



WENDELL TURNS OUT

To Mourn Molly's Passing
Page 9

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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 15

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 13, 2011

Montague Saved Half Mil on Police Station Project

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY

The public safety building committee made its final report to the selectboard on Monday night. Committee member Deb Radway, with co-chairs Pam Hanold and Jay DiPucchio, told the board the new police station came in on time and substantially under budget – saving the taxpayers nearly half a million dollars off the original estimate.

Hanold reported the final cost for the building was \$5,109,316.74, which was \$485,683.26 less than the amount the committee had been authorized to spend by town meeting and townwide referendum. Hanold said taxpayers would see that savings reflected in their tax bills, as the town will reduce the amount of borrowing needed to finance the project over time.

Hanold credited the hard work of her committee members, who approached the project with a "Get it Done, We Need this Building," attitude, along with the grant writing

efforts of police chief Ray Zukowski and fire chief Ray Godin, who combined to bring in about half of the money saved.

Chief Zukowski wrote and received a \$200,000 competitive state grant from funds set aside by the legislature to fund police station renovations and construction. Additionally, Zukowski and Godin teamed up to bring in an \$85,000 Homeland Security grant to buy an emergency generator to be shared by both departments. Zukowski also secured a \$26,000 grant to buy furniture for the new police station.

"Plus, we added on a \$30,000 car port not originally in the budget," Hanold noted.

The car port would have been needed eventually, Hanold said, but the committee was able to get it built and still come in close to a half million dollars under budget for the overall project.

"We were lucky and hit see **SAVED** pg 5

Saturating the Grocery Market



DETMOLD PHOTO

"This development will hit our store the hardest. We are not a chain."

Jason Deane, co-owner of Fosters Supermarket, testifying on the impacts of 'Store W' at the Greenfield planning board.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GREENFIELD - Jason Deane, co-owner of Foster's Supermarket, told the Greenfield planning board hearing a special permit request for a 135,000 square foot super store on

the French King Highway, "I'm not looking for protection from any governmental board or commission. But this development will hit our store the hardest. We have ten competitors already. We are not a

chain."

Deane made his remarks last Thursday as the planning board weighed competing studies – one from the developer, one a 'peer review' commissioned by the board itself, and one

from anti-WalMart activist Al Norman on behalf of Greenfield abutters. All three studies analyzed the economic and fiscal impact of the proposed super store on Greenfield and the surrounding market area.

The developer's study, performed by RKG Associates of Dover, NH, found the city of Greenfield would enjoy a net gain of \$117,000 in revenue from property taxes from the new super store, after subtracting the added costs to town departments and the expected impact of the super store on commercial property values in town.

The peer analysis, performed by Larry Koff and Associates of Brookline, found a possible net revenue gain for Greenfield of between \$126,000 and \$165,000 from the new development.

Norman's study found a net loss to Greenfield's tax income of \$132,000 from the super store – or \$173,000 assuming a 10% decline in values for the 120 homes closest to the super store due to

see **SATURATED** pg 8

Montague Selectboard Given Power to Terminate Contract with Erving

BY DAVID DETMOLD

On Thursday, Montague town meeting members gave the Montague selectboard the power to terminate or revise a 38-year-old contract with the town of Erving governing the joint usage of the town of Erving's wastewater treatment plant in Erving.

By an overwhelming majority, the elected precinct representatives in Montague agreed with the selectboard's argument that the board may need to terminate or amend the contract with Erving in a timely fashion, without returning to annual town meeting for further authorization.

The contract requires Montague to pay a share of capital expenses for maintaining the Erving sewer plant – which processes sewage pumped beneath the Millers River from the village of Millers Falls in Montague along with sewage from the Erving side of the river – in

proportion to the amount of flow Montague contributes.

Now that the International Paper Mill in Erving is closed, Montague is contributing about 50% of the flow to the treatment plant, according to Erving town administrator Tom Sharp.

Over the last few years, the town of Erving approved and financed a \$5.6 million renovation of the Erving treatment plant. It was not until that project was substantially completed that the Erving selectboard uncovered a copy of the 1973 contract with Montague. Last fall, the Erving board wrote to the selectboard in Montague, asking for a meeting to determine how to share the costs of the recent upgrades, in light of the contract's stipulation.

The town of Montague took the position that without advance notification, Montague was unable to

seek grants or determine whether the scope of improvements was in their town's best interest.

Erving initially sought a payment based on 50% of the total cost of the renovation – or \$2.3 million, which Montague's town administrator calculated would cost the town of Montague \$230,000 a year over 20 years to pay off, on top of the \$166,000 in annual sewer user fees Montague is already paying to Erving.

The meeting of the two boards was finally held on December 16th. Erving selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin offered to drop the annual payments for Montague for capital improvements at the treatment plant to \$70,000. Goodwin also proposed charging Montague \$12,000 to share the cost of environmental supervisor Art Pace's salary, since 40% of Pace's salary is attributable to the work he

see **TERMINATE** pg 13

DARE TO THRIVE



JAMIE BERGER PHOTO

Chris Boutwell accessing the internet at Thrive

BY LIZ CARTER

TURNERS FALLS - If you had to measure it, what parts of your life would you weigh to determine your quality of life? What makes you happy?

The measures of quality of life used in international development rely heavily on GDP – the idea being that money creates health, education, and opportunity. But recent research suggests that after reaching a certain income (around \$75,000 annually), addi-

tional wealth does nothing to increase peoples' day-to-day feelings of emotional well-being. Sometimes, due to a phenomenon called the 'hedonic treadmill' (where, essentially, the more money you have the more you want, leading to increased dissatisfaction), wealth can detract from a person's quality of life by robbing them of the ability to live in the moment.

This is good news to those of us living in

Turners Falls. With 42% of our households earning less than \$30,000 per year, most of us won't be blinded by money as we look out for that good life. We don't have to fear being battered in the struggle to chase down that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Most of us are too busy struggling to get by.

But maybe you've got a good job that wears you out, so your talents are left simmering on the back burner and your social networks in the freezer. Maybe you're out of work and losing your values as you pass your time underutilized and worrying about the bills. You don't need to be rich to be happy, but you do need something.

"For some, it's a career, or owning a business," said Jamie Berger, executive director of the Thrive Project, a new non-profit designed to help area young adults tackle this question. "For others it's a happy family life, for others it's a pastime that offers

see **THRIVE** pg 10

PET OF THE WEEK Affectionate



Belladonna

My name is Belladonna and I'm an 11-year-old longhair cat in need of a good home. I'm in my prime, a cheerful and affectionate lady. You won't believe I'm 11 when you meet me - I'm social, spunky and everything a cat in her prime should be. I'm exceptionally beautiful with my muted tortie markings. My needs are simple: I'm looking for a warm home where I'll be respected and loved, yummy food (I love food!), and a nice window to watch the world go by. Now, I am afraid of children, but I will be a happy, loving presence in a home with adults, perhaps retirees (I'll leave you to entertain the grandkids if that's okay with you, though). You know petting me will lower your blood pressure, and it will surely make me purr with joy. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dphs.org.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6
Tionne Brown
Grade 7
Ryan Lenois
Grade 8
Kelly Rehorka
Justin Giguere

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LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS Editor Talks on Tuesday

On Tuesday, January 18th, at 7:00 p.m., David Detmold, editor of the *Montague Reporter*, will talk about the frustrations and joys of small town news gathering in the 21st Century, and how to work towards a better standard

of coverage for the town of Leverett in the years to come.

Questions and comments are encouraged. An effort will be made to keep the hubbub down, to preserve the peace of library patrons.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Wildlife Filmmaker Presents Short Films

Wild View: New England Wildlife comes to Wendell Free Library on Friday, January 21st, at 7 p.m. The award-winning Montague filmmaker Christian Muñoz-Donoso of Equilibrio Films will show and discuss his stunning ultra high definition footage of wildlife and their New England habitats in this series of free short films.

Muñoz-Donoso, a native of Chile, co-founded Chile's first bird of prey rehabilitation center with the Unión de Ornitólogos de Chile, and pioneered the rehabilitation and release efforts for mountain lions injured through accident or illegal poaching activity with the Comité Nacional Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora, an organization focused on wildlife conservation and education.

In the late 1990s, he co-produced the television show *Super Salvaje* (Super Wild). The series aired in primetime for two seasons on Chilean National television and featured

footage of Chile's diverse wildlife.

It was during this time that Muñoz-Donoso filmed the documentary that would garner praise from three major film festivals - *Atacama: the Flowering Desert* - an up close look into life in one of the harshest climates on the planet.

Atacama was aired on television in over 100 countries around the world.

In 2001, Muñoz-Donoso, along with his company, Equilibrio Films, moved to the United States and settled in Montague. With the latest digital filmmaking technology, he continues to film breathtaking beauty in wildlife. *Wild View* is New England's first wildlife documentary filmed in Ultra-High Definition, providing the sharpest images available. Don't miss this free, spectacular viewing experience.

For more information on this and other library programs, call the Wendell Free Library at 978-544-3559.

Montague Renaissance Fair Auditions

Mutton and Mead, Montague's Medieval Festival, seeks actors, singers, minstrels, and other creative types at an audition and open house on Sunday, January 23rd, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Montague Grange hall, for "Thieves of Honor," a Robin Hood-themed Renaissance Fair to be held on June 18th in Turners Falls.

Actors should come with a two minute monologue and be prepared to participate in some improvisational activities. Not looking for a major role? We are

also seeking extras for "depth and color" and will provide training. If you sing or play an instrument please bring it and a song to present.

Not an actor, but still interested in helping bring our medieval village to life? Mutton and Mead is also seeking volunteers, craftspeople, merchants, theater crew, designers and carpenters, independent acts, interns and staff. Just contact us or stop by on audition day.

For more info, contact Mik Muller at 413-320-5336, or www.MuttonAndMead.com

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - January 17th - January 21st

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine. AARP tax preparation appointments are available now for February and March. Call the Senior Center to sign up.

Monday, January 17th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
12:00 Noon Potluck lunch &

bingo
No Knitting Circle
Tuesday, January 18th
No Yoga until 1/25
1:00 p.m. Canasta
Wednesday, January 19th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, January 20th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, January 21st
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For information and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can



Cuban Music Heats up the New Year at the Route 63 Roadhouse

Traditional Cuban music was on tap at the Route 63 Roadhouse on the afternoon of January 2nd when the *Septeto Típico Tivoli* returned for a standing room only performance. It was a dancing room only crowd once the propulsive, conga-powered salsa got cooking. Where else can you find music like this in Millers Falls? Nowhere!

Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from the Gill-Montague Bridge dedication booklet, published for the ribbon cutting ceremonies that took place on Saturday, September 10th, 1938.

- During the original construction of the Gill Montague Bridge, the heaviest unit member shipped here by the Phoenix Company weighed 19 tons.
- The expansion joints allow for a 16-inch length variance, between 20 degrees below zero, and 120 degrees above

More bridge facts next week!

Northfield Chateau Visits GSB

TURNERS FALLS - Did you ever want to visit a castle? Well, now you can.

The Northfield Chateau comes to life once again in a breathtaking ceramic model provided by Jack Nelson, a local expert on this past Northfield wonder.

Nelson will have the replica of the Chateau on display at the Turners Falls office of Greenfield Savings from January 10th thru January 21st.

Nelson will provide an "Open Chateau," so to speak, on Friday, January 14th from noon to 3 p.m. in the bank's community room. Light refreshments will be provided for this free community event on the 14th. For more info, contact Linda Ackerman at 413-863-4316.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Considers Next Steps for Herrick Property

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - Wendell resident Pam Richardson informed the selectboard that someone had tried to force entry to the Marion Herrick house, on Wickett Pond Road, now a town owned property.

At their January 5th meeting, member Dan Keller told the selectboard he had talked with Richardson about the property's historic value. The

former Herrick residence is one of the oldest houses in town - if not the oldest. The sills may need some work, but overall the house is in fair condition.

When the property first passed to town ownership, Jean Forward of the historic commission proposed restoring the homestead, orchard and some of the grounds as a museum of domestic history. That proposal

has since been dropped.

If the town decides to auction the property, Keller said, the new owner could have it razed and replaced with a modern home, an irreplaceable loss of town history.

The town may try issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Herrick property. The parcel could be divided, with the land around the house placed under a conservation

restriction.

Keller asked town administrative assistant Nancy Aldrich to contact the conservation commission, to arrange a joint meeting with the selectboard to discuss next steps for the Herrick property.

A dog hearing continued from a second complaint about an Akita running loose on Kentfield Road.

Claude Masson, the dog's owner, appeared, along with dog officer Maggie Houghton.

At a previous hearing in March of last year, Masson was told to have his dogs restrained at all times, in accordance with state law. But a specific consequence if he failed to do so had not been determined.

Following a second complaint in September, Masson did not attend hearings because efforts to contact him both by mail and telephone failed to reach him in time.

Since those hearings, Masson said he has installed a four foot tall sheep fence with a gate around his porch, so if the dogs barrel past him, as they did in September, they will not be able to run free.

Masson said the offending dog is 13 years old, cannot jump the fence, and is not likely to be a problem for much longer.

Because there have been no complaints since September, the selectboard agreed to go with Houghton and inspect the new fence on a date to be arranged.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser wanted a specific consequence to follow

another complaint. The selectboard agreed the offending dog must be removed from town if another valid complaint is made.

The Wendell council on aging has submitted a proposed policy for the board's consideration regarding citizen use of the senior center. The proposal states the building, located beside the town common, is a "cozy, handicapped accessible space suitable for groups of up to 20 - 25 people."

Council on aging events, and use by Wendell citizens over 60 years old will receive priority in reserving the building, but there are many open days for other Wendell residents and groups.


Mary Thomas has completed the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions' (MACC) training.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported a new water heater has been installed in the town hall, but the wiring had yet to be completed.

The board of assessors told the selectboard the December 15th special town meeting had added some expense to the town budget, so the tax rate needs to be recertified.

Assessor Stephen Broll said the Franklin Council of Governments (FRCOG) offers a cell tower appraisal service, but no one knew how many cell towers are located in town.

Keller could think of one in use at the Diemand Farm, and one allowed but not installed at the old microwave tower near Locke Hill Road.



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

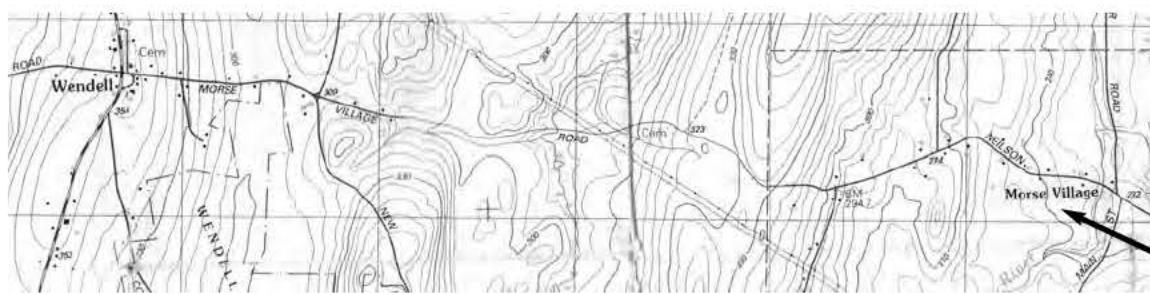
COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - Join "Snowshoeing in the Moonlight" at the Northfield Mountain Recreation Area. Explore how to best navigate at night, share inspiring quotes from literary lovers of the moon and stars, and take a short 'solo' walk by moonlight. Enjoy a warm cup of cocoa and snacks for the perfect ending to this two-mile hike. Better to dress in layers. Participants will meet at 99 Millers Falls Road (Route 63) in Northfield Saturday, January 15th, at 6:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required: call 800-859-2960. Snowshoe rentals available. NELCWIT's 35th annual Bowlathon Fundraiser will take place on Saturday, January 29th, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the French King Bowling Center in Erving. Participate by being a team captain; form and bowl on your own team or sponsor an existing team. All proceeds help NELCWIT maintain their programs to end domestic violence and aid its victims, including a 24-hour hotline, counseling and advocacy for adults and children, and prevention education. All of NELCWIT's programs are free of charge. For more information, email info@nelcwit.org, see www.nelcwit.org, or call 413-772-0871 x116.

Piecework - When We Were French, a one-woman show by Abby Paige appears at the **Shea Theater** for just one afternoon performance. The show explores the legacy of French-Canadian immigration to New England and how their stories, memories and secrets make them who they are. Through the voices of immigrants, their children and their grandchildren, Paige pieces together a quilt of ethnic heritage that will be enjoyable to an audience of any background. Enjoy tales of language difficulties, holiday celebrations and traditions lost and found. The performance will be held at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A in Turners Falls at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 30th. Reserve tickets at the box office by calling 413-863-2281 or go to www.countryplayers.org. Send items for local briefs to: reporter-local@montague-ma.net

CORRECTION
In last week's issue ("Legend of Smallpox Cemetery Debunked"), we gave an incorrect citing for the location of Morse

Village. As the U.S. Geological Survey map below clearly shows, Morse Village is not located in Wendell at all, but in New Salem, on the intersection

of Neilson Road and Lower Chestnut Hill Road. We are embarrassed to have lost track of Morse Village, and relieved to have found it again.



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Ban Hand Guns

It is time to ban hand guns in the United States.

For Gabrielle Giffords, U.S. Representative from the Eighth District of Arizona, for her staff member, Gabe Zimmerman, for U.S. Judge John Roll, for 76-year-old Dorothy Murray or Dorwin Stoddard, or 79-year-old Phyllis Scheck, or nine-year-old Christina Greene, it is past time to do so.

Hand guns have no place in a civilized society. They are not designed to hunt and kill game for sport or sustenance. They are designed only to harm and kill other human beings.

The solution to the plague of gun violence that has once again wreaked havoc on our citizens and the fabric of our national life is not to arm every congressperson, judge and nine-year-old in self defense. The solution is to remove hand guns, at least, from the hands of mentally unbalanced individuals, from criminals, from law abiding citizens, from everyone – remove them from society.

People who live in fear of our democratically elected government usurping their freedoms may form parties and platforms to defend their rights, and engage in all forms of nonviolent protest and civil engagement necessary to secure them. There is more power in principled protest than in any desperate act of vigilantism or assassination. Freedom loving citizens do not need to take up arms to secure domestic liberty, whatever paranoid talk show hosts and Twittering former governors may say.

People who wish to practice

their Second Amendment right to bear arms in organized militias may still do so – in the National Guard.

People who wish to walk the street without fear of random gunfire, people who wish to enter a college classroom or a civic center or an Amish grade school without being shot and killed by lunatics or fanatics with easy access to automatic weapons must be able to do so. There is no other means to secure their rights – the rights of the vast and disenfranchised majority of our citizens – while America continues to allow the cheap and easy procurement of weapons of mass slaughter in any gun shop or gun show.

If the conservative majority on the Supreme Court could not see the future their decision in *District of Columbia vs. Heller* foreshadowed when for the first time in 2008 the court found an individual right to bear arms in the Second Amendment, let us hope they reconsider now.

The voice of reason on the issue of gun control in America has been nearly silenced in the last decades by the organized fire power of the National Rifle Association and its lobbyists. New England has always been the conscience of America. It is time for citizens of conscience, in New England and across the land, to raise our voices and make them count, as our nation once again reels in shock, and grief, and horror in the aftermath of the senseless slaughter in Arizona.

As a nation, there can be no healing from a tragedy that recurs each time a paranoid individual opens fire on a crowd of innocent bystanders. We must seek an end to gun violence; only then can we heal.

No one should have to die for talking to their Congressperson.



GUEST EDITORIAL

Biomass Rules Go Too Far

BY MORRIS HOUSEN

ERVING CENTER - Erving Paper Mills operates 24 hours a day, 355 days per year and has done so continuously since 1905. We employ 120 people in Central Massachusetts and we buy almost all of our purchased goods and services from other Massachusetts or New England companies.

As a 120-tons per day manufacturer of recycled napkin, toweling and tissue paper, our operations are energy intensive. In fact, each year we use almost 50 million kilowatt hours of electricity (enough to power 4,500 average homes) and about 2.9 million gallons of oil (enough to heat 4,000 average homes).

Erving Paper Mills is committed to environmental stewardship. Every day, we recycle nine truckloads of wastepaper that would otherwise go to a New England landfill. We constantly manage our system of pumps and motors to ensure they are optimized for energy efficiency, and we recycle the water used in our production process in order to minimize our ecological footprint.

The time has come for all of us, including Erving Paper Mills, to transition away from fossil fuels and towards local renewable fuel sources. To this end, in late 2008, our plant commissioned an exhaustive study to look at energy alternatives. The study found that a biomass-powered combined heat and power (CHP) system would meet our needs perfectly.

Biomass delivers the most economically viable solution to our needs, and, unlike solar and

wind power, leverages the only renewable source of energy that can provide a continuous stream of power within a reasonable amount of real estate. We would need 46 acres of solar panels or 15 industrial-sized wind turbines and a steady 30 – 55 m.p.h. wind to meet our electricity needs alone.

Biomass is organic material, primarily waste wood and brush generated during proper forest management, which is unusable as timber and can be used to power an industrial facility such as ours. In Central New England, we are surrounded by a natural, abundant, sustainable and renewable supply of waste wood, clearly a compelling energy source for us. Switching to biomass is analogous to switching from heating one's house with oil to heating one's house with a wood-burning stove. Yet, we would not only be able to heat our factory, but actually power our entire process with waste wood.

Three months ago, in September, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) released draft rules on the qualification of biomass as it relates to the state's renewable energy portfolio. The original purpose of these rules was to properly incentivize the more efficient and appropriate use of alternate fuel sources, including biomass. Unfortunately, due to political meandering, the effect of the rules as currently drafted will prevent our company and others from moving away from fossil fuels, setting a threshold of 40% efficiency for biomass plants to begin receiving renewable energy credits, which would not kick in fully unless a 60% efficiency level were achieved.

Even though biomass (32% efficient) is more efficient than wind (25%) or solar (17%) power, its use is being singled out and unfairly targeted by legislators. Efficiency benchmarks are being established that will

restrict biomass installations in the Commonwealth.

We strongly urge Massachusetts lawmakers to amend the draft rules. We suggest the Commonwealth implement an efficiency standard that is achievable for alternative energy sources like biomass and provide a full renewable energy credit for CHP facilities. We also suggest that thermal renewable energy credits be introduced that will specifically incentivize CHP plants. Without attending to these changes, the ability of Erving Paper Mills and Massachusetts companies like ours to transition away from fossil fuels will be severely hampered. Our companies will be less competitive, economic value to the Commonwealth will be lost and an opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint will have been squandered.

In addition, we support science-based forest sustainability standards and believe that the proposed 15% limit on what can be counted as biomass is arbitrary and does not allow for site-specific conditions to be taken into account. We believe a better approach would be the recommendations made by the Forest Guild in the Manomet Study.

Erving Paper Mills is fully committed to deepening our investment in the local community and to providing environmental stewardship by transitioning away from fossil fuels towards a renewable, locally-sourced alternative that will not only lower our future emissions but also make us more competitive. This is exactly the type of energy strategy the DOER and the Patrick Administration should encourage. Unfortunately, the rules, as currently proposed, would not allow us to make this transition. A significant change is needed so the final rules will take our situation and that of companies like ours into account.

Morris Hausen is the CEO of Erving Paper Mills.

U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 1/12/11

US FORCES Casualties in Iraq as of this date	
Total	4432
Afghanistan	1455
Wounded in Iraq	31,902
Wounded in Afghanistan	9256

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Let Them Eat Mushrooms

THE FRENCH OWN OUR RIVER

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH - Now that the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Facility is again up and running, folks may wonder who owns it. The sign out front spells out Northfield Mountain Recreation Area. Below it, FIRST LIGHT. The words "first light" are inspiring, even patriotic, bringing to mind words of the Star Spangled Banner, "...by the dawn's early light." The thoughts of our very own American Company, right here on our very own Connecticut River may to bring tears to your eyes.

GDF Suez

But why is there a smaller name, GDF Suez, on the sign underneath FIRST LIGHT? At a place where folks have hiking trails, a picnic pavilion and all sorts of fun things like mushroom hunts, skiing, puppet shows and singing, all just for us?

FirstLight is owned by GDF

Suez, a leading France-based multinational corporation headquartered in Paris and formed by the merger of Gaz (gas) de France and Suez S.A. The Government of France owned 80 percent of Gaz de France. After the 2008 merger, the French government still owned a controlling interest of 35.7 percent.

\$1.9 Billion Acquisition

GDF Suez Energy North America bought FirstLight for \$1.9 billion in 2008. FirstLight owns and operates 15 power generating plants, primarily pumped storage and traditional hydro plants, such as Cabot Generating Station. It also has a natural gas peaking power plant in Waterbury, CT: Mount Tom Generating. GDF Suez owns other plants all over the U.S. and the world.

Who Owns the Connecticut?

The Connecticut River no longer belongs to Native Americans, or Gill or Turners

Falls or Northfield, or Massachusetts, or even the United States. It is under the control and ownership of a foreign power — France. The river banks and some of the land under parts of the Connecticut River from the Vernon, VT dam to the Cabot Generating Station is owned by GDF Suez. The height and flow of Connecticut River water is controlled by GDF Suez, the world's largest utility with pumped storage generating plants on five continents. **GDF Suez is the largest utility and the tenth largest electricity producer in the world,**

- the fifth largest producer and seller of electricity in Europe,
- the largest producer of electricity in Belgium and the Netherlands,
- the second largest producer in France and the fourth in Italy,
- the largest private electricity producer in Brazil and Thailand
- the third largest marketer in the service and industrial sector of the economy in the United States.

The Group also ranks significantly in Central Europe

(Poland, Hungary, for example), Latin American (Brazil, Chile), and Asia (China, Thailand, Singapore) and the Middle East. **Mushroom Hunts for the Natives**

GDF Suez is engaged in the purchasing, production and marketing of natural gas and electricity with operations in 40 countries, including the United States (Vermont Gas being one of them). GDF Suez is Europe's top importer of liquefied natural gas, and a global supplier of water and waste management services. Folks may wonder why these fine folks who are busy controlling energy worldwide, are so willing to lead nature lovers on mushroom hunts and song fests, aside from the fact they are required to furnish recreation as part of their licensing agreement. It may also keep people from looking too closely at the Trojan Horse in their midst.

Vermont Yankee Atomic Plant Connection

Unlike the direct electrical current stored in the battery of your automobile, alternating electrical current must be used or you lose it. Atomic power

plants, like the plant in Vernon, needed to find a use for off peak electricity to keep from wasting it. Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage is a perfect fit. Using this otherwise wasted electricity to pump water up to a mountain top reservoir during the night during slack demand allows the energy to be stored as water power for later release through turbines during peak demand. It is a marriage made in heaven. Had the Vernon plant not begun falling apart, it might have been the next GDF Suez acquisition.

FirstLight's Northfield Mountain operations and impacts on river ecology and fish runs remain hidden from the public.

According to fish count tallies obtained through the Connecticut River Watershed Council, 16,768 American shad made it through the Gatehouse ladder at the Turners Falls dam in 2010. That's the highest count since 1996, dwarfing the average of 2,000 to 2,500 this past decade. This anomaly occurred after Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Facility operation see **RIVER** pg 9

SAVED from pg 1

bidding process at a good time," said Hanold after the meeting. "Chiefs Godin and Zukowski contributed to ensuring a spirit of cooperation on the work site. We heard from contractors, and a state inspector, they had never worked on a construction site where people were working together so well."

Praising her own committee's work, Hanold said, "This committee really committed to doing everything as fast as possible. We called meetings at short notice, and we were unusually responsive to conditions at the site. We wanted this to be a very efficient, very effective operation."

On Monday, the public safety building committee was officially disbanded by the selectboard; their work is now complete. The committee stayed in existence even though the new building on Turnpike Road was completed in 2009, in order to deal with any issues that might arise after the building was first commissioned.

For example, committee member Jason Burbank has been adjusting the geothermal HVAC system for the last year, and described the operational effi-

ciency of that system now as "respectable." This is the first public building in Montague heated and cooled geo-thermally.

Burbank said he is anxious to compare the efficiency of the safety complex with that of the new University of Massachusetts police emergency response center that is under construction using the latest green technology standards.

Hanold pointed out that the town also acquired 25 unencumbered acres abutting the new police station as part of the land purchase.

Selectboard chairperson Pat Allen invited the audience to give the committee a standing ovation for their hard work, and Zukowski chimed in, "I don't want these guys to leave."

Meanwhile, it's back to the drawing board for installing an ATM at the Montague Public Safety building. Police chief Zukowski sent out a request for proposals to local banks with the goal of having an ATM installed that would not cost the town any money, and could result in revenue sharing with a bank. Only Greenfield Savings Bank responded, with concerns about revenue sharing before start-up

expenses were fully covered.

Kennel Improvements

The selectboard approved setting up a dog kennel donation fund through the town of Montague on Monday. The efforts of Rich Briere to call attention to poor kennel conditions at the facility off of Sandy Lane behind Judd Wire have paid off, with an outpouring of inquiries into how people can help. "The response has been way beyond what I imagined," said Briere.

The kennel has lacked adequate heat, sanitation, and functioning doors for the many stray dogs in the towns of Montague, Greenfield, and Deerfield that find their way there. Since taking on the project of implementing improvements to the kennel in December, Briere said he has received over 200 emails from concerned citizens, has coordinated efforts with the Franklin County Tech School to have students there help with repairs to the kennel, and has begun planning a fundraising concert in the spring, since he has expertise in music to offer.

"People show up everyday asking how they can help," said Briere. As of Monday, Briere

reported that there were just two dogs left at the kennel, and one of them is slated to be adopted out this week.

Additionally, Montague police chief Ray Zukowski plans to meet this week with highway superintendent Tom Bergeron, Greenfield dog officer Calin Girugiu, Briere, and a couple of concerned citizens to come up with a wish list of repairs for the facility.

"A lot of people are getting into it," said Briere. "We're pulling together as a community."

For those interested in pitching in financially, checks can be written to the town of Montague, with a note on the check saying the donation is for the dog kennel.

In other news, as snow settles onto our villages once again this week, there is one man who has already sprung forward to plan for Spring. Franklin County Pumpkin Fest coordinator Mike Nelson is leading preparations for a Franklin County Spring Parade in downtown Turners Falls on April 9th at 1 p.m. The exact parade route is still being adjusted, but the selectboard encouraged Nelson to go for-

ward with getting the appropriate licenses needed for the parade.

Nelson has plenty of experience organizing large events, as he has coordinated the Franklin County Fair parade and last October's well-attended Franklin County Pumpkin Festival in downtown Turners Falls. Although not an official tagline, Nelson described the parade to the selectboard as a "thank God the snow is finally melting" event.

He expects five to six thousand people for the Spring parade, with as many as three to four thousand people in the parade itself. Nelson hinted that participants and attendees may receive pumpkin seeds at the parade, in preparation for the 2011 Pumpkin Fest, to be held on October 22nd.

To get involved in the parade or register, you can learn more on Facebook, under Franklin County Spring Parade, and you can contact Nelson at michaelnelsonmba@aol.com.

The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, January 24th at 7 p.m. at the Montague town hall at 1 Avenue A.



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NOTES FROM LEVERETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Leverett Students Lag on MCAS Scores

BY DAVID DETMOLD
A new tool for tracking student performance within and across school districts shows that Leverett Elementary School (LES) students are being outperformed on standardized English and math test scores by students from Shutesbury, Pelham and Fort River Elementary school in Amherst.

Leverett principal Anne Ross passed around charts produced using the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's new District Analysis and Review Tool (DART) software at the January 4th school committee meeting.

"This is put together in a really useful way for administrators like myself to compare our students to those of other area schools and see trends," Ross said.

The school committee focused closely on the

math scores in particular, which showed Leverett students lagging behind their peers in Shutesbury by ten percentage points, with 58% of LES students scoring at or above proficiency. Sixty-three percent of Fort River students score at or above proficiency in math, as do 71% of Pelham students.

Leverett's scores stack up more closely with its counterparts in English Language Arts, trailing the percentage of Shutesbury students scoring at or above proficiency 74% to 82%, edging past Fort River in this category 74% to 67%, and trailing Pelham by just three percentage points, 74% to 77%.

Leverett students scored better than or at par with state averages in both categories, but fell below the state median on test scores for "open response items," in English and math.

The DART program notes that 34.5% of Leverett Elementary's student enrollment of 165 come from low income families, and 18.2% have special needs.

To deal with the lagging math scores, Leverett has instituted a new math curriculum this year, "Everyday Math," and brought in a resident math coach to help students and staff over the "stiff learning curve for the new format," Ross said.

Union 28 superintendent

Joan Wickman said Swift River School had adopted the same math curriculum four or five years ago in order to bolster their students' performance, and said, "Now their MCAS math scores are very high."

Committee member Pam Stone said, "Many people in Leverett would rather there not be any MCAS at all. So, it's worth focusing on how much emphasis we put on improving MCAS scores."

Committee chair Farshid Hajir said, "I have faith enough in our staff that I don't think they will lose track of the bigger picture."

The final statistic of interest in the DART printout was a note that Leverett has no English Language Learners in the elementary school. But that will change at the end of this month when two youngsters from Russia, who have been adopted by a local family, enter the fourth and fifth grade.

Ross said the school is advertising for an ELL tutor, part time, to assist the students in their transition.

Ross also noted that teachers in the school are providing funds from their own pockets, or from the nurse's budget, to feed breakfast to one child who has been coming to school hungry each day, and to provide that child a snack later in the day.

Ross asked for approval to take money from a supplementary line item that supports the lunch program in order to provide the few dollars a day needed to make sure the child is fed breakfast, and ready and able to learn.

NOTES FROM ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Examines Alternatives for Usher Mill

BY KATIE NOLAN - The Erving selectboard looked over the town's past, present, and future at its January 6th meeting, considering its industrial history at the Usher Mill site, current negotiations with the Erving Paper Mill, and the upcoming FY '12 budget.

Peggy Sloan, Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) director of planning and development, gave the selectboard an overview of the environmental assessments at the Usher Mill property on Arch Street. She told the selectboard the 2004 environmental assessment for the historic mill had found low concentrations of lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in soil tests, but there was no indication of adverse affects on groundwater or the Millers River. No cleanup had been required for the soil contaminants under Massachusetts regulations.

However, after a 2007 arson fire destroyed two of the three mill buildings, asbestos-containing material was observed in the building debris, and the site was designated a Brownfield site in 2008.

A Brownfield site is an abandoned, idled, or under used industrial or commercial facility where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

Erving received a grant of \$50,000 and a loan of \$100,000 under FRCOG's Brownfields revolving fund subgrant program for continuing environmental work at the site. Money for the program comes from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); the grants and loans are administered by FRCOG.

The Usher Mill site is

owned by Patriot Environmental, a salvage company out of Worcester. The town and the county building inspector have repeatedly attempted to get Patriot to clean up and secure the site. Erving town meeting last year appropriated \$500,000 to clean up the property. A lien will be placed on the deed equal to the town's expenses.

Nancy Milkey of Tighe and Bond summarized the Usher Mills Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCM) report, submitted to EPA and accepted by the agency without comments. The report posited three alternatives for the site: complete demolition of all buildings and removal of debris (estimated cost: \$635,000); selective demolition, restoring the Powerhouse (boiler building) at an estimated cost of \$610,000; or take no action.

Milkey told the board the EPA would accept either complete demolition or selective demolition. She said if the town is interested in future construction at the site, the building foundations should be left intact. Under the Rivers Protection Act, if the foundations were removed, no future buildings would be allowed, since the site is so close to the Millers River.

Selectboard member James Hackett suggested demolishing the buildings to foundation level and then taking time to decide whether the property should be redeveloped, or set aside as green space.

Usher Mill reuse committee member Jeff Dubay responded, "Without leaving the boiler room building, you're throwing away the last of it. You're throwing away authenticity. You're throwing away

your history. You have a beautiful space along the river, but you don't have your history."

Hackett replied, "How much money do you throw at it to save it?"

Conway School of Landscape Design student Karen Dunn presented four designs for reuse of the Usher Mill property. Dunn's report noted the site was originally developed as a grist mill in 1837, and the oldest buildings were constructed in 1916. Each design includes trails for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.

Dunn's alternatives:

Reincarnation - demolition and removal of all buildings and building debris and use of the property as an open space park for wildlife habitat, picnicking, and hiking.

Renewal - removal of building debris and renovation of the Powerhouse Building and using the site as an environmental education center, with a pit greenhouse, freshwater fish and plant farming, and with electricity generation using photovoltaic panels and a micro-hydroelectric installation on the Millers River.

Regeneration - removal of building debris and renovation of the Powerhouse Building as a community center, with studios and offices, and including a skateboard park and ice skating rink.

Renaissance - removal of building debris and renovation of the Powerhouse Building and new construction within the former foundation footprints for the Powerhouse Arts Center, possibly managed jointly with an area college.

Hackett observed redevelopment of the property

see ERVING pg 12

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NOTES FROM LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Gravel Pit Ruling Appealed Defended

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Robert Schmid, of 483 Long Plain Road, on behalf of a group of neighbors who challenged the special permit application before the zoning board by Richard Roberts, of 31 Hemenway Road and Roberta Bryant, of 470 Long Plain Road to expand a gravel mining operation onto five acres of Bryant's property, came before the selectboard on Tuesday, January 11th, to ask if the board would defend the zoning board's decision of November 18th to deny the special permit.

Roberts and Bryant have appealed the ZBA's decision to Franklin Superior Court.

The selectboard assured Schmid the town intends to defend the ZBA's decision.

Schmid said the neighbors who are opposed to the expansion of gravel mining on Bryant's property are also planning to join the court case in support of the zoning board's decision.

Bryant has held the land, which is in one of the town's few commercial zones, in Chapter 61-B protection as recreation land for more than a decade, but administrative assessor Stephen Schmidt told the board on Tuesday that Bryant had not renewed her application this fall to keep the land in Chapter 61-B for another year.

Commercial activity is prohibited on land held in 61-B.

Schmid said the town will lose its first right of refusal on the land by July 1st, 2012.

Assessors chair Don Robinson and Schmidt said Bryant will not owe back taxes on the land if she does not change the use of the property, though she will pay full taxes on the property going forward if she does not renew her 61-B status.

Robinson said the assessors have still not seen a copy of the agreement said to exist between Bryant and Roberts and Ed Stone, of Montague, to transfer rights to mine gravel on five acres of Bryant's land.

"No one is putting their cards on the table," Robinson said.

Schmid said he would like to see the land purchased and placed in trust and conserved as open land. "It's a beautiful piece of land. It's farmland. Will it just be cut up?"

Selectboard chair Rich Brazeau said, "Sometimes lines get drawn and it makes it difficult to talk. Everyone involved is part of the community. It would be bad if people stopped talking together."

Schmid said, "I don't know how to compromise about a gravel pit."

Wired West

Connie Peterson, Rob Brooks, and Wired West steering committee member Reva Reck came to talk about the proposal to have Leverett join with other underserved communities in western and central Massachusetts to form a municipal cooperative to provide last mile broadband fiber hookup to any and all individual homes that would like to receive it.

Reck told the selectboard Wired West is waiting to hear word on \$60,000 in additional funding from the Mass Broadband Institute (MBI) to hire a consultant to prepare a business plan and build out budget, design network architecture, prepare ten year financial pro formas, and GIS maps of all 47 charter towns, or at least all those that plan to move forward with the Wired West coop. Reck said Wired West is lobbying Congressman Olver's office to earmark funding to hook up two pilot towns.

Reck explained the value of having two pilot towns hooked up would lie both in providing a revenue stream for the new coop, and a track record to persuade the bond market of their financial viability.

The selectboard wanted to know how Leverett could sign up to be one of the pilot towns.

see LEVERETT pg 12

Leverett Education Study Committee Considers School Configuration Options

BY ALI URBAN

LEVERETT - The Leverett education study committee met for the first time Thursday, January 6th to discuss future options for the public education of Leverett students. The newly formed committee, made up of parents, school committee members, and representatives from the finance committee and selectboard came together as a result of the push from Beacon Hill to regionalize smaller school districts across the state.

"We're looking to discuss the benefits and drawbacks of consolidating school districts," explained school committee member and education study committee chair Pam Stone.

Issues to be discussed by the seven-member group include the delivery of quality education, its relationship to educational financing and governance, and the capacity to maintain sustainable leadership.

"We need to define Leverett education ideology," said parent Sarah Dolven. "What do we love about our school and what makes it work?"

With this, the committee can determine how Leverett's vision for public education can transfer into different configuration models, should the district face pressure to consolidate.

"We're only doing this out of fear that we will have to change things. We're pretty happy with the way things are," stated school committee member

Dawn Sacks. "But we also have to see what Leverett wants if we are forced to change."

"We need to keep in mind the big picture," added parent Janice Telfer. She stated that because there is a push from Boston to streamline the school system, ostensibly to improve educational outcomes, "It's important to make the legislature understand what our issues are and how we can work into their framework... how to make it palatable."

Stone explained that while the group has not yet decided to explore any particular configuration option, possible configurations the group could discuss range to "the extreme end of the spectrum of options (which) would be a full push by the state to make a K-12 region that was inclusive of Leverett, Shutesbury, Pelham and Amherst, which I would say would most likely only happen if forced through legislation."

"On the other extreme, which I think most people would prefer to see, is that nothing is changed and we continue forward with the

system the way it is," she added.

The committee will prepare a statement of its findings to present at Leverett's annual town meeting in April. Committee members agree that the proximity of the town meeting will leave insufficient time to complete a comprehensive and definitive statement. However, they hope to present their initial findings in order to generate a community-wide dialogue.

Future goals include further research into possible school district configuration, communication with Shutesbury and Pelham officials regarding the findings of their education study committees, and devising the best way to hear the voice of community members at large.

"This is not just a school issue," Stone said. "While we are talking about schools, this affects people without children in the district. We need full community involvement."

The next education study committee meeting will take place on Thursday, January 20th, at 7 p.m. in the Leverett Elementary School library.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG
Illegal Withdrawal of Funds

Monday, 1/3
12:25 p.m. Reported suspicious vehicle on North Leverett Road in the area of Richardson Road, a Black Dodge Ram pickup. Vehicle was gone on arrival.

Friday, 1/7
11:30 a.m. Subject came to the

station to report her debit card had been accessed illegally and funds withdrawn. Report taken and appropriate institution notified.

5:05 p.m. Officer sent to a Long Plain Road address for a report of male subject that fell. Amherst Ambulance on scene.

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SATURATED from pg 1

Albert Norman speaking to the Greenfield planning board on Thursday

increased traffic. The planning board responded they would make no allowance for a loss of residential property values on High Street, Wunsch Road, or Wildwood Avenue, since the board of assessors already discounts their values to account for present traffic on the High Street corridor.

All three studies looked at the likely impacts to area retailers and grocers, coming to widely varying conclusions. The peer review study calculated \$7 million of an estimated \$50 million in annual sales at the new super store would come from existing area retailers and grocers, a "capture rate" of 14%.

Norman estimated the capture rate would be much higher – 48% – from existing businesses, and that the sales capacity of the super store would be significantly higher than \$50 million.

He based the higher capture rate on nine case studies of big box impacts, including several from Massachusetts (including, ironically, the RKG study of the impact on Greenfield from the WalMart store proposed for the French King Highway in 1993. That year, RKG estimated a 47% capture rate for the Greenfield

WalMart. In 2010, hired this time by the developer rather than the town, RKG left out any finding on the capture rate in Greenfield.)

Based on WalMart's most recent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Norman divided WalMart's existing 602.9 billion square feet of retail space into their 2010 net sales of \$258.2 billion to arrive at an average sales per square foot figure of \$428.25. Multiplying this by 135,000 square feet, the proposed footprint of the Greenfield super store, Norman found an annual sales figure of \$57.8 million.

But he said the actual sales figure for the new store would be even higher, working on the assumption that the project is in reality a Super WalMart with at least a 40,000-square-foot grocery component. Such stores have a sales per square foot figure of \$621, which would yield an annual sales figure at the new store on French King Highway of \$65.5 million, Norman said.

Assuming the higher annual sales figure translates into a higher loss of sales from existing businesses – millions of dollars higher, overall – regardless of which study the planning board relies on.

Deane told the board Foster's has been a family-owned store for 70 years, three genera-

tions. His grandfather, Bud Foster, is still working in the store at 90 years of age. Deane manages a \$1.5 million payroll for 90 employees, including 40 full time workers. Fosters, alone among midlevel commercial businesses in Greenfield, pays 100% of its employees' health insurance premiums. The average tenure of the managers at Fosters is 29 years, Deane said.

"We are a decent operation to work for."

"When you own a legacy family business," Deane added, "There's an added pressure to keep going and not falter."

Grocery Market Study

Another study commissioned last year by Norman on behalf of the abutters, done by VanDeMark & Group of Windsor, CT, looked at the impact of the proposed super store on area grocery stores. It found the grocery market in Greenfield to be "saturated," and that the addition of a super store with a grocery component would lead to the closing of competitive grocery stores in the market area.

"If Food City were to be squeezed out by the addition of another grocer, the result would be an injustice to the most vulnerable households."
—Walter Ramsey, Montague Town Planner

VanDeMark & Group used three criteria to determine market saturation: dollar productivity per square foot of sales area for the total market; the square footage of sales area per customer; and the number of customers per store.

Based on established benchmarks, the study stated, "When productivity per square foot of sales area in a marketplace is less than \$11 per square foot of sales area, market saturation is likely."

Using this criterion, the study totaled up the weekly sales volume and square footage of eight area grocery stores, including Big Y, Stop and Shop, Food City and Fosters, and determined that the area average is already \$9.83 per square foot, well below the \$11 per square foot sales figure VanDeMark considers to be a bottom indicator of market saturation.

ration.

On the second measure, VanDeMark considers saturation likely when grocery market sales area per customer is five square feet or more. With the population of the relevant market area holding steady at about 54,000, VanDeMark calculates the sales area per customer is about three square feet per customer now and will rise to just above four square feet per customer with the addition of the super store's grocery section (218,300 square feet total, including the new super store).

By this measure, there is still room for more grocery sales space in the market area without reaching saturation.

The final criterion VanDeMark uses for market saturation is whether the number of customers per store falls below 10,000. With a population of 54,000 customers, and eight existing competitive groceries identified in the study, that figure is presently only 6,750. Any new stores would further saturate a market already well below this marker.

"People don't travel long distances for food," Norman told the planning board last Thursday.

Norman said he estimated 80% of the grocery sales at the super store on the French King Highway would be "captured from other merchants" in the area. "Other experts say 100% for grocery."

Foster's Jason Deane said, "This is a Franklin County issue, although it is located within the borders of Greenfield."

'Store W'

Deane ticked off the Franklin County farms that supply produce for Foster's, including Butynski, Smiarowski, and Clarkdale, and local contractors like Mowry and Schmidt that built the numerous additions to his family's store, or repaved the parking lot, or provided cleaning services to the store over the decades. "We've purchased vehicles from Dillon Chevrolet. We buy supplies from Richard Smith Paper. Store 'W' won't do that."

Throughout the hearing, speakers referred to the planned super store, whose tenant has not been named, as Store X. But Deane called it "Store W."

"You don't have to travel very far to the east or south to see urban sprawl," continued Deane.

"We will live with the consequence of your decision. In ten or fifteen years from now, if my commercial values go down, has that been considered?"

Norman told the board the new super store would depreciate the value of existing businesses in Greenfield and result in a net loss of taxes from those businesses due to a captured sales dollar figure he gave as \$177,077. "That figure could easily double if one of the large grocery stores closes," he added.

Cerruzzi's lawyer, Tim Sullivan, derided Norman's findings as out of date and irrelevant.

"Norman does not have the credentials to conduct a financial impact statement," Sullivan asserted, although Norman said he has been researching WalMart's impacts on local markets and testifying in similar hearings for 17 years.

Sullivan said Norman's analysis of the fiscal impact of the proposed super store was based on an out of date study (performed, it should be noted, by Larry Koff & Associates, in 1993 for the City of Greenfield for a proposed WalMart of similar size on the French King Highway – the same firm Cerruzzi hired for the current proposal). "Much has changed in 20 years in Greenfield," said Sullivan. "The retail landscape has changed. Rich's and Ames have left. This is a completely different project in scope."

The proposed store, a WalMart on the French King Highway, was indeed smaller – by 1,000 square feet.

Sullivan did not state how the shrinking of the retail base in Greenfield since 1993 would protect remaining retailers like Wilsons from the inroads of a new superstore.

Food City

Reached by phone following the meeting, Food City CEO Zach Sclar said the opening of a WalMart super store on the French King Highway would be "a net loss for the area."

Sclar, who invested \$1 million to purchase the 28,000 square foot store in the Mackin-owned plaza in Turners Falls in 2009, said Food City has 60 employees. According to the VanDeMark study, Food City has sales of \$110,000 per week, or roughly

see SATURATED pg 9

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Kaynor Funeral Procession Follows Horse-Drawn Hearse



The passing of community matriarch Molly Kaynor was marked by the entire community in Wendell on Saturday.



Above, the hearse pauses by the town common, as mourners gather for the three-mile walk to the New Salem Road cemetery, below.

BY JONATHAN VON RANSON
WENDELL - Molly Kaynor's family and out-of-town friends met Molly's local community at her funeral Saturday, and were surprised by the outpouring of mourners. Molly's oldest sibling, Chapin Kaynor, wrote afterward, "The entire town, it seemed, showed up. We had no idea people were planning to walk behind the horses. It was very moving to see their response."

Perhaps 60 mourners fell in for the three mile walk from the Center, where the horse-drawn hearse waited a few minutes, to the New Salem Road cemetery, with cars following behind.

Rich Wilder had volunteered to dig the grave, using the town backhoe.

The ceremony, partly spontaneous, included lowering the coffin built by Molly's husband, Jerry Eide, a ritual throwing in of handfuls of dirt by many of those present, and Jerry playing a drum solo. The mourners, reluctant to leave, spontaneously sang several songs, including Amazing Grace.

There were gatherings celebrating Molly's life afterward at the town hall, Deja Brew Pub, and at the Eide-Kaynor home.

For more on Molly Kaynor's life and passing, see the story in last week's issue, which can also be found on: montaguereporter.blogspot.com.

RIVER from pg 5

tions ground to a halt in May with their tunnel plugged with silt as reported in the *Montague Reporter* [VIII #40: "Watergate Plugged"]. With the Connecticut River level held high to hide silt being dumped into the river and the river relatively still, shad passage at the Turners Falls Gatehouse ladder skyrocketed to more than 600 percent above the 10-year average. Shad are weak swimmers. With strong river current abated, the shad were able to negotiate the fishways in record numbers, despite the muddy waters impeding them.

SATURATED from pg 8

\$5.7 million per year, for a productivity ratio of \$3.93 per square foot of sales space (the lowest of any grocery store in the survey).

Sclar said he assumed the new store would be a Super WalMart. "It will be detrimental to a lot of businesses. Our store manager goes out almost daily to collect shopping carts in the neighborhood [indicating shoppers who walk to the store in Turners Falls]. I don't know how those folks will get by," if Food City closes.

In October of last year, Montague town planner Walter Ramsey wrote to his counterparts on the Greenfield planning board urging them to carefully consider the impact a discount retailer with a grocery component would have on Montague.

"Food City on 250 Avenue A does not generate the sales volume of its larger competitors such as Stop and Shop and Big Y in Greenfield, but this establishment is critical as the only walkable food store in Turners Falls; a community where many residents do not own automobiles."

Ramsey added, "If Food City were to be squeezed out by the addition of another grocer, the result would be an injustice to the most vulnerable households. The loss of the downtown food store would mandate improved transit and pedestrian connections to Greenfield, as Turners Falls residents would have little choice but to shop for food in Greenfield."

Super Store Defended

David Moscaritolo told the Greenfield planning board on Thursday, "I moved to Greenfield ten years ago. I travel regularly to Hadley or New Hampshire to buy clothes. I think stores in Greenfield are going to gain profits and gain clients," if the French

No River Bank Collapse During Shutdown

First Light maintains that it is boat wakes that eat away at the riverbanks, not their pumped storage operation. By an amazing coincidence, there were no reports of riverbank collapse during Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage shutdown, along with record fish runs.

King Highway super store is built as planned. "It's easy to scare people using Internet information," he said, referring to Norman's fiscal analysis.

Bob Sunderland, director of the Greenfield YMCA, said "There is \$100 million leaving Greenfield to big box retailers in Orange, Northampton, Hadley and New Hampshire. Bring our shoppers home. Greenfield will start to grow and thrive again. The tide of money will raise all boats. What other company is coming to Franklin County with a \$7 million payroll?"

Larry Clark, owner of the Music Store, said the developer's fiscal impact analysis did not calculate "indirect impacts," to stores like his, and to residential property values in order to arrive at their "relatively small \$117,000 annual gain," for city coffers.

Clark took issue with the analysis, supported by Greenfield police chief Dave Guilbault, that police call volume to the new store would be modest, in the range of one call every three days.

He pointed to a study of police calls in towns of similar size with WalMarts showing a much higher volume.

Patti Marcus asked the planning board to require the developer to provide a traffic simulation so residents could see what the traffic on the High Street corridor would look like. Traffic will be the topic of the next meeting of the planning board as the hearing continues on January 20th.

After the meeting, Norman commented that the late December purchase of the Mackin property at 145 Gill Road for \$3.7 million, by a limited liability corporation called Greenfield Property Development, LLC, with an Albany, NY address (presumably an affiliate of Cerruzzi's) reflected the developer's assessment that the planning board would rule favorably on the special permit application. Norman said abutters are contemplating an appeal if the decision does not take into account their concerns over the size of the proposed development, the traffic it will generate, and its economic impacts to area retailers and grocery stores.

Greenfield mayor Bill Martin will meet with Norman this week to discuss these issues further.

Winter Tracking Workshop to Benefit Mt. Grace

WARWICK - Veteran trackers Valerie and Nick Wisniewski from the Walnut Hill Tracking and Nature Center (www.walnuthilltracking.com) are leading a winter tracking event to benefit the land conservation work of Mount Grace. The three-hour walk will cover portions of Mount Grace's 517-acre Arthur Iversen Conservation Area in Warwick. Possible animal signs include those of fisher, coyote, red fox, moose, and snowshoe

hare. The event takes place Sunday, January 16th from 10am-1pm off Gale Road in Warwick. For directions, please contact Jason Rhoades at outreach_ameriacorps@mountgrace.org. The workshop is open to all ages and trackers of all levels, from experts to first timers.

There is a \$25 fee, which will be donated to Mount Grace by the Wisniewskis.

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THRIVE from pg 1

satisfaction. I'd say that while none of us thrives completely, too many people — if they haven't gotten a jump on it by age 18 — aren't given much of a chance to thrive in any aspect of life they feel is important. That's all I'd like to help change — to give people more chances to thrive in one way or another. I feel as if I've been given so many of those chances it's ridiculous."

In its mission statement, Thrive offers "tutoring, coaching, apprenticeship, artistic engagement, and community participation," with the goal of helping "young adults go beyond merely surviving to build lives they find meaningful." The open-endedness of its mission was intentional. Its Thrive's secret weapon — structural adaptability — and it's like a machete. It's simple, it's effective, and it allows Thrive to tackle all the overgrowth obstructing the ambitions of young adults.

What Thrive seeks to do is cultivate the individual, creating — if nothing else — social support and validation for who they are and what they're about.

Josh Warren found out about Thrive through his co-worker at the Lady Killigrew Cafe, Thrive's media director Anja Schutz. A recent UMass graduate, Warren was struggling to translate his education into something meaningful to his community, Wendell. "I discovered that in order for things to happen for me, I have to do things with other people," said Warren. "That's

why I pursued Thrive."

As a student, Warren wanted to be a singer, but in the big world his dream changed. "I didn't have the ego for it. I didn't have that diva personality. I just want to be happy and live simply and let other people do the same. I don't want to have to push people away to get to the top."

"I thought about teaching, but I don't have any training or certification," said Warren. "Talking to Liz (Elizabeth Gardner, Thrive's program director) I started really thinking about how — cause she kept asking me, 'What do you want to do? How would you go about that?' and I kept throwing ideas and she said, 'That's a really good idea — I know this person and this person.' I had the opportunity to give a singing workshop at the Wendell library. That was the first singing thing I really did. At first it was really difficult; it was terrible. But as it progressed, it got better. I realized this is what I really wanted to do."

Teaching felt like a good fit, but he wasn't sure if he wanted to be teaching music. "As soon as I came to that conclusion, that was when Liz said 'I have this girl coming in from Nepal; her name is Sonam; she just needs some English tutoring,'" said Warren. "For the past few months, we've had five or six sessions when we've just sat down and she's showed me her writing. Even though I don't have the training in it, it just sort of came natural to me. I have a talent for explaining the language I use. It's a confi-

dence boost for me. It's just another step in realizing that's what I want to do. I want to teach."

Warren is also leading a book club at Thrive in collaboration with a few other people, which started this Wednesday.

Speaking of Thrive, Warren said, "There's so much going on there, even if it's in its beginning stages. It's keeping me excited about what I'm going to do with my life."

Three months since Thrive held its grand opening — a four day, three venue food, music, and comedy extravaganza, complete with the talents of Rusty Belle, The Winterpills, Michael Showalter, and Eugene Mirman — Thrive has offered everything from workshops on financial strategies and resume writing to film screenings, knitting nights, and inspirational speakers on stand-up comedy. In January, Thrive will host open invite jam sessions, and workshops on "Becoming a Mobile Worker," among other events.

Thrive offers computers and free internet in their storefront space, and a creative, motivated group of fellow "Thriviers" to greet you at the door, take you seriously, and talk to you about reaching out and grabbing what you want in life. Dozens of people have already gotten a break from Thrive.

"We can help them overcome a barrier or two in terms of finding something — some aspect of their life that could be slightly more fulfilling," said Janel Nockleby, one of Thrive's start-up team. "Maybe you want guitar lessons... Maybe it's realizing that if you utilize resources available the bureaucracy of getting through GCC might actually be navigable... whatever obstacles they perceive. We're not going to solve everything, but we can chip away a thing or two."

For most people, validation comes from financial compensation. Thrive offers an alternative — validation coming from other validated people. But it has to be financially sustainable for people to pursue their goals. This is an issue that the Thrive Project is struggling to address as an organization, with characteristic creativity.

"We started with just enough for three month's rent, and to pay the three of us five hours per week," said Berger. "The goal is

to get a year's worth of utilities and rent in the bank and pay us half time for a year."

As an organization, Thrive is pursuing grant funding, but "One of the pitfalls people talk about is that you spend a lot of time writing grants and you spend a lot of time documenting. Your focus starts to be on fulfilling what the grants fund instead of what your mission is." So Thrive is also soliciting private donations, even from people outside the Valley. "As far as I know, there's nothing like this around," said Berger. On www.thriveproject.com, the donations page gives a list of three reasons why you should donate to Thrive, "even if you've never been anywhere near Turners Falls."

But they're also trying to find ways for Thrive to generate income. In the works are several Thrive-based entrepreneurial ventures (among the ideas are a 'geek squad' that refurbishes old computers to sell to the community for cheap, a copy center, a tee-shirt business), which would provide service to the community, provide income to Thrivers, and provide funds to keep the organization going.

The staff wants any such ventures to be shaped by the wants, needs, and skills of people coming in to use the service. "And we're going to continue doing great events — putting on concerts," said Berger. "That's just an ongoing way we'll raise funds and attention."

Helping people in the pursuit of happiness is a pretty daunting undertaking, because people are different and want different things. No one person staffing the desk at Thrive could possibly have all the resources to help everybody achieve their wildest (or most domesticated) dreams. No ten people could.

But what if Thrive builds a network, where people come in and get a boost, and then, on their way to personal satisfaction, offer a hand to lift the next in line? This is a small area; people know and depend on each other. If getting ahead comes from breaks from people who are ahead, and a few of us get a leg up, the rest will inevitably follow. It's trickle-down satisfaction. As their website states: "In lieu of paying tuition and fees, Thrive clients will be required to volunteer for community organizations, both to aid the organizations in question

and to involve clients in the community and community service in general."

"I think (a thriving community) is one where people are looking out for each other. While people may have given up on Turners in the past, I don't think they are anymore, and I want to be part of that — helping people make connections. It's all about our little mill town, and it's all up to us," said Nockleby.

The Thrive Team's dream is big — really big. They want to build a climate around Turners Falls that incubates luck. But there is compelling research showing it can work. It turns out the change they seek to create is contagious. It would seem that the group of artists who dreamt up Thrive have found themselves building with the cutting edge of science as collateral.

A new landmark study out of UC San Diego and Harvard has discovered that happiness spreads like the flu among people who are close to each other. And you don't even have to know happy people to catch it, just being close is enough. According to the study, "A friend who lives within a mile (about 1.6 km) and who becomes happy increases the probability that a person is happy by 25%." A happy next door neighbor increases your chance of happiness by 34%. The study suggests that this relationship is not caused by happy people hanging around with happy people, but that "clusters of happiness result from the spread of happiness" itself, and that the relationship they found decays with time and distance. If people in your town are happy, you will be happy, too. Especially if that town is little, and everybody lives close.

The Thrive Project could pack a big punch in our 2.3 square mile community. This is the big question here, the big why-is-life-worth-living that they're grappling with, and they're turning lives around by challenging young adults in the community to grapple with it, too.

Stop by Thrive at 37 Third Street in Turners and volunteer, and tell them what you really want to be doing. Or call them at 413-863-6340; or visit their website at thriveproject.org. What looks like a mountain to you could very well look like a wrinkle from where somebody else is standing.



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Roofer Offers to Help Town Maintain Slate Roof at School

BY DAVID DETMOLD

LEVERETT - Don Ogden, sole proprietor of a Leverett roofing company, Whole Roofing, offered to help the town of Leverett maintain the slate roof on the elementary school at no charge, if the town decides to replace the years of broken slate and deteriorated flashing first.

The town has received an estimate from the Mahan Slate Roofing Company from Springfield quoting a \$40,000 estimate to make the initial repairs to the school's slate roof, and to add snow guards above pedestrian walkways. Mahan told the town the slate was in generally solid condition, and would likely last another 50 years if properly maintained.

Mahan said it might cost the town \$2,500 a year from now on to maintain the roof properly, after the initial repairs are made. But Ogden's offer might relieve the town from some of that ongoing maintenance fee, if the decision is made to keep and repair the slate roof, rather than replace it with asphalt shingles.

Replacing the roof with asphalt shingles, with a 40-year life span, had been part of the town's plan for an upcoming Green Repair application to the Massachusetts School Building Authority, along with a \$300,000 window replacement project at the elementary school. The town could receive up to 51% reimbursement for the two capital projects at the school, if the MSBA finds Leverett eligible for funding.

But now the selectboard is weighing the costs of keeping and repairing the old slate roof, rather than replacing it outright.

"Wouldn't it be ironic if they

tore the Greenest possible roof material you can get off the school and replaced it with asphalt, the Brownest possible roof material you can get?" asked Ogden, as he warmed up after a cold day on a Greenfield roof Monday evening.

Ogden, who has been a roofer since 1968, said he is quite familiar with the Leverett elementary school roof. He used to volunteer to maintain the slate on the school and the town hall in the late 1980s and 90s, as community service.

But John Kuczek, head of school maintenance, told the selectboard last week, "When I arrived 17 years ago, D.O. [Ogden] was maintaining the roof. He had no liability insurance. We can't take the chance something might happen. We thanked him, and said, 'You can't do it anymore.'"

Ogden said he had communicated with selectboard member Peter d'Errico since last week's meeting, and told d'Errico that he now has liability insurance, although at times he cannot afford it.

D'Errico said, "Since a prior lack of insurance was asserted as the only reason not to work with [Ogden], I think there is now no impediment to taking him up on his offer."

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World Culture Class at Montague Grange

BY TAMI STILES - Eve Christophe has designed a nine month program to educate children on world traditions and cultures, to promote understanding, communication, and a world perspective on the arts.

Each Thursday during the month of January, five home schooled students have had the opportunity to learn about India from Christophe at the Montague Grange. This month's program is dedicated to learning about yoga, meditation, kirtan and various aspects of Indian culture.

The program runs Thursdays at the Montague Grange from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The first session explored the art of making mandalas.

Mandalas are pictures designed to promote meditative

states of awareness. During the class, students picked various cards and described how they made them feel. The children sat in a circle with a lighted lotus candle in the middle. Some said they felt "powerful," "happy," "warm," or "soft" as they viewed their mandalas. The exercise opened a discussion about how the children could put those feelings into action, as they go about their lives at home, with their families and their peers.

After the discussion, the students practiced yoga. From sun salutations, to quieted stillness, the students stretched and posed in various yoga positions as Christophe told a story related to each movement. The faces of the children were all smiles and giggles as they

engaged in the centuries-old practice, focusing on their postures as they stretched their bodies in the rich sunlight of the room.

Then, it was time for a lunch break. The kids had time to play games and relax.

When lunch and playtime was over, Christophe took the students downstairs to design their own mandalas. She skillfully explained how to set up the mandala and how to create designs within the framework of their pieces.

With Indian music in the background, the children worked on their mandalas quietly, each intent on bringing forth a piece of art to take home.

On February 19th, the class see **CULTURE** pg 16

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ERVING from pg 6

will "take a long time and a lot of money." He added the first steps were to "clean it up and get it safe." He said a structural analysis of the Powerhouse building was needed before any decision could be made about preserving it. He reminded the board and committee members the town doesn't own the property yet. The selectboard released minutes from executive sessions held between August 2008 and October 2010 documenting negotiations between the town and Erving Paper Mill about the revenue sharing contract between the town and the mill regarding third party use of the wastewater treatment plant. Erving Paper operates the treatment plant, which is owned by the town. It treats wastes from the mill and also from septage haulers. Under contract that expired at the end of December, the mill shared revenues with the town from third party users.

According to the minutes, at the August 2010 executive session, Erving Paper Mill CEO Morris Housen and general manager Tom Newton "stressed that the mill was struggling to return to profitability, and that every dollar was important. They feel the town's sharing of this revenue is both wrong and punitive to them."

At the September 9th executive session, the selectboard voted unanimously to waive the \$30,000 payment due on

September 1st.

At the September 30th executive session, the board voted unanimously to waive all revenue for FY '11 (July 1st, 2010 through June 30th, 2011) and to craft a new agreement for FY '12.

At the October 7th executive session, the board decided the terms of the original contract would go back into effect for FY '12.

In a letter dated December 16th, Housen rejected the town's proposal for waiving revenues and reinstating the contract in FY'12.

At the January 6th open meeting, the board decided to extend the revenue sharing contract until the end of February. Selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo said the extension would give the town and paper mill "time to work out an agreement."

The Erving selectboard and finance committee met jointly to go over the budget process and basic financial information before starting to develop the FY'12 budget. Treasurer Margaret Sullivan provided the finance committee with an estimate of \$7,083,290 as the amount likely to be available to the town for the coming fiscal year. The boards reviewed spreadsheets showing the history of expenditures for FY'07 through FY'10, and comparing FY'10 budgeted and actual expenses.

The police department budget request was also reviewed. Chief Christopher Blair wrote, "I am

going to request a level funded expense request again, but want you to understand this does not come easy. Expenses for the department have continued to rise." Blair cited the state's new weapons qualifications policy for officers and anti-bullying legislation as two sources of increased costs.

The boards also considered how changes in town and employee shares of health insurance costs would affect the overall budget. Currently, the town pays 86% of health insurance costs for active employees and 79% for retirees.

Klepadlo warned that contracts with teachers and school paraprofessionals allow no more than a 2% decrease in the town's share in a year. He said, to be fair, decreases for other town employees should not be greater than 2%.

He noted other towns in Union 28 pay a lower share of health insurance costs for teachers and paraprofessionals, ranging from 50% to 75%.

Town administrator Tom Sharp reminded the board members that any cost of living (COLA) increase for town employees will need to be decided early in the budget process. The finance committee and selectboard agreed to review the information and other department budget requests and meet again jointly on January 20th.



LEVERETT from page 7

"People are going crazy in this town," said Julie Shively.

Peter d'Errico said Leverett had a good bond rating of its own, which could be advantageous to Wired West, and a number of citizens who would be too happy to invest in a municipal coop that could provide them with broadband internet access at last.

Reck said every town wants to be first, and the steering committee is coming up with criteria to choose among them.

Brazeau said he was concerned that by the time MBI has completed running the middle mile fiber to the 123 underserved communities in the western five counties, Wired West would not be ready to provide last mile connectivity, and Leverett would find itself waiting "eight more years."

Leverett will take its first preparatory vote in advance of formally joining with Wired West at a special town meeting on February 15th. Reck said Wired West expects to hear about second phase funding from MBI before that date.

Jackson Hill Road

In other news, the selectboard agreed to request a traffic study from Franklin Regional Council of Governments on Jackson Hill Road in the spring, and to ask police chief Gary Billings to

place a cruiser there three times a week to deter speeding. The board may consider posting a speed limit on Jackson Hill Road, a complicated process that requires Mass Department of Transportation approval.

But the selectboard was cool to the proposal to close the road to through truck traffic, and told Robinson and Art Meldon so. Meldon and Robinson had presented a petition from residents on Jackson Hill Road requesting a halt to through truck traffic due to the narrow width of the road, the lack of guardrails, the steep drop-offs, and the speed drivers are taking the winding hill on the unposted dirt road.

The selectboard read a letter from police chief Gary Billings saying closing Jackson Hill to through truck traffic would set a bad precedent, since many roads in Leverett are in the same approximate condition. Billings said alternate routes for trucks between Cave Hill Road and Route 63 each have problems - a 13 foot railroad overpass on North Leverett Road, and a poorly angled turn with bad sight lines at the intersection of Cave Hill Road and Montague Road.

Shively asked if the highway department could look at improving that intersection.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Hit & Run Accident, Unwanted Person, Break In

Wednesday, 1/5
2:59 p.m. Hit and run accident on Third Street. Services rendered.

Thursday, 1/6
4:59 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Oakman Street. Services rendered.

6:50 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Federal Street in Montague. Advised of options.
7:24 p.m. Threatening, harass-

ment on Third Street. Report taken.

10:16 p.m. General disturbance at Beijing Station on Avenue A. Investigated.

Friday, 1/7
1:14 a.m. Suspicious auto at cemetery on Turners Falls Road. Investigated.

1:28 a.m. Suspicious auto at Unity Park parking lot by fish ladder. Investigated.

2:10 a.m. Arrest of

for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license, miscellaneous equipment violation, and illegal possession of a class B substance. Summons issued for

for allowing an improper person to operate a motor vehicle.

2:12 a.m. Loud noise disturbance on Second Street. Services rendered.

8:17 p.m. Restraining order violation on K Street. Investigated.

10:06 p.m. General disturbance on Fourth Street. Investigated.

11:29 p.m. Unwanted person on Third Street. Services rendered.

11:32 Domestic disturbance on Randall Wood Drive. Peace restored.

Saturday, 1/8
4:39 p.m. Default warrant arrest of

in Turners Falls.

Sunday, 1/9

6:08 p.m. Arrest of

for marked lanes violations, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Monday, 1/10

8:52 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on O Street. Report taken.

12:34 p.m. Default warrant arrest of

in Greenfield.

8: 31 p.m. Fight at Eleventh Street and G Street. Services rendered.

11:41 p.m. General disturbance at Avenue A and Fifth Street. Dispersed gathering.

Tuesday, 1/11

12:41 a.m. Arrest of

for domestic assault and battery.

5:24 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Third Street. Services rendered.

5:58 p.m. Suspicious person at Third Street Laundromat. Investigated.

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER:

Top 10 List for Longevity



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *What are your best recommendations for achieving a long life?*

The American Geriatrics Society's Foundation for Health in Aging offers a top-ten list for longevity that can't be beat. I present a briefer, edited version of the list here. The clichés are mine.

1. Go Over the Rainbow. You need fewer calories when you get older, so choose nutrient-rich foods like brightly colored fruits

and vegetables. Eat a range of colors. The more varied the colors, the wider the range of nutrients you're likely to get.

2. Take a Hike. Walking as little as 30 minutes, three times a week can help you stay physically fit and mentally sharp, strengthen your bones, lift your spirits and lower your risk of falls.

3. Bottoms Up. Drinking a moderate amount of alcohol may lower your risks of heart disease and some other illnesses. But what's "moderate" changes with age. It means just one drink per day for older men and a half drink daily for older women. A "drink" is an ounce of hard liquor, six ounces of wine, or twelve ounces of beer.

4. Get in the Sack. Contrary to popular belief, older people don't need less sleep than younger adults. Most need at least seven or eight hours of shuteye a night. If you're getting that much and are still sleepy during the day, see a healthcare professional.

5. Twist Your Brain. Sharpen your mind by playing computer games, doing crossword puzzles, learning a new language, and engaging in social give-and-take with other people.

6. Wear a Love Glove. Older adults are having sex more often and enjoying it more, research finds. Unfortunately, more older people are also being diagnosed with sexually transmitted diseases. To protect yourself, use a condom.

7. Review Your Drugs. When you visit your healthcare professional, bring either all of the prescription and over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbs and supplements you take, or a complete list that notes the names of each, the doses you take, and how often you take them. Ask your healthcare provider to review everything you brought or put on your list. He or she should make sure they're safe for you to take, and that they don't interact in harmful ways. The older you are, and the more medicines you take, the more likely you are to experience medication side effects, even from drugs bought over-the-counter.

8. Speak Up When You Feel Down. About one in five older adults suffers from depression or anxiety. Lingering sadness,

tiredness, loss of appetite or pleasure from things you once enjoyed, difficulty sleeping, worry, irritability, and wanting to be alone much of the time can all be signs that you need help. Tell your healthcare professional right away. There are many good treatments for these problems.

9. Get Your Vaccinations. Must-have vaccines for seniors include those that protect against pneumonia, tetanus/diphtheria, shingles, and the flu, which kills thousands of older adults in the US every year.

10. See Your Doctor. See your healthcare professional regularly and bring a written list of questions with you so you don't forget to get all the answers you need.

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

TERMINATED from pg 1

does at the Erving side plant.

Last fall, the Montague selectboard authorized spending \$12,653 from the Water Pollution Control Facility's (WPCF) cash reserves to perform an engineering study, and to explore the legal ramifications of pulling out of the agreement with Erving, and installing a pump station to force the sewage from Millers Falls up the hill, up Route 63 to Green Pond Road, down to the intersection of Old Northfield Road and Lake Pleasant Road to join the flow to the Montague WPCF, a total distance of about 14,000 feet of new sewer.

WPCF supervisor Bob Trombley said Montague's treatment plant has a capacity of 1.83 million gallons of flow a day, and is only receiving about 65% of that now, or about 1 million gallons a day. "Adding the 75,000 gallons a day of flow from

Millers Falls would be no problem," Trombley said.

On Thursday, Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio told town meeting members a preliminary estimate for installing a pump station and forced main from Millers Falls to join the flow to Montague's treatment plant would cost about \$2.8 million.

Former town planner Robin Sherman, Precinct 1, said, "I think the selectboard did a great job in doing the research and getting out ahead of this question."

Building inspector David Jensen, Precinct 2, talked about weighing the capital costs of new construction in Montague versus paying for Erving's recent sewer upgrades as more than just a dollar for dollar comparison.

"This is a significant yearly expense. That money would have ended up making long term capital improvements in the town of Erving. I think, when evaluating

this, we should consider any infrastructure we construct and control in the town of Montague to be a more valuable asset than a yearly cost we pay to the town of Erving to essentially provide us a service."

"If, in the next three weeks or month, we decide we want to terminate our relationship with the town of Erving," said Montague selectboard chair Pat Allen, "we need to give Erving notice. We'd appreciate getting the authority to terminate the contract," if the board determines it is in the town's best interest to do so.

Abbondanzio said a three year notice would be required to terminate the agreement. Still, he argued that having to return to town meeting for permission to do so could add extra months of financing costs in any final determination to separate from Erving and send sewage from Millers Falls to the Montague WPCF.

Precinct 2's Jeanne Gorrick

declared, "This is a usurpation by the selectboard," of town meeting's authority regarding the finalization of contracts. "The selectboard has already spent money on an engineering study; now they are asking us to rubber stamp it. The people of Millers Falls are very happy with the services we pay for as partners with another town. I'm sorry the selectboard didn't read their contract. I'm sorry Erving didn't catch on. But there will be a lot of new costs," if the selectboard decides to pull out of the Erving contract and install a pump sta-

tion in Millers.

"That's part of the reason we had the engineering study, so we could know how much it would cost to bring the sewage back to Montague," Allen rejoined.

The vast majority of town meeting agreed, and gave the selectboard the authority they sought, and \$35,000 to pay for engineering and legal fees as they renegotiate, or terminate, the joint use contract with Erving.

In other news, town meeting agreed to a ten year tax increment financing agreement with see **TERMINATED** pg 14

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Illegal Dumping, Car Accident

Wednesday, 1/5

3:21 a.m. Report of vehicle with loud exhaust going up and down Mountain Road. Checked area. Nothing found.

12:41 p.m. Report of illegal dumping on Poplar Mountain Road. Trash pick-up company advised. Was left there, and they will gather it up.

1:42 p.m. Suspicious vehi-

cles at Railroad trestle in Erving Center. Checked same.

Thursday, 1/6

7:40 a.m. Assisted state police with vehicle that ran state police cruiser off the road on Route 2.

1:21 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked

registration, no insurance, and failing to wear a seatbelt on Route 2.

9:35 p.m. Assisted Orange police with suicidal subject on North Main Street in Orange. Assisted ambulance.

Friday, 1/7

11:01 p.m., and 11:48 p.m. Alarms at Christina's restaurant. Building secure each time. All set.

Saturday, 1/8

5:50 p.m. Suspicious vehicle at water treatment plant on East Main Street. Checked

same. All OK. 10:20 p.m. Report of car into telephone pole in Northfield. Stood by for state police.

11:35 p.m. Report of motorist in trouble on Route 2 near exit 15. State police requesting assistance locating the vehicle. Checked area. Nothing found.

Sunday, 1/9

6:59 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with intoxicated male at Gill Road in Bernardston.

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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 40: Dangerous Liaisons

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER – The hostess at the Latchis Restaurant led Synturgy public relations director Ron Wilson and newly elected Massachusetts state representative Rita Tinker to a table at the far end of the dining area.

“I thought this might be more private,” Ron assured Rita, winking.

“What is the ‘urgent matter’ that you wanted to talk to me about?” Rita asked coyly, once they were seated. She noticed that Ron’s hair was still damp, as if he’d just showered, and she caught a faint whiff of Ralph

Lauren cologne.

“Before I get into that, I just want you to know how much I enjoyed my visit with you last month.” Ron paused to look appreciatively at Rita Tinker. The soft blue sweater with the plunging neckline she was wearing really suited her. “I’d like a chance to get to know you better.”

“Well, it was a pleasure,” Rita countered with a smile, remembering the unexpected but engrossing evening she and Ron had shared at her house two weeks earlier. She had enjoyed thinking of creative ways to help Ron to relax after the energy conference.

“It’s the protestors, Rita. Half of them are from Massachusetts. They’re driving us at Synturgy up the wall. They petition, they chant, they stand outside with

‘Retire Vermont Yardley’ signs. After our ‘One, Two, Three Chimpanzee’ education campaign for evacuation, some of them taped up black plastic across all our office windows with duct tape and chanted at us all morning. And now they’re lobbying to get us shut down! They’ve managed to get the Vermont state legislature breathing down our necks. Every month, they’re back in front of the plant entrance, and we’ve got to deal with the police and the press all over again.”

“A lot of people in Franklin County do live just across the river from the plant, Ron.” Rita reminded him. “What do you want me to do?”

“I know some of these people have kids, even grandkids. They live in Montague, Greenfield, Gill...I was thinking a contribu-

tion towards, let’s say the Gill-Montague elementary schools and the Greenfield police department might make some people happy. If I give you some names, could you begin some exploratory conversations?”

“I think that can be arranged,” Rita answered, and then changed the subject. “We really do need to find a way for you to relax tonight,” she added. “You’re sounding so tense.”

“I’m hoping you have some suggestions, Rita,” Ron parried. “Are you ready to order? I’m going to have the oysters.”



Meanwhile, back at the Tinker homestead in Gill, Ruby and Alex were setting out crackers and cheese and Billy was prepar-

ing a pot of tea. Any minute, they expected to welcome the first members of their newly formed Low Carbon Diet support group. Shelly Shaw, a neighbor who’d been following the Tinker family’s progress on Go Green Family challenges, had rounded up some neighbors and persuaded Billy to help lead the group through the activities in the book.

“I’m so happy you agreed to do this,” enthused Shelly, the first to arrive. “With all the work you’ve done on your house and the changes you’ve made for Go Green Family to reduce your carbon footprint, you’re a great example of what’s possible. I can’t wait to learn about the deep energy retrofit.”

Continued next issue...

Tinker Family



Billy, 50
Bus Mechanic



Rita, 49
Yoga Instructor



Alex, 17



Ruby, 10

TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING

The Gill Selectboard and Assessors will meet January 18th at 4:15 p.m. in the Town Hall to determine the percentages of the local tax levy for each class of real estate and personal property for Fiscal Year 2011, as defined in Section 2-A of Chapter fifty-nine of the Massachusetts General Laws. Time will be set aside at the public hearing for residents to present oral or written testimony.

- Gill Board of Assessors

CLOSING OF THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER (SECTION 8) WAITING LIST

Effective January 31st, 2011, the Franklin Country Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) will close the waiting list for the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) rental assistance.

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER CLOSE OF BUSINESS at 4:30 p.m., January 31st, 2011.

The HRA office is located at 42 Canal Road Turners Falls, MA 01376 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

TERMINATED from pg 13 Mayhew Steel, on the tool making company’s \$1.6 million, 33,000-square foot addition at the industrial park. Mayhew Steel’s president, John Lawless, told meeting members his company also planned a half million dollar investment in new equipment at the Turners facility.

Lawless promised to increase

Mayhew’s workforce in Turners by an estimated 20 employees, at an hourly wage between \$12 and \$24.

Lawless said Mayhew Steel had been growing in the last few years, and recently acquired competing firms in Pennsylvania and Maryland. There are now 39 workers at their Shelburne Falls factory, eight in Pennsylvania, and 20 in Turners.

Abbondanzio said the tax increment financing agreement would grant Mayhew’s \$1.6 mil-

lion expansion a 25% deduction on local property taxes for the first two years, 15% for the next four years, 10% for the next two years, and 5% for the final two years, for an average deduction of 14% over the ten years of the agreement, or a total tax savings for Mayhew of \$52,690. The state of Massachusetts will provide Mayhew with investment tax credits to augment the deal.

Allen Ross, precinct 1, told Lawless, “Thank you for investing and creating that employment and making Montague a better place.”

Town meeting approved the measure unanimously.

The meeting members also agreed to put up another \$171,281 toward the operating costs of the Gill-Montague Regional School District for the current school year, in addition to the \$7,230,327 already approved for that purpose on June 5th, 2010. The money will come from \$129,436 from the town’s education stabilization fund (leaving \$33.56 in that account), and \$41,845 from the town’s regular stabilization account.

With that, the town has about \$692,000 left in stabilization, said Olsen, and \$514,000 in free cash.

When Gary Earles, Precinct 4 and John Reynolds, Precinct 1

tried to raise points about the cost of a pending multi-year contract with the GMRSD staff and teacher unions, or the possible impact of a possible forced regionalization plan for Franklin County school districts contemplated in Boston or Malden, moderator Ray Godin ruled them out of order.

Town accountant Carolyn Olsen explained, “The district meeting approved [the school budget on November 22nd]. Town meeting has no choice but to fund it, and the school committee has to live within it.”

Jeff Singleton, one of the chief architects of the budget compromise between the towns of Gill and Montague and their regional school district, and the five-year fiscal stabilization plan for that Gill-Montague schools, spoke in favor of the motion.

“The process that produced this compact was pretty revolutionary,” Singleton said he had been opposed to spending more of the town’s reserves on the current year’s school budget without a long-range plan for stabilizing the district’s finances, but with that now in place, “I support it now.”

So did the meeting, unanimously.



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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick, Acoustic Trio, warped Americana, 8 to 10 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: OFC, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Bingo, Free, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Dave Robinson & Tommy Filault, Blues based Roots Music, 8 to 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Quizmaster Chad's quiznite quiz, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20th
Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: Ray Mason, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21st
Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Equalites, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Blame It On Tina, Folk Rock with Jen Spingla, Bob Rosser, Klondike Koehler, and Tina Hom, 9 to 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22nd
Mike & Tony's Pizzeria, Colrain: Zydeco Connection, 7 p.m.

Wendell Historic Town Hall: The Gypsy Wranglers play at the Wendell Full Moon Coffehouse, 7:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Memphis Kelly, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Heather Maloney Band, Singer/Songwriter - Powerhouse Performer, 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23rd
First Church, Deerfield: Green River String Band, Amandla Chorus, & folk hero Juanita Nelson present a concert featuring bluegrass, folk wisdom, and choral music at 2 p.m.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: Thrive: Show! Performances and cultural exchange, this month featuring readings by Karen and Jim Shepherd, and music by John Clarke. 4 to 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Eric Love, Singing all the tunes you loved in the 60's & 70's just the way you remember them, 8 to 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26th
Montague Grange: Mid-Week Grange Dance, David Kaynor, caller, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: Reggae Night, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27th
Deja Brew, Wendell: Larry Kopp, Country & City Blues Guitar and Vocals, 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28th
Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Velocity, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Nobody's Fat, Jazz Trio, 9 to 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29th
Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Tracy & Company, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30th
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Abby Paige performs her one-woman show "Piecwork: When We Were French," 2 to 4 p.m.

Now Through FEBRUARY 26th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Fine Fishing Artwork by James Roszel in the Great Hall. Open Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Now Through FEBRUARY 27th
Wendell Free Library: Herrick Room, Garden Musings, paintings by Kerry Stone of Warwick.

Now Through MARCH 6th
Leverett Library: Bold Vibrant Faces, an exhibition of abstracts by Joanna K. Stone and Priscilla Ahlert of Leverett and Shutesbury, inspired by the later work of Alexei von Jawlensky, 1864-1941. Opening reception is on Saturday, January 29th, 4 to 7 p.m. in the Community Room.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14th
Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls: The Northfield Chateau comes to Greenfield Savin'gs Bank. Meet the sculptor Jack Nelson at the bank from 12 to 3 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Coffeehouse concert series featuring Rosebush. Bluegrass, pop, swing, Irish, and originals. 7 to 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band, Singing all your Johnny Cash



Zydeco Connection plays at Mike and Tony's Pizzeria in Colrain on Friday, January 22nd at 7 p.m.

favorites and many more, 9 to 11 p.m.

Mocha Maya's Coffee House & Espresso Bar, Shelburne Falls: Appalachian Still, 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Heavy Metal Round-up, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Kristen Ford, Carrie Ferguson, Dave Dersham, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15th
The Arts Block, Greenfield: Signature Sounds Recording Artist Mark Erelli & his trio, Zack Hickman, (bass, pump organ) & Charlie Rose (pedal steel, banjo). 8:30 p.m. Jason Myles Goss to open the show.

Leverett Town Hall: Echo Lake Coffehouse features Spook Handy, creator of songs of peace, hope and survival. 413-548-9394.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Richard Chase Group, acoustic driven originals, 9 to 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Rock 201, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Rockitqueer, the dance party, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16th
Montague Grange: Mutton & Mead Auditions, Montague Renaissance Faire Seeks Talent: actors, singers, minstrels, and other creative types at an audition and open house 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Thieves of Honor, a Robin Hood-themed Renaissance Faire to be held on June 18th.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Steve Crow, Peter

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2. THE GREEN HORNET PG13 DTS DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:30
3. YOGI BEAR IN 3D PG DAILY 12:00 2:00
3. FIGHTER R DAILY 4:00 7:00 9:30
4. LITTLE FOCKERS PG13 DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
5. SEASON OF THE WITCH PG13 DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
6. THE DILEMMA PG13 DTS DAILY 12:00 3:00 6:30 9:00
7. BLACK SWAN R DTS 12:00 3:00 6:30 9:00

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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Best of the 2010 Garden

BY LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY - The tantalizing, brightly colored seed catalogues have been arriving daily in the mail since a week or two before Christmas. Now, the holidays done, there is ample time for the gardener's self-indulgence of combing through the tasty and beautiful offerings of vegetables and flowers, marking far too many for any one garden because they all look so good.

Afterwards, armed more seriously with a list of last season's favorites and with the addition of a few new items for experimentation, the real ordering begins.

Last season's tomato season was fabulous. The hot weather combined with just the right amount of moisture to provide a bumper crop, just compensation for the prior year's total failure.

The summer's favorites were: Sungold cherry, a hands down choice for its intense tomato flavor, long and prolific growing season and its resistance to cracking; Pineapple and Rose for sheer slicing bicolor beauty and good

flavor and Brandywine Red for large fruit with traditional tomato taste. I am reordering these pleasers and adding Sioux, a mid-season heirloom tomato valued for its flavor and reliable, large harvests and Early Wonder, an early season producer with large, pink full-flavored fruit.

The sweet peppers also enjoyed the last garden season. Best producers were: Chocolate and King of the North, a beautiful red when ripe. This year I'm also going to grow Golden Calwonder, Mandarin Orange and Burning Bush (for my hot pepper loving friends). All of these are most flavorful when grilled or baked.

Other garden favorites every year are: Ailsa Craig Exhibition, a British heirloom onion with sweet flavor. This is not a storing onion and is best enjoyed raw. Large American Flag, another favorite, is an heirloom leek that freezes well for a tasty addition to soups in the long winter months. Although I did not experience good success with root crops last year (they seem to rotate a good season with the heat loving tomatoes and peppers), I will also plant again Crosby Egyptian, an early sweet beet and Danvers carrot, a half long variety that can tolerate our New England soil

which, however often tilled, remains rocky.

The best early crop to my mind are the sweet green peas. I've tried many but always go back to Knight, a very early, high-yielding plant that produces pods with six to eight peas. It grows only about two feet high and climbs on a light, low fence. Planted as soon as you can work the soil, these peas are supreme whether eaten right off the vine or steamed lightly with a little butter. This is true garden candy.

While I failed to spread seed for salad greens last fall, I'll still spread them as early as possible (as soon as the snow begins to melt off the raised beds). I look forward to my favorite mix from the Pinetree Seed Company, which produces a thick bed of cutting salad greens - leafy, pungent and beautiful - right up to the heat of summer. I'll also plant new Red Fire, a lovely lettuce with larger leaves that is slow to bolt.

New to this year's garden will be

warmer weeks of spring.

I also plan to enjoy a long season of picking green beans using Kentucky Wonder, an heirloom pole climber. However, this year I will plant only two seeds per pole on my tepee. Last year, the vines were thickly laden, the beans often hidden, and I had trouble keeping up in order to harvest beans at their best, when they are slim, tender and sweet. Still, I have a jar of dried beans grown to full size and ready for cooking in casseroles or soup.

Two winter squashes are also on my list: Australian Butter, a pumpkin shaped squash flavored like our traditional orange squash

and Delicata, a sweet yellow fruit with green stripes. These are delicious baked.

I added winter squash to my garden list several years ago after I read that it is often a highly sprayed crop that holds the residue of pesticides in its flesh.

With my \$20 worth of seeds (plus shipping), I'll hope to have a garden full of delicious vegetables to eat and to share, with little more cost than a few bags of manure and the gardener's labor.

To those of us who love it, there is great pleasure in digging, planting and weeding, in the sore muscles at the end of the day, and in the joy from the first early sprouts of spring to the final fall harvest. To my mind this is sweet and natural human work that produces a huge gift from the soil: the freshest, best tasting food on Earth.

LENDING THE STATE A HAND



JOSEPH A PARZYCH PHOTO

(Left-right) Mitchell Waldron, Claire Change and John Ward, residents of Riverside, shoveled a path for pedestrians across the Gill-Montague Bridge on Wednesday. The state says it does not have the resources to keep the sidewalk cleared of snow and ice in the winter.

CULTURE
from page 11



TAMI STILES PHOTO

(Left - right) Nina Foreman, Eve Christophe, Wyley Robbins Thorne-Thomsen, Amde Tana, Shiprab Tafari show off their mandalas on Thursday at Christophe's Home School Art Ecology program at the Montague Grange.

will put on a puppet show potluck - "Ganesh, the Virtual Storyteller" - to highlight all they have learned during the month-long session. Community members will be welcome, as Christophe will open it up as a talent show at the Grange at 6 p.m. that Saturday, for all ages and talents. It will also serve as a fundraiser for "Enchanted Arts for All," Christophe's ongoing programming for home schoolers.

The Home School Art Ecology Thursday programming includes a study of Africa, Ireland, Scandinavia with many stops along the way. Christophe gives children a passport to the culture and traditions of the places they discover in her class, and provides an avenue of dialogue for them to learn about the world and themselves without ever having to leave their own backyard. To contact Christophe to sign up for the talent show or enroll in her programs, call 413-625-8275.

Area Celebrations to Mark MLK Day

BY ALI URBAN - "The legacy of King is one we have yet to fully realize as a culture," said Jeff Napolitano, director of the Western Massachusetts American Friends Service Committee. "Everyone talks about his 'I Have a Dream' speech and his legacy toward racial equality, but there are many more lessons we can learn from the life of King. On Monday, we will try to bring these lessons to the community." Area events include:

The American Friends Service Committee will present its 27th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration with two events: a walking tour of the Northampton section of Florence's African American history, visiting Sojourner Truth's home and other landmarks. The tour begins at 10 a.m., Jan. 17th, at the Sojourner Truth Memorial Statue (corner of Park and Pine streets, Florence). Later that day, the AFSC will present "Preserving Our Civil Rights Today," a performance and presentation series featuring soloist Evelyn Harris and addresses from community organizations about contemporary barriers to civil rights, from 1-3 p.m. at Edwards Church, Northampton.

Community Action Youth Programs will host a day-long series of performances, speakers and workshops at the Second Congregational Church in Greenfield, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Jan. 17th. Highlights include a saber and African drumming performance, and keynote addresses by Jordan Bartley and B.J. Miller.

Greenfield Community College will remember the dream of Martin Luther King Jr. with its annual "Honor the Dream" commemoration from 1 - 3 p.m., Jan. 17th in Sloan Theater at GCC. Dr. Bailey W. Jackson III, founder of the UMass

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