

**BOOK REVIEW**

Local author Ted Graveline / Page 12

**HALLMARK PHOTO MUSEUM**

Adds to downtown vision / Page 6

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

Year 3 No. 16

50¢

The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 3, 2005

Chief Seeks to Add Fulltime Firefighter

BY DAVID DETMOLD GILL - On Tuesday, February 1st, fire chief Gene Beaubien came before the finance committee with several members of his crew, tired from a long day fighting a fire at the old Martindale Farm on North Cross Road, to advocate for including a fulltime firefighter in the town's '06 budget.

"It's time for the town to think about a fulltime firefighter," Beaubien said. If the town approves, Beaubien would hire a firefighter to staff the department during the day, when "the majority of the department works in other towns." Beaubien himself works in South Deerfield, other members of his department work in Greenfield, Turners Falls or Brattleboro, and the threat of delayed response time is a real fear during the day. Gill, like many smaller towns in the area,

has a mutual response agreement with area towns, including those with fulltime firefighters, but Beaubien points out mutual response implies the ability to respond quickly when those departments call for help.

Beaubien said Gill was able to dispatch a truck

a medical call in town. Answering the medical call, a Gill EMT driving past the Smith residence at 88 North Cross Road (the former Martindale Farm) noticed a column of smoke and called in the fire. Other Gill firefighters, responding to the medical call (which was



PARZYCH PHOTO

The remains of the Smith residence at 88 North Cross Road - a total loss after Tuesday's fire

quickly to Tuesday's 10:15 a.m. fire on North Cross Road because the department was already scrambling to respond to

subsequently canceled), were on their way to the station when the fire was

see FIRE pg 9

\$320,000 Upgrade Planned for Peskeomskut Park

BY DAVID DETMOLD TURNERS FALLS - On Monday, January 31st, the selectboard held a public hearing on an \$800,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) proposal to fund improvements to Peskeomskut Park, design work to upgrade downtown crosswalks to enhance wheelchair accessibility, funding to continue a low and moderate income housing rehab program, and grants to fund arts and technology related programs at the Brick House and the Montague Catholic Social Ministries. The annual federal grant, designed to remove blight and improve infrastructure and services in low and moderate income communities, will be administered by the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHA), as in years past.

The centerpiece of this year's CDBG grant pro-

posal will be the remodeling of Peskeomskut Park. The park, the closest thing to a central town common in downtown Turners Falls, was created in 1965 by the Turners Falls Young Women's Club, according to club member Barbara Thurber, on the site of a vacant gully between 6th and 7th Streets, on the northwest side of Avenue A. A decade later, the Montague Bicentennial Committee paid for the installation of a fountain at the park, and various community groups have added other memorials to the park over time, including the Boy Scouts, Korean War Veterans, Students Against Drunk Driving, and the Downtown Neighbors Association that planted trees in memory of four Montague women - Vivian Morrissey, Virginia Reyes, Catherine Gochinski, and Tracey Shepard - who were murdered by

their partners in the late 1980s, and in memory of a Tibetan refugee - Palden Sangpo - who died in 1997 in the Crocker Building fire.

The word Peskeomskut is a Native American term that has been translated as "at the divided or cleft rock," a probable reference to the Great Falls. The memorial stones and plantings will not be moved during the park redesign and improvements, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said.

Abbondanzio called the Peskeomskut Park redesign "the implementation of years of planning" by a town appointed committee representing various interests that have made use of the park. Based on input from that committee, the Conway School of Design produced a design for the park, incorporating a tot

see PARK pg 8

Changing Habitats on Display

BY DAVID DETMOLD GREAT FALLS - Sue Cloutier, U.S. Fish and Wildlife's newly hired outdoor recreation planner at the Great Falls Discovery Center, claims to be retired. She used to teach general science to middle school students in Wellesley. Now she works three days a week as the executive director of the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol, and, since November, Thursday through Saturdays at the Turners Center. A schedule like that can leave you wondering how much more work a fulltime job could be.

Cloutier said she was drawn to the Discovery Center by a number of factors, including its potential to attract school groups and teachers to use the museum's resources and staff, the



DETMOLD PHOTO

Sue Cloutier, the Great Falls Discovery Center's newly hired outdoor recreation planner.

potential to network with regional environmental organizations, and the potential to develop the Center as an economic driver for the surrounding community.

"We've got a great facility

here," said Cloutier. "I can't tell you how exciting it is, to develop [the Center] as a hub for the whole region. We will coordinate with organizations that regularly run field trips. The

see DISCOVERY pg. 10

Erving Elementary Seeks 9.1% Increase; Secondary Education Budget Drops \$316,462

BY IVAN USSACH ERVING - The selectboard spent over an hour reviewing the draft FY '06 budget with the finance committee on Monday, January 31st. The document reflects requests from all town departments, along with modifications made by the selectboard. As board chair Andy Tessier rolled through the various sections of the budget, there was some discussion but little or no disagreement among those present. The draft budget under review totaled over \$6.143 million, an increase of just under \$35,000 from the amount appropriated by the town in FY '05.

The only major point of contention in the budget continues to be the Erving Elementary School (EES) budget, whose request cur-

rently stands at just over \$1.7 million, a 9.1% increase over last year. The board and finance committee have been attempting to hold the elementary schools' FY '06 request to a 3% increase over Fiscal '05, in line with the 3% cost of living increase included in the budget for all town employees. According to finance committee member Stanley Gradowski, salaries represent 75 percent of the total EES budget.

Charles Paulin, Business Assistant to the Superintendent of Erving School Union #28, said the increase in the Erving Elementary School budget is driven partly by increases in teachers' salaries, including cost of living increases and contracted step increases. The

see ERVING pg 9

PET OF THE WEEK

Small, Dark and Handsome



Marlowe

Marlowe is a three-year-old short hair cat in need of a good home. He is a strapping big dark grey male who enjoys other cats; he has also lived with dogs and birds. Although he's not a big lap cat, he does love to be carried around in a person's arms, enjoying the view over their shoulder. Oh, and he loves sleeping with people. To learn more about adopting Marlowe, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

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Turners Falls Library News Munch and Muse & Ladies Night

The Munch and Muse Book Discussion Group will meet at the Carnegie Library, 201 Avenue A, on Tuesday, February 15th at 7 p.m.

For this evening the group will discuss *Ahab's Wife* by Sena Jeter Naslund.

The program is free and open to all. Copies of the book are available at the library

At the Carnegie, every month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday, at 6:30 p.m. Join us to explore old crafts and new and enjoy good conversation and snacks. On Feb. 8th, we will be knitting hats to give to the Survival Center. Sandy Miner of Erving will be helping with this project. Call the library at 863-3214 for more information.

Friends of Montague Libraries to Host "Meet Local Author Night"

The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries will host "Meet Local Author Night" on Wednesday, Feb. 16th from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Millers Falls Library. The snow date is Feb. 17th. Come meet some more of our local talent, see their works and visit with authors and other attendees!

Agnes Fitch Williams, Louise Shattuck and David James, Ray Coppinger, Ann Feitelson and Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno will be in attendance.

Wine and snacks will be served. Contributions to the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries will be accepted.

Free Men's Health Screenings

The Men's Health Partnership offers free health screenings for men age 18 and older, with no income guidelines. Everyone qualifies! The

next scheduled screening is February 15th, 2005 from 5 - 7 p.m. at the office of Dr. Ronald Catanese in Greenfield. Reservations are required.

Please call the Men's Health Partnership at 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259 or 800-732-4636 for more information or to make your reservation.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES Feb. 7th - Feb. 11th

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

Monday, 7th
9:45 a.m. Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics

Tuesday, 8th
No Tai Chi this week.
10:00 a.m. Writing class

Wednesday, 9th
9:00-11:00 a.m. Foot screening. Nail trim and foot soak offered. Donation of \$5

requested and reservations are necessary. Gill & Montague seniors only. Do not come early.

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Mealsite Meeting
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 10th
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
11:00 a.m. Elder Fire Safety program. FCHCC Fire Safety Project staff will teach fire safety in the home. Free smoke alarms and emergency lights will be distributed.

1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 11th
9:45 a.m. Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Michelle Lucy from Harborside Healthcare will lead "Reflexology," used to stimulate circulation and aid in healing other parts of your body, by massaging certain pressure points in your foot. Learn healing and relaxing techniques with foot massage.

Make appointments now for FREE TAX ASSISTANCE! Feb. 8, 15, 24 and March 8, 15, 22. Call center for an appointment.

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for activities and congregational meals. For information

and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

Monday, 7th
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch

Tuesday, 8th
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting
Wednesday, 9th
10:00 a.m. Line Dancing
11:00 a.m. FCHCC Elder Fire Safety Project. Presenters will discuss fire safety in the home. Free smoke alarms with free installation will be distributed. Call if you plan to attend: 423-3308.

12:00 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 10th
9:00 a.m. Aerobics

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.

FACES & PLACES



SARAH SWANSON PHOTO

Another view of the belltower of the Wendell Meetinghouse, showing work still needed

Would you be my Valentine?



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will print your message in a special Classifieds section on February 10th.

Deadline for submissions is Tuesday February 8th.
Send to: reporter@montaguema.net or call 863-8666

WRITERS WANTED

We welcome submissions on topics of general interest. Correspondents also needed to cover meetings.

The Montague Reporter

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Tech School Student Accepted as People to People Ambassador

WENDELL - Leah Krutka, a resident of Wendell, and an 11th grade student at Franklin County Technical School, has recently been accepted to participate as a member of the People to People Student Ambassador Program. She is the first Franklin County Technical student to be accepted and to take part in this program. She will be traveling to England, Ireland and Wales this upcoming summer. The objective of the program is to promote international understanding while building leadership skills among America's youth. The 20-day experience includes meetings with government officials, interaction with other students from the US and abroad, educational activities, and home stays with host families.

to People has launched many international programs, including Sister Cities, Project HOPE and Pen Pals.

People to People Student

our community. As an Ambassador, she can also earn high school and college credits because of the many educational elements in this program.



Leah Krutka of Wendell

The program tuition is \$4,995, which includes all transportation, accommodations, meals and educational activities. "This is an excellent opportunity for Leah to expand her understanding of the world," states Stephen Richter, Leah's Guidance counselor at Franklin County Technical School. "She will be an outstanding representative of Franklin County and of Franklin County Tech. Too often our students have a limited vision of what is available to them. I am hopeful that Leah's participation and sharing of her experiences will turn other students on to the possibilities that are available to them." Leah is actively fund raising in and around her community to help make this wonderful opportunity a reality.

Ambassadors are carefully interviewed and evaluated before their acceptance. Leah is looking forward to broadening her perspectives of the world and gaining a better understanding of the history outside of this country. Upon her return, she plans to share her experience with schools and civic clubs in

For more information, contact Paul Cohen at 413-863-9561, ext. 119.

Watershed Meeting to Focus on Solid Waste

BY IVAN USSACH

ATHOL - The monthly meeting of the Millers River Watershed Team (MRWT) will be February 8th at 1 p.m., at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

exchange of information that promotes the health of the watershed and its residents.

To contact the Watershed Council or the Environmental Center directly, call (978) 248-9491.

The main focus of this meeting will be a watershed-level discussion of solid waste issues. The Millers River Watershed Council is initiating a detailed regional examination of solid waste issues, including individual town profiles. The public is invited to attend and any information shared will be appreciated. Staff from regional agencies will also be in attendance.

The MRWT meets the first Tuesday of each month, with alternating day and evening meetings, as a forum for the

Clarification

Through editorial oversight, in last week's issue we omitted to print the following attribution on the guest editorial about the Reverend John Leland and the history of the separation of church and state in America. For the record, we reprinted that article with the permission of Joseph L. Conn, editor of *Church & State*, the monthly publication of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, www.au.org.

Why Buy What You Don't Want?

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FCCDC Business Planning Classes

GREENFIELD - The Franklin County Community Development Corporation is offering Business Planning classes beginning in March using a nationally recognized curriculum Entrepreneurial Training Program. Developed and designed to train both potential and existing entrepreneurs by offering a practical, condensed series of entrepreneurial training sessions. Who should attend? People ready to plan for a business, wanting to better understand business financial statements, or ready to take a business to the next level. The Entrepreneurs course is a 12-session training program designed to encourage business expansion in a community. The

course focuses on teaching the art of better business practices while producing a comprehensive business plan to guide business expansion decisions and activities. Entrepreneurs will learn the following as they prepare a written business plan: How and when to start business planning, How to organize and better manage their business, How to identify opportunities and market their business, How to understand and get the business' financials in order, How and where to get funding for their business, How to write a detailed, comprehensive business plan, Networking with other entrepreneurs and How to develop a network with small business support services.

Two classes are being offered. One on Tuesday March 8th, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Franklin County CDC, Greenfield and another on Wednesday March 9th in Athol. Classes are open to all Franklin County and North Quabbin residents with scholarships made available by Community Development Block Grants from Montague, Greenfield, Heath, and Colrain. Call for more information and register by February 25th with Business Technical Assistance, Franklin County CDC 413-774-7204 ext 117 or amys@fccdc.org. 324 Wells St., Greenfield, MA 01370. Visit the website at www.fccdc.org.

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Financial Literacy Training Program

GREENFIELD - Greenfield Housing Associates and Franklin County Action Corporation announce the availability of a Financial Literacy Training Program called "TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY" for Franklin County service providers. Other interested individuals may take the classes on a space-available basis.

Ellen Campbell, Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator of Greenfield Housing Associates, and Sara Cummings, Director of Special Projects for FCAC, offer free training classes designed to benefit low-income families and individuals in Franklin County. We will meet two hours a week for four weeks, Thursday afternoons 2-4 p.m. beginning February 3rd.

The next set of classes begins Thursday evening, March 3rd, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Additional classes will be scheduled throughout the year. February and March sessions will be held at Greenfield Housing Authority's Community Room at 1 Elm Terrace, Greenfield, MA. There is no charge for the classes, but please call Ellen at 413-774-2932 x 5 to register.

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"The Voice of the Villages"

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August, 2002

A Tale of Two Parks

We are glad to see the town of Montague working to secure funds to improve our central downtown green space. The sparse grass and sandy soil of Peskeomskut Park turns brown each summer, the dogwoods die for lack of water, weeds choke the flower beds, and Japanese knotweed runs rampant on the verges of what should be the town common of Turners Falls. After lying on the shelf for years, design plans for a refurbished park - complete with bandshell - are being dusted off in hopes a \$320,000 federal grant will provide means to bring them to completion. Planned improvements include more space for the open air Farmers Market on 6th Street, wheelchair accessible pathways and picnic tables, new loam, new sod, a fenced tot lot with playground equipment, new benches, and new landscaping. The placement of the band shell will allow better sightlines for folks to watch Community Band concerts in the summertime - and other performances - and it will allow bands to have easy truck access from 7th Street without tearing up the grass.

Perhaps a solution to the knotty problem of invasive plants, persistent litter, and dog droppings can be found somewhere in the plans. But problems like these are best addressed by a concerted effort of DPW employees and local residents cooperating to keep the park up once the redesign is complete. At a recent hearing on plans for Peskeomskut Park, community groups were invited to help maintain the plantings (a hose hook-up will be provided) and a promise was given that memorial plantings and stone markers would not be disturbed.

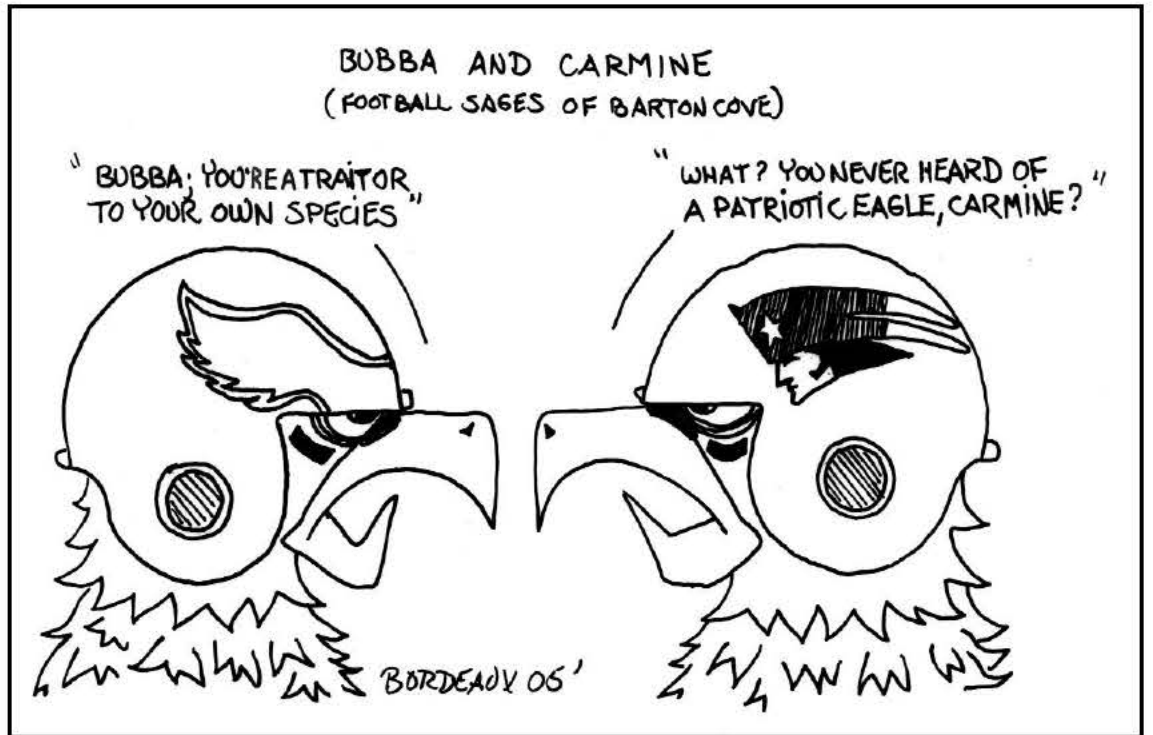
Perhaps someone will be found to look after the park's flagpole again. Perhaps the fountain will be turned on regularly, inviting passersby to reflect on America "at peace with the world and itself," as it

used to. Perhaps America will live up to that reflection. We can hope.

While we applaud the effort to revive Peskeomskut Park, we can't help noticing the sad condition of another downtown recreation area, a few blocks away. The Turners Falls skatepark was constructed with the avid help of dozens of Montague teenagers, working under the volunteered coordination of town building inspector David Jensen in 1999. Chick's Garage leased land for the park to the town, on condition the \$1,000 annual tax bill would be paid and the park maintained. Dozens of local businesses contributed money or materials.

When the park opened, the ramps came alive with skateboarders and BMX bikers, cascading back and forth in astonishing loops and gravity defying feats. It was a proud day for the teens, who had been harassed for skateboarding on town sidewalks, and had gathered the courage to go before the selectboard to seek support for the park, before two of their number - Chris Gallagher and Winter Orion Clark - drowned in an unsupervised swimming hole in 1998. The teens have held benefit concerts for the skatepark's construction and, more recently, for repair to the beat up plywood ramps. Still, the skatepark has remained locked and vacant for the last two years.

In June of 2003, Jon Dobosz, director of Parks and Recreation, estimated repairs to the ramps would cost \$2,500 to \$4,000. Though some money was raised, and work crews organized, more remains to be done before the teens can use their park again. With teen violence prominent on the town's radar screen, and the police department chronically understaffed, it might be a good time for Montague to consider finding the few thousand dollars needed to get the skatepark open again.



CARTOON DENIS BORDEAUX

the tension mounts

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Winter Carnival Thanks

The Montague Parks & Recreation Department and the Parks & Recreation Commission would like to thank the following partners and co-sponsors for their generous donation of time and financial support towards our 5th Annual Winter Carnival: New England Extrusion, Inc., Greenfield Savings Bank, Hillside Plastics, Inc., Montague Center Firemen's Association, Montague Libraries, Montague Planning & Conservation, Montague Council on Aging, the Brick House, Connecticut River Internists, Renaissance

Builders, Inc., Four Rivers Federal Credit Union, St. Kaziemerz Society, Sirum Equipment Company, and the 21st Century Afterschool Programs of Great Falls Middle School and Sheffield Elementary. Your assistance and community spirit contributed to a very successful event. We look forward to working with all of you in the future.

- Jon Dobosz
Director Montague Parks & Recreation Dept.

Thanks for the Paper

Thank you for the Montague paper. Enclosed is a few dollars for stamps. Your paper is the highlight of my day. It keeps me in touch with Turners Falls. Thank you!

- Celia Miner
Longmeadow, MA

We welcome your letters.

The Montague Reporter

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Prize Picture Puzzle

Can you recognize the vehicle in this picture? I started working when I was just a kid. I was my own boss. I worked all about Turners Falls.

What was my biggest job? Can you name me? The prize is \$3.00 Send a post card: care of Pete, 01354.



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GUEST EDITORIALS

GMRSD Should Advocate for Quality Education

BY PATRICIA CROSBY

Jeff Singleton just doesn't get it.

Instead of using a recent column ("Budget Time Again" MR 1/6/05), as a constructive way to get the local budget season started, emphasizing the good news that the state budget crisis appears to have eased somewhat and we may not be cutting local aid this year, and that the school district has been working hard for several years in a row to keep funding requests as manageable as possible, along with the fact the community has wisely, efficiently, and successfully completed a spectacular school renovation project that is the envy of the region and finally - finally - does justice to our children and staff... instead of emphasizing any of this, here in the year 2005 we are still hearing about the year 2000 school budget crisis. Five years later! Three superintendents later! Under the supervision of a school committee that contains only one or two of the same members it did then. Give it a rest, Jeff! Be here now!

I wish Jeff could have been at the Chamber breakfast held in the high school a few weeks ago and seen guests in awe at our

classrooms and labs, cheering our spanking new gym, drooling over our solar-heated swimming pool (the only public school swim facility in Franklin County) and gasping at our breathtaking theater. Maybe it would have cheered him up a little. Maybe it would have led him to feel a little more pride in his community and hope for the future of his town.

I experienced - as a school committee member at the time - the 2000 budget crisis, and if there is blame to be placed from that era, it should not fall entirely on the superintendent or the one who followed him, but on the whole contingent of people - administrators, school committee members, teachers, parents - laboring under the silly illusion that a school budget subcommittee's job is to tell a community how much it costs to provide quality public education for its children.

I think we still offered four years of French, Spanish, and Latin back then. In fact, we were hoping to extend it to the middle school level. All our children back then, K-12, had access to art and music classes: not because they are "nice" to have but because research

shows those are at least as important - if not more - than "traditional" academics in shaping student learning and social experiences for the better. As importantly, we had a full-scale drop-out prevention program, with multiple, many-faceted staff, designated space and resources, and a well-developed and maintained community service component. We had a full-time principal in every school to manage operations, nurture students and staff, and provide educational leadership. We had an academic class size limit of 24-26, a perfectly reasonable limit supported once again by research and data on learning. We had some extraordinary teachers who came from afar to work in our system, not because we could afford to pay them as well as some others, but because we paid them decently, we treated them with respect, we had a positive school climate, and the bulk of our children - for all their rough edges and true melting-pot backgrounds - were lively, reachable, and rewarding.

When the recession hit on the state and national level, tying town finances in a knot, that's what our superintendents and

school committee members were fighting to save. We're at a point now where we've preserved some of it, and are slowly, cautiously, steadily building the rest back. We have a safe, efficient, and beautiful new environment for education. We have many excellent staff who have stuck with us even though they get only a few months a year in which someone is not publicly flagellating them for their 2% cost of living increase or their extravagant (!) health care benefits. I hope our school committee still feels it is their job first and foremost to tell us what it costs to keep public education high-quality, effective, and strong, but I think they have become collectively more experienced - in part through the leadership of past superintendent Brenda Finn and current superintendent Sue Gee, but also through the quiet skillfulness of people like business manager Lynn Bassett, and grant writer and community-builder Marty Espinola - in how to get the most for their money, and make the case to the Commonwealth and the legislature that we may be small and we may be moderate-to-low-income, but our kids - like

everyone else's - have the right to the best education our federal, state, and local finances can offer.

In my view, the school budget should always be a stretch. If the generation that will fix your furnaces, plow your streets, give you a medical check-up, staff your town offices, fight your legal battles, grow your food, deliver your mail, teach your grandchildren, open your shops, and lead your community isn't worth opening up your wallet for, then I don't what know what is. Are there "core structural problems" in school funding, to paraphrase Jeff Singleton? You bet, but any campaign to address them requires bringing people together to work in positive ways to address those problems and the misguided policies behind them; and to advocate together for our right to quality public education. The future for Gill, Montague, and Erving is a bright one, and we don't need rose-colored glasses to think so. We just need to take off the old gray scratched ones.

Patricia Crosby, former chair of the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee, lives in Gill.

The Patriot Act and Patriot Act II Things You May Not Know

BY KYLE J. SCOTT

TURNERS FALLS - A month and a half after America was attacked on 9/11, while the images of the brutal attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were still fresh on the minds of U.S. citizens, President George W. Bush signed into law the "Uniting and Strengthening America by Appropriate Tools to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act," known more commonly as the Patriot Act.

The 342 pages of the Patriot Act contained powers that law enforcement agencies had sought in Congress for decades. Many times prior to 9/11, requests for these same law enforcement powers were denied by Congress and the White House. Now, law-enforcement agencies speak of the Patriot Act as one of the greatest tools in their arsenal for combating terrorist plots, while downplaying the effect the new law has on U. S. citizens' rights of free speech and privacy.

Oddly enough, the majority of the members of the U.S. Congress never read the provisions of Patriot Act before approving this momentous

piece of legislation. The Patriot Act breezed through both houses of Congress without testimony, review or any of the normal legislative processes. Debate on the floor of Congress, commonly on almost every issue, was not heard for the Patriot Act. The vote from the House and Senate was overwhelmingly in favor of the bill.

Many of the same lawmakers who rushed the Patriot Act so quickly to the President's desk are now expressing doubt about the sweeping powers the bill confers on law enforcement, and the diminution of the rights of citizens it provides. They express even more concern for the newly proposed, expanded Patriot Act Two. The average citizen is totally unaware of the variety of supposedly "inalienable" rights now infringed by the Patriot Act.

The Patriot Act provides:
-U.S. and foreign intelligence services permission to gather and share information about the activities of U.S. citi-



zens.

-expedited search warrants, with no notification required for the parties being searched. These searches are commonly known as 'sneak and peek' searches.

-a prohibition on citizens' subject to surveillance under the terms of the act right to challenge the search or surveillance in a court of law, unless charged with a crime.

-expansion of the types of information that may be subject to surveillance, including email and other online activities.

-expansion of the rights to

subpoena records of third parties.

-elimination of the need to show probable cause that a crime is being committed or planned by lowering the standards for obtaining search warrants and subpoenas.

-increased use of electronic surveillance as well as roving wire taps and phone taps.

Before the passage of the Patriot Act, many of these issues were monitored by the courts. Most warrants or wire taps, if

found to be warranted after a court review, only lasted 30 days, unless they were renewed by the issuing court. Now, after the passage of the Patriot Act, warrants and wiretaps as well as electronic monitoring may last up to 180 days without court oversight or review. In many cases the agencies involved have no requirement to report the results of the wiretap. This gives way to possible abuse of the rights of U.S. citizens by the government and law enforcement agencies granted new powers under the act's provi-

sions. These agencies include the Justice Department, the U.S. Attorney General, the FBI, CIA, NSA, Pentagon, INS, and Secret Service, among others.

Researchers on crime or terrorism as well as fiction writers or even people curious to learn about such subjects may fall under the government's new surveillance criteria, and find themselves subject to government and law enforcement monitoring. Book clubs and stores where members may have cards or numbers associated with their purchases may find the government monitoring the materials they are reading.

One of the most controversial parts of the act lies in the powers contained in section 215. This section alone gives government unprecedented access to research and communication as well as the reading habits of its citizens. Through section 215, the FBI can subpoena business records, library, academic, medical, bookstore transactions, and internet and travel logs. Section 215 of the Patriot Act allows the government to obtain "anything it finds tangible." The court issuing the

see PATRIOT pg 6

GUEST EDITORIAL

A New Vision for Montague

BY HYRUM H. HUSKEY JR.

Just in case you haven't noticed it, a vibrant vision has been taking hold in Montague in the last few decades. Gone are many of the abandoned storefronts; new businesses have started; the industrial park is nearly full. Landscaping projects, street and alleyway improvements and façade restorations have taken place. Several eyesores have disappeared from our landscape. The bikeway along the canal has reached the construction stage. Downtown, our industrial past is mixing with the performing and visual arts on an increasingly vital palette.

A celebration of Montague's successes, and a glimpse into the future of the town's economic development potential, was presented Tuesday evening, February 1st, at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Nowhere is progress more apparent than in Turners Falls, where the Colle Opera House, the Crocker Bank Building, the Power Town Apartments, the Cutlery Block, and the Great Falls Discovery Center have been renovated with millions of dollars of local, state, and federal funds, and returned to active use. The airport has new buildings in place, and the expansion potential is there to handle small business commuter aircraft. A recent, year-long, open space planning project has gathered widespread community input and outlined areas in Montague that are still developable, as well as those

natural gems that should be protected.

According to Montague's town administrator, Frank Abbondanzio, these projects have contributed to an "improved self image for Turners Falls." At the meeting, Abbondanzio informed the audience that a valuable industrial park space was eighty-five percent occupied and that the Colle Building is now fully leased.

At the forum, Hallmark Institute of Photography's president, George Ross III announced that the Hallmark Institute has committed to establishing a Museum of Contemporary Photography on the first floor of the Colle. This is another boost for the tourism potential of downtown Turners Falls. The museum will feature photography by former graduates, faculty, and visiting artists, as well as providing space devoted to the best of student photography. With the neighboring Shea Theatre and the Great Falls Discovery Center, this museum should provide increased tourist trade in downtown Turners Falls. The potential redevelopment of the

Strathmore Mill, together with the canal-side bikeway, would only help.

The optimism building for Montague's future should be strengthened by the support of

Growth is not without risk.

Community input and dialogue should be encouraged. We certainly have many avenues to provide that input, and town officials have normally encouraged all voices to be heard on proposed developments. But, as Shelburne Falls businessman Mike McCusker told the audience Tuesday night, "Consensus is desirable, but unanimity is not necessary."

Experience shows that big ideas never develop exactly as planned. Occasionally, the

original plan never even materializes. That does not mean that every vision should be shot down, or that big ideas should not be pursued. The best visions become reality only when people, or a community of people, have the courage to take action.

There is a vibrant vision being nurtured today in Montague. Town government is doing its job in planning for economic development. The question is whether Montague residents can agree to support the vision of their elected officials, and bring it to fruition.

Not everything can be postponed. Progress eventually requires an end to talking and a start to walking.



Selectboard member Allen Ross addressed the crowd at Tuesday's Economic Development Forum at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Over 80 people turned out to hear success stories and future plans for the redevelopment of Turners Falls and all of Montague.

Montague residents. We must see the challenges before us as obstacles to be overcome, not as barriers to stop us. It is impossible to simply stand still; to forever maintain a status quo. Without a vision toward which action can be directed, we will inevitably slip backwards as a community.

Every project, including the town's proposed purchase of the Strathmore Mill, inevitably has drawbacks. It may even cost us something! Those challenges must be weighed against the potential benefits, keeping the good of the community in mind. Now is the time for the citizens of Montague to put aside nay saying and personal agendas.

Hallmark Announces Photography Museum for the Colle

Saying he had both the community's economic issues and the national photographic market's continually growing needs in mind, Hallmark Institute's president, George Rosa III, used Tuesday's forum at the Discovery Center to officially announce plans to locate a new Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography in the first floor of the Colle Building in downtown Turners Falls. "We at Hallmark are great supporters of the local community. When this high-profile site became available, we decided to invest resources and energy in this exciting new endeavor," Rosa said.

Vern McClish, Hallmark's marketing director, called the new museum, "A win-win for the institute and for Montague. Our town is evolving into the Northern Tier art center for the Pioneer Valley, and we believe our museum will help bring both tourists and art photography connoisseurs from around the world to discover Montague."

Hallmark Institute has been located in Turners Falls for 30 years, providing students with the basic skills necessary to enter the national imaging market. Over 200 students from around the world are currently enrolled in the Institute's ten-month intensive program.

PATRIOT

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subpoena is secret, its proceedings closed. The court of issue cannot reject a request of the FBI and must issue the subpoena, and the FBI does not have to provide details why such a subpoena needs to be handed down. The FBI is not required to provide details of why documents or records may be seized from U.S. citizens or research conducted into their habits or histories. In this case section 215 has no burden to show cause or intent of a crime. The Patriot Act forbids recipients of the 215 subpoena to tell anyone they are under such subpoena; they may

not discuss the issuance of the subpoena.

The ACLU has filed suit to challenge section 215's gag order as a violation of the First Amendment. Opponents of section 215 say even if law enforcement never abuses the provisions of the Patriot Act, the very thought of the government monitoring the reading material of its citizens is a threat to intellectual freedom and inhibits what we as Americans may choose to read. One survey of the state of Illinois showed that of more than 500 libraries in the state, seven had received FBI requests for information about patrons' borrowing records. An

additional 17 libraries had requests from police and other agencies. Eight of the twenty-four libraries said the requests were made for national security reasons. One study performed by the ACLU states that of 1,500 libraries checked, 85 had been approached for records by December 2001. The Justice Department now says that records regarding the number of subpoenaed libraries is classified information.

If the administration is successful in passing Patriot Act Two into law, Americans will see even more expansion in the areas of wiretapping, and collection of DNA samples from

U.S. citizens. The ability to create a national DNA register of U.S. citizens has been discussed. Other areas of expansion could include electronic surveillance and monitoring activities.

However, Section 215 of the current legislation is growing widely unpopular. Over 150 legislators, numbering among them Independents, Democrats and Republicans, are sponsoring legislation to amend section 215 of the Patriot Act.


While in a state of war, it is fairly clear, America needs to have ways to seek out terrorists on our soil. In many ways, Americans also give up some

fundamental rights in ways to search out those that wish to harm the United States and its interests. This article is not intended to criticize the members of our armed services or any parties involved in our nations' defense. It is meant to inform those who may not know the detail and powers encompassed in the Patriot Act and the expanded powers being sought in Patriot Act Two.

Sources of information for this article are: the Authors Guild, the ACLU, the Patriot Act as signed into law, and various other records as researched by the writer.



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Montague Police Department Seeks 5% Budget Increase

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Police Chief Ray Zukowski is looking to hold the line with a level service departmental budget request, up 5% from '05. If approved, his request for \$966,931 (up from \$915,300 last year) will allow the new chief to hire two new officers, to fill vacancies left when officer Ricky MacMillan and acting sergeant Jen Harlow took new positions in other police departments last year. Filling those vacancies will bring the Montague force back to 15 full-time officers. Zukowski regards this as a minimum level of staffing to insure the safety of his officers and of the town. Zukowski told a joint meeting of the finance committee and selectboard on February 2nd that 15 fulltime officers will enable the department to field three officers on nearly very shift.

"When you have only two officers on a shift, the town is in jeopardy," the chief said. "If you get a domestic call and a car accident at the same time, you may need to send two officers to each." He said Montague has been in the position of calling on Greenfield for mutual aid, but Greenfield's department is "12 officers short at the present time."

Zukowski's budget will also provide for more in-service training for his officers, and more overtime pay for fulltime staff. The increase in the line item for fulltimers will be needed, he said, to compensate for extra shifts officers will work while new hires are going through the 26-week training course at the Agawam police academy. "We're going to be in a revolving door situation," until two recently hired Montague officers complete their academy training, and the next two hires - whom

Zukowski hopes to hire soon - complete theirs. The chief estimates he will have officers off the roster, training in Agawam, for at least the next year and a half or two, putting further stress on remaining troops. The reserve officer list has been whittled down to only one or two who are active duty for Montague, at present, though Zukowski hopes to bring three or four additional names for the selectboard's consideration to add to the reserve list in the next weeks.

For the police dispatch budget, the chief is recommending a budget of \$122,028, up a little more than \$9,000 from last year's dispatch budget of \$112,956. The hike will allow for step increases and cost of living increases for current dispatch staff, but no relief for the basic problem that has plagued the department for years - the lack of parity with the pay rates

of dispatch staff in surrounding police departments. "Greenfield's starting pay for dispatch staff is higher than our top rate," said Zukowski.

"This is a scandal," responded finance committee chair Jeff Singleton. "We should be paying the dispatchers what they deserve."

"We are a training ground for other departments," admitted Zukowski, who said he had entered into preliminary discussions with Greenfield's Chief Guilbault about the possibility of regionalizing dispatch service between their two communities, at least for nighttimes, as a cost saving measure.

Singleton asked how recent incidents of teen violence had affected the way Zukowski would allocate community

policing funds in the future. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the department's past practice of assigning one officer to be the main liason to a particular village in town had worked well. Zukowski said he would attempt to juggle his resources to put extra officers on downtown beats during evenings and weekends, when possible. "I walked this Avenue for years and years," he said. "That's the best report you can have. But it's hard to get back to that," with current budget restraints, he said.

Finance committee member John Hanold observed, "This budget maintains things exactly the way they are now. This doesn't solve the problem of underpaid dispatchers or understaffed police."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Can You Hear Me Now?

Thursday 1-27

3:02 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Bridge Street residence. Found to be person yelling into phone to someone hard of hearing.

11:41 p.m. Report of someone looking in windows at an H Street address. Officer found no one there.

Friday 1-28

2:36 p.m. Report of loud neighbors at same H Street address. Officer advised.

7:22 a.m. Report of a larceny at a 5th Street address. Found to be a misunderstanding between neighbors. Reporting party had removed seats from motor vehicle and had temporarily left them in snow bank. Neighbor thought they had been discarded and would make perfect video game chairs.

3:40 p.m. Report of an assault at previous H Street address. Caller said neighbor jumped out and called names. Caller fell down. They were advised of court options.

11:25 p.m. Man reported screaming at a Park Street address. Gone on arrival of officer.

Saturday 1-29

12:32 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on 2 default warrants.

11:08 a.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Park Street address. A window in a garaged motor vehicle had been smashed and CDs stolen.

Sunday 1-30

11:08 a.m. Report of a traffic hazard at X and 9th Street. People attending church parking in such a way as to cause a safety hazard. Church to make announcement at service.

8:32 p.m. Report of a dog on the Gill/Montague Bridge seemingly unable to find its way off. Gone on arrival.

Monday 1-31

12:10 a.m. Youths fighting reported at an 11th Street address. Found to be verbal. Officer spoke to subjects and sent them on their way.

7:56 a.m. Report of a theft at the Tech School. Under investigation.

11:30 a.m. Report of domestic disturbance at a Park Street

address. Found to be verbal. Parties advised of court options.

1:13 p.m. Caller reported traffic lights out on Avenue A, causing a traffic hazard. Electricity was out on the block.

10 :36 p.m. Report of a stolen motor vehicle at a 2nd Street address. Caller asked to come to station to fill out report.

Tuesday 2-1

2:02 p.m. Report of a safety hazard at a Park Street address. Officer left copy of town bylaws regarding sidewalk shoveling at residence.

2:53 p.m. Report of a fight in front of Cup O' Joe on Avenue A. Over on arrival of officer. Officer spoke with subjects. Under investigation.

8:33 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Wednesday 2-3

9:26 a.m. Report of a gas drive off at Cumberland Farms. Under investigation.

Montague Chief Praises the Work of Suchanek and Doyle

The following letter was sent to Sergeant Richard Suchanek and Patrolman William Doyle, and read into the record at the selectboard meeting of January 31st.

"I wish to commend you both on your handling of a distraught, suicidal person with a knife on the evening of January 13th, 2005. Montague Police received a call of a person out of control, tearing up their apartment. Upon arrival, officer Doyle observed the residence to have been trashed and encountered a subject lying in bed with a knife. The subject was distraught and threatened to use the knife on herself. Officer Doyle, knowing the subject, kept a calm demeanor and began a conversation with her in an attempt to disarm her and defuse the situation. The knife was pointed at officer Doyle on several occasions in a threatening manner when he reached out in an attempt to get the knife.

Sergeant Suchanek arrived and the two officers kept talking to the woman for approximately two hours. The officers through their efforts and handling of the often tense situation convinced the woman to give them the knife and go to the hospital. I praise you both for handling this situation with a great deal of compassion for a person in distress and to act in a highly professional manner preventing injuries to all involved. Again, the citizens of Montague should be thankful that officers of your caliber are on our department.

Yours truly,

- Chief Raymond Zukowski

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PARK

continued from pg 1

lot near the corner of 6th and Avenue A, a prefabricated band shell where the Montague Community Band will perform, close to the 7th Street entrance of the shopping center, new landscaping in the rear of the park including picnic tables, and improved loam and sod for the grassy areas of the park. Abbondanzio said the town would share maintenance of the park's plantings with community groups, including the Women's Club, that had shown continued interest in the park.

Bruce Hunter, of the FCRHRA, said approximately \$180,000 would be allocated from the CDBG grant to rehab six units of low or moderate income housing in Turners Falls. Single family homes, owner occupied or investor owned units are all eligible to apply for loans from the program funds to fix code violations, lead paint hazards, insulate, or perform other eligible home repairs.

\$37,000 worth of design work will

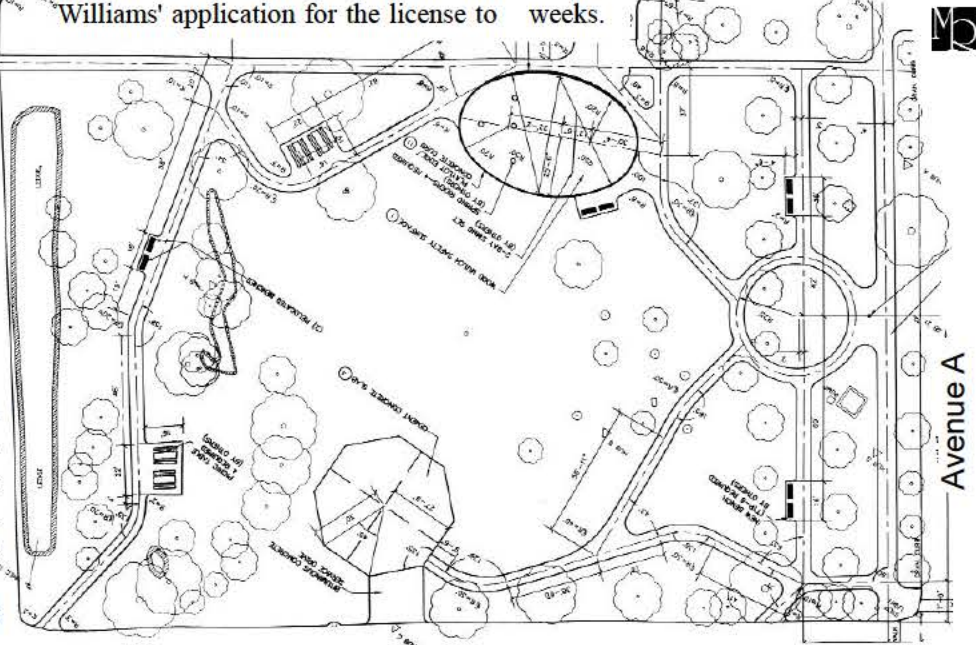
proceed on improving sidewalk approaches and curb cuts for all the crosswalks and a number of alleyway intersections on Avenue A, under the terms of the grant.

The Montague Catholic Social Ministries will continue their Creating Art - Creating Community program, focusing on peer led activities like writing groups for women and children and songwriting workshops, and the Brick House will continue their computer centered work with teens, in the area of video production and 3-D graphics, under the Arts for Training program. The also plan to work with seniors, using "assistive technology" to overcome certain physical barriers (like poor eyesight) to the easy use of computers. Grants for both social service agencies will total more than \$50,000, with the MCSM and the Brick House each contributing part of the funds.

In other business, the board approved police chief Ray Zukowski's request to appoint reserve officer Greg Boyce as a fulltime pro-

visional officer. The board approved a request from the new owner of Equi's Candy Store, Walter Williams, for a transfer of the package store's beer and wine license. The board forwarded Williams' application for the license to

the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission for final approval. Williams said he hoped to have both his license to sell lottery tickets and his license to sell beer and wine approved within two weeks.



Plans for the redesign of Peskeomskut Park include an octagonal band shell near Seventh Street and a lot near the corner of Sixth Street and Avenue A.



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Green Giant Vegetables (7-10 oz)	75¢
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Armour Sliced Bologna (1 lb.)	\$.99 pkg
Yoplait Nouriche Smoothie Drinks	50¢ each
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Frosted Shredded Wheat Cereal (20 oz.)	\$1.00 box
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Frosted Flakes Cereal (20 oz.)	\$1.00 box
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Greenfield: Stay in the COG

The Montague selectboard sent this letter to the Greenfield City Council on January 31st, regarding Greenfield's participation in the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

Dear City Councilors:

We are writing in support of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and to urge your continued membership in this important regional organization. To some extent we thank you for making the motion to withdraw. It has made us think about what the FRCOG does for the region, for our town, and for Greenfield and has made us realize just how important this organization is to us all.

The FRCOG advocates on behalf of the entire region. They have strong and important relationships with all of the region's legislators, with top management of many state and federal agencies, and regularly sit on statewide policy committees, an opportunity rarely offered to a municipality.

Greenfield's stature as a city certainly strengthens your own political voice, but you have one senator and one representative. As the region working together we have four representatives and three senators.

The FRCOG makes the region eligible for many federal and state grants. In some cases, our region is only eligible for these grants because of the FRCOG. Greenfield has been recipient to millions of dollars over the years because of this - the CDC's Food Processing Center, your streetscape enhancement improvements, cleanup of the National Bank building, the Riverside Greenway, to name a few. Among other projects, the Town of Montague owes a debt to the FRCOG for the role it played in bringing grant funding for the Colle Opera House renovations, Millers Falls Streetscape and the Bikeway Project.

The FRCOG provides services to its member communities that many Franklin County towns would be unable to repli-

cate on their own. In some cases this is perhaps more important to small towns than it is to Greenfield, but in those cases you don't pay for the service, the rest of us do. But you do benefit, like all of us, when they offer workshops and training that result in reduction of our insurance premiums, when they successfully work to get the retiree health insurance passed so that we all save \$107,000 per year, when they successfully increase broadband availability throughout the region, and when they access regional funding for emergency planning activities.

Franklin County has always been recognized for its strength as a region. Through the FRCOG we work together and we benefit together. Participation in this regional organization does not prohibit Greenfield from pursuing its own goals nor does it reduce the city's important role of being the county seat. It strengthens those things.

- Town of Montague

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ERVING
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budget includes a request for one new teacher, because, Paulin said, "We are seeing larger incoming classes in the younger grades. Erving is either growing or attracting new families," he said, "and we need to add staff to handle that."

Paulin said the increase in the elementary school budget request is largely offset by a decline of \$316,462 in the request for secondary education, dropping from \$1,105,552 in '05 to \$789,090 in '06. The declining budget for secondary education is not due to any major drop in the enrollment of Erving students at Turners Falls High. Paulin said the \$316,462 decrease is almost entirely due to one out-of-district placement student aging out of the system.

The selectboard and finance committee members agreed they would probably seek to limit the Erving Elementary School budget, which is voted on as a separate warrant at town meeting, to a three percent increase, and place the additional amount requested in another

separate warrant. The members hope to meet with school officials on February 14th. Other warrants for a variety of additional expenditures will also be voted at town meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4th.

A large number of elected town offices are up for grabs in the coming May election. These include two three-year positions on the planning board, two three-year positions on the school committee, a three-year term on the board of health, a three-year term as assessor, and a three-year term as selectman. Selectman Burt Dubay has indicated he will not seek another term, as he intends to move to another town. Dubay will continue to operate a business in Erving. For a complete list of available offices contact the town clerk at 422-2800, x 102.

At its January 24th meeting the selectboard elected Richard Newton from among several candidates as an Erving constable, one of three responsible for posting town meetings; Newton will serve out the unexpired term of George LaPenta until May.



Business assistant Charley Paulin said, the school committee hopes to add one new teacher at Erving Elementary in Fiscal '06 because, "We are seeing larger incoming classes in the younger grades. Erving is either growing or attracting new families, and we need to add staff to handle that."

The board received a Jan. 14th letter from the state's Department of Environmental Protection officially delisting a shared private well in Farley as a public water system. The decision came after the Erving board of health approved the request for declassification. In its letter the DEP "strongly recommended" continued testing to monitor the well for pollutants.

The board also reviewed and updated the town's Community Development Strategy. The board voted to include the Office for Commonwealth Development's Sustainable Development Principles into the document. The principles have a strong focus on providing affordable housing.

On a related note, the Franklin County Regional

Housing & Redevelopment Authority will hold a public hearing on February 7th to discuss and solicit public comment on the town's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for a housing rehabilitation program. The town of Erving will again act as lead agent for seven area towns. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

FIRE
continued from pg 1

were able to be on the scene "within 5 to 7 minutes," said Beaubien. "The rear of the building was already well involved." Although Gill fought the fire almost until dark, and departments from Erving, Turners Falls, Bernardston, Northfield, Deerfield, and Montague Center responded to the call for mutual aid, the building was a total loss.

Although Beaubien would not be pinned down on a specific figure to fund a fulltime position, he noted fulltime firefighters in one neighboring community receive around \$29,000 for starting pay. When Beaubien asked whether the department should make a separate warrant article for this item, finance committee member Paul Nowill replied, "I would say it's going to be a regular thing. You expect to ask for it every year, don't you?"

Baubien talked about the advantages to the town of having someone staff the fire station during the day. "I would be guaranteed a driver at the station when other people show up." (Not all department staff are certified to drive the fire trucks.) "I'd have someone there during the day for medical calls.

Someone to handle all the paperwork." Other tasks a full-timer could help to handle include quarterly dorm checks at Northfield Mount Hermon, fire alarm checks at municipal buildings and schools, underground tank removal inspections, and inspections during the course of sales of private homes. Beaubien said the towns of South Deerfield and Sunderland have added fulltime firefighters recently, and Shelburne Falls and Shutesbury have hired part time firefighters.

As of now, Gill relies on a staff of 20 on-call firefighters, who get paid from a total line item for labor of \$16,000 annually.

Baubien called for increases in other areas of his budget, including an additional maintenance budget to allow for regular replacement of hose (estimated at 600 feet of 4 inch hose

a year, at \$2,400 a year), and air bottles (recently replenished with a FEMA grant, which provided for forty \$800 air bottles, with a 15-year life expectancy), and turnout gear (also recently replenished with a FEMA grant) which costs \$1500 a set, and must be replaced as needed. Stuart Elliott said, "When we

should expect an increase in the department's operating budget this year, but did not put a percentage figure on that increase at the preliminary hearing with the finance committee. He noted the department had worked with a level funded operating budget of \$22,500 (not including labor) for many years, before receiving a \$5,500 hike in Fiscal '05.

The chief also said the town should begin setting money aside for a new fire truck. The '79 Ford Louisville pumper will need to be replaced by 2009, at a likely cost upwards of \$350,000, Beaubien said.

Finance committee member Maggie Connell asked if the town had approached Northfield Mount Hermon to see if their annual payment in lieu of taxes contribution to the town's emergency services could be negotiated upwards now that the Gill campus was being enlarged. NMH currently pays \$10,000 to an account shared between the police, highway, and fire depart-



Gill firefighters, (l to r) Chief Gene Beaubien, Eric Vassar, Casey Bergeron and Stephen McConley, Jr.

wrote that grant for new turnout gear three years ago, two or three of us were wearing currently certifiable turnout gear. The rest of us were wearing threadbare gear, with burn holes, brittle plastic helmets... We can't allow that to happen again."

Baubien said the town

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DISCOVERY

continued from pg 1

Harvard Forest, the Hitchcock Center, Northfield Mountain Environmental Center, I'd like all these organizations, which are regionally or nationally known, to see the Discovery Center as an integral part of their work."

At the Millers River Environmental Center, Cloutier has focused on outreach to the schools, rather than preaching to the converted in environmental organizations, and she will no doubt stress community outreach and collaboration with the schools at the Discovery Center as well. She sees "the environment as an integrated context for learning all the disciplines," and will stress that holistic approach in collaboration with the Discovery Center's partners.

This winter, Cloutier has developed a series of free Saturday workshops at the Discovery Center focusing on how animals and plants survive the rigors of winter, and how they have adapted to survive the influence of man on their natural environment. On Saturday, January 29th, Cloutier led a small group past the museum's dioramas, pointing out the adaptive techniques of various native species. She paused for a while in front of a display of the local sandplain.

"The [Montague] sandplain is a very special habitat," said Cloutier. "There aren't very many like this in North America. It is very fire susceptible, and the species that live there have adapted to fire." Prominent in the display are replicas of wild blue lupine, with their distinctive central spike of sky blue flowers. Poised near the lupine is a modest brownish-orange butterfly, the frosted elfin. "The elfin doesn't look too impressive," said Cloutier, "but it's a species close to my heart." Cloutier loves butterflies, and the elfin, with a brief two-week fling as a winged adult, is threatened throughout its range, including

locally. Its fate is tied to that of the lupine, its sole food source, and Cloutier called lupine "a plant species in decline."

She explained, "The Native Americans used fire in cultivation practices, and nature assisted," by providing the occasional lightning strike to set fire to the dry grasslands and pitch pine forests of the Plains.

Fire kept the sandplain open, and provided nutrients for the poor soil. Since the coming of the Europeans, the use of fire for cultivation has been curtailed, and lately efforts have been made to suppress fires on the pine barrens. Species like lupine that are fire tolerant, able to survive passing flames due to their long tap root, are less able to survive over time if open sandplains give way to thicker forest, with trees like white pine or red maple shading out the understory, or if, as often happens, the dry, flat land is built up by developers. Cloutier points to the presence of the Turners Falls airport, on one end of the Montague Plains, as a positive factor in the preservation of open land. In order for planes to take off and land safely, trees have been kept back, so the area around the airport is one place where blue lupine and the frosted elfin can still be found.

Montague conservation commission member Mark Fairbrother said one of the landscaping instructors at the Franklin County Tech School, Mike LaMontagne, had worked with his students in the mid-90s propagating blue lupine and transplanting them near the airport. "They did have some success," he reported. "Some of them did take." Fairbrother said he grows a few dozen lupine and transplants them near the airport each year as well.

"They live in a tough habitat.

They do well in a spring or summer when they get a lot of rain, so they can get their taproot down before the heat dries out the plain. At the airport, we have frosted elfin that is dependent on the lupine. The larva feed on lupine exclusively. (In other New England locales, elfin larva feed on wild indigo, but

changing and adapting." Or as Cloutier put it during her talk, "We all need to be adaptable, and learn to see the plants and animals around us, and understand their needs. We do our best if we accept change, it inspires us to do better."

She made this comment standing in front of a diorama display of deer and eastern coyote, an animal she said has adapted very well to changes in the New England environment. Cloutier gave a thumbnail sketch of developments in our region since Colonial times. By the late 1800s, 85% of Massachusetts had been cleared for agriculture. During this period, deer had been almost entirely expatriated from the Commonwealth, except in the

boggy areas in the southwest corner of the state. The Eastern timber wolf was entirely wiped out in New York and New England by the turn of the century, leaving a void at the top of the natural food chain. Now, with the state 85% forested again, deer have rebounded in the absence of any predator but man. And, abhorring the vacuum left by the extirpated wolf, since the mid-20th century the eastern coyote has staked its claim to virtually every corner of New England but the islands.

"Our coyote does very well," said Cloutier, who speculated it had interbred, over time, with the Canadian gray wolf, to gain its large size and pack-like characteristics. The western coyote, solitary by nature, is about half the size of its eastern cousin. "It doesn't have strict requirements. It is found in the streets of Boston and the hills of the Berkshires. They'll go after a hare or a rabbit, mice or moles, nesting birds..."

Meanwhile, deer, hoping to avoid their only remaining New England predator, seem to have adapted to suburbia equally well. "Suburban areas maintain a 500 foot safety zone [around residences] where the discharge of firearms is prohibited," said Cloutier. "And deer seem to understand that." She said deer are now common in suburban pocket parks.

A native bird tied to the lore of Colonial Massachusetts - the wild turkey - was wiped out by overhunting. The last known native turkey was killed in 1851, on Mount Tom (appropriately). After numerous unsuccessful tries to reintroduce the bird in the early 1900s, and a failed attempt to turn game farm turkeys loose in the Quabbin Reservoir in the 1960s, MassWildlife released wild turkeys from New York in the southern Berkshires in the 1970s, and from there they spread throughout the state. Cloutier said, "It's a smart bird. It knows how to survive. It's pretty wily." The Massachusetts turkeys (which according to Cloutier originated in Virginia, via upstate New York) now total more than 15,000 birds.

As she walked along the gallery, Cloutier touched on other success stories of adaptation, and pointed to some species of concern, like the black duck, which has suffered a population decline due to habitat destruction and interbreeding with mallards. "It used to be one of the prime ducks you saw in the area," said Cloutier, "But we may lose it." Bobolinks and meadowlarks have also declined, with the loss of open grasslands. But with the return of forestland, creatures ranging from the pileated woodpecker to the brown bear are seeing spikes in population. Wandering south from the Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, moose are now firmly established in Massachusetts. Migrating north with warmer weather, birds once scarce in

see DISCOVERY pg 11



The rare frosted elfin butterfly may still be found near the Turners Falls airport, where blue lupine grows

Fairbrother speculated those elfins might constitute a separate species.) "If you don't have lupine, you don't have elfins," he said.

"When the settlers began to suppress the frequency of fire on the Montague Plains, that made sense for the safety of their villages," said Cloutier. "But if you want the diversity of species, you need to come up with another plan."

Cloutier speaks of biodiversity as a puzzle, not unlike the human genome, where each interlocking piece fits in an as yet unknown way as part of an overall design. Here is how her Millers River Environmental Center's website describes the concept. "Biodiversity is the variety of life and its processes. It includes the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, the communities and ecosystems in which they occur, and the ecological and evolutionary processes that keep them functioning, yet ever

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DISCOVERY

continued from pg 10

Massachusetts are now common, including titmice, mockingbirds and cardinals.

Cloutier, who as a youngster banded the first pair of nesting Carolina Wrens (now common) in the state, said she sees the evidence of habitat and species change on her own land, in New Salem, near the Quabbin. Over the 30 years she and her husband have tracked the wildlife there, she says signs of coyote have become common, moose will occasionally bed, and a bobcat will make the rounds, sometimes walking down the drive in broad daylight. None of these were common sights in the 1970s when they first bought the land.

Cloutier doesn't mind the proximity of the wild creatures. "I have a lot of respect for them."

At the end of the hall, Cloutier points through a large picture window overlooking the confluence of the Fall River and the Connecticut. "In one view, we see the first major industrial dam on the Connecticut River, the canal that diverted the river to bring waterpower to industry, and the natural river in the background," where dinosaur footprints and early American Indian sites can be found. Cloutier said, "The story here on the landscape is a rich and long story to tell." The human creatures, like their plant and animal counterparts, are still adapting to its changes.

Standing in the handsomely renovated former machine shop of the Montague Paper Company, which now houses the Discovery Center, Cloutier offered this advice on biodiversity. "It's good to keep all the pieces," she said.



THE GILL GOURMET

Quick & Easy Macaroni and Cheese Casserole

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

Here is recipe for a delicious, quick and easy (and economical) macaroni and cheese casserole. My daughter, Joann, reminded me about this recipe that my sister, Emmy, handed down to us.

Ingredients:

- Macaroni
- Can of Cheddar Cheese soup diluted with 1/4 cup milk.
- Seasoned bread crumbs.

1. Dump 5 cups (half a package) of big elbow macaroni in 5 cups of boiling water, and boil for about 10 minutes, or until soft.

2. Place the drained macaroni into a greased casserole dish.

3. Pour the contents of one can of Campbell's Cheddar Cheese soup over the macaroni, diluting with about a quarter cup of milk. Stir until evenly moist.

4. Spread half a cup of seasoned bread crumbs, moistened with melted butter or olive oil, over the top.

5. Bake until the crumbs brown - about 10 to 15 minutes.

Variations: Mix in cooked broccoli bits, cherry tomatoes, or olives before baking.

Stop & Shop had a display of cheddar cheese for \$16.95 a lb. A 10-1/2 oz. can of cheddar soup was \$1.59 - need I say more?



Introductory Winter Birding at GFDC

BY MARCY MARCHELLO

GREAT FALLS - On February 5th, from 1 - 3 p m. an introductory bird watching program will be offered at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Avenue A in Turners Falls. The program will include a brief introduction to the use of binoculars and viewing scopes, followed by an excursion by car caravan to view waterfowl, gulls, and other local birds in nearby locations along the Connecticut River. The pace of the program will accommodate all ages. Binoculars and scopes will be available for people to use.



The free program is offered

through a federal grant called Project INSPIRE, in which the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation has teamed up with regional partners including All Out Adventures of Easthampton, the Hampshire Bird Club, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to promote and provide inclusive

recreation programs. People with disabilities are especially invited to attend. For further information and to pre-register, please call 413-545-5758. The program is limited to the first 12 people who sign up and may be offered on a monthly basis if there is enough interest.

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BOOK REVIEW

Literary Firefighter Writes Again

Tales of a Firefighter by Ted Graveline

Published 2004, Firehouse Books

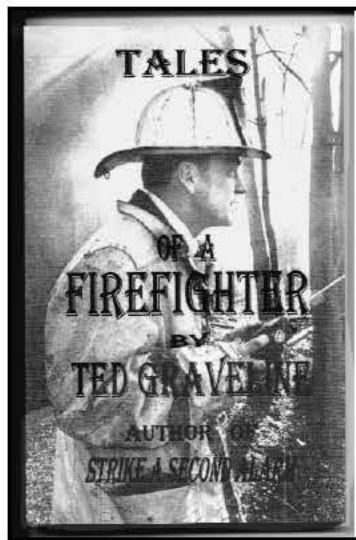
BY KATREN HOYDEN

GILL - These *Tales of a Firefighter* are true stories based on the author's experience in the service of the town of Greenfield, Massachusetts. It is the second book of Ted Graveline's firefighting tales, the first being called *Strike a Second Alarm*. Both are available at the World Eye Bookstore in Greenfield. According to the introduction, he is currently

working on a third book, a novel about arson investigators.

I read *Tales of a Firefighter* in intervals; each chapter is a different tale. It's a good format for someone who only has a little time, here and there, to get in some reading. As a whole, the tales reflect many levels of perspective.

As the title implies, the book tells tales of the daily duties of maintaining a town fire department from the perspective of one active fireman, and the range of typical events a fireman attends to while on the job,



everything from dishwashing duty at the station to evening drills to keep training and performance sharp. Some of the tales speak honestly about the fear that attends many of the calls a firefighter routinely responds to, the triumphant feeling of saving people, animals or buildings due to the effectiveness of one's efforts and the camaraderie that develops among a group of professionals who share these distinct experiences.

The voice of the narrator in these firefighting tales is matter-of-fact, like Dagnet's Joe Friday, and relates, in a placid voice, some scenes of dramatic human tragedy, which is affective by contrast, as well as quietly-gained enlightenments. Some of the tales convey a reflective history of on-the-job training in acquiring professional coping skills necessary for self-preservation. For instance, in Chapter 25, the author fielded a call "...from a woman who was disturbed and wanted someone to talk to. I was at a point in my life where I didn't get angry anymore at people who had problems. It made me think how lucky I am to have the things that I do, and that these poor souls would give anything to be normal. There was a time in my life when I

would have said, 'What jerks!' But not anymore."

The tales also contain many instances of valuable teamwork within a fire department, as well as cooperation among different fire departments, called 'mutual aid.' Chapter 14 tells a tale from 1972 of the Greenfield Fire Department providing mutual aid to the town of Brattleboro for a block fire that destroyed a Woolworth's store, operating since 1912.

Just a few months ago, another block fire took place in Brattleboro. Several fire departments turned out to assist, either by providing men and equip-

makes reference to historic buildings that are no longer here, due to devastating fires, and ones that I can still see today, thanks to the vigilance and competence of our local fire department. I have an appreciation of old architecture and the character and historic value it lends to the face of a town. Contemporary redevelopment of existing structures is an opportunity to correct design faults and upgrade wiring, firewalls and doors, install appropriate access and exits, smoke detectors and sprinklers while preserving architectural history and character.



DETMOLD PHOTO

Ted Graveline of Gill, author of *Tales of a Firefighter*, has also written *Strike a Second Alarm*.

ment on the scene, or by covering townships while their department was engaged there. I'd heard an unofficial report that fire doors had been propped open by escaping residents so their pets might get out too, which defeated the purpose of having fire doors. I pondered this rumor and had to admit that if I woke to find my home burning, I would indeed make a significant effort to save my pets as well as people, and hoped I would remember to close as many doors as I could on my way out to slow the spread of fire. *Tales of a Firefighter's* title page states that, "Portions of this work may be used for training or to better the Fire Service." Having read the book, I do feel more aware.

This book contains a lot of local history, which was interesting to me, as I have recently become a Greenfield resident. It

Tales of a Firefighter also contains tidbits on the history of the development of firefighting techniques and equipment. The illustrations that appear throughout, as well as the style of uniform on the author in the newspaper photo reproduced on the cover highlight this history of development. The author even makes predictions in Chapter 30 of the future of technical developments to enhance the effectiveness of the Fire Service, such as laser technology used in exit sign to point the way out even in thick smoke.

Before I finished reading this

see **TALES** pg 13

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ASK LOUISE



Dear Louise,

How does one go about securing health insurance in this day and age, when individual coverage is so ridiculously expensive? I'm self-employed and enjoy my lifestyle, but worry about what would happen to me, and how I would pay my bills, were I to fall off one of my town's ubiquitous stone walls down a jagged rocky ledge, chop off a limb while chain-sawing firewood for my wood stove or get run over by one of those crazy Boston drivers. Please advise!

- Hazardous in New Salem

Dear Hazardous:

Finding affordable health insurance can indeed be a challenge. For those who must self-insure, here are a couple of suggestions from the Consumer Reports Money Book:

- Try to buy your insurance through a group. "In any given policy, the insurance premium for covering each individual in a group is estimated to be about 15 percent lower than the cost of covering that person individually.... If you think you don't belong to any group that offers insurance, broaden your search to less-than-obvious groups of which you may be a member. Many colleges have special insurance programs for alumni. A professional organization,

such as a society of engineers or a local bar association, may offer some type of insurance, as may religious groups... Generally, the larger the organization, the better."

- Choose the highest deductible you can reasonably afford to pay out of your own pocket. "The higher the deductible, the less expensive the policy. Be sure the deductible is for a 12-month period, not for each illness or injury. That way, you can better plan for and cope with the deductible expenses."

Here's another point to remember: According to the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute's Consumer's Guide to Getting and Keeping Insurance in Massachusetts (<http://www.healthinsuranceinfo.net/ma00.html>), "If you are self-employed and buy your own health insurance, you are eligible to deduct 100% of the cost of your premium from your federal income tax." The report also states that in Massachusetts the self-employed can purchase group insurance just like other "small employers," which may be cheaper than buying an individual policy. Good luck!

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Email your questions to: reporter_louise@montaguema.net, or write to Ask Louise c/o Montague Reporter, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Dear Louise:

My son wants us to get a dog. I'm not opposed to having a dog, especially since he promises to feed, walk, and clean up after it. My problem is I don't want to be lumped together with dog owners who let their dogs leave piles up and down the streets of Turners Falls and don't seem to care who might step in it. Yuck. What to do?

- In deep *%#@#! in Turners Falls

Dear Deep *%#@#!:

Owning a dog can present a wonderful opportunity to teach your son about responsibility. And one of the responsibilities of being a dog owner is, of course, to ensure that your dog's business doesn't become a public nuisance. Invest in one of the many fine products available these days for easy doggie waste disposal, and teach your son to use it. Then you, your son, and your proud pooch can all hold your heads up high as you set a good example for the neighborhood.

TALES

continued from pg 12

book, I found myself inspired to install an additional smoke detector and check the batteries in all of the others. How are your smoke detectors operating? As you read this right now, do you have a fire extinguisher in your kitchen? Does your family know what to do in the event of a fire? How

about a gas leak? How about the proper use of space heaters?

I did find myself, early one morning, anxious on my porch and wondering what action I should take. I was accustomed to see the lights on in my neighbor's house since she is typically up to tend the animals before sunrise. I knew that a portion of the house was heated by natural gas. What to do, what to do? The night before, I'd read

Chapter 19. Its first sentence is "The neighbor saved their lives." She'd "...heard a thump in the apartment and detected an odor of gas." I was pondering the awkwardness of disturbing a neighbor at six o'clock in the morning when the lights came on and I heard the screen door as the dog was let out. It was a Sunday, after all, and everyone is entitled to sleep late once in a while.



Space Heaters Pose Safety Hazards

WMECO Encourages Customers to Stay Safe While Staying Warm

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 fires and 300 deaths every year are associated with portable space heaters. With rising oil and gas prices, many consumers may turn to portable electric space heaters for comfort. Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECO) encourages consumers to understand the risks and follow these simple tips to help consumers stay safe while staying warm this winter.

§ Never use a gas stove, electric range or a charcoal grill as a space heater.

§ Keep at least three feet of open space around all portable heaters and away from combustible materials, including furniture, bedding, clothing, pets and people.

§ Space heaters must not be left operating when you are not in the room, or when you go to sleep.

§ Children should be supervised at all times when space heaters are in use.

§ Never drape clothes, shoes or gloves over a space heater to dry them.

§ Check for fraying or splitting wires, or overheating. Have any problems repaired by a professional before operating the space heater.

§ Unless the heater is designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms, do not use in these areas. The moisture may damage parts and result in fire or electrical shock.

§ Use only heaters that have been tested and listed in accordance with Underwriters' Laboratories (UL). Look for the UL sticker on the portable heater to make sure it has been checked.

§ Leave your heater on the floor, not on a chair, kitchen counter, table or elevated surface, making it less apt to be knocked over and starting a fire.

§ Place a strip of sheet metal between the heater and any wood, linoleum or tile floor; portable heaters can become extremely hot.



Montague Center - New Listing... A picturesque Antique Cape style home with stone facade. Pleasant white kitchen with deck and wonderful view. Living room with fireplace, formal dining room, 3 bedrooms. Some finishing required to complete renovation. A must see at \$169,900.

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Thirteen's a Charm for Brick House TV

BY MICHAEL BOSWORTH
TURNERS FALLS - Show 13 of Brick House TV will highlight the arts in Montague. Interviews with sculptor James Booker and potter Jaye Pope are the focus of one segment. Footage from the highly successful December 4th - 5th, 2004 "Arts & Eats" Studio Walk in Turners Falls comprises

another. The show will be repeated on Sundays (at 10 p.m.) and Wednesdays (at 7:30 p.m.) in February. Booker rents space from Tim de Christopher on 2nd Street in Turners. He creates wonderful faces, both scary and delightful and with Celtic and other themes, while working in ceramics as well as other media.

Pope's studio is located just off the common in Montague Center. She shapes wonderful cups, bowls, plates and other wares and fires them in her own kiln. The Brick House was part of a very successful event this past December called the "Arts and Eats" studio tour. This was an open studio walk with participating artists, galleries, and showrooms around Turners Falls. Over 250 people came out that weekend to walk around and discover the nooks and crannies of the Turners Falls arts world many did not know existed.

Brick House TV continues to be underwritten compliments of the Shady Glen and its former owner John Carey, and through the community-mindedness of Karen Chapman and her Room with a Loom gift shop at the Montague Mill. The show reaches the five villages of Montague as well as parts of Peterman, Tim de Christopher, Ariel Jones and David Wiener of GreatLighting.

Brick House TV's own puppet interviewer, Spike, was very vocal in his questioning of some of the artists, including Spencer

Gill Tax Bills in the Mail

Gill real estate and personal property tax bills have been mailed; payment is due on or before March 2nd, 2005. Any payments received after that date are subject to 14% interest from the mailing date.

Abatement applications must be received by the assessors on or before March 2nd, 2005. Residents who file for abatements are still responsible for making the first half payment. Abatement forms are available at the assessors' office and tax collector's office.

Exemption applications also have been mailed on February 27th, 2005, and are to be returned to the assessors' office as soon as possible.

If taxpayers do not receive a bill and have questions about payment status, they should contact the tax collector Ronnie LaChance at 863-2105. If taxpayers have questions about the contents of their bill, or about abatements, they should contact the assessors' office at 863-0138. If the assessors' clerk, Harriet Tidd, is unavailable, please leave a message on her voice mail and your call will be returned.

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Help Wanted

Montague Parks & Recreation Department • Lifeguards • Swimming Instructors
 The Montague Parks & Recreation Department is accepting applications for certified Lifeguards for the public Open Swim sessions held at the Turners Falls High School indoor pool. These positions involve morning, afternoon, evening and weekend hours for winter/spring season. Positions require appropriate certifications, which must be current and valid throughout the employment period. Applications are available at the Montague Parks and Recreation Department, 56 First Street, Turners Falls, MA. For more information, you may call us at 863-3216. The Town of Montague is an EOE and does not discriminate against disabilities. **Deadline: Closed when filled.**

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. Brick House Community Resource Center. Part time, 21-25 hours/week, \$18-21/hour. (Separate Business Manager handles business duties.) Send cover and resume to Director - Brick House, P.O. Box 135, Turners Falls, MA 01376. Job description available on request. AAVEOE

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

'Finding Treasures at the Gill Store Skeleton 33" tall on Metal base (Smithsonian) \$175.00, Newspaper Bundling Box (Plowhearth) \$45.00, Pair of Porcelain Dolls 10.5" (American Family 1986) \$50.00, Aluminum Roof Snow Rakes, B.O. 863-9006 after 12:00 noon

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Centerstage Karaoke



at the Brick House

BY KAREN STINCHFIELD
TURNERS FALLS - An intimate crowd gathered in the Brick House's Third Street Village Arts gallery space for the first of two alcohol and smoke-free Karaoke Nights on Friday, January 28th. Jerri Higgins of Turners Falls launched her new endeavor, Centerstage Karaoke and DJ Entertainment, thanks to a

grant that she received from the Western Massachusetts Training Consortium. The next Karaoke Night will take place at The Brick House on Saturday, February 26th (snow date - March 5th), from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Come on out, sing a few songs, and have a good time! For more information, Jerri can be reached at 775-9488.

Salsa Night Benefit for Tsunami Disaster Relief



Warm up to some Salsa dancing while helping others: Saturday February 12, 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Buckland Public Hall, Upper St., Buckland, MA (snow date Sunday February 13). Suggested donation \$10. Bring a dessert and drinks to share, hot coffee provided! Beginner instruction from 7:30-8:30pm by D.J. Chico Jimenez. For more info. Contact McCusker's Market 413-625-9411.



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JACK COUGHIN ILLUSTRATION

CALENDAR

FRIDAY, FEB. 4TH

Catamount to perform at Rt. 63 Roadhouse, 32 Federal St., Millers Falls. It is Ladies Night, ladies get in free. For more info call (413) 659-3384.

First Friday Contra Dance with *Moving Violations* at the Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. 413-549-1913.

Intro to Snowshoeing for Seniors. After indoor introduction to equipment, participants will practice safe and easy techniques on flat terrain, gentle hills and small obstacles like logs. Held at Northfield Mountain Recreation, Route 63 in Northfield. 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. For ages 50 and older. Pre-registration required - (800) 859-2960.

SATURDAY, FEB. 5TH

Stone Coyotes to perform at Rt. 63 Roadhouse, 32 Federal St., Millers Falls. Rescheduled from cancellation due to a good old New England Nor'easter. For more info call (413) 659-3384.

2nd Annual Growing A Green Community Fair featuring displays and samples of environmentally-friendly products, food, music and services. Greenfield High School, Lenox Avenue. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (413) 774-2791.

First Saturday Contra Dance with *Wild Asparagus* at the Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. 413-772-6840.

The Pioneer Valley Symphony will perform the fourth program of its 66th season at 7:30 pm. The concert will be held at John M. Greene Hall, on the Smith College campus in Northampton, under Music Director Paul Phillips. This concert is sponsored by Health New England and by The Valley Advocate.

Intro to Snowshoeing Workshop: An indoor introduction to snowshoe designs and functions. Traverse slopes, crossing logs, etc. and visit wildlife "hot-spots" on the mountain to look for signs of porcupine, fox or deer. Held at Northfield Mountain Recreation Area, Route 63 in Northfield. 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Suitable for ages 10 and older. Pre-registration required - (800) 859-2960

SUNDAY, FEB. 6TH

Superbowl party including appetizers at Rt. 63 Roadhouse, 32 Federal St., Millers Falls. For more info call (413) 659-3384.

Cross Country Skiing for Women: A full day instructional program planned especially for women. Includes tips on equipment and clothing as well as out-

door sessions on skis for both beginner and intermediate skiers. Northfield Mountain Recreation, Route 63 in Northfield. For ages 12 and older. 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pre-registration required (800) 859-2960.

THURSDAY, FEB. 10TH

Happy Trails: Hearthside Songs and Stories - Featuring Richard St. Clair. St. Clair will read from his new novel *love@thespeedof-fear*. A number of his motorcycle paintings will also be on display. Held at the Centennial House Bed & Breakfast, 94 Main St., Northfield. 7:00 p.m. (413) 498-5921.

MONDAY, FEB. 7TH through APRIL 1ST

Photography exhibit at PureLight Gallery in Turners Falls. Robert Farber's Photographs on display, opening reception and book signing Mon., Feb. 7th from 5 to 7 p.m. at PureLight Gallery of Fine Art, 37 Third St., Turners Falls, MA 01376. For more info or directions call (508) 885-6048 or visit www.purelightgallery.com, email jan@purelightgallery.com. Gallery Hours: Fri. 4 - 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. or by appointment.

SATURDAY FEB 12TH Tsunami Relief Benefit Concert

A Benefit Concert for Tsunami Relief efforts will be held, 7 p.m. at Temple Israel, 27 Pierce St, Greenfield. Artists performing include Michael DiMartino and World Beat, The Wholesale Klezmer Band, Charlie King and Karen Brandow, and Morningstar. Tickets are \$10 at World Eye Books. All proceeds will be sent to Jewish World Services which is providing humanitarian aid to the people affected by the worst natural disaster in history. For more info call Ruth Witty at (413) 774 2136 or email rwitty@crocker.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

Exhibit showing at the Mall at Moore's Corner, Leverett, MA: *Wunjo*, a black and white fine art photography thesis exhibit by Susan Paquet. Opening reception on Sunday from Noon 'til 6 p.m. The gallery is located across the street from the Leverett Village Co-op and will remain open from 3-5 p.m. February 14th through 18th. For directions, please call (413) 477-8283 or email shoeshinemama@yahoo.com.

ONGOING EVENTS

Now through February 13th
The Green Trees Gallery is currently showing work by a wide range of artists. The artwork at the spacious light-filled Gallery ranges from traditional to cutting edge. There is fine selection of crafts and gifts for everyone.



Montague resident Tim Van Egmond is featured in the second annual Warm Words Storytelling Festival at the Concord Museum in historic Concord, Massachusetts at 10 a.m. on Presidents Day, February 21st. See below for more complete info.

Gallery hours are: Thu. - Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Located at 105 Main St, Northfield, (413) 498-028. Or visit www.greentreesgallery.com.

Now through February 19th

Talent Brewing: Annual Teen Exhibit. Students from local public and independent high schools will exhibit 2D and 3D work in a variety of media. Artspace Community Arts Center, 15 Mill St., Greenfield. 413-772-6811.

Now through February 26th

The Fiber Art Center in Amherst is delighted to announce its first exhibit of works created by its students. Selected Fiber Art Center Student Works runs through February 26th. It includes works from both adults (juried) and children (unjuried) based on ideas and techniques learned in classes taught at the FAC. For more information contact the FAC at (413) 256-1818 or go to www.fiberartcenter.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 19th through 21st - second annual Warm Words Storytelling Festival at the Concord Museum in Concord, MA. For all ages in the Museum on Presidents Day, February 21st: A specially-designed presidential museum hunt, birthday cake in honor of George and Abe and a childrens take-home activity! All Warm Words fees include same-day Museum admission. *History Comes Alive in Stories and Songs* with Tim Van Egmond on Monday, February 21st, 10:00 a.m. From the rib-tickling to the spine-tingling to the heart-warming, Van Egmond's tales and

songs tell about the fascinating characters and character of early America. Magical storytelling glimpses of life on the farm and on the sea are accompanied by traditional instruments, including dulcimer and limberjack. Tim Van Egmond has performed professionally throughout the country since 1978. He is known for the way his dynamic talent, high-spirited enthusiasm, and engaging warmth create a moving and enjoyable experience for all ages. \$15 Adult/Child(age 3-12) Pair; Additional Child or Adult \$7; by reservation. Call the Concord Museum at (978) 369-9763 for a complete listing of all Warm Words storytellers or to make reservations.

Great Falls Discovery Center Calendar of Events

NOTE: All Programs listed below are free and open to the public. Facilities are accessible. Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Saturday, February 5th
Art and Design of GFDC
11 am

Murals create the setting! Learn from artist Frank Gregory about the development of the habitats at the Great Falls Discovery Center. See the design model and walk through the exhibits to learn about the details of these beautiful murals.



Muralist Frank Gregory at work on a mural at Great Falls Discovery Center

Saturday, February 12th

Nature's Beauty:
The Order Odonota
Exhibit Opening 11 am

Nature photographer Glenn Corbiere will introduce visitors to the damselflies and dragonflies of the valley. Come learn the stories behind the camera and see these bright beauties on display through April 16th.

Saturday, February 19th
Valley Rocks
10:30 - 11:30 am

Mabel Zobel
By
Sandra Facto

I CAN'T BE OVERDRAWN... I STILL HAVE CHECKS!!!

Our valley was shaped by volcanoes, earthquakes, and glaciers! Schoolchildren with adults are invited to examine rock samples and act out how rocks arrived here with Gini Traub, Regional EE Coordinator for the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Saturday, February 26th

Valley Birds
11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Visitors are invited to join Sue Cloutier, of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on either of these guided tours of birds in our habitat displays, videos and the Eagle Cam.

Hot Spot Teen Center

Friday, Feb. 4th - Skate Trip, 1:30-8

Thursday, Feb. 10th - Technology Drop-in, 3-5 Movie Night, 6-8

Friday, Feb. 11th - Drop-in hours, 3-5 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 17th - Technology Drop-in, 3-5 Movie Night, 6-8

Mondays - Ongoing Digital Arts Project

Tuesdays & Wednesdays - Ongoing Avenue A Music Project

All of these programs are free (except some skate trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info about any of these events or programs please call Jared at 863-9559. Teen Center located in The Brick House Community Center 24 Third St, Turners Falls

Saturday All films free donations accepted

BOOKMILL MONTAGUE-MA

DEEP FREEZE FILMS
Saturday Feb 5th
Double Feature -Please Note: These films are SATURDAY NIGHT because of the Superbowl.

The Russians are Coming, the Russians are Coming, 1966
and **Dr. Strangelove**, 1963
Projected upstairs with refreshments by the Lady Killgrew Café
www.montaguebookmill.com, (413) 367-9206

Showtime 7:30 p.m. Media Arts Cafe

Friday/Saturday Feb. 4/5th

PROOF
Directed by Jocelyn Moorhouse.
A black comedy about a blind man.
at 105 Main St., Northfield in the Green Trees Gallery.
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2. PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY 6:00 9:00
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00
3. ARE WE THERE YET PG
DAILY 6:00 9:00
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00
4. COACH CARTER PG13
DAILY 6:15 9:15
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15
5. MEET THE FOCKERS PG13
DAILY 6:15 9:15
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15
CINEMAS 6 AND 7 NOW HAVE NEW SEATS!
6. BOOGYMAN PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:30
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30
7. HIDE AND SEEK R in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:30
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Landing in Phoenix

BY FLORE -

Before touching ground, the pilot announced:

"Folks, get accustomed to the idea, local temperatures are hitting the 80s!"

The Vermont couple sitting next to me sighed. To get approval of their momentary escape to desert land, they turned towards me and said,

"You know, it's so cold back East during the winter months!"

Have you noticed?

How one feels coming out of the metallic bird, as if dormant buds were suddenly awakened, ready to expand all your senses?

Did we skip a whole season? One wonders, seeing "the natives" wearing such light gear!

Have we landed in another

planet?

Would you believe, when we took off Bradley Airport, bravely, was shivering at 4 degrees!

The control tower, concerned, even uncertain about letting frozen crafts take off to the skies, the morning I left.

Is it true? I hear you are buried under two feet of snow?

Aren't you tempted to search immediately for a house-sitter winter freak? Leave for a four-week stretch? Don't you think, it's really the

best way to deal with February?

After searching the airlines' many websites, the best deal I found was on Southwest, providing you book a month or a



Picacho Peak

ting you to far away neat places, if you rent a car to head up across this fascinating state.

When you study the map of Arizona, you find it easily divisible in four parts: north, south, east and west.

My advice: allow a week for roaming in each part of the state.

Plan a full week exploring Phoenix and Scottsdale.

Include in your special rounds a visit to the Heard Museum, in

Phoenix, it contains the best collection of Native American artifacts in the country.

Be sure also to include a visit to the Amerind Foundation, south of Tucson.

In fact, the day after your arrival, check at the visitor's bureau in Scottsdale. According to your needs they'll provide you with valuable data for museum and gallery crawling, bronco riding, bike renting, sky looping or quiet tracking.

Take along a great book, too: *50 hikes in Arizona* by Dick and Sharon Nelson.

Would you believe Picacho Peak in southern Arizona is four times as old as The Grand Canyon?

The cherry trees and ocotillo bushes are in full blossom!

Tempted?

Chinatown Restaurant Forced to Close

BY LAENA SANTOS

TURNERS FALLS - A laminated red square sign hangs on the door of the Chinatown restaurant at 57 Avenue A. The establishment was closed on January 26th by the Board of Health, which cited 14 violated provisions during a "routine inspection," according to the

six-page document displayed in the restaurant's front window.

The order is signed and dated by Director of Public Health Gina McNeely, who was unavailable for comment yesterday. Chinatown is owned by Lin De Xiong, who could also not be reached for comment.

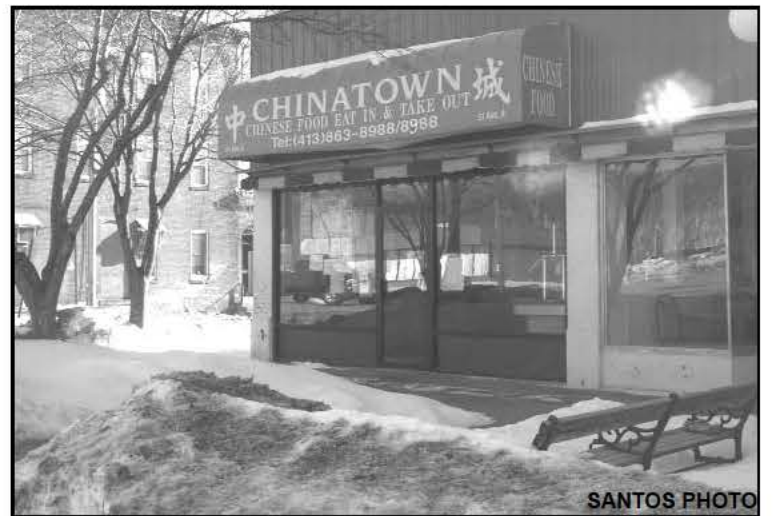
Chris Boutwell, chair of the

Montague board of health, said the inspection originated with a call from a customer "regarding a snowblower with a gas can with gasoline in it located next to the salad bar inside the building."

"We usually don't get too many complaints of snowblowers inside restaurants," Boutwell said. "I thought that was a little bit different."

According to the detailed report, among the 14 violations designated "critical," which means they must be corrected "immediately or within 10 days as determined by the Board of Health," are the following:

- Rice (white), rice (brown), potato starch, long grain rice, all 25-50 pound bags are open and not in barrels or bins to keep vermin out. Just wide open bags all around.
- Beef chunks being thawed directly in third bay of sink. No running water. Raw beef is being thawed on top of boxes of frozen shrimp. Baby bottle in same bay of sink.
- Handwash sink completely blocked by frying chicken boxes. Hand sink has no soap or paper towel.
- Child running through kitchen reaching up touching dumplings on rack with hands.
- Open bag of dried mushrooms found amid debris in basement.



SANTOS PHOTO

The Chinatown restaurant is located at 57 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

- Freezer in basement half full of meats stored in plastic grocery bags. There are no labels on these products, no source of meat is known, type of meat is unknown. Products lack original boxes or labels.
 - Half eaten peanut brittle found on food contact surfaces throughout kitchen. When asked, owner stated his baby (three years old) eats food then leaves it on various counter tops.
 - Package of capsules found above food prep line -- Chinese writing appears to be a medication in food prep area.
 - Meat slicer exhibits meat debris that was left on slicer since yesterday. According to owner it was too late last night to clean slicer. He told me he would get to clean it "sometime today."
- The report reads: "This establishment is being closed today per 105 CMR 590.014 Emergency Closure. Owner has signed for notice informing him of his right to a hearing. This establishment shall stay closed until reopened by the Board of Health."
- Boutwell said that in order to reopen, Xiong must correct all of the health code violations, pass a re-inspection and then meet personally with the Board of Health.
- "I think things just got out of hand for him, and I wish him the best and hope he gets all his problems corrected over there," said Boutwell.

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