 3 to 6 p.m. Info: 774-7771 or scandia2ndsunday@aol.com.

The Montague Bookmill Presents: *The Dead of Winter* Free Films for the Frozen: *Il Postino*. Romantic tale based on

Pablo Neruda's sojourn in Italy; 1995. 7 p.m. Introduced by renowned poet and Neruda scholar, Martin Espada.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH**  
 Athol Bird & Nature Club Monthly Meeting: Banding Monarchs. Join Kathi Duprey who maintains a certified Mass way station and has raised and released over 40 Monarchs this year as she leads us into the world of migrating Monarch Butterflies. Meet at Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol. Open to all. 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH TO 17TH**  
 Northfield Mount Hermon Winter Dance Concert. Featuring works in many different styles, including hip-hop, lyrical jazz, ballet en pointe, modern, and traditional Korean dance. All dances are created and performed by the NMH Dance Company students and faculty. Thursday at 7 p.m., Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, at 8 p.m. Performances in the Grandin Auditorium. Tickets \$5 general admission, \$2 NMH community members. Proceeds donated to the Coalition to Save Darfur. www.nmh-school.org (413) 498-3000.

**FREE FILMS FOR THE FROZEN**  
**OUT OF THE PAST**  
 Sunday, February 4th at 7pm  
 A killer film noir starring Robert Mitchum, Jane Greer and Kirk Douglas, 1947.  
 www.montaguebookmill.com (413)367-9206

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

**GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS**  
 Main St. Greenfield, MA 413-774-4881  
 www.gardencinemas.net  
 Showtimes for **Fri, Feb. 2nd-Thurs., Feb. 8th**  
 1. EPIC MOVIE PG13  
 DAILY 7:00 9:30  
 MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00  
 2. BECAUSE I SAID PG13  
 DAILY 7:00 9:30 in DTS sound  
 MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00  
 3. DREAMGIRLS PG13  
 DAILY 7:00 9:30  
 MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00  
 4. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PG  
 DAILY 6:45 9:15  
 MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15  
 5. CHILDREN OF MEN R  
 DAILY 6:45 9:15 PG13  
 MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15  
 6. STOMP THE YARD PG13  
 DAILY 6:30 9:20 DTS sound  
 MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30  
 7. FREEDOM WRITERS  
 PG13 in DTS sound  
 DAILY 6:30 9:20  
 MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

*Memorial Hall Theater*  
**POTHOLE PICTURES**  
 February 2 & 3 7:30 p.m.  
*Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid*  
 Witty western buddy film with Paul Newman and Robert Redford. Humanly fallible characters and warm, clever dialogue. Directed by George Roy Hill, 1969. PG. 112 min. color.  
 Music before movie 7 p.m.  
 Fri. Eric DeLuca, piano  
 Sat. Mike Chrisman, original folk  
 51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

**Draft Beer** **Great Food**  
 Fine Wine  
 Open Wed-Sun at 4 p.m.  
**Thursday 2/8 8-10 p.m.**  
**Kellianna**  
**Friday 2/9 9-11 p.m.**  
**Richard Chase Group**  
**Saturday 2/10 9-11 p.m.**  
**Ray Mason - Rock**  
 No Cover Either Night!  
**978-544-BREW**  
 57A Lockes Village Road  
 Next to the Wendell Country Store

**Upcoming at the Discovery Center**  
**Open Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** **Groups by Special Arrangement, Tue.-Thur.**

<p><b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD</b>                  Create your own animal track! Join Refuge staff for a hands-on program learning about local wildlife signs and how to track these creatures. Activity will include making your own animal track to take home with you! Free. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.                  Opening for Stephen Gingold's Nature Photography. Free and open to the public. Accessible facilities. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  <b>UNTIL MARCH 31ST</b>                  Stephen Gingold's Nature Photography. Explore the world of</p>	<p>nature, both at a landscape scale and focused at close range for details, through the eyes of Stephen Gingold as you see his photographs in this special exhibit.  <b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH</b>                  Tracking the Wily Coyote and other dog family members of central &amp; Western Mass with expert tracker and naturalist, David Brown. 7 - 8:30 p.m. For ages 10 &amp; older, \$5.  <b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH</b>                  Watershed Wonders. Explore the wonders of water with refuge staff; how warm and cold weather affect water, and how it flows over the ground.</p>	<p>Includes hands-on explorations with water. For children and adults. Free. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.  <b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 TH</b>                  Tracking Wild Canids at Northfield Mountain with David Brown Outdoor snowshoe tracking program that will take us off-trail into the wilds of Northfield Mountain in search of the tracks and sign of Eastern coyotes, red foxes and even the elusive gray fox. Held at Northfield Mountain For ages 10 and older. Fee: \$15 per person, \$27 with snowshoe rentals. Pre-registration required, call 800-859-2960. 9 a.m. to Noon.</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 TH</b>                  Accessible Birding with the Hampshire Bird Club. An excursion to investigate bird life at wheelchair accessible and lively birding locations in the Connecticut River Valley. Binoculars and scopes are available for use as well as other assistive technology such as portable folding chairs, large print field guides, monopods, and listening devices. To find out more about additional accessible birding opportunities and locations, call (413) 545-5758. 10 to noon at the Discovery Center.</p>
--	--	---	--

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

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

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

**Brian R. San Soucie**  
**Locksmith - CRL**  
 Serving the Area for over 25 years Certified • Bonded • Insured  
**We Install all Types of Locks & Entry Devices for Businesses and Homes**  
 • Dead Bolts  
 • Household Lock Sets  
 • We Master Key & Re-Key  
 • Safe Combinations Changed  
 28 Montague Street  
 Turners Falls, MA 01376  
**Beeper 290-1162**  
**863-2471**  
**Fax 863-8022**

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



# EARTH TALK

Dear EarthTalk: Which trees are best to plant to help combat global warming?

— Tim C.  
Perrineville, NJ

Trees are important tools in the fight to stave off global warming, because they absorb and store the key greenhouse gas emitted by our cars and power plants, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), before it has a chance to reach the upper atmosphere where it can help trap heat around the Earth's surface.

While all living plant matter absorbs CO<sub>2</sub> as part of photosynthesis, trees process significantly more than smaller plants due to their large size and extensive root structures. In essence, trees, as kings of the plant world, have much more "woody biomass" to store CO<sub>2</sub> than smaller plants, and as a result are considered nature's most efficient "carbon sinks."

According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), tree species that grow quickly

## TREES: WHICH HELP TO COMBAT GLOBAL WARMING?

From the Editors of *E: the Environmental Magazine*



*"The least expensive and easiest way for individuals to help offset the CO<sub>2</sub> that they generate in their everyday lives is to plant a tree...any tree, as long as it is appropriate for the given region and climate."*

and live long are ideal carbon sinks. Unfortunately, these two attributes are usually mutually exclusive. Given the choice, foresters interested in maximizing the absorption and storage of CO<sub>2</sub> (known as "carbon sequestration") usually favor younger trees that grow more quickly than their older cohorts. However, slower growing trees can store

much more carbon over their significantly longer lives.

Scientists are busy studying the carbon sequestration potential of different types of trees in various parts of the U.S., including eucalyptus in Hawaii, loblolly pine in the Southeast, bottomland hardwoods in Mississippi, and poplars in the Great Lakes. "There are literally dozens of tree

species that could be planted depending upon location, climate and soils," says Stan Wullschleger, a researcher at Tennessee's Oak Ridge National Laboratory who specializes in the physiological response of plants to global climate change.

Dave Nowak, a researcher at the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Research Station in Syracuse, New York has studied the use of trees for carbon sequestration in urban settings across the United States.

A 2002 study he co-authored lists the Common Horse-chestnut, Black Walnut, American Sweetgum, Ponderosa Pine, Red Pine, White Pine, London Plane, Hispaniolan Pine, Douglas Fir, Scarlet Oak, Red Oak, Virginia

Live Oak and Bald Cypress as examples of trees especially good at absorbing and storing CO<sub>2</sub>. Nowak advises urban land managers to avoid trees that require a lot of maintenance, as the burning of fossil fuels to power equipment like trucks and chainsaws will only erase the carbon absorption gains otherwise made.

Ultimately, trees of any shape, size or genetic origin help absorb CO<sub>2</sub>. Most scientists agree that the least expensive and perhaps easiest way for individuals to help offset the CO<sub>2</sub> that they generate in their everyday lives is to plant a tree...any tree, as long as it is appropriate for the given region and climate. Those who wish to help larger tree planting efforts can donate money or time to the National Arbor Day Foundation or American Forests in the U.S., or to the Tree Canada Foundation in Canada.

Contacts: American Forests, [www.americanforests.org](http://www.americanforests.org); National Arbor Day Foundation, [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org); Tree Canada Foundation, [www.treecanada.ca](http://www.treecanada.ca).

Got an environmental question? Email: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).

### WEST ALONG THE RIVER

## King in the Woods

BY DAVID BRULE

**MILLERS FALLS** - The sun rose bright over the rim of the hills on the last day of the old year. Time to count birds in the valley, something a group of us have been doing together for the last 33 years.

Using Montague as its center, the group fans out to cover a range of habitats in a 20-mile circle. Some of the census takers have already been up since dawn, thumping on trees and calling owls who've been out all night hunting. Some of us, on the other hand, get up leisurely, with that cold sun mentioned above, and begin counting over a steaming cup of black coffee while sitting on the frosty back porch.

It's handy having juncos and sparrows pecking at seeds on the ground nearby, moving from one foot to the other on the frozen ground. A cluster of cedar waxwings wheeze and undulate by, 24, no, make that 25 of them. The counting has started so we need to get some exactness into our estimates.

Some counters like to head off early in the car, scoping out favorite spots near open field or water. I take a low profile approach. I finish a second cup of coffee. I'm already counting up to 15 blue jays and a couple of woodpeckers, without breaking a sweat!

Time to head down through the woods to the Millers, now steaming in the first rays of the

sun. Black ducks slip through the air just the other side of the birches and alder. One, two, three, just like that. This counting is easy! Feeling pretty smug about my rising tally just now.

Down on the bend, the summer kingfisher rattles up the river as he does in all seasons, but luckily, this is Count Day, and he showed up! Walking and pausing along the open water rushing by, a dusting of snow on the shore, there comes a faint wisp of a call from the warming hemlocks on the sunny side of Mineral Mountain. I just hold still and wait. The wisp becomes movement and a golden-crowned kinglet materializes and pirouettes on a bough hanging over the water twenty feet away.

This is a small mite of a bird, barely the weight of two pennies in his pale greenish suit and brilliant yellow-striped crown. Indeed, in some cultures he is called the Firecrest, or the little king - *le roitelet* - because of his gold crown which runs from the base of his beak to the back of his neck. He got his name, according to various Celtic and Woodland Indian legends, when there was a dispute in the bird world in the early days of creation.

It was the bragging of Eagle and Raven that started it all. Each claimed to be the strongest and each claimed to be the one who could fly the highest. To prove this, Eagle and Raven began fly-



LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES ILLUSTRATION

ing higher and higher in dizzying circles. What neither of them noticed, however, was a small mite of a washed-olive colored bird who hopped on Eagle's back at the last minute. As they drew nearer and nearer to the sun, Raven dropped out because he was getting too hot, but Eagle kept on going long enough to beat him. But the little greenish mite of a bird riding on Eagle's shoulders actually got higher and closer to the sun than the one who was carrying him. He got so close to the sun that he scorched his head, which left a golden stripe blazed upon him! That's why this smallest of birds became kinglet by outwitting Eagle, and why a lot of us smile and bow out of respect when we meet him in the woods.

So, at this rate, my counting day started off in a fine way, what with meeting a king like that! A few minutes later, the red-tailed hawk cast a wild eye on my side of the river from the top of a tall pine on the mountain. He and his mate control this part of the valley during the day. He's just warming his back in the early

sun, getting ready to take over the day shift from the fierce tiger of the night, the great horned owl, who's off for a quiet snooze now until dusk.

Winter has been easy for the predators, hawks, owls and foxes don't have to deal with mouse and vole tunnels under the snow. With this brown winter, their food supply is plentiful and scurrying about in the open, ready for the picking.

I add a few more familiar birds to the list, but things are slowing down. Or maybe the coffee is wearing off. Neighbors across the Flat, cousin Annabelle and Ernie Lucas, let me know who's been at their feeders, and we compare notes on the hawks raiding the yards this year. Ah well, time to give in and get into the car to take the Peg Wert and Eleanor Sheldon Memorial Bird Count Route, through the fields, along the river and eventually up to Northfield Farms.

Peg from Gill, and Eleanor from Northfield, were my regular count companions for years, and the ladies did their best under much harsher conditions than those of today. As I've mentioned in earlier writings, I'm convinced that the best part for them was the hot spiced wine waiting for us at the end of the day, sitting around the Glenwood C cookstove, chuckling about the adventures and misadventures of our day, trying to make sense of the random lists we'd kept of the things

we'd seen. They were both with us in spirit today, but this time even their intervention from up there in the firmament didn't send anything special our way. The lack of snow, the monotony of farms turned from cornfields and dairy cows to sterile, flat turf farms stretching as far as you can see, produce nary a horned lark, snow bunting nor sparrow on that bleak plain.

Later in the evening, Mark Fairbrother confirms that we're headed for a banner year however, with 10,579 individual birds (give or take an English sparrow or two). With 64 species, that's quite respectable! We're up to 23 red-bellied woodpeckers this year, when back in the 70s there was only one in the state, and that was down here on the Flat! Nearly created a birder's riot that year, with cars coming in from Boston, with hordes of listers staked out at our feeders. But that's a story for another time.

This year, Pat Carlisle, from atop her aerie over the Narrows spied an unexpected great blue heron on the shore and made sure the eagles were accounted for. The ravens checked in too, and were added to the tally. But in spite of the mighty eagle and powerful raven, the one who was high up at the top of my list, again besting both eagle and raven, was the plucky little king I met in the cheery woods, bright and early in the morning.