



IMAGES OF JAMAICA

at pure light gallery /Page 11



LEAVING ST. ANDREWS

Frantz-Dale says Farewell /Page 12

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

Year 2
No. 16

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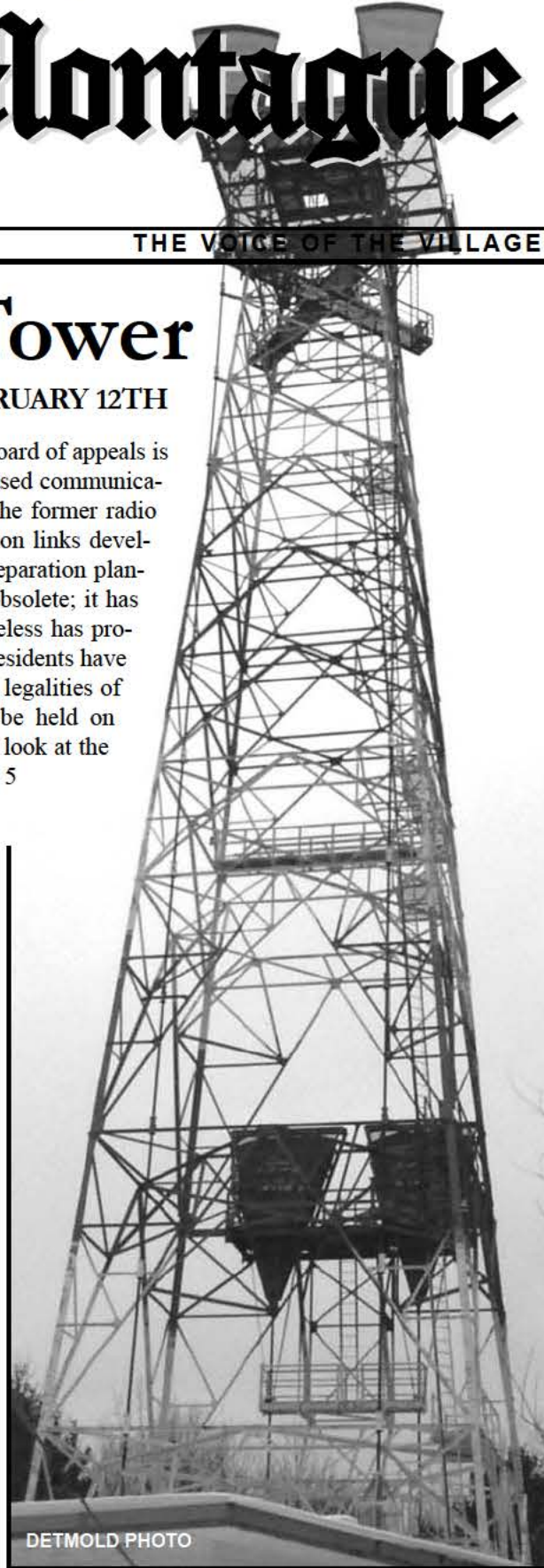
THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 5, 2004

Wendell Cell Tower

FINAL HEARING, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

After several weeks of hearings, the Wendell zoning board of appeals is nearing a decision on the proposed future use of the disused communications tower on Lockes Hill Road. Nearly 200 feet tall, the former radio tower was once part of a chain of military communication links developed as part of the federal government's nuclear war preparation planning. Advances in satellite technology made the tower obsolete; it has been out of use for a number of years. Now AT&T Wireless has proposed installing cell phone transmitters atop the tower. Residents have raised objections, and town officials have questioned the legalities of the proposal. The final hearing before the ZBA will be held on Thursday, February 12th at 7 p.m. at the town hall. For a look at the controversy from one resident's point of view, see PAGE 5



DETMOLD PHOTO

Teens meet Lawmakers

BY JARED LIBBY GREENFIELD - On Friday, January 30th, the Greenfield Youth Center was the site of an unlikely pairing: teens and politicians. Similar to the "Rock the Vote" events in which youth get the opportunity to speak to and ask questions of political officials, the Community Coalition for Teens sponsored the 2nd annual Franklin/North Quabbin Legislative Forum for Youth. The event was an opportunity for teens to speak directly with legislators on their own turf. About 100 people were in attendance including local teens; representatives Stephen Kulik and Chris Donelan; senator Stanley Rosenberg; Greenfield mayor Christine Forgey; representatives of local Democratic, Republican, and Green/Rainbow parties; as well as members of numerous local service agencies/programs including FCAC, the Brick House, Young Entrepreneurs, Dial Self, Americorps, the YMCA and the Montague Catholic Social Ministries. Greenfield town clerk Maureen Winseck was on hand to register voters and answer questions regarding the local elec-

tion process. Music was provided by pianist Seth Glier, with some "open mic" opportunities for other teens, and the event was recorded by GCTV. Emceeding the event was CCT Coordinator Angel Russek. Pulling no punches, teens proved they were not there simply to give legislators a PR opportunity. The first question brought up the issue of same-sex marriage. The panel all showed support for the recent Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling stating that same-sex couples cannot be denied the right to marry. Sen. Rosenberg then pointed to the constitutional amendment proposal on Capitol Hill that would define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Same-sex marriage, an issue of importance to both teens and legislators, is reaching a boiling point where Massachusetts could affirm that denying any couple the right to marry is unconstitutional or an amendment to the constitution could be passed to the contrary. Rep. Kulik went on to say that it is simply a matter of equal

see TEENS, pg 6

Kellaher Takes Montague DPW Post

Montague finally has a new DPW superintendent. After opening the search to a second round of candidates, the Montague selectboard interviewed two finalists in the yearlong search on January 30th. On Monday, February 2nd, Gary Kellaher, former director of highway maintenance for the

Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, accepted the position.

"I'm a hands on type of guy," said Kellaher. "I started at the ground level, as a laborer, then a heavy equipment operator, then a middle manager, and finally with the senior staff." After 25 years with the agency, see Highway, pg 9

Hallmark Student Housing Hearing Postponed

MONTAGUE - According to town planner Robin Sherman, the application for a permit to build student housing for the Hallmark Institute of Photography on the south side of Millers Falls Road has been withdrawn, for the time being. "They didn't have all their information ready," said Sherman. "They will refile it." Hallmark's attorney, Greg Olchowski, said, "Basically the planning board doesn't want to deal with this concept as a work in progress. We have

to finish our traffic study, and deal with a number of other areas of concern. We'll get this done. We want to finish everything up."

Asked if Hallmark still hoped to have the new buildings - intended to provide housing for 144 students - ready for the start of fall semester this year, Olchowski said, "That's still a goal." But he insisted, "We want to do it right. We don't want to do it piecemeal."

Delays in Erving Fire Station Questioned

BY HYRUM HUSKEY JR. ERVING - Delays in the Erving fire house's roof construction project came under some testy scrutiny at the Erving selectboard meeting on Monday night, February 2nd. The four-way conversation was held between architect Roy Brown (on a speaker phone), board chair Andrew Tessier, administrative coordinator Tom Sharp, and Vern Harrington, co-owner of Thayer Street Associates, the project's contractor. Tessier asked Harrington about construction delays and ques-

tioned how much of a presented time and charges bill for \$41,874 should be paid. Harrington responded there was also somewhere between \$8,000 and \$10,000 not billed, but due for additional completed Change Orders work. Administrative coordinator Tom Sharp then phoned architect Roy Brown and switched on the speaker phone for Brown to join the discussion. Brown



DETMOLD PHOTO

Thayer Street Associates blame the weather for project delays at Erving fire station

acts as unofficial clerk of the works on the project, according to Sharp.

Asked when siding would be applied, see ERVING, pg 7

PET OF THE WEEK

A prrrr-fect day for some catnip



Duluth

Duluth is a four-year-old short hair brown tiger cat in need of a good home. She is a very happy, friendly cat who just loves to roll around in her catnip.

To learn more about adopting Duluth, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.



Wendell / New Salem Libraries

Finished the *Buffalo Soldier* yet?

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FACES & PLACES



JOHN PETERS PHOTO

Fire management work in progress on the Montague Plains (off Lake Pleasant Road)

LIBRARY NEWS

Valentine Party at Carnegie Library

A Valentine Party will be held at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls on Saturday, Feb. 7th at 2 p.m. Children of all ages are invited to participate in the numerous free activities led by Bev Whitbeck. Participants can decorate Valentines, make beaded hearts and tissue paper flowers with chocolate kisses inside. Other options include making candy necklaces and candy airplanes. All craft materials will be supplied. Valentine refreshments will be served. No registration is needed. The program is cosponsored by the Gill-Montague Council of the Family Network.

For more information, please call 863-3214.



Photo by Linda Hickman

Kimberly Santiago of Turners Falls and other children from the Kids Place after school program have been sculpting life size animal models out of papier-mache with the help of Gill artist Lynda Hodsdon Mayo at the Carnegie Library. The project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES FEB 9th -13th

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregational meals. Advanced registration at many of our activities is necessary. We need to know how many people will be joining so we can prepare our space adequately. 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 Morgan trips leave from the Parking Lot on First Street across from the Police Station.

Monday 9th

10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
1:00 p.m. PACE Aerobics
2:00 p.m. Craft Club

Tuesday 10th

10:00 a.m. Tai Chi
Wednesday 11th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 12th
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday 13th
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
1:00 p.m. PACE Aerobics

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant Street, Ervingside (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, shopping (Thursdays), or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

Monday 9th

9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch

Tuesday 10th

9:00 a.m. Aerobics
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. Meeting
12:00 p.m. Oil Painting

Wednesday 11th

10:00 a.m. Line Dancing
12:00 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 12th
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:00 p.m. SERVE Turn-in deadline

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

CHOLESTEROL SCREENINGS

Offered Wednesdays from 8-11 a.m. at the Franklin Medical Center, conference room A, for just \$4.

MONEY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Assists elders who have difficulty writing checks or managing their basic living expenses for many reasons. To receive services or volunteer to help with the program, call Franklin County Home Care 773-5555 or 800-732-4636 and ask for the Money Management Program Coordinator.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

"E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial"

The Montague Police and Montague Recreation Department will present E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, Friday, February 6, 2004 at 6:30 PM in the Sheffield Auditorium.

Charlie Brown's Valentine special will be shown at 6 PM before the feature film and special "ET treats will be distributed during the showing (can you guess?) These free movies are sponsored by the Montague Elk's Lodge # 2521 in their efforts through their drug awareness committee to present healthy cost free family events to their citizens.

Montague Parks and Recreation Department OPEN GYM

Sheffield Elementary School
Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls

The Montague Parks and Recreation Department would like to announce their Open Gym schedule for this winter.

Tuesdays 7:00pm - 8:30pm (Youth/Family)

Wednesdays 7:30pm - 9:00pm (Adult, 18+)

**Fridays 6:00pm - 7:30pm (Youth/Family)
7:30pm - 9:00pm (Adult, 18+)**

There will be no Open Gym on February 17, 19, & 20. Admission is \$.50 for Youth, and \$1.00 for Adults 18 and up. Schedule is subject to change. Contact MPRD at 863-3216 for more details.

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An Eye on Town Finances

Can We Afford to Renovate the Carnegie Library?

BY MICHAEL NAUGHTON
MONTAGUE Budget season is in full swing these days, and that means that anything we say today may well not be true tomorrow. (A case in point is the proposed GMRSD budget, which had to be revised the day after it was approved, when the governor's budget was released, canceling earlier estimates of a drop in Chapter 70 funding.) Up to now, the select-board and finance committee have simply been collecting information, and so far there haven't been any real surprises. Understandably, most departments feel they don't have enough money now, and virtually all say that further cuts would be devastating. It seems like a sure bet that everyone won't get what they want, but it's still way too early to predict how everything will shake out, and there's a lot of work to do before we get there.

In the meantime, some people are looking ahead and wondering how to react to the news that the Carnegie Library has

been awarded \$1.8 million towards it's \$4.6 million renovation project, on the condition that the library come up with the \$2.8 million balance by May of 2005. Predictably, reactions range across the board, from those who think the town simply can't afford it to those who think that something needs to be done and this is the best chance to do it. And then there are those who wonder if there isn't some less expensive alternative. Participants in the GFMS/TFHS renovation project debates may be pardoned for having a sense of *déjà vu*.

By their very nature, questions of what is "affordable" defy black and white answers, since they depend so heavily on the circumstances of whoever is asking the question. For towns, one rough measure (and there are several) is that overall debt service should be somewhere between 5% and 10% of the yearly operating budget. For FY 2004, Montague's debt service, not including the schools, is around \$200,000,



If Montague came up with all the money for the Carnegie Library project, it would add between 35 and 40 cents to the tax rate. By contrast, our payments on the GFMS/TFHS project have added at least one dollar to the tax rate for the years before the state's reimbursement kicks in.

which is just under 4% of the overall budget. But if we add in the wastewater treatment plant, which has a lot of debt (almost 26% of its budget), the figure rises to almost 8 1/2%. If we include the Turners Falls Fire District, whose debt is 14% of its budget, the figure goes to

over 9 1/2%. Finally, if we include Montague's share of GMRSD's budget, where the debt is about 3%, the overall figure drops to just under 6 1/2%.

So, does Montague have a lot of debt? Can (or should) the town take on more? The answer depends both on your definition of "affordable" and what you decide to include. Another way to look at it is to consider the effect on the tax rate. Assuming equal yearly payments, borrowing \$1 million over 20 years at 2% costs about \$60,000 a year, or about 12 cents per thousand. Borrowing at 4% would raise it to almost 15 cents. So a rough guess is that if Montague came up with all the money for the Carnegie project, it would add between 35 and 40 cents to the tax rate. (Of course, due to our split rate, it would be less for homeowners and more for commercial taxpayers.) By contrast, our payments on the GFMS/TFHS project have added at least one dollar to the tax rate for the years before the state's reimbursement kicks in.

The problem with comparisons is there are so many different ways to make them. The GFMS/TFHS project as a whole, for example, will cost Montague taxpayers about \$3.5 million (that's 85% of 10% of the main project at \$31.4 million plus 85% of the extra \$1 million for the pool). So, on

one side you can say we're getting two new schools for only 25% more than the Carnegie price tag; on the other, you can say we'd be getting a brand new library for about three times what we'll pay for the pool alone. Which one offers a better comparison?

In my opinion, no matter how you look at our town-owned buildings, they're in fair to poor shape, and the more we put off dealing with them the bigger the problems we'll have down the road. It's awfully tempting to put off starting new projects until times are better, but we've been doing that for over a decade, and each new year seems to bring a fresh set of excuses. At some point, we have to face up to the fact that if we want to own these buildings as a town then we have a responsibility to take care of them, and like most responsibilities it won't wait forever. I think it's high time our civic decision-makers take a stand on where our infrastructure fits into our municipal priority list, and then start making budget decisions accordingly.

Mike Naughton has been a Montague resident since 1974 and a finance committee member since fiscal 2001. He can be reached at mjnaught@crocker.com, or by looking in the telephone book. The opinions expressed here are his own and are not necessarily shared by anyone else in town government.

Clarifying last week's school budget figures

As other, wiser men have noted, budget season is in full swing these days, and that means that anything we say today may well not be true tomorrow. So with the news of last week's Gill-Montague Regional School District's preliminary budget. As we reported in the Jan. 29th issue of the *Montague Reporter*, on Tuesday, January 27th, the school committee approved a \$14,035,755 operation and maintenance budget that essentially level funded last year's figures.

Basing their assumption on the fact that 148 students had left the district since '04, GMRSD budget planners estimated state aid to the district would fall in '05 to \$5,200,000. But Governor Romney surprised them by level funding Chapter 70 aid dollar for dollar at last year's figure: \$5,636,381.

As we checked in with Gill-Montague business manager Lyn

Bassett last Wednesday, she was still a bit incredulous about whether the governor's figures could be for real. But, at least for now, it seems they are. Representative Steve Kulik explains:

"The reason why the Gill-Montague school district preliminary budget figure for Chapter 70 aid did not go down in the governor's budget is because everyone was 'held harmless' with the FY '04 Chapter 70 figures. In FY '04, enrollment declines adversely affected Gill-Montague, and any other district that had enrollment declines. There was a range of budget cuts for Chapter 70 that went as deep as 20%. The simple reason for no change in (Chapter 70 funding for) FY '05 is that no one will get less than they got last year. Status quo prevails. Of course, that's the governor's proposal, but the House and Senate are both very much on the path to

level funding, also with the 'hold harmless' provision."

That was the plus side of the governor's budget. On the minus side, projections for students choicing out of the district and leaving for charter schools show the district losing roughly \$250,000. But the good news outweighed the bad, and positively affected the schools' initial assessment request to the member towns.

Bassett said she is still erring on the side of caution, in case the governor's budget figures don't hold up. But, assuming Chapter 70 aid at \$5,636,381, the Gill-Montague assessment request to the towns will now equal a 3.8% increase over last year's figures for Montague (excluding capital debt), or \$197,708 more than last year's request; and a 13.1% decrease for Gill (excluding capital debt), or \$137,855 less than last year's request.

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Signs of Global Warming

Groundhog Day has passed, and though the groundhog must have seen his shadow - around Montague anyway - that leaves less than six weeks to go before winter is officially over, no matter how you read the calendar.

Groundhog Day - February 2nd, falls halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Vernal Equinox, so once the midpoint of the dark season is reached, the lengthening days and the quickening sap foretell spring more certainly than any woodchuck could. In the Christian calendar, February 2nd is Candlemas, when the blessing of the candles takes place. In Celtic lore, the day was set aside to honor Brigid, goddess of light and abundance. Her festival was known as Imbolc, Gaelic for ewe's milk, because it fell at the time of year when sheep began lactating, and the first lambs were born. All these signs and symbols point to the regeneration of life that becomes evident at this point in the Earth's celestial orbit each year.

Signs like these are evident even along Route 2, in

Shelburne Falls, where Joe Davenport's Mobil station posts a marquee to passing motorists with weather related aphorisms like, "Visit Frosty the Joe-Man," which ran for several weeks in January when the temperature was down in the minus numbers. His sign has been recently updated to read simply, "Come On Global Warming," a sentiment widely shared among all our towns.

Here in Montague, the bitter cold of January has given way to a balmy spate of 30 degree days, and the townspeople have turned out in shirtsleeves as if it were June already. With the Patriots winning, not even a sudden blizzard on Tuesday night could dampen our spirits for long. Soon the smell of maple sap boiling in the sugarhouses will sweeten the air, and the first snowdrops and crocuses will push forth their blooms.

Six more weeks of winter? They can't be anywhere near as cold and drear as the six we've just been through. Cheer up. The worst is over. Spring is almost here.

Wendell Peace Vigil

Wendell Peace Vigil - At dusk on February 15th, 2003, millions around the world lit candles for peace. From time zone to time zone an evolving circle of hope formed. This year each community again is encouraged to host a vigil on that date. In Wendell we will gather at 6:00pm on the common. Bring your candles as together we envision a world unmarked by military, economic, or social conflict. For further information contact Rev. Adele Smith-Penniman at 978-544-1891.

Montague Center Vigil

A vigil for peace will also be held on the common in Montague Center at dusk on February 15th. Bring candles and join in the spirit of peace.

We welcome your letters.

Letters must be 400 words or less and must be signed. Please include your name, address and phone number. Deadline is noon on Tuesday.

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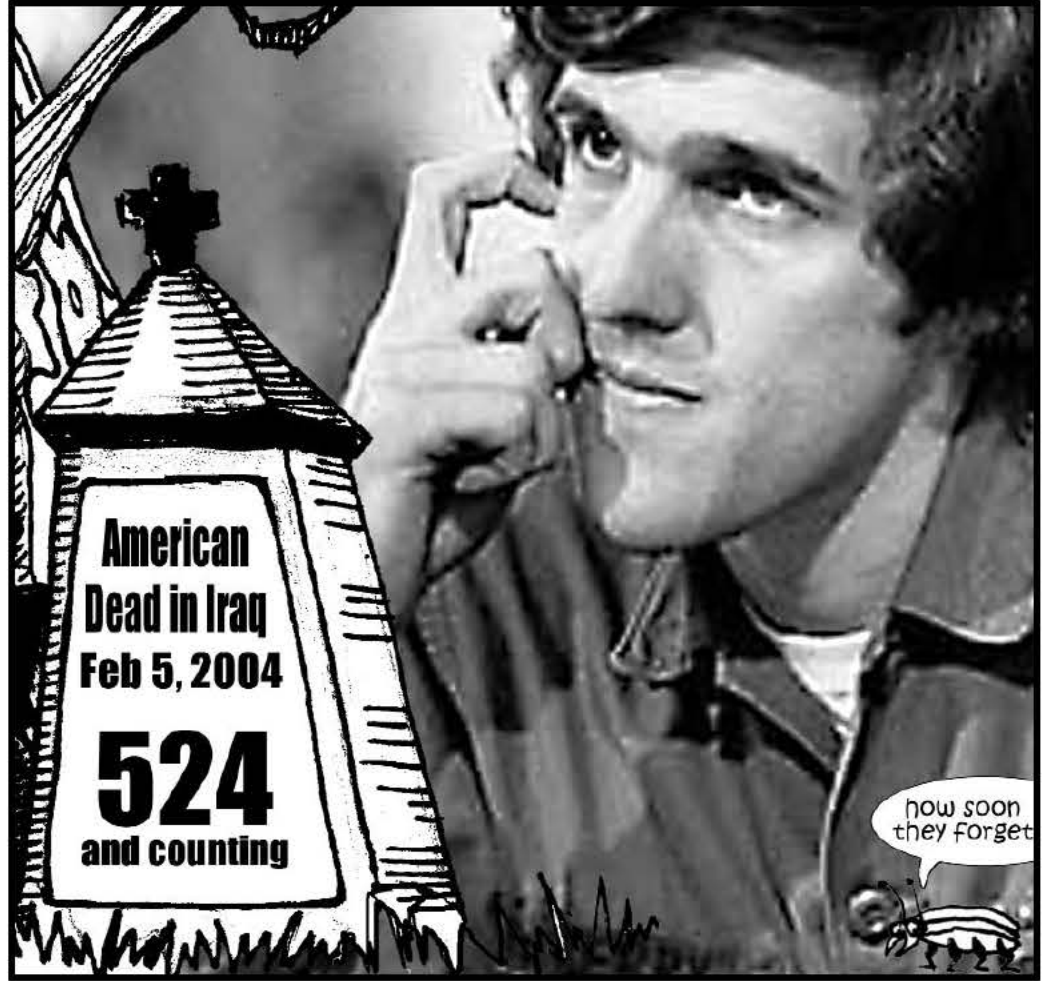
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The Frontrunner

"How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?"

John Kerry, testifying for Vietnam Veterans Against the War to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, - April 23, 1971



"The American people would never accept the legitimacy of this war unless the administration first presented detailed evidence of the threat of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and proved that it had exhausted all other options to protect our national security."

Senator John Kerry, before voting to authorize Bush to use force against Iraq - October 9, 2002

LETTER TO



THE EDITOR

GMRSD Spells Success

In the 1/15/04 edition of the *Montague Reporter*, Philippe Deguise explores the issue of enrollment decline in the Gill-Montague regional school district. While Deguise presented a wide range of information, in total the article might give the wrong impression. One quotation in particular represents what I have sensed is a general misperception about the district and Turners Falls High: "The ranking of the school system is low, the test results are low, and students haven't gone on to do remarkable things."

First, to my knowledge, MCAS scores provide the only available basis for school ranking. Our results for the tenth grade MCAS over the last four years have been in line with state-wide averages and compare nearly equally with surrounding school districts.

Remarkably, an average of thirty-nine percent of students in the last four years have gone on to attend universities or four-year colleges. Our students have matriculated in prestigious schools like Northeastern, Brown, Cornell, McGill, Mount Holyoke, Bard, Wheaton, and Skidmore. In

naming these schools, I do not want to minimize the achievement of the many students who have gone on to a host of other four-year schools too numerous to mention. An additional thirty-five percent more of our students go to two-year colleges after graduation.

While many people view success academically, that is not the only kind of success. One student, Julie McCarthy, wanted to add the following information about student achievement:

"In the past few years there have been great accomplishments in athletics. The girls' softball team went to the state championship, the girls' swim team became multiple Western Mass champion, the golf team earned the state title, and most recently, the girls' volleyball team went to the state championship. A number of players on these and other teams are recognized on the Western Mass All-Scholarship and All-Academic teams each year. Several of these players continue to play sports like soccer, field hockey and volleyball at colleges like Mount Holyoke. Despite the unfortunate circum-

stances surrounding recent school budgets, students utilize existing resources and opportunities to achieve success in sports, higher education, and resources."

Julie's suggestion that we do very well with what we have deserves repeating. I know the research I did for this response does not represent all of the successes and achievements of our students, and yet even within the limited scope of this response I know Gill-Montague Regional School District is successful. I hope this information helps us appreciate what we have so that residents can feel comfortable with a decision to keep their children in the district.

Karl M. Dziura
English Language Arts
Instructor
Turners Falls High School

Writers Wanted

The *Montague Reporter* is looking for writers to cover news events, arts, features etc. Please call 863-8666

CITIZEN EDITORIAL



WENDELL CELL PHONE TOWER DEBATE

Will Big Money Win Out?

BY ROBBIE LEPPZER
WENDELL -

As an opponent of the proposed second cell phone tower in Wendell, I was feeling optimistic at the prospects that this proposal would be turned down by the Wendell Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) - right up until the end of Monday night's (2/2) meeting at the Wendell Town Hall. AT&T Wireless, a multi-million dollar telecommunications company, wants to put cell phone transmitters on top of an existing tower on Lockes Hill in Wendell. The nearly 200-foot tower was originally built in 1957 as a microwave relay station for military

communications in the event of nuclear war. As satellites made this technology obsolete, the tower has not been used as a communications facility for over a decade. AT&T (parent company to AT&T Wireless), which operated the facility for the government, sold the tower to American Towers in 2000.

The tower has long been an eyesore in Wendell, with its large horn-like transmitters and constantly blinking beacon light. Since the mid-1990s, town officials, at the request of local residents, have been seeking ways to remove the discontinued tower. Now, AT&T Wireless wants to make the tower active again by

installing personal cell phone transmitters to fill a gap they claim in cell phone coverage for the area.

Ninety-five percent of Wendell residents who have spoken at public hearings dealing with the company's request have opposed the new use of the tower.

Myron Becker, chair of the ZBA, acknowledged in the hearing on February 2nd that the proposed facility violates Wendell's bylaws, which state that a cell tower cannot be located within 1000 feet of residences; (there are 12 houses within this zone on Lockes Hill) and that a cell tower cannot be more than 30% above the forest

canopy; (the existing tower is approximately 200% above treeline). The bylaw explicitly states that all new proposals must adhere to these regulations. There is no "grandfather clause" for pre-existing towers.

AT&T Wireless has asked for a variance to these regulations. However, Phil Delorey, Wendell's building inspector, recommends that the town turn down the variance request, because none of the legal criteria for granting a variance is met by AT&T Wireless's case. David Maxson, a radio engineer hired by the town to perform a technical evaluation, stated that AT&T Wireless's proposal will

not fill a substantial gap in AT&T's cell phone coverage and, he said, there were less intrusive options available.

At the Feb. 2nd meeting, I presented a survey of cell coverage in Wendell I conducted using a Sprint phone (a competitor of AT&T Wireless). I traveled all the main roads of Wendell and was able to make phone calls in most locations. 16 out of 19 attempts to make cell calls were successful along Lockes Village Road, Wendell Depot Road, West Road, and New Salem Road, including such highly see TOWER, pg 14

Remembering Wendell Streeter

BY MARVIN SHEDD

BERNARDSTON lost one of its leading citizens recently with the death of Wendell Streeter. Wendell was one of those larger than life characters that come along only rarely. The eldest of nine children, much of his childhood was spent working at the family business, Streeter's General Store in Bernardston. It was there that he learned many of the skills that would make him a successful businessman and public servant.

Upon graduation from Bentley College in 1932, Streeter was offered two jobs. The first was an office job in Boston. The second offer, from the United Fruit Company, would have required him to remain in Central America for three years. Both were undoubtedly good jobs that would have paid well and afforded him a great deal of experience. Neither appealed to him, as he disliked the city and did not care to be away from his hometown for that long. Ultimately, he declined both offers and returned home to assume the role of storekeeper. In addition to running the family business, he set about seeing what he could do to make his town and community a better place.

Wendell typified the small town country businessmen that have dotted the landscape of New England for years. A tall man with a large frame, he had a quiet voice, a gentle, considerate nature, yet could be decisive and firm when he needed to be. He approached his business and his employees in a fair and honest manner;



Wendell Streeter

you always knew where you stood with Wendell. He took the same approach in dealing with customers. Whether you were a local or an out-of-towner, he treated you with courtesy and respect. Simply put, it was the way his parents had raised him. The values he learned from his parents were the guiding principles he used to run the business.

When customers asked him why there was no beer for sale at Streeter's, he told them, "We've never sold beer and we never will. We were brought up strict Methodists and we weren't raised to sell booze." Despite the fact that Streeter's probably could have done pretty well selling beer and wine, he stuck to his upbringing and, to this day, they do not sell beer or wine. People would frequently ask if it bothered him to lose sales to the New Hampshire liquor stores. In typical Streeter

fashion, he would declare, "I don't care if they drive to New Hampshire, as long as they stop here to get gas!"

It is precisely this steadfast approach that earned him the admiration and respect of not only his younger brothers and sisters, but of many people across the Valley. The small town values that shaped him, served him well in the family business and in his career as a public servant.

To call Streeter a public servant doesn't do him justice. His government service and community work were exemplary. Fire chief, assessor, school committee and selectman are just a few of the jobs that he brought his knowledge, experience and integrity to. For many years, he distinguished himself as a county commissioner.

In 1970, he ran unsuccessfully for state representative. It was not a job he truly desired but, as he explained to me, he had promised someone that he would be a candidate. An early supporter of the formation of a tech school, and long an advocate of alternative energy sources, he always had the best interest of his community at heart. Professionalism and diplomacy were his hallmarks; traits too often lacking in politics today.

I worked for Streeter for five years and, without question, he taught me more than anyone else I ever worked for. I still use, on a daily basis, the values and tools that he taught me, which is perhaps the greatest compliment I could pay him. Wendell Streeter will be missed; by the family that loved him, by the town that he served and by the greater community that he spent much of his life working to improve. We'll not see the likes of him anytime soon.

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TEENS

continued from pg 1

rights as well as civil rights.

Another issue addressed was the lack of public transportation within Franklin County. A teenage employee of McDonalds mentioned her problems with the infrequency of service, making public transport an unreliable means for those who need it to get to work. Chris Forgey stepped up with a response that seems all too common these days - the money just isn't there. While Forgey is in regular contact with both the FRTA and GMTA, there simply isn't any funding to increase services. Rep. Donelan went on to say that while larger metropolitan areas have more regular public transportation riders, the western part of the state barely has enough riders to support the current routes. He added, "We should have access to services of the same caliber as larger cities", but was at a loss to explain how this could be accomplished.

Illustrating a mature grasp of local issues, the next point questioned the lack of available treatment for substance abuse problems. Mayor Forgey agreed with that sentiment, stating "there aren't sufficient facilities for alcohol or substance abuse." Again, funding seemed to be the main problem. Forgey said the town just doesn't have money to fund these programs, but she is working with local social service agencies that do provide these services. Finally, she offered that anyone who came to the mayor's office seeking assistance would not be turned away, but referred to an appropriate agency. Sen. Rosenberg added that 80% of prisoners have a substance abuse problem, and while approximately \$40,000 per year is spent to keep an inmate locked-up, this money does not go to fund rehab programs and thus is a

short-sighted fix.

Another question posed dealt with a common topic in Greenfield news: what's going on with big businesses moving into town? Forgey, who has no doubt discussed the issue dozens of times since her election, put it simply, "If we think about this the right way we can reach a balance." She mentioned the co-existence of chains like Stop n' Shop and Big Y, with local enterprises such as Foster's and Green Fields Market.

Clean Elections was briefly on the table. Rep. Kulik spoke to the issue as a supporter, describing Clean Elections as something that voters can support, but ultimately is left up to legislators - most of whom favor the traditional private fundraising methods.

The last issue-based question dealt with school funding, an important topic locally as well as nationally. Sen. Rosenberg recalled some facts for the audience. While education is the second-highest growing funding target in Massachusetts, the funding is still lower than the national average.

Crystal Cummings, a student at GCC asked an opportune question for this forum: how do you advocate for threatened programs that you believe in? Rep. Donelan provided words of encouragement, suggesting that the best thing to do is to get out there and educate people about the need for and value of the services. Also, it is a constituent's right and obligation to contact his/her representatives when government funding is being cut for valuable programs. Pushing the issue further, Beth Waryasz, another GCC student, asked how to prevent these funding problems in the first place. Unfortunately there is no cut-and-dried answer to this question. Rep. Donelan offered a pair of suggestions: the first being to impose new



Photo by Rachel Stoller

(left to right) State Representatives Chris Donelan and Steve Kulik, Jaymee Conway of Greenfield, Senator Stan Rosenberg, Chris Pride of Shelburne Falls and Greenfield Mayor Chris Forgey 2nd annual Franklin/North Quabbin Legislative Forum for Youth.

taxes that will probably be vetoed by Governor Romney, and the second, more viable, option being to bring in businesses which will provide more jobs and business taxes. While Donelan admitted, "It's not an immediate solution," he added, "It's looking down the road."

The four panel members were each given an opportunity for closing remarks. Mayor Forgey asked that everyone bear with Greenfield's new government structure while it goes through its growing pains and offered encouragement to the youth in attendance, saying, "Don't be afraid to follow your passions." Sen. Rosenberg added that politicians form opinions on issues after talking to constituents. Again, it is a constituent's right and responsibility to speak out when something seems amiss. "Don't give up." Finally, he added that the election process is a built-in system for voicing one's opinions.

Rep. Donelan commended those who made the event happen as well as those in attendance. "This is twice the event it was last year," he said. He then mentioned how much of a learning experience his first term in office has been. Finally, Kulik spoke echoing Rosenberg's point. "We learn from you, we need to hear from you to shape our actions in office." The Youth Center teemed with mutual respect as legislators came to understand that teens have a grasp on important issues facing them and their families, while teens could see politicians genuinely interested in their thoughts and opinions.

When asked about the success of the event, Sarah Bernstein, a member of the planning committee, said that it was an amazing event and the legislators did an excellent job of fielding the youths' questions. She was also thrilled with the turnout - nearly twice as many people as had

been planned. Bernstein added that she was particularly proud of the youths in attendance whom she works with at FCAC Youth Programs.

Following the questions posed to the panel, Yusuf Hamdan, an 18-year-old from Shelburne Falls, was given the microphone for a few minutes. Hamdan, who had just returned from campaigning with Howard Dean in New Hampshire, had some important thoughts for the audience. "I got involved because it all seemed so distant to me," Hamdan said of his decision to campaign for Dean. "I got to do things I never thought I'd be able to do," referring to canvassing and speaking with town officials. "You can do something. Seize the opportunity." When asked about the value of this forum Hamdan said it's about "waking up the youth, dealing with apathy."

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Dry Hill Residents Petition for Stop Signs at RR Crossing

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE - Tired of close calls with fast moving Amtrak trains, residents of Dry Hill Road have banded together to petition the selectboard to put up stop signs at the unprotected New England Central Railroad crossing. The residents received donations of two new stop signs to use for the purpose, pending board approval to put them up.

The petitions, with the signatures of 44 residents, were presented to the board at Monday night's meeting (February 2nd) by Robert and Susan Tidlund, of 56 Dry Hill Road, who acted as spokespersons for the neighborhood. "Just about everyone who lives on the street has had close calls," with passing trains, said Susan Tidlund, who added she and her husband have lived there for twenty years, and she still finds the crossing dangerous.

"I was coming up the street the other day, and my teenaged son was in the car with me. The music was on, we were talking, we got close to the tracks, and suddenly my son yelled, "Mom!" The train was five to ten feet in front of me."

Tidlund said her husband has clocked the Amtrak trains going by the crossing at 60 to 65 m.p.h. She said visibility around the crossing has improved somewhat since her family first moved to Dry Hill Road, due to the efforts of a neighbor who has cut back a lot of the brush around the tracks.

"I don't expect any great help from the railroad," said board chair Ed Voudren, before entertaining a motion to approve the DPW putting up stop signs and approach stop signs on both sides of the crossing, which passed unanimously. He thanked the Tidlunds for their

efforts on the neighborhood's behalf. Member Patricia Allen asked that a copy of the group's petition, and a letter from the town be sent to New England Central Railroad, apprising them of the situation.

The petition, which was carried door to door by the Tidlunds and several other neighbors, reads as follows:

"We the undersigned residents and friends of Dry Hill Road are very concerned about the unprotected railroad crossing. The trains are frequent and seemingly without schedule. The visibility is poor until one is on the tracks. If the car windows are up and the



DETMOLD PHOTO

The railroad crossing on Dy Hill Road

radio is on, one cannot hear the whistle. There have been many near misses by people who knew to be cautious, and very close calls by some who are unaware of the fact that it's a

very active crossing. With the increasing development and the traffic that goes along with it, we feel an accident will occur if something is not done."

ERVING

continued from pg 2

Harrington said the work was "weather dependent," and when the weather improved, he would have his crew out. By phone, Brown said he had "been hearing this for six months" and that, given Harrington's answer, he would recommend the town hold back a portion of the amount currently billed. The contractor again explained that work progress as had been interrupted by weather conditions.

After a brief review of what architect Brown estimated for further anticipated charges, Brown and Tessier agreed the in-hand bill should be paid in full and the not yet billed Change Order amounts held back, until extra heating costs incurred by the town as a result of the unfinished project were assessed. When asked by Brown if that course of action would be satisfactory,

Harrington said he was not sure how he should answer, but the arrangement was finally agreed to jointly by Tessier and Brown.

Erving fire chief "Mickey" LaClaire then raised concerns about flooring recently installed at the fire station that he described as sounding "like saltine crackers when you walk on it." LaClaire estimated approximately 30% of the floor surface was in that condition. Harrington responded that the floor installer had said the weather needed to be warmer for the tiles to set properly. Harrington agreed to discuss the matter further with the floor installer.

LaClaire also noted that a 6 square-foot area of streaked mold was found behind a large bulletin board, and the mold would have to be removed before painting walls.

Tessier then said he wanted to see the project wrapped up. Harrington repeated that the

work would proceed as quickly as weather permitted, and assured the selectboard that his firm was there to see the job through to completion.

In a second agenda item, a written statement was presented to the board by Beverly and James Stone, residents of Lillian's Way. The petition expressed concern about drinking water protection and asked why aquifer protection overlay district bylaws were not included with the recently proposed zoning bylaws presented at the last special town meeting. (The proposed zoning changes were voted down at the January 26th special town meeting by a vote of 42-40).

The Stones' petition further asked the board to turn down a proposed housing development by Ken Mitzkovitz, to be constructed on land north of Route 2 and west of Lillian's Way. According to the petition, the development may require five septic systems. The proposed

development, according to the petition, would occupy a part of Zone 1 in the aquifer overlay. A permit has not yet been issued.

Selectboard chair Andrew Tessier told the Stones the petition request was under the jurisdiction of the planning board, which could include aquifer protection bylaws when they resubmit plans for zoning changes to a future town meeting.

In other matters, the board:
- approved a Massachusetts Highway Department request to access four pieces of town property to facilitate work being done on Route 2 reconfiguration plans.

- requested wording on personnel board recommendations for bereavement leave to be changed to reflect "three consecutive days" absence, in lieu of a more general wording of three days. Tessier said the intent of bereavement leave was not to permit, for example,

three consecutive Fridays off.
- approved a request by Sharp to determine the cost of installing Comcast internet capability in the town hall. Sharp said he believed the access would cost approximately \$99.00 per month and perhaps "be a wash," since two current office internet connections could be consolidated in the process.



- moved to approve a 2% cost of living increase for town employees in the Fiscal '05 budget.

- postponed establishing a senior housing committee at Tessier's suggestion. Tessier said he would like to hold up on establishing more committees until some of the current projects are wrapped up, including the fire station roof, the new police building, and the consideration of the reuse of the Usher Mill on Arch Street.

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MONTAGUE BRIEFS

Progress on New Hires

MONTAGUE - The selectboard received good news on the hiring front during the course of their February 2nd meeting. As recently retired director of assessing Christine Saulnier informed the board that the assessors had interviewed three candidates to fill her former post, and has settled on a top choice, a woman with 19 years experience in assessing, accredited by the Massachusetts Board of Assessors, who is currently serving as assistant assessor in another county, the phone rang and town administrator Frank Abbondanzio left to take the call. He returned with the news that Gary Kellaher of Fiskdale, a former director of highway maintenance for the Mass Turnpike Authority, had accepted the town's offer to become head of the Montague DPW.

"That's great news!" said member Patricia Allen, expressing the board's general relief that - after the position had remained empty for a year, and three other candidates had turned the job down in recent months - the town had finally found a DPW superintendent.

Regarding the assessor's office, the board agreed to Saulnier's recommendation to offer the top candidate a starting salary above the median advertised pay range, due to the can-

didate's experience. In recommending the suggested salary of \$47,074, Allen said, "You realize that figure is a palindrome?"

After the meeting, Norm Fuller, chair of the board of assessors, said the candidate's acceptance of the position might hinge on whether the town can offer the person a third week of vacation, which may be a sticking point with the union. Saulnier had told the board, "We have indications the person may not be interested in the medical insurance benefit," which could result in a cost savings to the town in the range of \$8,400. The additional week of vacation time, a matter of importance to the candidate, would equate to a week's pay of \$898, Saulnier said.

"This person is the best candidate," Saulnier said. "She is active in assessing now, she is very familiar with split tax rates, and with agricultural land assessments."

The board quibbled with Saulnier over her recommendation to offer the other open position in the assessors office - the part time assessing clerk's post formerly held by Mildred Waseleski - as a 20-hour a week benefited position. Saulnier suggested offering the post at less than 20-hours, without benefits, would leave the town in the position of training a new

clerk and then having the person leave after six months for a better position in another town. Saulnier pointed out the assistant clerk is responsible for processing between \$650,000 and \$700,000 in automobile excise tax revenue for the town annually.

But the board indicated their preference for offering the job as an unbenefited position.

This matter will also be negotiated with the town employees' union.

Planning Board to Hold Hearings on Proposed Zoning Change

MONTAGUE - The planning board will hold hearings on a number of proposed zoning changes on Tuesday, February 10th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the selectboard meeting room at town hall. Under review are changes to the general business zone that would require residential uses now allowed by right within the zone to be allowed only by special permit in the future. At 6:50 p.m., a hearing will be held on a proposed change to the zoning map on Millers Falls Road. If approved, the change will allow lots on the north side of Millers Falls Road from Norman Circle to the Industrial Park to be rezoned from residential/industrial to commercial, following a recommendation from the town's master plan to create new areas for commercial enterprise along Millers Falls Road.

change will be discussed to require special permit review of proposed alterations to historic buildings, including demolition, and to allow new residential use in the historic industrial zone only as adjuncts to commercial or industrial uses. At 7:40 p.m. a hearing will be held on proposed changes to enlarge the historic industrial zone from the downtown Turners Falls power canal area to include areas around Montague City Road including the Rod Shop property in Montague City.

At 8:00 p.m., a common driveway bylaw will be discussed. The purpose of the bylaw will be to clarify the town's intent to allow common driveways by special permit in order to "enhance public safety by reducing congestion entering and leaving roadways, to conserve land and minimize impacts on agricultural and natural resources."

At 7:20 p.m., a zoning

Town clerk John Zywna reports that nominating papers for the May town elections are now available in his office at town hall for candidates interested in standing for election for the following seats.

2004 Term Expirations

Positions	Incumbents	Party	Term
Selectman	Edward J. Voudren	D	3 yrs
Town Clerk	John J. Zywna, Jr.	D	3
Treas. & Tax Collector	Patricia A. Dion	D	3
Assessor	Norman G. Fuller	D	3
Trustees Public Library	Nancy S. LaPointe	D	3
	Karen Latka	D	3
Park & Rec. Comm.	Linda Ackerman	U	3
Board of Health	Nancy E. Parks-Mleczo	D	3
Tree Warden	Mark A. Stevens	U	3
Mtge. Housing Authority	Robert J. Martin	D	5
Trustees Soldiers Memorial (Vet)	Richard C. Clapp	D	3
	also up for election		1
Gill-Mtge. R. School Committee	Richard T. Colton	R	3
	Mary Kociela	D	3
	Anthony "Tony" Gugielmi	U	3

In addition, at least seven seats for town meeting are up for election in each precinct.

-- Montague -- Recycling Alert

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The Montague DPW will no longer accept shredded paper with recyclables. Selectboard chair Ed Voudren noted that paper is sorted by color as it comes through the recycling line, and shredded paper "gums up the works." If several bags of shredded paper are found in a bin of recyclables, it can cause the whole bin to be sent to the landfill at considerable expense, instead of separated for recycling.

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HIGHWAY continued from pg 1

Kellaher resigned in November of last year in the midst of what he called "a restructuring of the Authority."

Announcing Kellaher's acceptance Monday night, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said, "The town has been through a long, arduous process. Now, our highway department will be back on line." He described Kellaher as a "very hard-working, very knowledgeable" man who comes "highly recommended" for the job. "He has 25 years in highway maintenance," Abbondanzio said.

In his letter of application to the town, Kellaher listed many strengths and qualifications, including his ability to maintain a strong sense of teamwork among his crew. He formerly directed 350 workers, while managing a budget of \$11 million annually. Speaking of his team-building approach, Kellaher said, "My path, if you will, is to let the force know you, to let them know what you can do, and what your limitations are. I like to show what I've learned, and what I still need to learn."

Kellaher has been pursuing a BA in business administration off and on since 1978, and is about 30 credits shy of graduation now at Becker College in Worcester. "But I can complete those credits at any school," he said. He said completing that course of study is a high priority for him personally.

Kellaher plans to commute to his new post in Montague from his home in Fiskdale, located just west of Sturbridge. The 50-odd mile commute doesn't faze him,

though. "I was responsible for highway maintenance on the Turnpike from Route 128 right to the New York line. I'm used to doing a lot of driving," Kellaher said.

Kellaher hopes to come to town to get acquainted the middle of next week.

"My first priority will be to meet with the people I'll be working with directly, to learn the boundaries, the roadways, and go over the to-do list with Frank. Your town has an old infrastructure," said Kellaher. "We'll take it day by day, get a priority list together, and decide how we're going to tackle it."

Kellaher formally takes over his new responsibilities on February 17th, at a starting salary of \$56,712.

Oh, and what kind of odds does Kellaher give the governor's plan to merge the Turnpike Authority with Mass Highway? He replied, "I don't think it's going to fly."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Thursday, January 29th
3:25 p.m. Police received a call from someone witnessing a fight between two kids fighting at the bus stop on Third and L Streets in Turners Falls, from the window of her apartment. The caller said the kids were being egged on by other kids. Police arrived and told the kids to stop fighting. Peace restored.

Friday, January 30th
1:00 p.m. - A woman from Lake Pleasant called police to report 15 of her daughter's prescription painkillers missing. She stated she needed to report it in order to get the prescription refilled. A report was taken.

Saturday January 31st
9:01 a.m. - A resident in Turners Falls called police to report his lost Golden Retriever. Police referred him to the animal control officer.

2:07 p.m.- Police received a call from the Exxon Station in Turners Falls reporting a vehicle driving off without paying for \$18 worth of gas. Police found

the vehicle whose driver said he would go back and pay. He did.

9:41 p.m. - [REDACTED] was stopped for speeding on Second Street in Turners Falls. She was then arrested on charges of driving with a suspended license.

10:39 p.m. - Police received a call from a woman in Lake Pleasant reporting three checks stolen from her checkbook. The woman stated she thought she knew who did it. Police advised her to check with her bank regarding any transaction of the checks. The incident is under investigation.

Sunday, February 1st
1:00 p.m. - Police received a call from a resident in Turners Falls

reporting car keys being taken from his house the night before. He said two radar detectors were taken from the car. The incident is under investigation.

Tuesday, February 3rd
2:46 a.m. - A new renter in Millers Falls called police to report he suspected a large amount of oil was missing from his oil tank. An investigation is being conducted.

11:28 p.m. - Aubuchon Hardware in Turners Falls called to report a carpet machine that was rented and not returned. The store said they repeatedly tried to contact the person who rented the machine but were unsuccessful. A summons will be issued.

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All My Villages

BY P. YORK

While some real-life locations and events are used in the following, all characters are the invention of the author and are in no way intended to resemble actual persons living or deceased.

Part V

If I do the rest of those napkins," Tina asked "can I have another one of these?" The big china mug of hot chocolate was empty and there was a shadow of a whip cream mustache under her nose.

"Okay," said Bridgid. "But how about a little food," she added casually. "Are you a little hungry today maybe?"

"No, I'm fine," Tina said quickly. "I had a big breakfast."

Bridgid doubted that but didn't press it since a few customers came in all at once. The Chief and Coach came in separately, and behind them three teenage girls who tossed their hair and

looked down their noses at Tina as they lined up at the counter asking for change for the bus. Tina was unconcerned with them, seeming more focused on where the Chief was going to sit, and shrinking a little when he slid onto the stool next to her.

"Two of my favorite girls," the Chief said, winking. "That and a cup of java and my day is made."

"That sexist," said Tina haughtily. "Bridgid is not a girl. And you shouldn't be winking at us."

"No winking now?" the Chief exclaimed. "I wink at my wife, at my kids, at my buddies--even my male buddies. Is winking out now, too?"

"Oh, wink all you want," Tina said irritably. "Just wink at somebody else."

"I'd wink at your mother if I ever saw her," retorted the Chief. "When's she gonna come in and talk to me? Doesn't she want her car back?"

Tina didn't answer, just sat dinging her spoon around in her empty cup.

"I'll get you your chocolate, Tina," Bridgid said. "You start on these napkins." But Tina got up and followed her, picking up the pile of napkins as she passed. "Can I do these in the back?" she said crossly.

"Suit yourself," said Bridgid. The Chief looked at her meaningfully,

waiting till Tina disappeared into the back room before he spoke. "We towed her mother's car a week ago. And she's never been in to complain. Hell, she probably doesn't have the money to get it back, but she'd usually come down to complain anyway."

"Well, whatever. You aren't a hit with Tina, that's for sure."

"I'm nice to that kid," he protested. "I've given the kids and her mother breaks, believe me, on more than simple fines, too. But forget it, we're always the bad guy."

"Oh, too bad," said Bridgid. "Hey, who's the Jeff that lives in her building? Does he really work for the Governor?" It suddenly sounded silly



to ask, and the Chief affirmed that by looking blank.

"Nobody I know," he said between slugs of coffee. "But I'd give him an earful if I knew someone who talked to the Governor."

(to be continued)

Monarchs at Great Falls Discovery Center

These regal butterflies are just getting ready to make their incredible annual migration north from the highlands of Mexico to the United States.

Laurie Sanders will present their story with slides at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls

Please join us for the winter program sponsored by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center

Saturday, February 7th, 1 - 3 p.m. Refreshments and good conversation served following the presentation.

For more information contact 413-498-2710.



Field Reports from Mexican Monarch Over-wintering sites

BY BILL CALVERT

ANGANGUEO, MICHOACAN, MEXICO The monarchs will soon be on their way! Warm, dry, cloudless weather has stirred the over-wintering monarch butterflies up to a frenzy. There is much movement of the colonies down slope. Many millions fly through the woodlands each day to take water and nectar, and perhaps to exercise their wing muscles in preparation for their return migration to the north. One gets the impression of swarming—increased activity in preparation for a move. Much mating is going on in the colonies, every step or so pairs litter the ground.

Sierra Chinchua Sanctuary

The head of the Chinchua colony is now at the bottom of the Arroyo Hondo, in the same drainage or depression down from Llano del Toro where it was located in mid-January. The colony itself is spread out about 500 meters along the drainage, and it is very narrow, only about 20-30 meters deep. This is a surface area of about 2 1/2 acres.

The cluster is still very dense. When the butterflies are most densely packed from mid-December to the beginning of February, they number about 5,200,000 per acre!

El Rosario Sanctuary

Much the same activities are also occurring at the Rosario site. However, at El Rosario the butterflies are limited as to how far they can descend the mountain, due to cleared agricultural fields beneath the colony. While at Sierra Chinchua the butterflies may be as low as 8,500 feet, at Rosario they must remain between 9,000 and 9,500 feet. Nothing is known as to what limits these agricultural fields put on butterfly survival. However, it's very clear that the temperatures are much cooler and moisture levels are much lower at Sierra Chinchua than at El Rosario. The agricultural fields beneath the forest clearly increase the heat within the forest. (The overall concern about heat is that it can desiccate the butterflies more quickly.)

Much burning of agricultural

fields is now occurring in and around the butterfly over-wintering areas. There are fires everywhere on mountains around the region. Sheep and cow ranchers burn in order to return nutrients to pastures. They do this during the driest part of the year, believing the nutrients will return to the soil when it finally does rain.

Farmers have probably done this for eons. The effect is to haze up the sky and reduce visibility. What effect, if any, does this practice have on the butterflies? One could argue that the haze lowers temperatures because more solar radiation reflects away from the area. Or one could argue that more heat is retained due to the haze cover. The smoke itself is diffuse, so unless quite near the butterflies, it probably doesn't impact them directly. Fires here aren't as dangerous as they are up north, as they don't seem to crown or get very hot. This is probably because very little dead wood builds up on the forest floor.

(Field report from 1998)



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Frantz-Dale says Farewell to Saint Andrews

BY PATRICIA PRUITT

On Sunday, February 1st, Reverend Heidi Frantz-Dale, Vicar of St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Turners Falls performed her final service and said farewell to her parishioners at a reception held at the church on 7th and Prospect Streets. St. Andrews was Rev. Frantz-Dale's first assignment upon completing her seminary studies. Because St. Andrews is a small church, it is joined to St. James Church of Greenfield in what is called a "yoked" relationship with the larger church. As the priest at St. Andrews, Rev. Frantz-Dale carried the title of Vicar, while the head of St. James bears that of Rector.

Frantz-Dale came to the calling of her ministry while a lay minister at the Grace Church in

Amherst, where she has made her home for 24 years. "It is the policy of the Episcopal Church not to move its priests arbitrarily. Upon completion of the seminary, it is the new priest's first

"God is good and active in Montague, building up a healthy and lively community where people care about each other, where there is vision and a sense of hope."
- Heidi Frantz-Dale

obligation to seek an assignment in her home diocese. Thereafter any move is determined primarily by the question of "fit", both for the priest and the new congregation." She is moving after a lengthy screening process to the New Hampshire diocese, a diocese comprised of 67 churches. In

July, 2003, her name was first submitted to a church called St. Andrews-in-the-Valley, in Tamworth, N.H. The local parish went through extensive self-study to decide what they were looking for, what they lacked. After several sortings of possible candidates, they settled on Frantz-Dale, and she accepted, "because it was a good fit and felt good; it was larger, but not too large." In Tamworth, Frantz-Dale will minister to about 90 people and work in a larger facility with an office and secretary.

St. Andrews of Turners Falls was all about people: from the congregation of approximately 45, to the agencies such as the Survival Center, the teen center, NELCWIT and the Brick House, all of which St. Andrews worked with regularly. Frantz-Dale cited the efforts to support the youth of Turners through providing a meeting place for the Girl Scouts and an elementary music program grant to respond to the cutbacks in public school funding of music education. This grant allowed the church to bring in professional musicians for interactive concerts for kids and their parents.

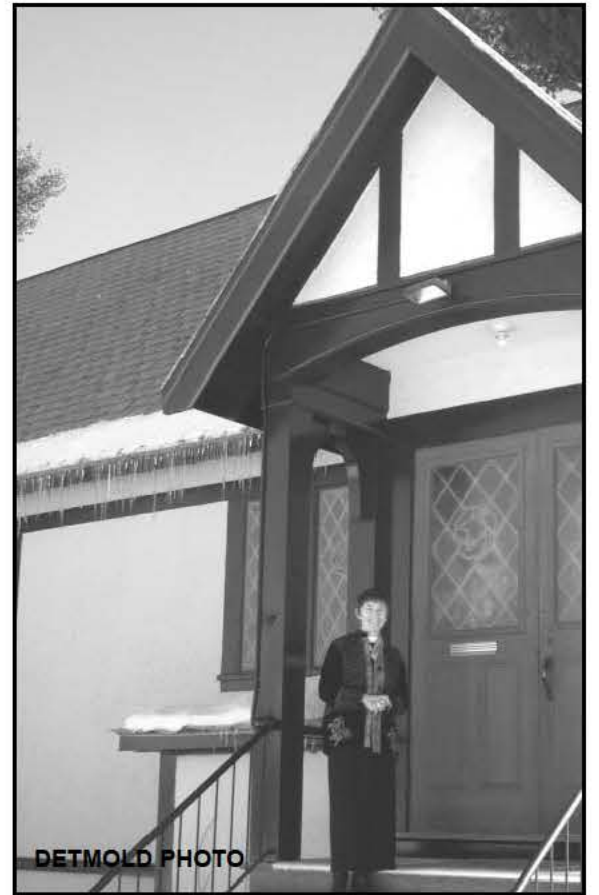
What is unique to St. Andrews of Turners Falls is the number of families who have

three or four generations active in the parish. Frantz-Dale felt she had enjoyed a satisfying level of closeness with the Turners congregation, and was hoping to be able to build that in her next assignment. Her new St. Andrews consists of mid-life and retired people and local elderly people. It is a rural area where people come to visit and decide to stay. Like Turners it has an active theater called the Barnstormers Theater.

She asked to leave a message to the town of Montague and the village of Turners Falls:

"God is good and active in

Montague, building up a healthy and lively community where people care about each other, where there is vision and a sense of hope. As new life comes in and things turn around, churches are part of it all."



Reverend Heidi Frantz-Dale is leaving one St. Andrew's for another

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Faith Baptist Church, 331 Silver Street, Greenfield, 774-6438
Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.,
Wednesday Adult Bible Study 7 p.m. Youth Bible Club at 6:45 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Turners Falls, 10 Prospect, Turners, 863-9083
Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Christian Science

First Church of Christ Scientist, 110 Federal St., Greenfield, 773-9765
Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons)
25 Bank Row, Greenfield, 772-8514 Sunday at 10 a.m.

Congregational

Gill Congregational Church, Main Rd., 863-8613 Sunday at 10 a.m.
First Congregational Church, 19 Bridge St., Millers Falls, 659-3430 Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Bible study Wed. at 7 p.m.

Episcopal

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Seventh and Prospect St., Turners, 863-4602 Sunday at 9 a.m.

Friends (Quakers)

Mount Toby Monthly Meeting of Friends, Rte. 63, Leverett, 548-9188 Sunday at 10 a.m.

Jewish

Temple Israel, 27 Pierce St., Greenfield, 773-5884 Friday at 6 p.m. (first weekend of the month) and Saturday at 9:30

a.m.; schedule does vary, it is advisable to call in advance

Lutheran

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 23 Long Ave., Greenfield, 773-5242 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Nondenominational

Grace Church, 41 K St., Turners, 863-2771 Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

National Spiritual Alliance
2 Montague Ave., Lake Pleasant, 367-0138 Sunday at 1 p.m.

Unity in the Pioneer Valley Church
401 Chapman Street, Guiding Star Grange, 625-2960; Sunday at 10 a.m.

Roman Catholic

Our Lady of Czestochowa, 84 K St., Turners, 863-4748 Saturday at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.;

Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Monday at 8 a.m.; and Tuesday-Friday at 5:30 p.m. (Confession one half hour prior to mass)

St. Anne's, J St., Turners, 863-4678

Sunday at 8 a.m. and daily at 7 a.m. through February
St. John's, 5 Church St., Millers Falls, 659-3435 Saturday at 4:15 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

St. Mary's of the Assumption, 80 Seventh St., Turners, 863-2585 Saturday at 4 p.m. and weekdays at 7 a.m. through October

Salvation Army

72 Chapman St., Greenfield, 773-3154 Sunday at 11 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist

All Souls, 399 Main St.,

Greenfield, 773-5018 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

First Parish Unitarian, Main St., Northfield, 498-5566 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

United Church of Christ

Evangelical Congregational Church (UCC), 11 Church St., Erving (978) 544-8658

First Congregational Church (UCC), 4 North St., Montague Ctr., 367-9467 Sunday at 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Turners Falls (UCC), 148 L St., Turners, 863-9844 Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

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NEWS FROM THE MONTAGUE GRANGE

BY MICHAEL MULLER

Last night (February 4th) the Montague Grange meeting opened informally in the downstairs of the hall over mugs of thick decaf, with cheese and crackers and a teacup auction waiting in the wings for afters. (I won some great sockeye salmon.) It's been a while since I've updated you on what we've been up to. Here are some highlights.

At the December meeting we had a holiday sing-a-long with baked goods and two guitars, and collected toys and clothing for Kurn Hatten, a Vermont home for children from troubled families. In regular business we voted to host the local Boy Scout troop, who will meet every Thursday evening downstairs. We began discussions of a benefit concert for Ashfield's biodiesel wizard Tom Leue and the Montague 250th Anniversary parade. More on that in a moment.

At the January meeting we voted to host the new 4H club in

the hall. They will meet every Tuesday from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. The 4-H group is called the 4-H Heritage Farming Club, and will focus on heritage breeds of chickens, sheep and goats, spinning and textiles, and hatching chicks. The National Grange started 4H decades ago and now it has all but disappeared. Thankfully 4H has started a comeback, and we are very happy to have them in our hall.

At the February meeting, just last night, we continued our discussion of the Montague 250th Anniversary parade, and the year's festivities in general. Montague Grange has many musicians and we plan to have a float of some kind for our all-comers-style band, playing a variety of jigs and reels.

Our treasurer reported that Allen Ross, organizer of the annual New Years Day Road Race, donated \$500 of the proceeds money to the Grange. \$500 also went each to the MC Fire Department, the Congregational Church and the

Mt Grace Land Trust. The Grange is proud to host the race every year and this year worked with MCTV to produce a tape of the event, which has been airing on channel 15 lately.

Also discussed was the upcoming benefit concert for Ashfield biodiesel manufacturer Tom Leue on Sunday, February 29th, at 7:00 p.m. His garage burned down last year in a biodiesel production accident.

On Thursday, February 12th, Karen Werner and I will present part one of a two-part series on Voting and Democracy in America. Part one will review what happened in 2000 and provide ways of taking action if you feel so moved. The video "Unprecedented: the 2000 Election" will be shown and followed by a discussion. Part two, being held on Thursday March 11th, will discuss electronic voting machines and will include some video as well. Look to this paper for more details in the coming weeks.

Late Hours and Beer and Wine at the Lady Killigrew



Publicans Sarah Reid and Matthew Latkiewicz

BY MICHAEL MULLER

With a shout and "Yo Ho!" I was greeted on Wednesday (2/4) by the patrons at the Lady Killigrew, happily savoring their various vessels of porter, saki, wine or "Dead Guys Ale." This was no ordinary bar, this was the Lady after all. It was the first night of their late night beer and wine licensed hours. The café now serves until 10 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays; til midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

Sarah and Matthew deserve an ovation for creating the jewel by the falls. I shall make mine heard by the sound of my just-emptied pint glass thudding to the bar top. Join me!

An Action Plan for the Millers River Watershed

BY DOUG TURNER

ATHOL - Do you know where your vernal pools are?

In Hubbardston a group of citizen activists took to the woods and located an abundance of these sometimes wet, sometimes dry areas that play an important role in identifying the sources of water in a watershed.

It's the kind of information that will be needed to form a comprehensive Millers River Watershed Action Plan, and it's the kind of contribution that just about anyone who likes to hike in the woods can make.

It's not the only information that will be needed of course. There are other factors which might take a more specialized experience, or in some cases just simple familiarity with a given region. For instance - open space.

The data on open space in the

17 town Millers River Watershed, which stretches from Ashburnham, in northern Worcester County where the river originates, to Montague where it runs into the Connecticut River, is incomplete.

The Five Year Watershed Action Plan was the subject of the first of four meetings, held Wednesday night, that will take place between now and June 30th, at the Millers River Environmental Center (MREC) on Main Street in Athol.

Funded by a grant from the state's Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, it is the goal of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), the Millers River Watershed Advisory Committee and the environmental center, which provides a centrally located forum.

At Wednesday's meeting Kimberly Noake MacPhee, Natural Resources Program Manager for the FRCOG, presented an overview of the watershed using data compiled from the Geographic Information System (GIS).

Assisted by Ryan Clary, the GIS system displayed a complex but beautiful lacework of streams, brooks, ponds and filtering wetlands that serve the Millers River watershed.

The system was able to show everything from contouring lines, to illustrate how the water originated in higher elevations, to the composition of soil at the sources of groundwater.

However even with that there is more information needed.

Such information is being sought from public officials, land trusts, citizen/volunteer monitoring groups, watershed

associations, businesses, farm groups, builders, realtors, and hunting and sporting organizations to name a few.


The aim is to identify priority issues in the watershed and develop strategies to protect, improve and restore the watershed's natural resources and recreational opportunities.

When data is assembled it will be analyzed and summarized in a State of the Millers River Watershed: Draft Natural Resources Assessment Report. The report will include five GIS maps to support and illustrate the summaries and evaluations: Ecosystem Integrity and Biological Diversity; Water Resources and Wildlife Habitat; Protected Open Space and Current & Potential Public Access; Growth Trends; and Non-point Source Pollution Assessment.

Using the Draft Assessment Report the FRCOG, MREC and the advisory committee will develop a list of priority actions.

Up to three public forums will follow, and telephone interviews with interested parties will be used to encourage and obtain public review of the suggested priority actions, and to assist in the development of the plan.

Those interested in seeking additional information about the plan, or finding how they may contribute to the effort can contact: Kimberly Noake MacPhee at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, 413-774-1194 Ext.103, or Nick Wisniewski, Program Coordinator at the Millers River Environmental Center, (978) 248-9491, www.millersriver.net.



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TOWER

continued from pg 5

visited spots as the Wendell Country Store, Wendell town common, Maple Valley and Swift River schools, and on top of Lockes Hill at the proposed tower site. I made the argument that since cell phone coverage is already provided to Wendell by Sprint from cell phone towers in north Wendell near Route 2 and from surrounding towns, the least intrusive option for AT&T Wireless to provide coverage would be for them to co-locate their transmitters on those already existing cell towers. My survey was dismissed out-of-hand as "anecdotal evidence" by John Keene, a lawyer hired by AT&T Wireless. Keene adamantly refused to consider my suggestion for co-locating their transmitters on existing cell towers (a common practice in the cell phone industry).

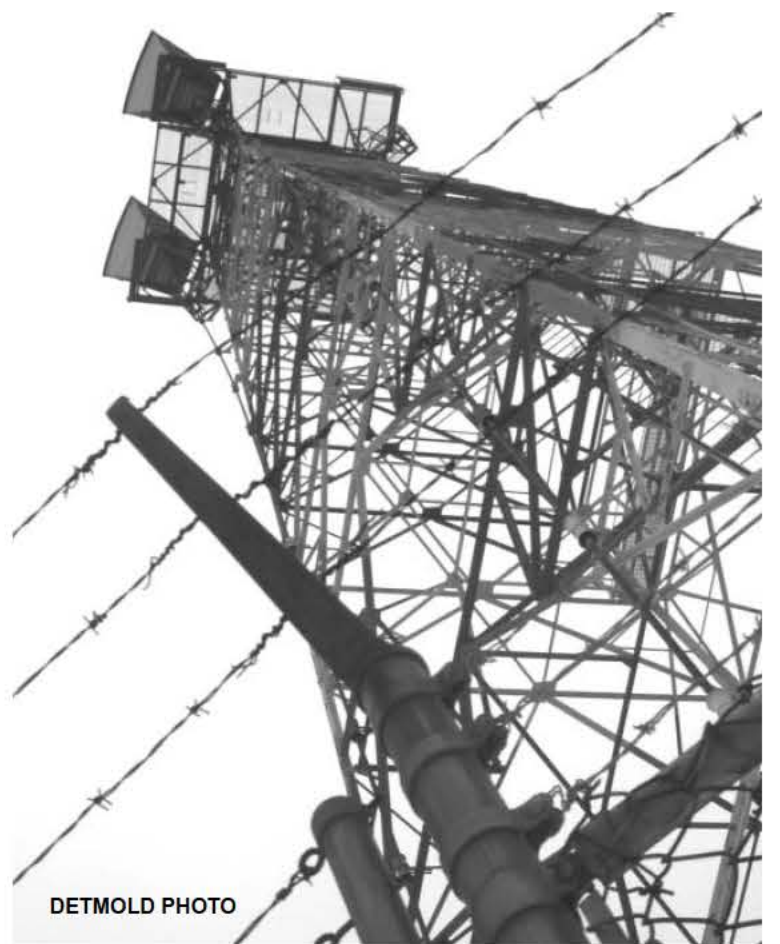
What frustrates me is the entire hearing process has been rigged by the federal government. The most important issues that affect the lives of local townspeople can't even be discussed at an official meeting. The federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (written by lobbyists for the multi-billion dollar telecommunications industry) that regulates the siting of cell phone towers prohibits localities from addressing health and safety concerns. In fact, the very mention of health concerns in a hearing could be cause for overturning a negative decision by a local board. Towns can only rule on very narrow siting issues.

To educate people in Wendell about the possible health dangers of cell towers, I've been showing at informal gatherings a video,

"Public Exposure: DNA, Democracy, and The Wireless Revolution," produced by the Council on Wireless Technology Impacts, a California-based grassroots citizen group. This one-hour video documentary examines the increased risks of cancers from microwave radiation emitted by cell towers as discussed by scientists, doctors, and former cell phone industry technicians whose reports have been censored by the cell phone industry. While a direct link between cell towers, personal cell phone use, and cancer is hard to conclusively prove, enough doubts have been raised by credible voices to make a strong case to slow down this rapid race to expand what might later prove to be a very dangerous, albeit very convenient, technology.

In 1999, the Wendell town meeting passed a "precautionary principle" article that states, "when an activity raises the threat of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not established scientifically." This should serve as a guide to the ZBA.

With solid opposition to the Locke Hill cell tower proposal by Wendell townspeople (including strong statements voiced at Monday's hearing by many people from the 12 households within 1000 feet of the tower), acknowledgments by the ZBA that the proposal violates Wendell's bylaws, a statement by Wendell's building inspector recommending against granting a variance, and suggestions for other less intrusive options to provide cell phone coverage, I was beginning to feel there was a high likelihood that this proposal would be turned down by the Wendell ZBA. However, with the lawyer for AT&T Wireless putting pressure on the board for



DETMOLD PHOTO

a prompt final decision, William Solomon, the lawyer hired by the town of Wendell from funds supplied by AT&T Wireless who had been putting up a rigorous defense of Wendell's interests throughout the meeting, was suddenly, at the end of the meeting, talking about a "win-win" scenario for all parties. He described his concept of a "win-win" scenario in which AT&T Wireless would remove the visually objectionable blinking light and old relay "horns" on top of the tower in exchange for approval of the cell phone transmitters.

In my view, this is certainly not a "win-win" for the majority will of the people of Wendell, who don't want the eyesore of an old microwave tower, much less have it reactivated as a second cell phone tower in town.

I urge all Wendell residents to attend the next meeting of the Wendell ZBA on Thursday,

February 12th at 7 p.m. at the Wendell town hall where there will be a final vote on the cell phone tower proposal.

The real issue here is: does our democracy mean anything? Will our local government officials uphold the spoken and legal will of the people (as written in our bylaws) or will they cave in to big-monied interests? The big unspoken fear is that if the cell tower proposal is turned down, AT&T Wireless might sue the town, which could turn into an expensive legal battle for Wendell. Are we going to allow ourselves to be bullied by a huge corporation? What is the price of democracy?

Robbie Leppzer, an independent documentary filmmaker, has lived in Wendell for 14 years. For more information, contact him at: robbie@turningtide.com.

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SHOWTIMES FOR FRI. FEB. 6TH - THURS. FEB. 12TH

1	ALONG CAME POLLY	PG
	DAILY: 6:00 9:00	
	MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00	
2	MIRACLE	PG in DTS sound
	DAILY: 6:00 9:00	
	MAT SAT, SUN, WED 3:00	
3	CALENDAR GIRLS	PG 13
	DAILY: 6:00 9:00	
	MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:00 3:00	
4	BIG FISH	PG13
	DAILY: 6:15 9:15	
	MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15	
5	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE	PG13
	DAILY: 6:15 9:15	
	MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:15 3:15	
6	CATCH THAT KID	PG in DTS sound
	DAILY: 6:30 9:30	
	MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:30 3:30	
7	BARBERSHOP 2	PG13 in DTS sound
	DAILY: 6:30 9:30	
	MAT SAT, SUN, WED 12:30 3:30	

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

compiled by Bette Black

Saturday, February 7th

The Wendell Full Moon Coffee House presents a World Music Dance Party with the Pangeans! This 7-piece band of extra-talented Valley musicians performs Samba/Salsa/Calypto/ African/Latin music. So if the winter blues have got you down, come out to Wendell Town Hall, where it will be hot and smokin'! Partial proceeds benefit the Wendell Fire Association. All ages welcome. For info call Chris Marano (978) 544-0240

Fri/Sat, February 6th & 7th

Area Churches Presents: *God and Country* - A Musical Celebration At the Shea Theater located at 71 Avenue A in Turners Falls. 413-863-2281

Sat/Sun February 7th & 8th

Yankee Candle Fudge Festival - the Fudge Fest Challenge (at noon and 3:00 p.m.), fudge sampling, and fudge-making seminars (10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.) conducted by both Yankee Candle and Historic Deerfield. Held at the Yankee Candle Flagship Store located on Routes 5 & 10 in South Deerfield. 877-636-7707

Sunday February 8th

Temple Israel Presents - Tu B'Shevat, Tikum Olam, and Tzar Ba'aley Hayim Compassion for All Living Things A community education program for adults and children and a seder for Tu B'Shevat. Activities include: make beds, food and toys to help the animals at the Pioneer Valley Humane Society, adult teachings about Tu B'Shevat, stories for children, and more. Held at Temple Israel located on Pierce Street in Greenfield. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 413-774-7254

Sunday February 15th

World Wide Vigil for Peace. Gather at sunset on Bridge in Shelburne Falls

ONGOING

Now: Women's Songwriting Group

The Turners Falls Women's Resource Center at 148 L Street is hosting a free singer/songwriters' group for women, offering the opportunity to create and record your own original song onto a compilation cd that you get to keep. Professional singer/songwriter Robin Lane will guide the process. For more information or to sign up for this group, call Carol at the TFWRC at 863-4805.

Now through Feb. 8th

African Artistry: Insight and Imagination, A showcase of the Museum's impressive collection of African art, both recent acquisitions as well as loans, from Smith College alumnae collectors. Smith College Museum of Art. Museum hours are

Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday noon to 4 p.m.; closed Mondays.

Now Through Feb. 27th

Transitions: Prints & Drawings by Jack Coughlin at the William Blizzard Gallery at Springfield College. A public reception for the artist will be held Sunday, Feb. 1st from 2 to 4 p.m. The gallery is located on the corner of Alden St. and Wilbraham St. behind parking lot 2.

Now through April 4th

In Focus: A Brief History of Photography -to complement a Spring '04 Smith College course entitled, "The History of Photography." This exhibition will highlight the deep resources of the museum's photography collection in a survey of photographic prints from a variety of artists, cultures, and techniques dating from the early 1840s to the present. Smith College Museum of Art. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday: noon to 4 p.m.

Every Tuesday

Argentine Tango Classes The River Garden, 157 Main St, Brattleboro-6:30 - 8:30pm : beginner lesson, 8:00 - 9:30pm : advanced lesson, 9:30 - 10:30pm : late-night practice Beginners & drop-ins always welcome!! \$10 class, \$3 practice or \$12 both 50% discount with student ID

News Flashes

From the Hot Spot

Through February 13th:

Friday 6th: Skate Trip free trip to local skate park. We leave the Teen Center at 3:30 p.m. and return at 8p.

Monday 9th: Writing Workshop 6:00 - 8:00, Advisory Committee 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday 10th, Avenue A Music Project 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Advisory Committee 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday 11th, Avenue A Music Project 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Open Studio 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday 12th, Movie Night 6:00 8:00 p.m.

Friday 13th, Shelburne Falls Open Mic. 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Advisory Committee

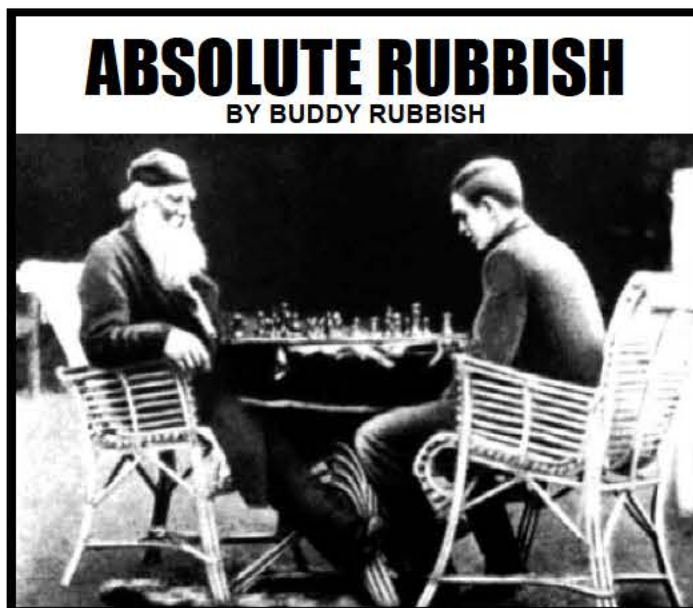
Have a say in what happens at the teen center and help organize events you're interested in.

Open Studio- Hang out with friends and make art and music.

Avenue A Music Project - In this free 18 week long program, we'll work together to record a CD. All styles of music are welcome.

Programs at the Hot Spot are free and open to all Montague teens.

For more information contact *J e r r e m y* at 863-9852



ABSOLUTE RUBBISH

BY BUDDY RUBBISH

Buddy works on his lawn

Not a lot of room for the Patriots this week, but dance around a little, call friends and family who don't live here and gloat a bit. We've all earned it...

Baseball Birthdays

Henry Aaron is 70 this Thursday. Hammerin' Hank is number one all-time in two things. 755 home runs and 2300 RBI. He's also third all-time in hits, third in games played, ninth in doubles, seventh in World Series batting average, hitting over .300 fourteen times, including .355 in 1959, with 39 homers and 46 doubles, his 400 total bases leading the National League, or 1963, when he led the NL in slugging

average (.586), homers (44), runs (121) and RBI (130), while hitting .319 and stealing 31 bases. A clutch hitter his whole career, Aaron hit .393 in the '57 World Series, with 3 homers and 7 RBI to beat Mantle, Ford, Berra, and the Yankees, who had taken home the champion rings in five of the previous seven World Series. Henry Louis averaged 36 homers a year in a 20-year span, retiring in 1977 with the big 755. He led the NL in homers only four times in his 23-year career, his biggest homer total coming in 1971 when he smacked 47, but Willie Stargell hit his career high 48 that year. Hank Aaron also stole 240 bases in a great career.

His .342 lifetime batting average often forgotten, Babe Ruth was the greatest baseball player ever. Born February 6th 1895 in Baltimore, Ruth could have won 7 Triple Crowns. In 1921, Ruth hit .378/59/171, but Detroit's Harry Heilmann hit .394.

In 1923, Babe had 41 homers, 131 RBI, and hit .393, but Heilmann hit .403 that year. Then in 1926, .372/47/145, but Heinie Manush hit .378, etc. the Babe had a curse too. Slugging over .700 nine times, over .800 twice, Ruth led the AL in homers twelve of fourteen straight years, in slugging percent thirteen of fourteen years. And that all happened after his first six full years as a pitcher, lifetime 94-46, 2.28 ERA, in 1916 going 23-12, 1.75 ERA with nine shutouts, and 1917, 24-13, 2.01 ERA and 35 complete games. And in 31 World Series innings pitched, Babe was 3-0 with a 0.87 ERA. Due to a workout ethic similar to David Wells, the Babe's production dove in 1935, and cigars killed him thirteen years later in New York City.

Mookie Wilson is 48 on Monday 2/9, Lenny Nails Dykstra is 41 on Tuesday, and Brian Daubach, re-signed for this year with the Red Sox, is 32 on Wednesday.

CREATIVE WRITERS COFFEEHOUSE
Free writers workshop at Hot Spot Teen Center February 9th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 Come in for a hot beverage, relax and do some fun writing exercises with friends. If you write a lot or even if you don't like writing at all, come and tell us why and how! Bring any writing that you would like to share and your favorite pen or pencil.
 This workshop is made possible by the Brick House Community Resource Center. For questions and information call Paula at 863-9852 or stop by the Hot Spot at 177 Avenue A., Turners Falls.

VARIETY SHOW / OPEN MIC
Free youth performance at Hot Spot Teen Center February 20th, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
 Bring your band, your unique talent, comedy act, or original writing to perform - or just sit back and watch the show!
 The variety show is a project of the Teen Center Advisory Committee, made up by local youth and supported by the Brick House Community Resource Center. Avenue A Music Project CDs will be available for sale, along with homemade baked goods, with all proceeds benefiting the ongoing Music Project. The CD is the result of over 10 weeks of dedicated work by local teens. All music and artwork for this limited edition CD was created by local youth who participated in the Avenue A Music Project last fall. For more information about the show, contact Jeremy or Paula at 863-9852.

Tax-saving investment strategies



Jack Vadnais, Infinex Investment Executive, 413-774-3191

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BY KAREN WILKINSON

Unity Park in winter



DETMOLD PHOTO

Whither Do Ye Wander?

BY MEG BOWMAN

What could be better than walking alone in Unity Park of a Sunday morning? The snow is boot-top high in spots, and there are not even any dog walkers though the tracks tell of many before. The ice on the river has been so aggressive that there's open water only near the dam, and one narrow, duck-filled canal along the bank.

Though not fond of the cold

that gave the gift, it is great to be favored with such a close-up view of the feathered ones floating there. Twenty-two mute swans come crowding toward shore (do they expect a handout or are they preparing to defend their space?) I move on toward the five pairs of mallards talking among themselves a safe distance away. They are accompanied by the duck I've been calling goosey-gander, but now find that Roger Tory

Peterson's guide insists is a domestic variation of a Muscovy duck. He (she?) sits high in the water, seeming to feel his own dignity, though I know him to be a social bird, having been seen at different times with ducks, Canada geese and the swans.

Farther out in the water is gathered a flotilla of Canada geese and on the ice numerous gulls congregate, including what appears to be black

backed ones, whether greater or lesser I don't know.

On up the park, I look across the ice to see children and dogs romping near the ice fishing shacks, seven in all (shacks, not children and dogs). I wade out of the snow banks, climb First St. to Third and on to Park and down to Seventh, then home. I find only sparrows in the hedges--but it's a good stretch of legs.

New Hours for Survival Center

The thrift shop at the Franklin Area Survival Center will now be open on the first Saturday of every month, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The new hours were added in response to demand from working customers who have difficulty making it to the popular thrift shop during its regular 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday hours. The neighboring Food Pantry is open Monday through Friday, 10:00 to 1:30 p.m. Both facilities are located at 96 4th Street in Turners Falls.



Happy Birthday Edna! Keep on smilin'!

Deerfield High School - Whole School Reunion

The committee for the whole school reunion of Deerfield High School Classes of 1925-1959 will hold a work session to prepare for the upcoming Deerfield High School reunion in August, 2004.

Participants from each graduating class and those who attended Deerfield High School are invited to volunteer at a work session to help update their class lists. Plans for the upcoming reunion will be made.

The work session will meet Thursday, February 12th, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. in the Frontier Regional School Cafeteria on North Main Street in South Deerfield, MA. For more information, call 665-2992.

Montague 250th Parade

The 250th Parade Committee for the Town of Montague recently met and has some exciting news!

Just in case you were not aware of the details, the parade will be held on Sunday, May 23rd with a kickoff time of 1:00 p.m. The parade route has been determined with a "Bridge to Bridge" route. Formation will take place down in the area of the Farren Care Center and the parade will end at First Street, with some disbanding at Unity Park. There is an ever growing number of floats and participants with a wonderful selection of marching bands and added attractions that are sure to please everyone.

The number of local entries will be ample, but those units such as bands that require funding remain a challenge. The 250th Parade Committee welcomes donations from not only the business community, but also residents or neighbors who wish to help insure success.

For any questions, offers of help or funding sources, feel free to contact Linda Ackerman at 863-4316 (work) or 367-9567 (home) Thank you, and don't forget to save this date. Tell one and all

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