



"Unemployment is at an all time high. People can't afford to buy groceries, much less health care."

-Gloria Burke
Turners Falls



"I thought it was a good speech. He laid out the groundwork for Green Energy jobs, and global competitiveness. It gave me a little hope for getting a job."

-Steven Novak
Turners Falls

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 17

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

75¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 27, 2011

G-M Ratifies Contracts

Teachers Get 1.75% over 3 Years

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GILL - MONTAGUE - After months of delay, the school committee voted Tuesday night to ratify all employee contracts for the Gill-Montague regional school district.

The contract for the teachers, the largest bargaining unit, granted no across the board cost of living increase in year one, the current fiscal year, but rearranged step increases so that all teachers received at least a lump sum of \$750, while teachers who are already at the top step received \$1000. In year two and three, teachers will receive at least a 1.75% cost of living increase over all, with the possibility of further increases in year three depending on the availability of state aid.

"The problem is," said Jeff Singleton, school committee member from Montague, "if you actually cost out FY'13, it potentially blows all our rev-

enues out of the water in just wages and benefits."

The vote, taken in a brief open session after an hour and fifteen minute closed meeting during which the school committee heard presentations from union representatives and discussed the terms of the contracts among themselves, was 7-3 in favor of ratification.

School committee members Jeff Singleton and Marjorie Levenson of Montague voted 'No,' as did Montague selectboard chair Pat Allen, who joined in the vote as a representative of the member towns.

Allen asked again, as she asked last fall, for the vote on the pending con-

After Kenney Leaves, More G-M Administrators Will Follow

BY ALI URBAN

GILL-MONTAGUE - When former TFHS principal Jeff Kenney retires on his 60th birthday next month, the Gill Montague school district can expect further administrative changes in the year ahead.

Superintendent Carl Ladd recently submitted his plan to reduce central office staff by three positions - for a total savings of \$170,000 - for the school committee's review. Ladd said his plan for central office reconfiguration is based on the district review prepared by a visiting team from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, as well as a need to reduce the district's cost-per-pupil expense

see FOLLOW pg 9

tracts to be postponed until after the report of the district review by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is released. That review examined the district's fiscal capacity, among other aspects. Allen argued personnel contracts should not be finalized without first looking at the district's fiscal capacity to absorb those costs.

Allen was voted down. see CONTRACT pg 9

Mass UCC President Jim Antal Preaches Sustainability in Montague



DETMOLD PHOTO

Rev. Jim Antal, president of the Mass. United Church of Christ, at the 1st Congregational Church

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE - The temperature had dipped below zero and all the trees along the Sawmill were rimed with frost, glittering in the sun like crystal.

One congregant called it the artistry of God, though others may have cursed the viscosity of their engine oil as they turned helpless starter motors in vain.

Still, it was a good day to walk to church, especial-

ly to hear the sermon delivered by Reverend Jim Antal, president of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC), who came to preach the gospel according to Bill McKibben at the First Congregational Church of Montague, Trinitarian, on January 23rd.

The First Congregational Church displays the work of local artists near the front of their historic

meeting hall, as a way of "deepening and enhancing our experience of God in worship through the use of art," as the church's website puts it.

Whether God's artistry could be better discerned in patterns of frost, or in the pattern of plangent notes issuing from the silver flute of Leah Taylor, a Hallmark student visiting from Florida who provided a

see ANTAL pg 12

Traffic Fears Aired at Big Box Hearing



Proposed Retail Development located between French King Highway (Rt. 2A) & Mobawk Trail (Rt. 2).

Site Plan from the Planning Board Hearing, December 16th, 2010.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GREENFIELD - The Greenfield planning board hearing on Ceruzzi Properties' special permit request for a proposed 135,000-square-foot super store on the French King

Highway entered its fifth month, eighth meeting, and 30th hour of public testimony at the Greenfield High School on Thursday, January 20th.

The session was devoted to the traffic impacts of

the proposed development on Greenfield, a destination for shoppers from around the county.

Nearly 90 Greenfield residents showed up to speak. One resident, Verne Sund, spoke in favor of the

proposed development, saying traffic had been bad in front of his house for many years, and it was time others in town got used to similar conditions. All the other residents who spoke see TRAFFIC pg 8

Montague's Oldest Church



The First Congregational Church, on the common on Montague Center, was built in 1834.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE - The red brick gabled Greek Revival church building where Reverend Jim Antal gave his sermon on Sunday, the First Congregational Church, on the common on Montague Center, was built

in 1834. But the congregation is older than that, and in fact predates the founding of the town by three years.

In June of 1751, the colonial House of Representatives ordered see CHURCH pg 13

PET OF THE WEEK Dignified



Lady Gertrude

I'm Lady Gertrude, an eight-year-old short hair cat in need of a good home, and one thing I know is that a lady shouldn't be homeless on the streets. It's just not proper. But it's true, I was found as a stray.

Despite my hardships, I maintained my dignity and optimism throughout my ordeal. I just knew that someone would come to my rescue. And look at me now. So regal, so elegant, so white. I'm doing very well here, but really need to find my forever home. I'm royalty, so my home is my castle. But you don't have to worry that I'll be a heartless ruler - quite the contrary! I have a gentle touch, and a sweet demeanor. I will work hard to earn your loyalty. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org

Storage Garages for Rent



Eagle Automotive
147 2nd Street
Turners Falls
413-824-8111

NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA



32 Bridge Street,
2nd Floor
Shelburne Falls

413-625-9850

ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

The Montague Reporter

Published weekly on Thursday,
(Every other week in July and
August. Wednesday paper fourth
week of November. No paper last
week of December.)

PHONE (413) 863-8666
reporter@montaguema.net
Postmaster: Send address
changes to
The Montague Reporter
58 4th Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline
is Tuesday at NOON.

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

Local Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 1/2 Year

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Bears For Kids

BY LINDA HICKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - Bears for Kids will be held at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, February 5th at 10:30 a.m. Children of all ages are invited to join Children's

Librarian for a fun informative program on bears. This is part of a monthly Saturday morning series on animals with Linda Hickman. For more information, call 863-3214.

ATHOL LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome to the Graveyard

The Athol Public Library is pleased to present a program with the Gravestone Girls on Wednesday, February 2nd, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. (Snow date: Tuesday, February 15th at 5:30 p.m.)

The Gravestone Girls will offer their "Welcome to the Graveyard" presentation, tailored to feature the 13 burial places local to Athol. Join us and learn about the evolution of cemeteries and gravestones from the colonial era into the 21st century.

The event will take place in

the library's Activities Room, 568 Main Street in Athol. People are encouraged to visit or call the library at (978) 249-9515 to sign up for this unique and fascinating program.

This event is free and open to the public.



Athol's Gravestone Girls

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Documentary Gasland, Workshop O'Keeffe

The award winning 2010 documentary *Gasland* will be shown at the Wendell Free Library on Friday, January 28th at 7:00 p.m. The film explores the horrendous effects of hydraulic fracturing, commonly used in the drilling for natural gas. The free viewing is sponsored by the Wendell Agricultural Commission and the Wendell Engery Committee. For more information, call (978) 544-8604.

The Pastel Art of Georgia O'Keeffe, a Workshop with Gregory Maichack, will take place at the Library on Saturday, February 5th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The workshop is free.

Become inspired to create beautiful pastel paintings by

exploring America's foremost modernist pastel painter of flowers. Focusing on the calla lily, participants work in tandem with artist Greg Maichack. Also, topics such as O'Keeffe's landscapes, shells and more will be covered. From sheer beginners with no experience to advanced students, all will experiment with hundreds of pastels to learn the pastel handling techniques of O'Keeffe. This program is funded by the Wendell Cultural Council. It is free and open to adults and older teens. Please call the Wendell Library to register at (978) 544-3559. Additional information about Gregory Maichack is available at gregorymaichack.com/index.html.

Prison Birth Project Knit-a-thon

The Prison Birth Project will hold their second annual Knit-a-thon beginning Saturday, February 5th through Saturday, February 19th. The Project works with women at the intersection of incarceration and motherhood to provide support, advocacy, and empowerment.

More details about the Knit-a-thon and sign up sheets can be found at www.theprisonbirthproject.org or at our blog at knitformothers.blogspot.com or contact Rachel Antony-Levine at (614) 581-2538, knit@theprisonbirthproject.org.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – January 31st - February 4th

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 when the center is not open. AARP tax preparation appointments are available now for February 8th and 28th and March 28th. Call the Senior Center to sign up.

Monday, January 31st
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday, February 1st
10:30 a.m. Yoga
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting
Wednesday, February 2nd
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, February 3rd
No Tai Chi
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, February 4th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
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 be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior



The Miro Sprague Trio held a rapt audience at attention on Saturday night at the Faces and Places gallery in Millers Falls. Sprague, on piano, bassist Dave Clark and drummer Conor Meehan communicated effortlessly and spontaneously as they grooved through classics by Charlie Parker and originals by Sprague himself. Sadly, this may be one of the last performances at the Faces and Places Gallery, which is facing tough times making ends meet.

Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from documents relating to the original construction of the Gill-Montague Bridge in 1937-38..

- On the Gill bank, workmen had dug a road about 400 feet from the highway, to allow trucks and equipment to be brought to the site of pier five. A section of the embankment was excavated to house the cement mixing bin, a sizeable machine which measures out the sand and cement to prepare them for mixing.
- In April of 1937, due to high water, work was confined to the shore jobs. But after the river subsided, construction of the center piers began.
- The most difficult part of the construction was that of the fourth pier, on the Gill side of bridge. It was necessary to drill below the river bed to erect a steel coffer-dam to enclose the foundation. The entire structure sits on solid rock, with the exception of the Gill shore pier.

More bridge facts next week!

Calling all Franklin County Poets

The Friends of the Greenfield Public Library is pleased to announce the 20th Annual Poet's Seat Poetry Contest. The contest is open to all Franklin County residents. Awards will be given in three categories: first, second, and third place in the adult division and the four top poems in the youth division - age 12-18 (divided into 12-14 and 15-18 for judging).

Submit up to three of your poems. Number pages of multi-page poems. Indicate "Adult" or "Young Poet". Young Poets should write their age on the front sheet where poem appears, lower right hand corner, circled. No identifying information on front of sheet and no staples

please. All poets, on reverse side of poem, write name of poet, address, telephone number, and e-mail address (if available). Poems will not be returned. Submit on white paper, printed clearly in ink or typed in plain typeface. Include SASE for notification of receipt of entry; otherwise notification will be via email. Only unpublished poems may be submitted. Previous first place winners may not submit poems (though youth can, if entered in a new age category). Entries must be postmarked by March 8th. Poems should be mailed to Poet's Seat Poetry Contest, Greenfield Public Library, 402 Main Street, Greenfield MA 01301.

An awards ceremony and poetry reading will take place on April 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Capen Room at the Stoneleigh Burnham School in honor of National Poetry Month. For additional information contact Hope Schneider at (413) 772-0257 or Cynthia Snow at (413) 625-0105.

WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY

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



(413) 773-3622

WENDELL Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760 for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center if you need a ride.

NEWS FROM FRANKLIN COUNTY HOME CARE

Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit Delivers Big Bucks

BY ROBERT BLISS
BOSTON - No other refundable tax credit equals the Senior Circuit Breaker tax credit for putting money into the wallets of average taxpayers 65 and older. Yet it is safe to say that many eligible taxpayers have never heard of the credit. If you are reading this and have older relatives or friends who might benefit, pass on the word. The maximum credit, after all, is worth \$970 in the coming tax year.

any abatement or exemption, exceeds 10 percent of the taxpayer's total income.

The credit also works for renters. It is equal to the amount by which 25 percent of the rent actually paid during the taxable year exceeds 10 percent of the taxpayer's total income, with the credit capped at \$970.

How does this credit work in practice? Take the example of a married couple with an annual income of \$50,000 and \$6,000 in property tax, water and sewer payments for their home. Ten percent of their income is \$5,000; their combined tax bills are \$6,000; the difference is \$1,000; so they qualify for the maximum credit of \$970.

Or, in the case of renters, take the example of a married couple with an annual income of \$25,000 who pay \$12,000 annually in rent. Ten percent of their income is \$2,500, which is less than 25 percent of their rent, which equals \$3,000, so they receive a \$500 tax credit.

Again, this is a refundable tax credit. Let's say that you don't owe any state income tax. If you qualify for the circuit breaker tax credit, the state will cut you a check for up to \$970. Or, let's say you owe \$500 in taxes and

have qualified for the maximum credit. The state will then send you a check for \$470.

Finally, if you find yourself eligible, you can go back three tax years and claim the credit retroactively. This credit is definitely worth checking out.

Property tax abatements for seniors 70 and older of low to moderate income are also available. The amount of the abatement ranges from \$500 to \$750 depending on the town the property is located in. Social Security payments and the value of your house do not count in determining your eligibility. Applications for abatement are available at your town's assessors office and the completed form is due 30 days from the mailing of the real estate tax bill. Please contact your assessor's office for further information and questions.

Clip this article and take it with you to your tax preparer. Many senior centers provide free tax help. For a location in your area contact Franklin County Home Care at info@fchcc.org or 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259.

Robert Bliss is the director of communication for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

The Department of Revenue has just released the rules and regulations for the Senior Circuit Breaker tax credit in tax year 2010. The credit is based on the actual property tax or rent paid by the eligible taxpayer who is either living in their own home or paying rent.

A taxpayer's total income may not exceed \$51,000 for a single individual; \$64,000 for a head of household; or \$77,000 for married couples filing a joint return. The assessed valuation of a residence may not exceed \$764,000. Many taxpayers 65 and over fall within these limits.

The credit is equal to the amount by which the taxpayer's property tax payments in the current tax year, including water and sewer charges but excluding

Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange in Korea Receive Expanded Coverage

WASHINGTON - Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving along the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Korea will have an easier path to access health care and benefits under a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) final regulation that will expand the dates when illnesses caused by herbicide exposure can be presumed to be related to Agent Orange.

"VA's primary mission is to be an advocate for veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki "With this new regulation, VA has cleared a path for

more veterans who served in the DMZ in Korea to receive access to quality health care and disability benefits for exposure to Agent Orange."

Under the final regulation published this month in the federal register, VA will presume herbicide exposure for any veteran who served between April 1st, 1968, and August 31st, 1971, in a unit determined by VA and the Department of Defense to have operated in an area inside or near the Korean DMZ where herbicides were applied.

In practical terms, eligible veterans with specific illnesses the VA presumes associated with herbicide exposure no longer have to prove an association between their illness and their military service. This "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits and ensures that veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

For more information, local veterans are encouraged to contact Leo Parent, Department of Veterans Services agent, at (413) 863-3205.

Healing Art Workshop for Breast Cancer Survivors

In celebration of survivorship, Forest Moon is offering *1 in 8: The Torso Project* at the Leverett Crafts & Arts Center on Saturday and Sunday, February 19th and 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The mission of Forest Moon is to provide affordable, activity-based programs to improve the well-being of cancer survivors and their loved ones in New England.

The Torso Project brings together women in Western Massachusetts who have been affected by breast cancer to create and decorate plaster casts of their torsos. There is the option to later display the torsos at a community art exhibit. The two-day workshop is limited to 10 participants. Survivors are welcome to bring a female friend or family

member. *1 in 8: The Torso Project* is free and includes materials, snacks and refreshments. Participants provide their own lunches. To register, please contact Pam Roberts at (413) 625-2402 or pam@aol.com. More information about Forest Moon can be found at www.forestmoon.org or on Facebook.



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - Wendellites interested in forming a **4-H club** for children and families are invited to attend a bi-weekly Sunday meeting at the Wendell Free Library on January 30th at 2:30 p.m. For more details, please contact: Jenny, David, or Melina Coy at (978)-544-5249. Come to the Montague **Family Dance** on Sunday, January 30th from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Montague Grange, on Main Street in Montague Center, for family-style contra dancing for all ages. A sliding scale fee includes a snack at the break. Chase the winter blues away with caller Jim Fownes and the four member band Double Time, including nationally renowned fiddler Ron Grossein of Swallowtail and 16-year-old Kathleen Fownes. Family dances take place the last Sunday of each month, November through March.

The **Alliance to Develop Power** is hosting a community meeting at the Greenfield Gardens, 57 Pray Drive, in Greenfield on Wednesday, February 2nd, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The goal of ADP is to educate the public on how to access free energy assessments and weatherization programs. The meeting is open to homeowners and renters and is part of ongoing efforts by a statewide green justice campaign. For more information about ADP please call (413) 658-7171.

Residents of Massachusetts have an opportunity to join the **Arbor Day Foundation**. When you become a member of the foundation, you will receive ten trees, at an approximate height of six to twelve inches, for \$10.00 The trees, two each of white flowering dogwoods, flowering crabapples, Washington hawthorns, American red buds and golden rain trees, are part of the non-profit foundation's "Trees for America Campaign."

The trees will be shipped

postpaid at the right time for planting, between March 1st and May 31st. For more information or to become a member go to www.arborday.org/january, or send a \$10.00 contribution to "Ten Free Flowering Trees," Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410 by January 31st.

Getting married or know someone who is? Come see Eutopia Events and many other great wedding professionals at the Bridal Show of Franklin County hosted by Greenfield Flowers, on Saturday, February 29th, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Held at the Greenfield Grill, 30 Federal Street in Greenfield. Free.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County will team up with the **Thrive Project** to better serve youth and young adults in the area, with this special evening reception on Monday, January 31st from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Learn about the enrollment and matching process, hear reflections and stories from current volunteers, and take advantage of the Q & A to ask questions and speak with BBBS representatives. The reception will take place at the Thrive Project, 37 3rd Street in Turners Falls. For more info contact Dan at (413) 772-0915 or dedelstein@bbbs-fc.org.

Send items for local briefs to: reporter-local@montague-ma.net

Klare Talks in Leverett

On Thursday, February 3rd, at 7:00 p.m., at the Leverett town hall, the committee organizing a Leverett peace commission will present Michael Klare, a Five College professor of Peace and World Security studies. He will give a talk on "resource conflict and resource innovation in the search for peace." Tea will be served after the talk. For more info, call Jim Perkins, at 367-9520 or Barbara Tiner, at 548-7919.

Brian R. San Soucie Locksmith - CRL
 Serving the Area for over 30 years Certified • Bonded • Insured
We Install all Types of Locks & Entry Devices for Businesses and Homes
 28 Montague Street Turners Falls, MA 01376
863-2471
 • Dead Bolts
 • Household Lock Sets
 • We Master Key & Re-Key
 • Safe Combinations Changed

COUNTRY OIL
 SINCE 1986
 HEATING • COOLING • PLUMBING
 Prepaid & Budget Programs Available
CALL for Details
 Air Conditioning Service & Installation
 540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992
www.countryoil.com 413-648-9912

Since 1895
 On the Common
 Greenfield, Massachusetts
 Turners Falls, Massachusetts
McCarthy FUNERAL HOME
 (413) 774-4808
 John C. Davis
 Director
www.mccarthyfuneralhomes.com

River View Muscle Therapy
 Muscle Therapy
 Swedish Massage
 Therapeutic Touch
 By Appointment Only
 Julie Lowensburg, RN, LMT
 Member, AMTA
 2 Bridge Street • Shelburne Falls • 413-625-9932 or 624-0220

TNT PRODUCTIONS
 DJ & KARAOKE SPECIALISTS
 We Know Entertainment
 Steven Therien
 413-522-6035
www.tntprodj.net
 * Free Consultation
 * State of the Art Sound
 * Best Music for all Ages/Occasions
 * Rental Karaoke System

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS
 Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
 Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change
 194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236
10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES
MASS INSPECTION STATION NO. 13051

The Montague Reporter

Editor
David Detmold

Editorial Assistants
Hugh Corr
Shira Hillel

Circulation
Janel Nockelby

Layout & Design
Claudia Wells
Boysen Hodgson
Karen Hoyden
Karen Wilkinson
Suzette Snow Cobb

"The Voice of the Villages"

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

Photography
Claudia Wells
Joe Parzych

Distribution Manager
Don Clegg

Technical Administrator
Michael Muller

Thin Blue Line Under Assault

The *New York Times* reported on Tuesday that 13 police officers across the country have been shot in the line of duty in just the five preceding days; four of them fatally, others wounded critically.

"It's unbelievable," the *Times* reports Chuck Wexler, executive director of the Washington-based Police Executive Research Forum, saying. "I can't remember this many shootings happening in such a short period of time."

The *Times* goes on to report that since the beginning of this year, ten police officers nationwide have been killed in the line of duty.

This is January.

"In 2010, 61 federal, state, and local officers were killed by gunfire," reports Don van Natta, Jr. in the *Times*, "a 24 percent increase from 2009," when 49 officers were killed nationwide in the line of duty.

Here in Montague, we remember all too clearly the morning of October 26th, 2007, when Sergeant Chris Bonnette and patrolman Mike Sevens were called to the scene when a man was heard firing shots into the air from his back porch at the intersection of J and 4th Street, a crowded residential area of Turners Falls.

Bonnette and his partner climbed the back steps, knocked on the door, and were confronted with a man carrying a loaded handgun. Bonnette tackled him and disarmed him safely, and the police made sure the individual "received the mental health treatment he needed," according to chief of police Ray Zukowski.

How easily that call could have ended differently for the officers and the neighbors involved.

This is by no means the only time in recent years Montague police have served warrants to or confronted armed individuals, including in the course of drug dealing arrests on Central Street when heavily armed suspects were taken into custody.

"Guns and drugs go hand in hand," said Zukowski. "That's part of doing business, unfortunately."

Zukowski added, "I can think

of at least half a dozen times in my career when I've had to confront armed suspects."

Would the Montague chief of police like to see gun laws tightened in this country, so that mentally unbalanced people and drug dealers would not have such an easy time purchasing and wielding a hand gun or assault weapon?

"I believe there should be more checks and balances," said Zukowski. "We should not make it so easy to get firearms."

He added, "Since the Brady Act was passed, it has made it harder to possess guns." He was talking about the federal law passed in 1993 that imposed a five day waiting period and background checks for people purchasing a hand gun from a licensed dealer. But if that person is mentally ill or possesses a criminal rap sheet, they can still easily purchase a weapon at a gun show in any one of 33 states with no background check or waiting period required – none at all.

And, as Zukowski said, "Let's face it. If you've got a friend with guns, it's easy enough to get one. A lot of these people with restraining orders for domestic violence still have a circle of friends or family members with guns. Being a little creative, they can still get their hands on a gun. It's almost impossible to stop someone who wants one."

That does not mean we shouldn't make it harder for criminals, abusive spouses, and people with a prior history of mental illness to arm themselves and endanger their family, their neighbors, and the law enforcement personnel who have to deal with them. Call your representatives; call U.S. Senator Scott Brown (202-224-4543) and demand they work to tighten America's lax gun control laws, starting with a renewal of the federal assault weapons ban.

Sure, it's a free country. And it's apparently a country that feels free to gun down law enforcement officers, as well as innocent bystanders, with shocking regularity today.

Is that the kind of country we want to live in?

What's the bottom line on the

ECONOMY REPAIR

I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING, BUT IT STILL WON'T START.



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



A Young Ambassador

One evening, my husband and I were in a small Chinese restaurant here in the Florida Keys. We noticed a young Chinese boy walking around and surmised he was a relative of one of the workers.

It wasn't long before we heard from an adjoining booth a very young American boy talking about his toy trucks. He had

struck up a conversation with the four-year-old Chinese boy, who we soon learned had only been in the United States for four months, and spoke no English. That did not deter the four-year-old American boy from playing with and inviting his newfound friend to his home.

I am sure we weren't the only

people in the restaurant to feel the lack of racial boundaries that brought these two young people together. If the world were to end war and hatred, maybe we should put diplomatic relation into the hands of four-year-olds.

- Peg Bridges (writing from her winter perch in)
Key Largo, FL

Montague on Target for G-M FY'12 Assessment

Montague's selectboard and finance committee have discussed the initial forecast of town revenue for the fiscal year 2012 at our January 19th meeting, and the finance committee voted to advise you of our initial calculation of the affordable assessment from the Gill-Montague Regional School District for the coming year.

The significant comparison

nation's lax gun control laws?

Just ask the chief of police of any small town or city where patrolmen stopping traffic violators or serving routine warrants are liable to get shot down without warning by heavily armed adversaries.

Ask Chief Zukowski how he feels about the ease with which anyone who wants one can get their hands on a gun in America.

"It puts a lot of people in danger," Zukowski said.

shows Montague's preliminary affordable assessment (\$7,287,725) is about \$12,000 above the target in the fiscal Compact agreed to by the towns, the state, and the GMRSD last year.

We are all aware that progress toward fiscal stability depends on the efforts of three parties to attain funding and spending goals, and we are pleased that this initial calculation by one of the member towns fits within the guidelines of the Compact. The specific figure is not final or binding, since it is based on assumptions that will change as new

information is available. But it follows the agreed upon process proposed by the oversight group. From time to time, in the coming months, we will keep you informed of changes in the calculation.

We wish the school district success in its efforts to meet the spending target outlined, and together we may encourage the legislature to commit the Chapter 70 and other state aid elements which are also essential to support the Compact.

- John Hanold, Chair
Montague Finance Committee

Theft at the Carnegie

While at the Turners Falls Carnegie Library on Monday, I noticed about 10 DVD cases taped to the video counter. Each had a post-it attached, with the word "stolen" written on it.

According to the librarians, there has been a rash of thefts of DVDs, the cases being left behind because the bar codes on them would activate the alarm.

One of the librarians said this

is not the first instance of such thefts, only the first time it has been made known to the general public.

Stealing from a public library is, to me, a particularly reprehensible act. Libraries represent free access to information. Beyond that, a public library is one of the most overt symbols and protectors of a democratic culture known to the human race. To maintain a democracy requires individual responsibility.

If anyone reading this letter is guilty of theft from the Carnegie Library, or any other library for that matter, I ask you to please cease such behavior. You are doing much more harm than perhaps you realize.

- Kevin Smith
Turners Falls

Sign Me Up!

- \$20 for half year subscription
 \$25 out-of-area subscribers

The Montague Reporter

58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 1/26/11



We Welcome Your Letters!

Montague Reporter

58 4th St Turners Falls, MA 01376

reporter@montaguema.net

Word on the Avenue

What do you think of the STATE of the UNION, and President Obama?



It's getting better. I can't knock Obama. Bush tore us up. There's too much money going to the war; it's hurting America.

- James Ringgold
Turners Falls



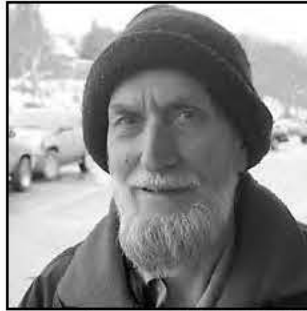
I think our president is trying hard to deliver for our country as a whole. I think he is underappreciated. But he's an understated guy. He's not looking for a pat on the back. He does things from his heart, and his beliefs.

- Matt Bousquet
Turners Falls



I think he's trying to do a damn good job. Look at what he walked into. People don't give him a chance.

- Esther Lapine
Turners Falls



Getting worse every day. The economy's bad. People can't get along together. The peace and tranquility we once knew is gone out the window.

- Jerry Coney
Greenfield



Seems like its getting better. Just like anyone else, I wish the war would end. I was having trouble finding a job, and then I found one. Sometimes I think Obama's a little too commercial. But, he's doing his job decently.

- Melvin Caballero
Turners Falls



If we don't figure out a way to get corporations' and billionaires' influence out of government, we don't stand a chance.

- Paul MacMunn
Turners Falls



I think Obama's a Socialist. I think he's leading us down a merry path with the deficit. That's what worries me the most. Today, I heard it hit \$1.5 trillion. We can't continue on that road. He talks a big game, but he just keeps on spending.

- Gregory Marshall
Turners Falls



I thought he did a good job. We're slowly recovering.

- Kathy Forster
Turners Falls

Text and Photos:
David Detmold

OBITUARY

Alice M. Fugere

TURNERS FALLS—Alice Mildred (Kallins) Fugere, 90, of 60 K Street, died Saturday, January 22nd, at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, following a period of declining health.

Born July 24th, 1920, in Turners Falls, she was the youngest and only remaining child of Anthony and Rose (Sneal) Kallins. She attended Turners Falls schools and was a 1938 graduate of Turners Falls High School.

Mrs. Fugere worked in the notions department of Wilson's Department Store in Greenfield before her marriage to her high school classmate, Harold Rene Fugere, on July 7th, 1947.

After her marriage, she balanced homemaking with part-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CORI URBAN
Alice Mildred (Kallins) Fugere, 90

time jobs in Turners Falls as a census taker, as a teacher's aide at the former Central Street School and in the marking room of the former Rockdale Store.

Mrs. Fugere had many hobbies and interests including knit-

ting, crocheting, sewing, traveling, scrapbooking and reading, but the focus of her life was her faith and her family and friends.

A member of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Turners Falls, Mrs. Fugere was a member of the Holy Rosary Society there and a regular contributor to the Christmas and Easter bazaars.

Mrs. Fugere was devoted to her family and enjoyed the news of family members' activities and accomplishments. She particularly enjoyed following the travels of her family and friends and acquainting herself with the places to which they traveled.

Fiercely independent, she took pride in caring for her home and taking part in both the usual and special events of family and friends.

She is survived by her four daughters—Christine M. Levine of Delmar, N.Y.; Catherine F.

McNally of Northwood, N.H.; Constance M. Fugere of Galloway, N.J.; and Corinne F. Urban of Millers Falls—and five grandchildren—Dr. Daniel H. Levine of Baltimore, Md.; David M. Levine of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Maureen C. McNally of Washington, D.C.; Jacob D. McNally of Northwood, N.H.; and Alice L. Urban of Millers Falls, a student at Middlebury (Vt.) College who dedicated her recent study of microfinance in Cameroon, Africa, to her grandmother. Mrs. Fugere also leaves one great-granddaughter, Ruth Z. Schober-Levine of Baltimore.

Mrs. Fugere is survived also by several nieces and a nephew and their families and by friends, many of whom she considered family.

She was predeceased by a stillborn son, Charles M., and her loving and devoted husband,

Harold, who died in 2001.

A calling hour will begin Saturday at McCarthy Funeral Home, 14 Prospect Street, Turners Falls, at 8:30 a.m.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 84 K Street, Turners Falls, with burial in St. Anne's Cemetery in Turners Falls at a later date.

The family respectfully requests flowers be omitted and expressions of affection be made in the form of charitable contributions to Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 84 K Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376 or to The Mark E. Urban Scholarship Fund, c/o the church.

McCarthy Funeral Homes of Turners Falls and Greenfield is in charge of arrangements.

Domestic, Asian & European Ron Kelley, Owner

Eagle Automotive
147 2nd Street, Turners Falls
(413) 824-8111

Engine Light
ABS/Brake Light
SRS/Air Bag Light

Complete Car and Truck Repair

Where your needs are #1.

OPEN TO 8 PM
Th-Sat 10-8
Sun 11-5

Unique Gifts from Tibet, Nepal & India starting as low as \$10!

FREE Raffle
FREE Hot Cider
FREE Cookies

GREAT Sales
LOCAL Artisans
EASY Parking

HIMALAYAN VIEWS
south of Magic Wings on rts 5/10 tibetanplaza.com 665-5550

One Century. One Family

Celebrating 100th Anniversary

Professional Painting & Decorating

Contractor - Retailer
www.couturebros.com

187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

SECO CONSTRUCTION

Paul Seco

- residential & light commercial
- remodeling & repair
- roofing, siding, decks & more
- licensed & insured

no job too small!

413.863.9171 secoconstruction1@hotmail.com

CREATIVE HAIRCUTTING PERMS & COLORS
Men, Women & Children

Gift Certificates Available
863 - 2022

74 PROSPECT ST. TURNERS FALLS

DILLON CHEVROLET INC.
54 Main Street
P.O. Box 729
Greenfield, MA 01302

Avalanche • Colorado • Suburban • Tahoe • Equinox • Traverse • Vans

Ron Sicard
Sales Representative

Bus. Phone (413) 773-3678
Fax (413) 774-5746

LAPINE MULTIMEDIA

DVD~ MINI DVD~DVC~VHS/VHS
C/SVHS~BETA~REGULAR/HIGH &
DIGITAL 8 MM~HOME MOVIES/SLIDES~
CD'S/REEL TO REEL/8 TRACK/WIRE
AND OTHER FORMATS.

"MULTIPLE COPIES QUICK AS A BUNNY"

WILLIAM & KATHY WHITE
(413-773-7747)

LAPINE MULTIMEDIA
21 MOHAWK TRAIL BOX 259
GREENFIELD, MA 01301
LAPINE@VERIZON.NET

mww
Montague WebWorks . com

make the web work for your business

michael muller
owner
413.320.5336

28 Center Street
montague, ma 01351
info@montaguewebworks.com

NEW LOCAL OWNERSHIP FAMILY VACUUM

34 Chapman Street
Greenfield 413-774-2046
Mon - Fri, 9:30 - 5:30 | Saturday, 8:30 - 3:00

Commercial Rug Shampoo Rental

All Makes & Models
Most Repairs Done within 48 Hours
New & Used Vacuums for Sale

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Concern Raised on Pace of Senior Center Construction

BY KATIE NOLAN - The Erving selectboard considered senior center construction, biosolids, and snow removal at its brief January 20 open meeting and then went into executive session.

This marked the seventh time in the last ten meetings the Erving selectboard has closed portions of their agenda to the press and public.

Board member Eugene Klepadlo said he drives by the senior center construction site every day and sees no progress in the construction, with snow piling up from successive storms.

Selectboard chair Andrew

Goodwin asked administrator Tom Sharp to tell the senior center building committee, "Things are starting to slip and that's unacceptable."

Goodwin added he did not want to see extra costs for snow removal simply because the contractor "waited to remove the snow and it got icy."

On January 6th, the selectboard voted to pay MCMUSA, the general contractor for the new senior center, \$204,108, as the town's first installment for the \$1.9 million construction project. At that meeting, Sharp told the selectboard MCMUSA was "catching up" with the projected

schedule.

At the last selectboard meeting in December, the town's project manager for the senior center project, Bruce Hunter, reported the project was approximately one week behind schedule.

Peter Coleman, general manager of ERSECO, the company that runs the Erving Center wastewater treatment plant for the town, reported the plant is starting a new program for re-using treated sewage sludge, called biosolids.

Some of the biosolids will be used by New England Organics for gravel pit reclamation projects. The Massachusetts

Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) requires a permit for each specific reclamation site, Coleman told the board, and the permits will be issued in the name of the town of Erving, because the wastewater treatment plant belongs to the town.

ERSECO hopes to next apply Erving biosolids to a 40-acre gravel pit in Spencer. Coleman said this use of the biosolids "should be no burden on the town." He said the plant had used solids for gravel pit reclamation in the past, at a time when MADEP required only a general permit, and there had been no problems.

The selectboard took a copy of the MADEP permit application for environmental supervisor Art Pace to review.

Resident Dan Watson commented that sidewalks at town-

owned buildings on Route 2 had not been cleared after three recent snowstorms.

Goodwin said the town is responsible for clearing its sidewalks of snow, just as homeowners are. Sharp said he would take the matter up with the highway department.

Recently elected state representative Denise Andrews wrote the selectboard asking for the opportunity to hold one-hour meetings at town hall twice a year.

The selectboard agreed to meet jointly with the planning board on February 3rd to fill two planning board vacancies.

The selectboard closed the open meeting and went into executive session to consider "the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health or the discipline, dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual..."

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Tax Rate Up Slightly

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On Wednesday, January 19th, the Gill selectboard held a tax classification hearing and reaffirmed Gill's longstanding practice of holding to a single tax rate for commercial and residential property.

Assessor and administrative assistant Ray Purington told the selectboard the tax rate will likely be set at \$13.90 per \$1000 of valuation, up 1.4 percent from last year's rate of \$13.71.

Gill's levy limit for this tax year will be \$2,117,342. The assessors have determined the town will have an excess levy capacity of about \$1,411, as close to zero as they are able to get using whole numbers for the tax rate, Purington said.

Total taxable property in town equals about \$152 million, Purington said, with about \$65 million of property in the tax exempt category.

The latter includes \$5,225,900 of town owned land and buildings; \$3,386,000 of state owned

land, a few community living facilities and other tax exempt properties in town equaling \$3,393,800, and \$53,384,100 for the 65 tax exempt buildings and 314 acres of tax exempt property of the Northfield Mount Hermon school.

The town had to wait to set the tax rate until after the budget agreement with the Gill-Montague Regional School District was finalized at the Montague special town meeting earlier this month. "Which is why we are so glad we were able to go to estimated tax bills," to keep cash flow going this year, selectboard member Ann Banash said.

A discussion about establishing a Green Burial cemetery in Gill, scheduled with Joan Pillsbury of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Western Massachusetts, has been postponed until January 31st, at 5 p.m. due to last week's inclement weather.

An initiative between the boards of health of the towns of

Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Greenfield, Montague, and Shutesbury to streamline the delivery of public health services in the county through a proposed Franklin County Public Health District was supported by the selectboard. The initiative is still in the planning stages.

Board of health and selectboard member Randy Crochier said towns like Montague and Deerfield that still support a public health nurse were unlikely to lose that service under the initiative. "I don't see anything going away," Crochier said. "It could be as simple as allowing Montague to subcontract to allow the nurse to work full time and help other towns."

The boiler at the Riverside municipal building has again experienced mechanical breakdown this heating season. The board recommended examining the cost of replacing the entire boiler with a more fuel efficient model, as well as considering the replacement of just the oil burner for the boiler. It is difficult to still find replacement parts for the burner, Purington said.

Introduction to Snowshoeing for Seniors

Learn to snowshoe with other active seniors and observe animal life stories by following their tracks in the snow. Join us at Northfield Mountain on Wednesday, February 2nd, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Indoor introduction followed by practice techniques on flat terrain and gentle hills. With our new skills we'll visit wildlife hot-spots to look for

signs of porcupine, fox, or deer. Hot drinks, snacks and handouts will round out this morning with naturalist Beth Bazler. Pre-registration required: (800)-859-2960. Program cost is \$5.00 per person or \$12 with snowshoe rentals. Wear wind pants or gaiters if you have them and dress in warm layers that can be shed as we get moving.

About-Face Computer Solutions Grand Opening

About-Face Computer Solutions' new location at 151 Avenue A, Turners Falls, is having a grand opening from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. on January 29th.

Formerly located in Montague Center, the company has now opened a retail store directly on the Avenue in downtown Turners Falls and moved their Service Business to this new location. The public is invited to see the

new store and register for door prizes. All of our staff will be on hand for questions.

About-Face Computer Solutions is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information contact Veronica Phaneuf, President at (413) 863-5447 or visit www.about-face-computers.com.

Phil & Paul Waldron

Waldron Building & Remodeling
A Name You Can Trust

Kitchens, Baths, Decks, Replacement Windows
Additions, New Construction 413-422-2252 Phil
Sheetrock, Painting & More... 413-834-0534 Paul

Fully Insured, CS #088999 & HIC 145293

Free Estimates & Reasonable Rates

PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU

CONSULT US

PZ

25 Millers Falls Road (413) 863-4331
Turners Falls, MA 01376 www.pzinc.com

INSURANCE

Visit Our Tip of the Week at www.pzinc.com

Carol's Beauty Nook

29 G Street, Turners Falls
Open Tue, Thurs, Fri
Ann Bagnell & Carol Demers

Gift Certificates Available **413-863-2888**

Pipione's
SPORT SHOP

- Fishing supplies; Live bait
- Fishing & Hunting Licences
- Paintball & CO₂ Refills
- Guns & Ammo

Open 7 am 7 days a week
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246

UPINNGIL

411 Main Road
Gill

413-863-2297

Farm store open daily, 8-7
Fresh milk, Farmstead cheese, Upinngil Wheat,
Potatoes and Winter Squash

Also selling Gill trash stickers and the Montague Reporter.

LAURALYN J. BROWN, DVM
DR. AMY RUBIN, DVM

Compassionate and Professional Care
for Your Small Animal

NOW ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS

194 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls **413-863-0025**

Jonathan Abbott
SSI / Disability Attorney

If you can't work, let me work for you.

tel: (413) 253-0052 Amherst, MA
In Home Appointments
jabbottesq@verizon.net

The WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT

Now Serving
BURGER & BEER
by the FIRE

BREAKFAST,
LUNCH & DINNER
7 days a week

Route 2, Gill • 413-863-8210

CARSENSE AUTOMOTIVE

Your Automotive Answer

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT EXPERTS

TELE: (413) 772-8862 **U-HAUL**

409 DEERFIELD STREET • GREENFIELD

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Food Coordinator Formally Hired

BY JOSH HEINEMANN
- The selectboard formally hired Elizabeth Carter, 24, of Turners Falls, as the town's food coordinator on January 19th.

As the first person in that newly created position, Carter will have to set the parameters for the food coordinator post. The energy committee persuaded town meeting to fund the part time position in a one year trial as a step toward reducing overall energy consumption in town and increasing community self reliance by fostering local food production and consumption.

The energy committee chose Carter from a number of qualified applicants. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich read from a list of some of her accomplishments as the selectboard members signed her appointment slip. The list was long and broad.

Since the previous selectboard meeting, energy committee members looked at the town hall and decided a solar water heater for that building is probably not the best use of the town's energy conservation grant.

In other news, Mahar superintendent Michael Baldassarre sent the Wendell selectboard a letter stating that the Mahar school committee has approved an alternative assessment method that would reduce the disproportionately high per student payment the town of Wendell has been paying for Mahar under the statu-

tory method.

In order for the new method to take effect, all four towns in the region must approve it at their respective town meetings, so the change is not binding as yet. But, it is a step of good faith taken by the Mahar school committee following years of persistent effort by Wendell finance committee members Jim Slavos and Michael Idoine to address the apparent inequity in per pupil spending among the member towns of relatively equal wealth - New Salem, Petersham and Wendell.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said she and dog officer Maggie Houghton have inspected Claude Masson's yard and dog enclosure at his Kentfield Road house, following two complaints of an Akita running loose last year. They got stuck in Masson's driveway, which is long and steep and full of curves. They noted he needed a better gate latch, and the fence needed to be firmed up and evened up at four feet tall all around.

Masson was accommodating and agreed to make those improvements.

The board discussed the one week nature camp scholarship offered to one resident of Wendell by Mass Audubon to their Rindge, NH Wildwood camp, in lieu of taxes for the land Audubon owns in Wendell.

The camp fee is normally \$975, but will be reduced to \$50 for the scholarship camper.

In order to choose the camper, the selectboard will ask for an essay of 300 to 500 words on the importance of nature, due by March 15th, 2011. The camp is geared for youth aged 9 to 14. The selectboard plans to put notices about the scholarship opportunity in the town newsletter and website, the Swift River Current, and the Mahar Fish and Game club news.

Since the last tax classification hearing, assessor Stephen Broll learned that before the town can close the hearing, the assessors have to tell the selectboard the amount of the town's excess levy capacity, the difference between the actual amount of taxation and the levy limit. That amount is \$150,426.27.

In order for the conservation bylaw voted in at the December 15th special town meeting, or any change to zoning bylaws, to take effect, the bylaw must be submitted within 30 days to the state attorney general's office by the town clerk, so the attorney general can certify that it is consistent with state law.

The attorney general does not yet have a copy of the vote taken with all the required papers, but there is a provision that allows an extra 15 days for the selectboard to submit them.

Heard said, "We will do whatever it takes to get the information to the attorney general," and authorized Aldrich to assemble whatever forms are needed and submit them.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Backs Safe Decommissioning of Vermont Yankee

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY
On Monday, Jay DiPucchio presented a letter addressed to "those with authority over the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power station in Vernon" for the Montague selectboard to sign. The letter asked that groups such as the Entergy Nuclear Corporation, the Vermont Legislature, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission all "take whatever steps may be necessary in order to minimize any negative impacts that Vermont Yankee's closure may have on its workers, local residents, and the environment."

The plant is currently scheduled to close on or before March 12th 2012.

DiPucchio noted that the nuclear power plant is a large employer and that this letter has gone to all of the selectboards of towns that surround the plant in Vernon, VT.

After reviewing the details of the letter, members of the selectboard approved signing the letter, since, as selectboard member Mark Fairbrother noted, the requests seemed like things one ought to do anyway while decommissioning a nuclear power plant.

The letter asks that Vermont Yankee workers "be given first preference when workers are hired for the multi-year decommissioning and site clean-up process;" that "workers remaining on the site

receive the maximum protection from radiation exposure," during the post-shutdown period of clean-up; that workers whose jobs are discontinued receive generous severance packages and benefits as well as retraining opportunities, including jobs in green energy; that local residents can "be assured that there will be extra attention paid to maintenance and repair of all systems associated with the reactor;" that local residents and officials be notified of toxic materials being shipped through their towns via roads and railways; and that a citizens advisory board be formed from local towns and councils to ensure good communication on these issues.

Separately, selectboard member Pat Allen gave DiPucchio, Democratic Town Committee chair, an opportunity to announce that the Democratic caucus is scheduled for February 15th at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, for the six seats at the state Democratic convention in June. He described the competition for the seats as "not terribly fierce." A youth caucus is also planned.

In other news, Turners Falls Municipal Airport manager Michael Longo reported the airport continues to operate during the day only, as needed improvements have not been completed yet to allow for runway lights at night. Hydroseeding and

grading along the runway have been completed though, and any touchups will be considered in the spring.

Longo had no updates on any Native American tribal concerns with the runway construction project and access to cultural sites on airport property, other than to say that negotiations between the Federal Aviation Administration and tribal leaders continue.

Water pollution control facility superintendant Bob Trombley presented a change order for the combined sewer overflow upgrade, rotary press, and garage extension projects.

An additional \$5480.45 was requested in order to make adjustments to electrical control panels and grounding for the garage project.

Trombley assured the selectboard that the additional money needed was still within their budget, and the board subsequently approved the change order request. Trombley also noted the hiring process is underway for an operator's position at the facility. Over 20 applicants have applied, and six have been selected for interviews. Good luck to all of the candidates!

Wetlands scientist Deborah Picking has requested permission to research soils on additional sections of town land behind the transfer station.

see MONTAGUE pg 14

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



HARTWOOD TREE SERVICE
Licensed and Insured

Christopher J. Morin, owner
7 Kimberly Lane
Turners Falls
EXCELLENCE IN TREE CARE
413-522-6119

AUTO RATES GOING UP?
We forecast a flurry of DISCOUNTS!

SINCE 1980
A.H. Rist
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
413.863.4373 www.ahrist.com
159 Ave A Turners Falls

John Moore FAUX & FINE FINISH WORK
Painting
FINE INTERIOR & EXTERIOR PAINTING

Specializing in transforming old rooms into vibrant new ones

413-367-2889 cell: 413-775-2650

Leaf Busters

Gutter Cleaning and Repairs,
Spring Cleaning, Power Washing,
Lawn Maintenance and Odd Jobs

Call for a FREE Estimate

Justin Hanecak
413-512-1553

THE TEXTILE CO. INC.
Retail Fabric Store

Cotton • Silks • Polyesters • Vinyls • Upholstery Material
• Quilting Supplies • Patterns • Calicos • Notions

CASH & CHECKS ONLY
Mon.-Sat. 9-5:20, Fri. til 8:20
Power Square Greenfield (413) 773-7516

Private Room Available
THE CHURCH STREET HOME
24 Church Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

A retirement home for independent senior women of Franklin County since 1942.
Family-style meals, beautiful surroundings, and the security of a hostess on duty at all times.

Visitors always welcome!
(413) 773-7252

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient
IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE
UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD
413-883-7323

Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF SIZES THE BEST PRICES

OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA
Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire

Renaissance Builders

Quality, Craftsmanship, Original Thought

www.renbuild.net
863-8316

Pam Veith Real Estate

75 Main Street Northfield, MA 01360
Office: 413-498-0207
Ofc. Fax: 413-498-0208
Home Phone: 413-863-9166
Home Fax: 413-863-0218
Email: bedson1@comcast.net

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

"My Office is Always Open to You!"

Sculpture at the Voo & Amplified Droid

BY DAVID DETMOLD
 TURNERS FALLS - Not content to rest on his laurels from last fall's astounding win in the style category of the Montague Soapbox Derby, Dada Invader John Landino returns Monday night with a special session of his legendary monthly open mic extravaganzas at the Rendezvous.

This Monday, January 31st, Landino is offering the first annual Sculptor's Showcase at the Rendezvous, on 3rd Street, from 7:30 to midnight, and it promises to be an interesting evening for all lovers of visual and performance art.

"Part of what I'm trying to do is make the open mic a little more than just average singing and poetry, although I'm pushing poetry as much as possible," said Landino, who has been a sculptor himself for 30 years.

He is not your typical sculptor. He's the kind of



sculptor who likes to dress up in a large fire retardant silver chemical suit and crash gallery openings declaring he is the Last Man in the World. But that's a story for another day.

On Monday, Landino is gathering the work and viewpoints of about half a dozen Montague sculptors. Among the invited are Joe Landry, Jack Nelson, Tim DeChristopher, Ben Westbrook, and Nina Rossi, along with any others who may heed the call and bring their work.

The sculptors will display their work on the bar and tables at the Voo, and take turns at the microphone answering questions and speaking about their craft. "And of course, we're doing our regular shout out to musicians, poets, and performance artists," Landino said, who added he will be featuring "our first remote poetry reading from Tim Feresten, calling in from Maryland on my amplified droid."

It will all make for an exciting evening. Hopefully, patrons won't get so excited they knock the sculptures off the bar.

Sculpture and photo by John Landino

TRAFFIC from pg 1
 opposed the scale of the development and the likely traffic impacts outlined in a number of studies presented to the board.

Planning board chair Roxann Wedergartner limited testimony from members of the public to five minutes each - or 300 seconds, as anti-Walmart activist Al Norman preferred to phrase it - and confined their remarks to the final 50 minutes of the hearing.

She gave the developer's lawyer, Tim Sullivan, two hours at the outset of the meeting to present his case.

Sullivan said Ceruzzi planned to spend \$1.15 million to mitigate traffic impacts from the development. But a number of the opponents pointed out that 80% of that sum - more than \$800,000 - would be spent on the traffic light and driveway to the super store itself.

The developer has pledged \$120,000 to study and implement traffic calming alternatives or additional traffic signals or signs on Wildwood Avenue, Beacon and Sanderson Streets. But opponents pointed out that neither the town nor the developer have determined how traffic on those

side streets will be successfully calmed once the expected 10% - 20% jump in daily trips along the High Street corridor materializes, following the opening of the 'big box' store.

Norman said the developer's approach to traffic problems Greenfield may experience from 1000 - 1500 additional daily trips on the High Street corridor is, "You figure it out."

Norman added, "Money is not a form of mitigation."

Greenfield town council vice president David Singer told the planning board, "The thing that strikes me the most is the proponent is asking you to grant a special permit claiming the traffic is mitigated by having the store built first and then going back to the neighborhood to talk about it. What happens if the traffic can't be mitigated?"

Singer urged the board to reduce the size of the project to 80,000 square feet, at least until traffic studies can show the actual impact of a store this size on the High Street corridor. Later, Singer said, the board could allow the super store to expand, if traffic has been shown to be flowing smoothly.

Colby Lunt said the town of Greenfield is weighing a decision between discount goods, part time workers and insignificant tax gains over the peace and quiet of residents in their homes and the safety of kids in their neighborhoods. He called the Stone Farm Lane neighborhood where he lives "the epicenter of this mess."

"It is very difficult getting out of our neighborhood now," said Lunt, referring to the cul-

de sac just south of the entrance to Turners Falls Road from High Street. "It could become impossible to get out," with 6,000 additional car trips on High Street a week. He asked, "Why would the town of Greenfield do that to its residents, to its taxpayers? There is a serious traffic problem looming on High Street, and no one is stepping up to mitigate it."

Diana Roberts, who works in the mail room at GCC, said, "I already find it difficult to get across town to the post office, particularly from 3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m., a bad time of day to travel anywhere in Greenfield. Added traffic will be a nightmare."

Sandy Thomas said response times for Bay State Ambulance, the Greenfield police and fire departments would inevitably be slowed by the additional traffic on the corridor. "These actually do constitute significant adverse impacts."

She added, "A 50,000 - 80,000-square-foot store would meet our needs for shopping. We all agree we need something. We just do not need something of this size."

Although the developer presented design simulations for what the store would actually look like for the first time on Thursday, Wedergartner said she would not allow residents any extra time to comment on the design. "Your messages have been fairly consistent. They have been taken to heart and addressed," Wedergartner said. She declared she would limit additional public comment to one final hour, and only for residents whose names already appeared on the sign up sheet but had not had a chance to speak when the hearing continues on February 3rd, at 7:00 p.m., at the Greenfield High School.



Smart Computer
 PC / MAC REPAIR
 VIRUS REMOVAL
 NETWORKS & 'THE CLOUD'
 RESIDENTIAL & SMALL BUSINESS
 OPEN MON-FRI 9-7, SAT 9-5
 345 MAIN ST.
 GREENFIELD, MA
 413-475-3727
 MYSMARTCOMPUTER.COM

Dennis L. Booska
 Dennis L. Booska, Jr.
 Phone & Fax
 413-863-3690
Booska's Flooring
 169 Avenue A, Turners Falls
 Member The Flooring Network.
Tile Lino Carpet

"My bounty is as boundless as the sea, my love as deep; the more I give to thee, the more I have, for both are infinite."
 ~ William Shakespeare
LOVE POETRY READING!
 Read us your love poems at The Rendezvous. We're looking for good, bad, bold, beautiful, silly, and sexy love poems. Got angst-filled poems from when you were 16? Your wedding vows? Rejection diaries? Goofy haiku and loving sonnets? Bring it!
 FREE! Donations accepted for the Monthly Poetry Page
 At The Rendezvous
 2 p.m. Sunday
 Feb. 13
The Montague Reporter

PLACE YOUR COLOR BIZ CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK

magpie
 • Pizzas
 • Entrees
 • Salads
 • Full Bar & Patio
 magpiepizza.com
 21 Bank Row, Gld.
 413-475-3570
woodfired pizzeria

HOPE & OLIVE
 SERVING HOME GROWN
 FARM-INSPIRED FOOD & DRINK
 44 HOPE STREET, GREENFIELD, MA 01301
 PHONE 413 774 3150

The Gill Tavern
 Come For a drink, stay For a meal
 www.thegilltavern.com Open Wed - Sun at 5 PM
 326 Main Road, Gill, MA 413-863-9006

FULL LINE OF
 New & Re-manufactured
TONER & INK JET CARTRIDGES
 As Good If Not Better
 Prices Than The
 Big Box Stores
 Everyday 50% Off Cards, Gift Wrap & Bags
BAKER 310 Main Street, Greenfield
Office Supply 413-774-2345

Diemand Farm
 • Farm Fresh Eggs
 • Whole Roasting Chicken
 • Pot Pies
 • Home Made Soups
 • Desserts
 Products Vary Weekly
 Farm Store Hours: Monday - Saturday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Closed Sundays
 Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell • 978-544-3806

Your Local **STIHL** Dealer
 413-367-2481
Sirum Equipment Co., Inc.
 Sales, Parts & Service
 310 Federal Street (Route 63)
 Montague
 Weekdays: 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Remembering the Northfield Chateau

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH - A replica of the Northfield Chateau sculpted by Turners Falls ceramic artist Jack Nelson was on display at the Greenfield Savings Bank on Avenue A over the last few weeks. Nelson built the model to scale from original architectural drawings.

When it was standing, the castle-like Northfield Chateau, with its turrets, capitals and friezes, was a startling sight for a stranger to come upon. The chateau was the brain child of Francis Robert Schell. His grandfather and father were diamond merchants. His uncles had also distinguished themselves by amassing money — lots of it.

Francis, an only child, who inherited it all, distinguished himself by spending it — lavishly. If he saw something that interested him, he didn't hesitate to buy it, since he had more money than he knew what to do with. This was in the days before income or inheritance taxes existed.

Schell was quoted saying, "I have so much money that if a wad of it fell out of my pocket, I wouldn't even notice it."

Schell and his wife, Mary, arrived in Northfield in July of 1890 and stayed at the

Northfield Hotel while they went house hunting.

Entranced by the view, he first rented, then bought, a house at the crest of a nearby hill. He began buying up surrounding farms, tearing down one house and moving three others to other sites, until eventually he owned 125 acres.

Schell summered in Northfield for the next ten years, making many changes to the house, including a brick wing four stories high, bringing the total number of rooms to 40 or more. It was the largest house in Northfield. It seemed more than adequate for two people.

All went well until ants invaded the house.

Mrs. Schell indignantly asked her husband what he was going to do about the ants.

"Tear down the house and build one they can't get into," he happily replied.

Schell hired Bruce Price, a leading architect, father of Emily Post, to build his dream palace. After many conferences,



The Schell Chateau, in Northfield, circa 1941, photograph courtesy of the Northfield Historical Society

Schell and the architect settled on plans based on the Chateau Le Chambord in France. Leaving Price to oversee construction, Schell went off to travel in Europe for two years.

Schell insisted on incorporating many unusual features in his summer home. He liked circular

rooms, although they wasted a lot of space and left many odd shaped corners in the square building, which measured 130 feet by 130 feet.

The chateau had a main entrance hall 23 feet wide and nearly 100 feet long, capable of seating over 200 people. It had a

chapel with cathedral windows, dining rooms, six spacious parlors, a breakfast room, billiard room, library, a ramp to the second floor, 36 bedrooms, 24 bath and toilet rooms, for a total of 99 rooms. By some counts, the rooms in the basement and the cellar beneath, brought the total to 125 rooms, or more.

The chateau had a generator and storage batteries, as well as gas for lighting, and a central steam heating system, augmented by 21 fireplaces.

The idea for a ramp to the second floor originated from Schell's visit to a chateau in Europe.

The wide marble grand staircase had wrought iron banisters.

Other unusual appurtenances Schell ordered were a set of double interlaced spiral staircases, designed so that a person going up could pass a person going down without them seeing each other. Another small spiral staircase was installed for servants' use. An elegant electric elevator upholstered in velvet served to spare stout ladies from having to climb the stairs. Sometimes the elevator gave out between floors and an ironing board would have to be provided for the stout lady to toboggan down to the floor below.

The chateau had ornately decorated ceilings, brocade covered walls, glittering chandeliers and large mirrors.

Schell, who was a religious man, valued his friendship with Dwight L. Moody, who in turn valued wealthy people who helped him realize his dreams to establish two schools.

Though religious, Schell, who was the only child of wealthy parents, was a bit of a

see CHATEAU pg 16

CONTRACT from pg 1

The school committee agreed before they adjourned to release a videotape taken of the contract discussion in executive session.

However, MCTV director Robin Mide said Wednesday that the soundtrack on the videotape was inaudible.

Joyce Phillips, member from Montague, said the deliberations among the school committee in executive session were respectful and factual in nature, and focused on the understanding of the financial impact on the budget going forward. She said the contracts are about more than wages and benefits. They also impact the quality of life for school employees. Phillips said by ratifying the contracts, the committee is telling the staff, "We value your work. We value you."

Superintendent Ladd said union negotiators made it clear in bargaining sessions that, "It was more important to have raises for staff rather than hanging on to positions, if that's what it takes."

School committee chair Emily Monosson said, "Part of the rationale for ratification was to strengthen the district — instead of focusing on losses — to try to retain families and bring them back. I think this in large part depends upon the teachers. They are the leaders here. With this contract in hand, I hope they

do whatever it takes to continue moving this district forward for all of our students, to make this a place families want to send their kids — even if that means thinking creatively, not doing business as usual.

"I asked if things were to 'go south', has a teacher's union ever stepped in to help out. I would hope the answer from our union would be 'Yes,'" Monosson said.

Here are the details:

Teachers Contracts:

Year 1 - Increase Steps A-K by \$750 and Step L by \$1,000. All employees to remain on step.

Year 2 - Step increases with .5% COLA on Day 1 / .5% COLA on Day 93

Year 3 - Step increases with .5% COLA on Day 1 / 1% COLA on Day 93 with an additional .5% on Day 1 if Chapter 70 increases by 3% or greater based on (state aid) Cherry Sheet on June 20th, 2012, compared to the final Cherry Sheet for FY11.

There are also some language changes that clarify beginning and ending work days for teachers, an agreement to review the teacher evaluation process, and to review column movement for horizontal pay increases.

based on (state aid) Cherry Sheet on June 20th, 2012, compared to the final Cherry Sheet for FY11.

Paraprofessionals/Administrative Assistants / Technology Support Assistants Contact:

Year 1 - Each employee receives one-time bonus of \$225 — not added to base amount.

Year 2 - Step increases plus addition of new Step 9 (2% higher than present Step 8)

Year 3 - Step increases plus 2% COLA

Technology support assistants were added to the bargaining unit - most of the new language was added to merge their positions into the bargaining unit.

Cafeteria Workers' Contract:

Year 1 - Retroactive .15/hour increase

Year 2 - Step increases plus 1% COLA

Year 3 - Step increases plus 1% COLA

Removed salary differential for site supervisors, grandfathering current employees in their current positions.

Custodial/Maintenance Workers Contract:

Year 1 - 0% increase

Year 2 - Step increases plus 1% COLA

Year 3 - Step increases plus 2% COLA

Ladd informed the school committee that the DESE has completed the "Level 4 District Review Report" for the Gill-Montague Regional School

District. He said the Center for District and School Accountability will post the report at www.doe.mass.edu/sda/review/district/ as early as the end of next week.

FOLLOW from pg 1

"We have too many central office administrators; that's just the bottom line," Ladd said in an interview at his office this week. "We need to be more efficient and smarter about how we are spending our limited money."

Ladd believes the more the district's resources are directed towards students in the classroom, the more successful they will be. He noted the importance of keeping teachers in the classrooms, along with appropriate support staff at the building level.

He said the central office needs to focus on fewer priorities, and become more efficient. As he moves to reduce central office staff, Ladd said he plans to shift their responsibilities to other buildings, while assuming more himself.

In Ladd's plan, the director of technology and grants, a position held by Marty Espinola, the director of early childhood education and related programs, a position held by Chris Jutres, and the assistant to the superintendent for special projects—Kenney's current position — will be eliminated.

NOTES FROM LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett May Purchase New Fire Truck This Year

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Coming back from the late night structure fire that heavily damaged a home on North Main Street in Sunderland early Monday morning, fire chief John Moruzzi asked the firefighter riding on the jump seat of the open cab how he was doing.

"I'm cold," the man replied. "You work hard; you sweat; the temperature is below freezing out; it's an open cab," Moruzzi said, talking about some of the shortcomings of driving Leverett's 23-year-old Engine #3.

Well below freezing. It got down to about -20 that night.

Too, the engine is experience problems that have nothing to do with the weather.

"Well, the lights flicker," said Moruzzi. "And sometimes the rear lights go out entirely. The sidelights, the headlights sometimes flicker." Moruzzi has told tales in the past of using the spotlight to light the road on night calls on Engine #3.

Last year, Moruzzi said, "We had some work done on the pump," of Engine #3. "It was leaking. They had to change the packing gland nut; it couldn't keep the packing tight, we had water leaking out; we had a couple of valves repaired. Those repairs cost almost \$3,000."

Moruzzi said those repairs seemed to have cured the pump problems. But he does not plan to spend money to repair the electrical system, at this point, and could not provide a ballpark estimate for what an overhaul of the electrical system might cost.

Moruzzi and the Leverett capital improvements committee have been planning on seeking funding for a new fire engine to replace Engine #3 in calendar year 2012.

But at Tuesday's selectboard meeting, talk had shifted to possibly allocating up to two thirds of the money stashed in the town's stabilization account - which has about \$600,000 at present - to

purchase a new fire engine this year instead.

"I don't want to see an injury on the truck," said selectboard chair Rich Brazeau. "These guys are volunteers."

Well, guys and gals, actually, and they do get paid for training and for each call they respond to, but point well taken.

The Leverett fire department keeps a forestry tanker and a forestry brush truck up at the North Leverett fire station. Moruzzi said only one of his twelve call firefighters lives in North Leverett, and besides, the larger trucks could not fit in the North Leverett fire station.

At the safety complex next to the elementary school, the fire department keeps a 250 gallon mini tanker, a rescue vehicle, Engine #2, with a 1500 gallon capacity (a big truck that has a hard time making it up the steep

curving driveways typical in many parts of town) and Engine #3, with a 1000 gallon capacity. And a failing electrical system.

Moruzzi needs new recruits, as well as a new fire truck. Any guys or gals interested in volunteering to defend Leverett homes in case of fire or aide Leverett residents in need of medical rescue, call 413-548-9225.

In other news, Fay Zipkowitz, chair of the Leverett board of health, said her board had decided not to take the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District up on their offer to provide Leverett with sharps collection containers so that the town could provide residents with an option for safe disposal of needles and lancets. Zipkowitz said her board had not heard from residents that there is a need for such a program in Leverett, but encouraged anyone interested to call 413-548-1022x1.

Town administrative assistant Marjie McGinnis reported that Siemens Building Technologies

has nearly completed upgrading lighting fixtures at the elementary school to energy efficient models.

Ray LaClaire was appointed an alternate member of the zoning board of appeals. The board is considering the best means of installing photovoltaic panels on town owned property, and McGinnis meet this week with a representative from Constellation Energy who gave high marks to the solar potential of the town's capped landfill. The board also signed off on an application the historical commission has prepared to gain historic district status on the national register of historic places for the town centers of East Leverett, North Leverett, and Moores Corners.

Hoping to build community among town residents, the selectboard will hold the first of what is hoped to be a series of potlucks and story hours at the Leverett town hall, on February 11th at 6:30 p.m.

"It's a new thing," explained Brazeau.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Break In at Library, Disabled Vehicles

Tuesday, 1/18
2:40 p.m. Report of motor vehicle into snow bank on Route 2.
3:30 p.m. Report of unwanted person at River Street residence. Subject fled in vehicle prior to arrival.
Wednesday, 1/19
10:10 a.m. Report of cash stolen at Central Street residence. Report taken.

3:16 p.m. Report of past breaking and entering and larceny from the Erving Library. Report taken. Under investigation.
8:00 p.m. Missing dog from West High Street residence.
Friday, 1/21
5:38 p.m. Assisted Montague police with possible domestic situation on South Prospect Street in Millers Falls.

Saturday, 1/22
3:00 p.m. Report of snow being pushed in the roadway on Northfield Road. Spoke with same. Will clean up.
5:10 p.m. Report of loose red/tan dog in area of Forest Street. Dog gone upon arrival.
6:14 p.m. Assisted Gill police with domestic situation at Boyle Road residence. Verbal only. Peace restored.
Monday, 1/24
7:05 a.m. Assisted Northfield police with disabled tractor

trailer unit.
7:55 a.m. Report of disabled school bus on Route 2 at Mountain Road. Gone upon arrival.
1:08 p.m. Assisted disabled box truck on Route 2 at Erving Center.
1:36 p.m. Assisted Massachusetts state police with police cruiser crash at Routes 2 and 2A.
3:40 p.m. Report of line down at Pleasant and Union Streets. Verizon notified.

Real Food, Real People, Real Investment



Local, Organic Produce, Deli, eat in or take out, Bakery Specialities, Meat & Cheese, Natural Groceries, Supplements & Body Care Items, Monthly Specials

Green Fields Market 144 Main St., Greenfield Mon-Fri 8-8 Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5 (413) 773-9567
McCusker's Market 3 State Street, Shelburne Falls Open Daily 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (413) 625-9411
www.franklincommunity.coop

Nature and Science Reading at the Discovery Center

TURNERS FALLS - Mary Clare Powell will host the fourth annual Science and Nature Poetry and Prose open mic night at the Great Falls Discovery Center in the Great Hall, on Friday, February 4th at 7:00 p.m. All lovers of good writing and the natural world are invited to enjoy an evening of literary conviviality

in the beautiful Great Hall.

Special guest Vi Walker will accompany Powell on musical saw and song for some of Powell's poems, before opening the microphone to readers from the audience.

Readers are welcome to bring along works of their own creation or a short piece of prose or poetry

from another writer, as long as it is on a theme of science or nature. Doors open for sign-up at 6:30 p.m., readers have about four minutes each. The event is free; light refreshments and drinks will be for sale.

In case of bad weather, call 413-863-3321 ext. 3 or visit www.greatfallsma.org for info.

Patrick Smith CSSL # 100236 Insured
EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
Specializing in Cellulose Insulation and Vinyl Replacement Windows:
Toll Free 866-262-5361
413-367-2228
FAX 413-367-2212
Montague, MA 01351

Clay/Stone Sculpture
Pottery
Fine Art Drawings and Paintings
BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.
TELEPHONE 413.863.9299
email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com
65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

Bryan G. Hobbs
Remodeling Contractor
Blown Cellulose Insulation • Airsealing • Energy Audits
Replacement Doors & Windows • Roofing • Siding
Home Repairs • Spray Foam Insulation
Home/Office 413-659-0250
Bryan G. Hobbs
94 South Prospect St.
Millers Falls

Renaissance Excavating, Inc.
COMPLETE SITE WORK
Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam
Main Road, Gill
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462

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

Simply Computing
Software Support specializing in QuickBooks
IRS-Approved Tax Preparer on Staff
Debbe Dugan
863-5030

Greenfield Imported Car Sales
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
WHERE ECONOMY IS KING
AFFORDABLE, SAFE, RELIABLE PRE-OWNED CARS
Toyota, Honda, Subaru, Hyundai
413-774-5517
335 High Street, Greenfield
greenfieldimportedcars.com (sales)
GICP.com (parts: 774-2819)

MUSIC STORE
AUDIO & VISUAL COMPONENTS & FURNITURE
150 Federal St., Greenfield
413-774-2836
800-498-2896
email: mstore@valinet.com • www.the-musicstore.com

Good Dirt Pottery Studio
38 Main Street, Montague
413-367-0155
www.gooddirtpottery.com



It is difficult to get the news from poems yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

The editors would like to thank the following for their generous financial underwriting of The Poetry Page: -

Klondike Sound, Carlin Barton, Montague Dental Arts, Dr. Robert Koolkin, Green Fields Market, and Michael Muller

Poetry Page edited by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, and Janel Nockleby

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter at 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your poetry at reporter-poems@montaguema.net

design by Boysen Hodgson

Sun On Facades

I believe the birds are back. Swell sparrows of hop and nestle away one day and so the world went to hell.

These things only register when missing my friends, I am a hermit. I do not talk to anyone at all,

except now I guess it must be necessary to say the sun hitting faces

of buildings against the alluring sky one wishes to enter. Then breeze to treed lanes undulant green as ocean.

This sight wants to snuff my utterances by being the utmost for my brain today. It says, "Only I say."

One walks watching it one stumbles; it is like wearing a heavy headdress and people around aren't into it

so they steer away. Unlike birds the color of dirt who wish to be nearby phenomenon.

--Ishmael Klein
Amherst

Gray Seals

Diving to fish between inhale and exhale, they breathe more deeply and less often than we do. They look across the rolling top

over them. The moon pulls them. They ride the moving ocean, ebbing and flowing. Liquid is kinder, smoother, deeper than rocks.

of the world. Here the light is clear and gray. Birds swim above. It is time to take a deep breath.

They find food and freedom from the earth that would pull them down and hold them. Their smooth bodies don't drag but slip

Living in the sea, they do not fear its strength, its depth. They roll with the cold waves, ride the swelling water, let it break

through the deep green light that carries them.

--Eloise Michael
Turners Falls

THERE ARE SERIOUS MINDS

Dipped in whorling gold, There are serious minds in yr business Think systematically Think razorform And when the bag bursts Give yourself to the night air It is like business there It will keep them happy Until they discover evidence Of your movements The tickets bought The undercarriage escapes The backtracking Why hide it? Why bother? They will scan the documents They will seriously consider them If they seems dangerous They will move through ideologies Unseemly to the public Sheepleg ideologies kicking in the air At the slaughterhouse Chemical seriousness Infusing the water with purposes Inclined towards purpose I'm sorry for all the people Ordinary people, half-serious or half-delighted Who drank the water anyway, Or ate the lamb at Vindaloo parlours Where they thought they were safe Now they too must kick and serve some purpose In the wake of my flight I'm past caring They will not catch my flight The almost slack expression The delighted flecks of spit The beautiful fatness The movements

--Greg Purcell
Amherst

ALL SMALL CAPS

a night of spoken word

Greg Purcell



Ish Klein



Monday 31st January
Doors open 7pm
Deja Brew, Wendell
allsmalleaps.blogspot.com

Hymn to Art

--inspired by the painting Golgotha

A work of art is a holy thing Water flowing from the eternal spring Alleluia!

Look through the artist's chapel door The view is stranger, deeper, more Alleluia!

Profane eyes see profanation Dammed souls shout condemnation Allelu

Spirit moves through hands and heart And speaks to us in works of art Alleluia!

A work of art is a dangerous thing Lift your voice in praise and sing Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia!
Amen.

--K. Nolan



LEVERETT IS....

A place of age-old forests; great, mountain-spanning mysteries, vast and lofty stands of dark pines, spruce and hemlocks, of sun-dappled maples, oaks and birches; and of myriad shy wild creatures foraging in the mosses and ferns beneath.

rolling purple hills and cloud-laced skies, crowded at night with stars brilliant and unveiled.

A place of flowing waters; streams and brooks flashing, singing, splashing silver over ledge and boulder, gurgling clear across pebbled shallows; rushing their sky and tree-reflections from mountain down to valley.

A place of open spaces also; of crop-filled farmlands, grassy meadows and lush pastures, broad greenswards dotted with Holsteins or horses, sloping up to a horizon of

A place of calm waters as well; of wetlands full of flow-ers, birds and berries, often loud with amphibian songs of

love; of a sky-filled pond mirroring the hills and heavens above and a church and barns beyond, while bass and perch glide hungrily beneath.

A place of many trails, simple pathways winding up the slopes, across the ledges, down into valleys, surprising us with the hidden delights of all those places

A place of shaded roads colorfully named; few, narrow, quiet, slowly snaking around and over each contour, laid out by walkers and wagons,

inviting us to relish the ride and not just the arrival.

A place of modest homes; most old, neat, wooden farmsteads, tucked into the slanting hillsides, edged and terraced with gray fieldstone walls, by day bedecked with flowering trees and gardens, by night with softly lamplit welcoming windows.

A place of loyal people, loving stewards of this lovely land;

proud, friendly, busy folks, striving to savor - and save - this special little world.

A place of solid values, treasuring the lucky fortunes of the yesterdays and today, while questioning the proposed 'improvements' of tomorrow; feeling that this tiny town in the hills already has here, all that needs to be.

--D. W. Peterson
Leverett

CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

Ish Klein's book Moving Day will be out in 2011 from Canarium books. A DVD of her videos will also be released from Poor Claudia of Portland, Oregon. This poem is from her book, Union!

Greg Purcell's poetry has been featured in The Agriculture Reader, The Brooklyn Rail, Open City and Fence, and has been anthologized in The Best of Fence: The First Nine Years. He is a

veteran curator of The Danny's Reading Series in Chicago and The St. Mark's Reading Series in New York.

D. W. Peterson wrote this poem after moving to Leverett a few years ago. Katie Nolan is a gardener, reporter, risk assessor, wife, mother of four and grandmother of one. She loves

Wendell life.

Eloise Michael lives in Turners Falls and teaches creative writing at Four Winds middle school in Gill.

ANTAL from pg 1

guest solo on Gabriel Faure's "Morceau de Concours" at the beginning of the Sunday service, is a dialectic best left to angels to resolve.

Antal, formerly the chaplain of Northfield Mount Hermon School, and director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the nation's oldest interfaith peace and social justice organization, came to Montague to deliver a sermon titled: "Eearth to Church, Can I Get a Witness?"

The church secretary corrected the title of his sermon to the more conventional spelling of our planet's name in the missal. (Whoever prepared the church's website this week was less care-

ful with their orthography. In the notification for the upcoming Lenten Carbon Fast, the website transliterated that announcement to read: Lenten Carbon Fest – perhaps not the message the UCC intended.)

But on Sunday, Antal insisted he had intended to spell Eearth with an extra 'a', following the lead of Vermont environmental writer McKibben in the title of his new book, to draw attention to the fact we are living on a different planet now, one where the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has already reached 392 parts per million, on its steady upward climb toward 600 parts per million by the end of this century, if humanity does not get out of its collective fossil fueled coach and start to walk.

Referring to the recent national observance of Martin Luther King's birthday, Antal said, "In 1955, when members from several churches in Montgomery, Alabama gathered in the church of the new pastor in town, no one imagined that in only a few days they would gain the moral courage to begin walking to work, rather than take the bus. And it seemed like nothing but a pipe dream that this change in the people's behavior might result in a change in the law," and alter the segregated landscape of the South to the point where unimaginable advances, like the election of the nation's first black president, could occur less than 50 years later.

As sunlight poured through the muted, geometric panes of the south facing stained glass windows in the 1834 church, lending the room an aura of hallowed warmth, Antal called on the 50 or so congregants present to take up the challenge of the day and demand a sustainable energy policy from our nation,

changing their own lives and privileges in the process.

"The point of walking to work for 381 days," in Montgomery, Antal said, "was to change the laws."

He went on, "What if the first announcement at every religious gathering – whether in a church, synagogue, or mosque – went something like this: 'As we do every week, I'd like to ask those who contacted either their congressperson or the White House this past week to advocate for new laws that will make our Earth more sustainable, would you please rise as you are able and receive our applause.'"

Antal paused significantly. Most of the congregants were seated in the rearward pews, as if to escape his glance. None stood.

"Thank you," he said. "And I hope to see all of you rise next week."

Continuing fervently, Antal said, "Our world needs a new moral trajectory. And it is impossible to contemplate how the citizens, towns, corporations, and countries of the world will make the necessary changes unless they are inspired by religious leaders who are responding to God's call," and living out the core of every world religion by loving neighbors as themselves, and working for a planet that can sustain their lives and the lives of their children.

Antal reminded his listeners that in the last 200 years, the air that Abraham and Sarah once breathed, along with Moses, Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed, Luther and Jonathan Edwards, had become altered "largely due to the burning of coal and oil," from an atmosphere containing 275 parts per million of CO2 back when prophets walked the Earth, to an atmosphere containing 392 parts per million today, and rising.

"All over the world, there are millions of people who are dead certain that the Earth they once knew no longer exists. You've been reading about these people in the paper," said Antal, "or seeing them on the news over the past year:

"Countless Australians are underwater as a result of never-before-seen flooding. Millions of Russians were displaced last summer by fires, prompted by an unprecedented heat wave beyond biblical proportions. Tens of millions of Pakistanis either drowned or were forced to relocate when 20% of the country, an area the size of Italy, flooded last summer.

"In the first eight months of 2010, 19 countries registered the highest ever recorded temperature for their country. This unprecedented number is consistent with the fact that the 12-month rolling average ending in March 2010 is the hottest year on record.

Antal continued, "A piece of ice four times the size of Manhattan broke off the Greenland ice shelf in August. Glacier National Park, which in 1850 had 150 glaciers, is now down to 25; and USGS scientists expect that by the end of this decade they will all be melted."

Antal asked, "What would it look like for us to recognize that wrecking creation is a sin?"

He called on his listeners to "Green their churches and homes," and to adopt changes in their personal lifestyles "by engaging in new behaviors of shopping, eating, driving, sharing, spending, flying, using energy, recycling, and more. We can support one another as we adopt these new behaviors because they are spiritual practices every bit as much as prayer."

Time to get out the hang glid-

er.

He closed by saying, "We all know from past examples that this is how major culture change unfolds: the abolition of slavery, the end of child labor, the winning of the civil rights act, the reconciliation of post-apartheid South Africa, and the advancement of marriage equality and other GLBT concerns, all of these cultural transformations were the result of religious leadership.

"I believe now is the time for religious leaders to articulate this new moral trajectory, and that doing so represents a new vocation for the church, and for all communities of faith. God's hope, and our challenge, is to lead this generation to value: resilience in place of growth; integrity in place of consumption; wisdom in place of progress; vision in place of convenience; accountability in place of disregard; and balance in place of addiction."

He quoted *Proverbs, 29:18* from the King James version of the Bible: "Without a vision, the people perish," and signed off with this: "The world needs leadership – faithful and faith-filled leadership. God is calling us to be the change we long to see."

After the sermon ended, and congregants enjoyed fellowship around steaming bowls of soup in the church basement, it is perhaps understandable if global warming faded as a chief topic of conversation in the village during the Arctic temperature of the ensuing days (hey – what happened to the jet stream's polar vortex?)

But Antal called for all to look beyond the numbing conformity of our daily lives and lifestyles to see the global threat rising with every turn of the starter motor, even on these coldest days.

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

THE SHADY GLEN
Elias
BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
DAILY SPECIALS
SEAFOOD
HOMEMADE COOKING
SOUPS & PIES
SUNDAY BREAKFAST 7 - 2
7 AVENUE A | 863-9636

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

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

Locally owned since 1941
Foster's SUPER MARKET
Full service market
Fresh Fish from the Boston market
Beer & Wine
70 Allen Street Greenfield, MA 413-773-1100 FAX 413-773-1105

Community Yoga & WELLNESS CENTER
affordable classes morning, noon and night
free class every Sunday 4-5 pm
change your body... change your mind... change your life
beginners welcome
www.Community-Yoga.com
413 774-4700

HK | Power Town Apartments
152 Avenue A
PO Box 48
Turners Falls, MA
413-863-9433
professionally managed by:
HallKeen Management, Inc.
rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St.
Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager

GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
Locally Owned Since 1918
Local Farmer-Owned
Shop with your neighbors
Support local agriculture
Products for your animals, home, farm, garden & yard
269 High St. Greenfield (413)773-9639

LOGOS & BRANDING
GRAPHIC DESIGN
ILLUSTRATION
WEB SITES
COPY WRITING
BUSINESS STRATEGY
INTERNET MARKETING
MISSION & VISION
H2O
BOYSEN HODGSON
413 303 9193
www.h2-om.com

413-256-6217
fine instruments bought and sold repaired and restored
Fretted Instrument Workshop
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

CRUISE & TRAVEL COMPANY
30 Montague St. TURNERS FALLS
413-863-3143 | 888-763-3143
www.cruiseandtravelcompany.com

SCAPES BUILDERS
Your Green Building Company
110 North Hillside Road P.O. Box 469 South Deerfield, MA 01573
T: 413.665.0185 F: 413.665.0186
Scapes Builders & Landscaping, LLC



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *My sister went through a nightmare of doctor visits before she finally found out she has fibromyalgia. Why did it take so long for a correct diagnosis?*

What your sister endured is common. It's not easy to diagnose fibromyalgia with just a laboratory test. Healthcare practitioners have to rely on symptoms to make a diagnosis.

Unfortunately, fibromyalgia symptoms can vary between its victims. To further complicate the diagnosis, fibromyalgia imitates

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Diagnosing and Treating Fibromyalgia

rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, lupus and many other conditions.

The word "fibromyalgia" comes from the Latin term for fibrous tissue (fibro) and the Greek terms for muscle (myo) and pain (algia). Fibromyalgia is not a disease. It's a syndrome, which is a group of symptoms without a single cause. It is characterized by widespread pain, tenderness and fatigue.

Other symptoms of fibromyalgia may include: cognitive difficulties ("fibro fog"); sleep disturbances, morning stiffness, headaches, irritable bowel syndrome, painful menstrual periods, numbness or tingling of the extremities, restless legs syndrome, and sensitivity to heat, cold, noises and lights.

About five million people in

the United States have fibromyalgia. More than 80 percent of those diagnosed with fibromyalgia are women. Most people are diagnosed during middle age.

While fibromyalgia is a chronic condition, it is not progressive. It is never fatal, and it will not cause damage to the joints, muscles, or internal organs. In many people, the condition does improve over time.

The causes of fibromyalgia haven't been found. There is speculation that the syndrome may be caused by trauma or repetitive injuries. According to one theory, people with fibromyalgia may have genes that cause them to react strongly to stimuli that most people would not perceive as painful.

The American College of Rheumatology has established

criteria for diagnosing fibromyalgia. The patient must have diffuse tenderness and a history of widespread pain lasting more than three months. Pain is considered to be widespread when it affects all four quadrants of the body.

Fibromyalgia can be difficult to treat. Treatment often requires the combined forces of your doctor, a physical therapist, and other healthcare professionals. There are clinics that specialize in fibromyalgia.

Fibromyalgia can be treated with antidepressants, because antidepressants elevate the levels of chemicals in the brain that are associated not only with depression, but also with pain and fatigue. Increasing the levels of these chemicals can reduce pain in people who have fibromyalgia.

People with fibromyalgia also

may benefit from a combination of physical and occupational therapy, from learning pain management and coping techniques, and from properly balancing rest and activity.

Some people with fibromyalgia also report success with massage, movement therapies, chiropractic treatments and acupuncture.

There are steps you can take to minimize the effects of fibromyalgia. Getting enough sleep, exercising and making changes at work can all help. For example, some people cut down the number of hours they work, switch to a less demanding job, or adapt a current job. You can also change your work environment. An occupational therapist can help you design a more comfortable work station.

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

CHURCH from pg 1

founding of a separate parish for the northern part of the town of Swampfield (now Sunderland and Montague). A meeting was held subsequently in the tavern of Joseph Root (considered the oldest house in Montague, built in 1739, still standing on Old Sunderland Road) to establish the congregational church.

There was little or no distinction between town and church affairs in those days. All residents were required to attend church or pay a fine.

At that first meeting, on July 29th, 1751, Deacon Mattoon was chosen moderator; Joseph Root was chosen clerk; Deacon Mattoon, Eliphalet Allis, Samuel Bardwell, David Ballard, and Simeon King were chosen to give out warrants for calling future meetings, analogous to our modern town constables. Josiah Alvord, Eliphalet Allis, and Samuel Smead were chosen to assess taxes to pay for the expenses of the parish, including the settlement of the first minister, Judah Nash, who lived on Federal Street, in the house more recently occupied by the Marsh family.

Nash served the congregation as pastor for 52 years from November 22nd, 1752 until his death, on February 19th, 1805, far longer than any of the 37 pastors that followed. In Annie

Bardwell's comprehensive history of the First Congregational Church of Montague, reissued on the 250th anniversary of the first parish meeting in the Root Tavern, Nash is described as, "a fine gentleman of the old school, wearing character in his bearing and in his face," who road to meeting by way of the south swamp road... with his cocked up hat, small clothes, long stockings, and buckles on his shoes, Madam on a blue pillion behind him."

Meetings for worship were first held in private homes. The first meeting house was constructed more or less across Central Street from where the water fountain stands on the town common today. The building was two stories tall, with a front entrance on the common, and two side entrances. The pulpit faced front, with an ornate sounding board above. Misbehaving youngsters were seated in front of the pulpit, or, if too unruly, were placed in the 'dungeon' - a pit beneath the pulpit where guns and ammunition were also kept.

The building was apparently torn down in 1834, when the new church was built.

This occurred eight years after the Congregational Society of Montague formally organized as an entity separate from the town.

The new church, built by Henry and Zebina Taylor at a cost

of \$4,173.41, was constructed in just five months, and dedicated on November 19th, 1834. It was built with bricks fired in the kiln on the old Clapp homestead, using clay dug from the land owned in more recent times by the Hawley family.

According to the Massachusetts Historical Commission's 1982 survey report of the town of Montague, the First Congregational is distinguished from smaller, wood-framed Greek Revival meeting-houses in Franklin County by its "recessed portico with pediment and three stage belfry, with octagonal sections and a dome."

After Judah Nash's death, disension and factional rivalry, which had been kept in check by the force of his personality, broke out and divided the congregation for the next 30 years, according to Bardwell's history.

The Baptists, who had been quarreling with the established Congregationalists, baptizing by full immersion and refusing to pay fines for not attending meeting for worship, finally broke away and joined with their brethren in North Leverett to found their own church, in the period between 1791 and the first decade of the 1800s. Subsequently, a small Episcopalian faction and a larger group of Unitarians broke away, the latter founding a separate

church across the common, in the building that now holds the Montague Grange.

The Congregationalists were left in a weakened condition by these defections, and there were years when a minister's salary could not be afforded. In 1873, the practice of holding two sermons a day was altered by financial considerations, when Rev. C.H. Daniels agreed to stay on for \$100 less than the customary stipend, if he could preach only one sermon on a Sunday.

This custom has continued, and was exemplified in fine style by the visiting minister, Reverend Jim Antal this week.

Antal presides over 385 United Church of Christ churches in Massachusetts, and supports 750 ministers, some in colleges, universities, hospitals, and jails, some, like the Reverend Barbara Tuner Delisle, in historic churches like the one she ministers to here in Montague.

Delisle is the third woman in a row to serve as pastor in Montague, following 238 years of nearly continuous preaching by men. Delisle has encouraged the congregation to take seriously its responsibility to its neighbors, as the church continues to support community meals and the Franklin Area Survival Center, along with events like the annual Montague Old Home Day. She has worked to increase awareness

of the threat to our planet from environmental dangers like global warming, ringing the bell in the old cupola 350 times on days of international climate action to call attention to the need to reduce levels of carbon in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million.

"This year we join over 6000 groups around the world in taking action to do just that," DeLisle wrote in October of 2010. "Our action on 10-10-10 will be to help install storm windows at the Montague Grange. We invite everyone to bring a bell to ring with us, bring your muscles, your heart and your desire to create a cleaner planet for all!"

The belfry and the attic of the church have long housed an active congregation of another sort. Village residents are used to gathering on lazy mid-summer evenings to watch the brown bats fly at twilight on their nightly insect hunt.

This past year, the numbers of bats flying from the attic had dwindled to a few, as the ravages of white nose fungus appeared to have reduced, but not entirely eliminated, their numbers.

Like the human congregants below, the bats have long held a prominent spot on the town common, looking down over more than 250 years of history here in Montague.



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

Affordable Home Financing for VA & FHA Loans

MetLife MetLife Home Loans

TIM PREVOST - Mortgage Consultant
413-773-8984
tprevost@metlife.com

All loans subject to approval. Certain conditions and fees apply. Mortgage financing provided by MetLife Home Loans, a division of MetLife Bank, N.A. Equal Housing Lender. ©2008 METLIFE, INC. PEANUTS © United Feature Syndicate, Inc. L09086294[exp0909][All States][DC] LENDER BC1

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR

General Auto Repair
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS
and HEAVY EQUIPMENT
Foreign and Domestic

Propane Filling Station Route 2, Gill
863-4049 1-800-439-4049
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

CopyCat PRINT SHOP

We Specialize In Impossible Deadlines!

It Figures!

Kate McGrath, MBA
Accountant
413-768-9095

IRS-Approved Income Tax Preparer
Accountant Specializing in QuickBooks
Now accepting new tax clients

T.L.C. TURNS LAWN CARE

Specializing in all aspects of Lawn and Property Maintenance.

Located in the Heart of Montague Center.
Now accepting calls for new clients for snow removal within 12 miles of Montague Center

Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured
45 Main Street, PO Box 926, Montague, MA 01351
Gary Turn, Owner Phone: 367-0230 Cell:522-2563

GREENFIELD@COPYCATPRINTSHOP.COM
413-774-3500

Please visit our website for printing tips and online services:
copycatprintshop.com

UP TO THE MINUTE TECHNOLOGY
OLD-FASHIONED PERSONAL SERVICE



GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 42: Green Pioneers

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER – The next evening, the Tinker family joined more than a hundred people from local Catholic, Unitarian, Quaker, Episcopal and Methodist churches and a Jewish synagogue for a vigil on the Greenfield Common. Taking advantage of the opportunity to network before the service began, Rita Tinker shook hands and reminded friends and wellwishers that she intended to work for clean energy for Western Massachusetts.

At 7:00, people began pulling out candles and the crowd stilled, turning towards Rowland Bowman, minister of the Tinker's Methodist church, who took out a paper and read:

"As people of faith, we are called to be stewards of the earth. But individual and industrial pollution is taking a drastic toll on the environment and risking the integrity and sustainability of creation. We have a responsibility to use resources and energy in a way that ensures that the earth and its abundance are shared by all and by future generations." He paused, and then continued, "Now I'd like to introduce Ruby Tinker, who has written a song

for this occasion."

Alex Tinker strummed the opening chords on his guitar, and Ruby's clear, sincere voice floated across the crowd.

*Your feet too big
—you're usin' too much carbon
You feet too big
—you're heatin' up the skies
Your feet too big
—better find a way to shrink 'em*

Gotta leave a carbon footprint that's a livable size

As she'd finished, the crowd responded with rousing applause. Alex whispered something in Rowland's ear, and when it became quiet again, the minister

raised his hand.

"I've just been told there's a video of 'Feet's Too Big'" on YouTube — spread the word!"

As the crowd dispersed, Rowland turned to Ruby's mother Rita, and asked if he might have a word with her. "Rita, this is not an easy thing for me to say, but I don't feel that the statements you've made on clean coal and nuclear power are accurate." Pastor Rowland said. "I also don't feel that the position you've taken on energy use is in the best interests of the residents of Franklin County. I will be sharing an opposing viewpoint in our service next Sunday — I don't want you to be surprised."



"The thing is, Alex," Ruby lamented on the ride home, "I'm getting tired of just telling peo-

ple all about climate change. I think kids shouldn't have to wait until they're grown up to do something. Like, it would be great for kids to learn how to build a windmill. Or do organic gardening, or build a solar collector, or make things out of recycled plastic. They should teach us more in school about how energy works and how we could design things."

"Maybe you should talk to your teacher. Or the principal, even." Alex suggested.

"I have a better idea," said Ruby. "I'm going to start a kids' organization and get some other kids to join. Then maybe they'll listen to us. We'll call ourselves the Green Pioneers."

Continued next issue...

MONTAGUE from pg 7

There is a series of ravines there that will never be developed, explained Mark Fairbrother, and she is only recording chemical information on the site.

The selectboard approved the request, adding that Picking needs to sign a 'hold harmless' agreement in case of personal injury on town land.

Please welcome Susan Conger to the Montague energy committee. She replaces Jay Blier for the remainder of his term.

Congratulations also to James Whiteman, of Erving, who has been hired to work at the department of public works. DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron described Whiteman as "knowledgeable and excited to start."

That's good because it has been all hands on deck at the DPW this winter, battling seemingly constant storms. Bergeron reported the DPW continues to take calls on problem intersections that need more attention. He said his crew tries to get to them quickly, in addition to shipping away truckloads of already piled snow from the snow banks. And, Bergeron stated he has even received complements on his home phone on how the roads are maintained (but maybe you could send him a postcard).

Knock on wood, the DPW equipment is "holding up fairly well," Bergeron said, as of Monday's meeting, "and there is still money in the snow budget."

Montague's inclement weather policy for town hall staff has been getting a workout too, as workers have inquired as to whether or not sick or vacation days that fall on a snow day are compensated for in any way. The selectboard voted to clarify the

policy so that staff will not have any additional time off if there happens to be a coincidence of a sick or vacation day and a snow day.

"That's the way it goes," said Fairbrother.

But, Allen and Chris Boutwell did vote to allow comp time for staff who are required to work on snow days due to obligations such as court or inspections.

Fairbrother voted against the comp time.

Allen noted that typically only department heads would be in that position.

Also, notification of town hall closures will now be posted on the Montague net town website, in addition to the usual radio and TV announcements.

But now let's turn to thoughts of spring. Mike Nelson, Franklin County Spring Parade committee leader, has worked with the police department to come up with a modified parade route to allow for ample parking, vendor

setup, and parade setup for participants. The new route also avoids any complications with detours associated with the Gill-Montague bridge construction.

The route will start at the Sheffield School in Turners Falls, continue on Montague Street to the end of Turnpike Road, then on to Millers Falls Road, and back towards the Sheffield School again, passing Scotty's convenience store, and continuing along Crocker Avenue.

The parade is planned for Saturday, April 9th at 1 p.m. You'll want to dust off your lawn chairs and brush the snow off the BBQ. If you live along the route, you'll have a front row seat!

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The town of Wendell Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Wednesday February 16, 2010 at 7pm in the Wendell Town Offices located at 9 Morse Village Road on the following application.

The application of Samuel and Sherry Gifford for property located at 3 Mount Laurel Drive, identified by the applicant as Lot #23 on Plan #413. The application for a variance specifically requests the ZBA consider their request to construct a new non-conforming structure.

All interested parties should attend the hearing. A copy of the application is available for review at the office of the Town Clerk, 9 Morse Village Road, Wendell MA. Town Clerk hours are Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

- Wendell Zoning Board of Appeals
Lisa Winter, Chair

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Driving Under the Influence Arrest, Assault Arrest

Tuesday, 1/18

7:18 p.m. Domestic disturbance on L Street. Advised of options.

Wednesday, 1/19

2:10 a.m. Drug, narcotics violation on Central Street. Investigated.

Thursday, 1/20

8:48 a.m. Unwanted person at Franklin Emergency Shelter on Farren Avenue. Services rendered.

3:26 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Edward Avenue. Report taken.

4:50 p.m. Dumpster fire on Turners Falls Road. Services rendered.

8:18 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] for third offense of driving under the influence of liquor, failure to take care in starting, stopping, or turning or backing up, driving as to endanger, wanton destruction of property over \$250, and failure to wear seatbelt, on G Street.

Friday, 1/21

8:27 a.m. Larceny at Rau's Sunoco & Towing on Turners Falls Road. Advised of options.

5:30 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] for domestic assault and battery. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] for domestic assault and battery on South Prospect Street in Millers Falls.

9:43 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon on L Street.

9:50 p.m. Threatening, harassment on South Prospect Street in Millers Falls. Advised of options.

Saturday, 1/22

9:57 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for speeding, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and without insurance.

11:51 a.m. Loud noise disturbance on

Third Street. Peace restored.

7:53 p.m. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] in Montague Center, on a straight warrant on Federal Street in Millers Falls.

Monday, 1/24

3:10 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Old Northfield Road. Services rendered.

5:06 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Canal Street. Investigated.

Tuesday, 1/25

12:28 a.m. Threatening, harassment at Subway on Avenue A. Services rendered.

1 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on G Street. Report taken.

Mon, Tue & Wed Specials

Large 16" Pizzas with 1 Topping for \$9.95 plus tax

With Any 12" or 8" Sub 1 FREE 12 oz. Can of Soda

Any Steak, Chicken or Veggie Burrito \$5.95 plus tax

Roberto's Family Restaurant

196 Turners Falls Road
863-0022

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

Great Rates, Fully Insured!

Greenfield Co-operative Bank
A Great Financial Partner

BestLocalBank.com
Reach All Locations 772-0293
Greenfield • Northfield • Sunderland

MEMBER FDIC
MEMBER SIF

About-Face Computer Solutions
Computer Sales & Service

We've Moved!
Phone: 413-863-5447

Find us at:
151 Avenue A, Turners Falls!
www.about-facecomputers.com

Turn your computer troubles punoie

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE
KUSTOM AUTOBODY
MA Reg #RS2066

48 Randall Road
Montague
Phone/413-863-3780

Mike Fuller, Owner

PETER WATERS

HOUSE PAINTING

Interior Exterior 978-544-6534 Wendell MA

Simons & Simons
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Gerry G. Simons
Thomas G. Simons (1942-2009)

Estates • Wills • Real Estate
Personal Injury

P.O. Box 9 • Turners Falls
(413) 774-3239 gerrygsimons@yahoo.com

Montague Mini Storage | Mike Fuller - owner

The Best Hiding Place in Town

48 Randall Road | 413-863-4680

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

which will all be taught. Beginners of all ages are welcome. Donations at the door will be accepted, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

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

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

Montague Grange: *Montague Family Dance*, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Family-style Contra Dancing for all ages. Chase the winter blues away with caller Jim Fownes and 4 member band Double Time, including nationally renowned fiddler Ron

events will take place every Thursday night at 9 p.m. Alan Evans' soul funk syndicate *Play on Brother* features some of the finest musicians the Northeast has to offer.

FEBRUARY 2nd Through 27th
Burnett Gallery at Jones Library, Amherst, MA: *City on the Sea: Fragments of (Brief Returns to) Riga, Latvia*, A photographic essay by Anita Licis-Ribak.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd
Cafe Sun, Sunderland Elementary School: *Free Polka lessons, with Tom and Deb Zimnowski*. Free babysitting available, cafesun.org, 7 to 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Ruby's Complaint*.

Montague Grange: *Gender Role Free Contra*, Caller *Tim Van Edmond*, music by *Calamity Physics*. 7 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Yam 8* p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Fourth Annual Science & Nature Poetry & Prose Open Mic Night!* Mary Clare Powell hosts. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4th Through SUNDAY, APRIL 3rd
The Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Care of Ward 81, photographs by Bill Diodato*. Artists reception 3- 6 p.m. on February 4th.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5th
The Iron Horse, Northampton: The band *Black Rebels* will play at 10 p.m. celebrating the spirit/genius/ and contributions of Robert Nesta Marley.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6th
Greenfield Center School: *K to 5th grade open house* with a free birds of prey presentation and bird-related activities for children ages 3-12, from 1 to 2 p.m. *Tom Ricardi*, raptor rehabilitator will give a presentation complete with several live birds of prey, from 2 to 4 p.m.

THE BRICK HOUSE
TUES - SAT Teen drop-in center - art, computers, music, and more 3 to 6 pm
WED Experimental writing 6 to 8 pm
TUES & SAT Green jobs 10 to 4 pm
Other weekly programs: Yoga, Self-Defense, Women's writing group
(413) 863-9576
24 Third St., Turners Falls, 01376
www.brickhousecommunity.org

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. Artists reception on Saturday, February 5th from 1-3 p.m.

Cogan, jazz, 7:30 p.m., Free.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lenny's Lounge*.

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 Ahler* 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.

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

Cafe Sun, Sunderland Elementary School: *Free Polka lessons, with Tom and Deb Zimnowski*. Free babysitting available, cafesun.org, 7 to 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ellen*



Black Rebels will play at 10 p.m. at The Iron Horse on Saturday, February 5th, celebrating the music of Robert Nesta Marley.

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

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Rhythm Inc.*, 8 to 10 p.m.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Jamie Kent with The Options*, 9 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus, Harmonic Eclectic Rock*, 8 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Green River String Band*, folk-american, Free, 9:30 p.m.

Wendell Town Hall: *An evening of International Circle Dancing with live music from Noah's Raven Dance Band*. The evening features Celtic, Israeli, Turkish, Arabic, Armenian and American dances

Grosslein of Swallowtail and The Moving Violations and 16 year old Kathleen Fownes.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31st
Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps, A Night of Spoken Word*, Special Poetry night menu available, bring a friend and your appetite, 7 to 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic and 1st Annual Sculptors Show*.

Dada Dino and Voo Open Mike, Presents a Sculptors Show Case. Tell your art friends to make something to display that nite. No theme, amateurs welcome! Music poetry and performance art as usual. 7:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY IN FEBRUARY
The Arts Block, Greenfield: February residency with Alan Evans, the drummer of the seminal funk, soul band Soulive. The 4

THE LADY KILLIGREW:
still proudly serving
BROWN RICE SALAD

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

GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS
Main St. Greenfield, MA
413-774-4881

www.gardencinemas.net
Showtimes for
Friday Jan. 28th to Sunday Jan. 30th

- 1. THE KING'S SPEECH** R DTS
DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:30
- 2. THE RITE** PG13 DTS
DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:30
- 3. BLACK SWAN** R
DAILY 12:30 3:30 7:00 9:30
- 4. NO STRINGS ATTACHED** R
DAILY 12:15 6:45
- 4. TRUE GRIT** PG13
DAILY 12:15 9:15
- 5. THE GREEN HORNET** PG13
DAILY 12:15 6:45
- 5. THE DILEMMA** PG13
DAILY 3:15 9:15

Deja Brew
Cafe & Pub
Fine Wine Great Food

Friday, 1/28 9 to 11 p.m.
Nobody's Fat, Jazz Trio
Saturday, 1/29 9 to 11 p.m.
Nexus, harmonic eclectic rock
Monday, 1/31 7 to 10 p.m.
All Small Caps
A Night of Spoken Word
Friday, 2/4 9 to 11 p.m.
The Equalites, Reggae Fantastico

978-544-BREW
57A Lockes Village Road
Next to the Wendell Country Store
www.DejaBrewPub.com

The Rendezvous
LUNCH? LUNCH!

THURS 1/27 7:30 FREE
Ellen Cogan (jazz)

FRI 1/28 6:30-8:30 FREE
LENNY'S LOUNGE (croonin'!)

SAT 1/29 9:30 FREE
GREEN RIVER STRING BAND

MON 1/31 8pm
Open Mic. (w. host Dada Dino!)
(sign-up starts at 7:30)
AND our First Annual Sculpture Showcase!!

78 THIRD STREET
TURNERS FALLS
THEVOD.NET 413-863-2866

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

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Animal Crackers

Saturday Fish Special

Fun stuff for pets and their people.

• Aquarium Plants
• Saltwater Fish & Lots of Critters
Open 7 Days

Animal Crackers
Aquarium & Pet Supplies
44 Deerfield St. (Rte 5 & 10)
Greenfield, MA 413-774-7346

Michael Spence
Deborah Spence

NEEDFUL THINGS
Selling Quality Used Furniture
Collectibles • Housewares

199 Deerfield St. Routes 5 & 10
Greenfield, MA 01301 (413) 774-7430

EDWARDS TREE SERVICE
Matthew Edwards
Certified Arborist

Tree Climbing Specialist • Pruning And Removals
Stump Grinding • Practicing Fine Arboriculture
Residential / Commercial / Municipal
60 Ft. Aerial Lift • Brush Chipping
Fully Insured With Workers Comp. • Insurance and Liability

WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM
Wendell, MA
Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties
413-325-7823 or 978-544-7452

VIDEO GAMES ETC. Todd Cousino
Owner

Buy, Sell, Trade
Games, Electronics, and More!

229b Main St.
Greenfield, MA
01301

New & Vintage Video Games
and Machines.
1,000's of DVD's

Phone: (413) 772-0044
E-mail: vgect@yahoo.com

Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

(413) 367-2475

531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics



© RICHARD ETTLINGER FROM WWW.PHOTO.NET

Barred Owl in Flight

BY LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER - The Owl Prowl at Red Fire Farm, sponsored by the Mount Grace Conservation Land Trust, was really two events folded into one. For those who wanted to learn more about the owls who live, hunt, mate, and fly silently through the night sky right here in Montague, the Owl Prowl welcomed about 30 participants to a slide show followed by a night walk through snow and ice covered fields in the hopes of sighting one or more owls.

For those eager to learn more about the farmland conservation efforts of the Trust and the future plans for Red Fire Farm, Ryan Voiland and his wife Sarah were on hand to talk about their vision. Voiland was able to purchase the former Blue Meadow Farm property and the Tuvek farm on Meadow Road with the help of the Trust. This effort permanently pro-

TECTS some of the best farmland in the world, and also protects the habitat that allows owls to thrive.

They are here in all their mysterious glory. In a slide show we saw pictures of all the varieties of owls that inhabit the Pioneer Valley and learned some fast facts.

I did not know, for instance, that the Great Horned Owl has no natural predators, that all owls have miraculous hearing and use it to locate their prey, that they mate for life, that it is their soft feathers that allow them to fly so silently, that they are a key component of controlling the rodent population, and that the largest owls will prey upon the smaller ones.

When calling to them, it is therefore important to start with the great Horned Owl and send it on its way before trying for one of the smaller ones, such as the little screech owl. The

screech owl might just look like a snack to the Great Horned, which can measure 18-25 inches tall with a wingspan of 36-60 inches. The image of the Great Horned Owl swooping down with talons ready is truly frightening and may explain why some other creatures, such as certain moths, have markings that mimic round owl eyes and serve as protection from predators.

We headed out across an icy field, trying to be as silent as possible on the crunchy surface. The field biologist from Mount Grace carried a device that replicates the different owl sounds, from a simple muffled hoot, to the familiar "Who cooks for you?"

It takes a little while for owls to answer or to investigate. Our group heard an answering call from a great Horned Owl and a Bard owl, but on this night the owls decided to keep their distance from these curious humans. While we waited, two packs of coyotes began singing to each other, and assorted neighborhood dogs joined in.

At this point, my urban, Brooklyn roots emerged as my feet began to freeze and the coyotes sounded like they were getting closer, but nobody else seemed concerned. The group was filled with people familiar with all kinds of bird calls and the habits of local wildlife. One man said he'd seen a snowshoe hare recently in the Montague conservation area. He also explained how a wolf call is different from a coyote's. Others spoke of owl sightings and migration routes from Canada.

Patience appears to be an essential quality in birdwatchers. That and a tolerance for standing very still and quiet for a long time in the cold. I began to think that the slide show in the warm office with the lovely owl photographs and the popcorn made from Red Fire Farm corn and the hot mulled cider and the little iced owl cookies had been just fine with me.

In the field where we waited, acres of pick-your-own strawberries were hidden beneath the snow. They will be ready this summer. Anticipation of strawberry season, with hot sun and berry stained hands made me think of all the years I've headed to the Old Depot farm stand and figured out dinner based on what was there, finding that strawberries taste great in a salad made with baby spinach, and then later in the season making a whole meal with corn, tomatoes, cilantro and red onion.

At that moment I realized the Owl Prowl did just what it set out to do. The program provoked curiosity about owls, reverence for our local farms and farmers, and respect for the efforts of the Mount Grace Land Trust to protect it all.

Voiland began growing vegetables in Montague when he was just a boy and selling them at his stand at the intersection of Swamp Road and Turners Falls Road. In 2001 he bought a large farm in Granby and named it Red Fire after his favorite red leaf lettuce. Over the years he has produced gorgeous certified organic produce, season after season, especially heirloom

tomatoes. People can buy his wares from the stand in Montague or from another in Granby, at farmers markets, or they can become shareholders in a CSA and for a fixed price pick up a box of fresh seasonal produce each week of the growing season.

In the last few years, Voiland has also installed a cooler for local milk, cheese, eggs, and fermented vegetables from Real Pickles, another local company. Inside the stand there's maple syrup, honey, and a variety of condiments, all locally produced.

To learn more about the Voilands, their philosophy and the future of the farm, go to www.redfire.com where you will find photos, recipes, driving directions, and an events calendar.

When the Voilands needed to expand, development pressures in Granby made it impossible to purchase enough farmland there to fill his needs. The collaboration with Mount Grace made it possible to bring Red Fire Farm back to Franklin County, where Ryan got his start in market gardening so many years ago.

Voiland said, "This is quite possibly a once in a lifetime chance to secure some of the best vegetable farm land in the world. We are looking forward to transitioning this land to certified organic farming practices and planting the acreage with berries and vegetables during the next couple of seasons!"

Making it more important than ever to answer the question, "Who cooks for you?"

CHATEAU from pg 9 snob. While he loved to entertain guests of a similar station in life, he did not like to associate with the lower classes. He very generously offered the chateau for student dances of Moody's Northfield Mount Herman Schools, and took pleasure in seeing the young people enjoying themselves.

The chateau was a curiosity, but Schell abhorred trespassers and what he considered prying eyes. To keep the unwashed at bay, Schell used Ambert G. Moody, nephew of school founder D. L. Moody, to serve as intermediary in offering

Northfield \$5,000 to close off Highland Avenue, at the entrance of the Schell's chateau.

The town fathers did not like the idea, as they resented Schell's aristocratic ways. But they wanted the \$5,000, a considerable sum at that time, so they accepted the money, closed off Highland Avenue and opened up Birnam Road.

Schell may have been a snob, but he was generous with his money. The bridge over the Connecticut River linking Northfield to East Northfield ran on the lower level of a railroad bridge. The bridge was

badly in need of repair, and the town had no money.

Ambert Moody approached Schell with the idea of giving money for an entirely new bridge as a memorial to Schell's parents, who had recently died.

Mrs. Schell said, "Well, we have often given as much as \$32,000 in one year. Why not put it in one place for once and let it count for something?"

There were no special ceremonies. People just began using the bridge. Schell provided two simple plaques stating, "An enduring memorial in Northfield to my beloved

father, Robert Schell."

Mr. and Mrs. Schell traveled in Europe during the two years hordes of hired men built their chateau. While Mr. Schell was having his dream castle built, Mrs. Schell was expecting a rose covered cottage in which to spend their summers.

After her husband died, Mrs. Schell signed the chateau over to the Northfield Hotel, owned by Northfield Mount Hermon. The price was \$34,000. Mrs. Schell moved into the hotel, insisting on a room facing away from the chateau she had come to abhor.

The chateau was eventually

torn down in 1963, no mean feat. More about that in a later issue.



PLACE YOUR COLOR BIZ CARD HERE / \$12.00 A WEEK / 12 WK MIN / CALL 863-8666

Mary Lou Emond
Certified Residential Specialist

COHN & COMPANY
Real Estate Agency
117 Main Street • PO Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638
413-773-1149 x142 • HOME: 413-863-4568
EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM

STOP BY THE GILL TAVERN AND SEE THEIR SOLAR HOT WATER SYSTEM

SOLAR STORE Your Local Renewable Energy Experts
Advise, Design and Installation
2 Fiske Ave, Greenfield - 772-3122 ~ www.solarstoreofgreenfield.com

Mike and Tony's Pizzeria
@ the Green Emporium
Thursday - Sunday 5 - 9 p.m.

fabulous dining,
great music, neon art,
full liquor bar,
and the best pizza!

www.greenemporium.com Colrain Center 413-624-5122

RISTORANTE DiPAOLO
Wednesday Wine Specials • 1st & 3rd Thurs Jazz
Glass \$5, Bottle \$20, Appetizers \$10
GREAT ITALIAN FOOD
Open Daily at 5:00 | Closed Monday & Tuesday
413-863-4441

TURN IT UP!

MUSIC & MOVIES

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

RAVEN USED BOOKS

USED & DISCOUNT BOOKS
1/2 RETAIL OR LESS!

KIDS' BOOKS • COOKBOOKS • GARDENING
POPULAR/LOCAL HISTORY • KNITTING/CRAFT

The Raven's excellent selection of discount books makes quality gifts for any occasion, and at great savings! Happy Holidays, and we'll see you soon!

SUN-THURS 10-5:30 • FRI-SAT 10-8
5 BANK ROW • DOWNTOWN GREENFIELD
413-772-1968 • RAVENUSEDBOOKS.COM