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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 7 - NO. 17

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 29, 2009

### Town of Erving May Withdraw from Council of Governments

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - On Monday night, January 26th, after the selectboard appointed town treasurer Margaret Sullivan to represent the town of Erving with the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program, board chair Andy Tessier called for the town to pull out of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, a move Erving voters are likely to consider at the May annual town meeting.

"I asked them, 'What are you doing for Erving?'" Tessier said. "I got kind of a haphazard sheet in reply. I think it's time to withdraw."

The town spent \$39,000 last year to be a member of the countywide body. Tessier said he had objected to the extent of raises granted FRCOG administrators at an advisory board meeting he attended last year.

Town administrative assistant Tom Sharp will meet with FRCOG administrators in the coming weeks, before the matter is discussed again at the selectboard.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments replaced the former Franklin County government in 1997 as a voluntary membership municipality. **see ERVING pg 8**

## Paul Reville Comes to Montague



Photo by Ellen Blanchette

*Massachusetts Secretary of Education Paul Reville met with educators, school committee members and town officials in a public forum at Franklin County Technical School on Friday. He emphasized Governor Deval Patrick's support for education and the state's effort to encourage collaboration and regionalization among school districts, as a way to save money*

*that could be put towards school programming.*

*"We don't have all the answers," admitted Reville.*

*Reville said he had come to town to listen, and to work in cooperation with school districts, because commitment to education for our children is essential if we are to have a strong economy going forward.*

### G-M School Committee Advances a 2.7% Budget Increase for Fiscal '10

**BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE** - In a very long, wide ranging meeting on Tuesday, January 27th, the Gill-Montague school committee agreed to a 2.7% budget increase as a starting point for the preliminary Fiscal '10 budget, due by February 1st.

School committee chair Mary Kociela made it clear the 2.7% figure was only a placeholder to meet the deadline, and that details of the budget would be determined as the committee goes through the various line items in the district operating budget.

Interim G-M superintendent Ken Rocke said at this point no one knows what kind of cuts or additional spending will come from the state, so there is no way to determine an accurate budget so early in the year. School choice numbers and special education spending are also unpredictable, adding to the uncertainty of the budget process.

Committee member Linda Kuklewicz objected to the fact the committee only held a 20 minute discussion on the budget at the very end of a meeting that began at 6:30 p.m. and adjourned five hours later.

Kociela pointed out the committee had discussed the budget at length in their meeting the pre-

**see BUDGET pg 3**

## Mareneck Takes the Helm at MCSM



Susan Mareneck

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** **TURNERS FALLS** - Montague Catholic Social Ministries has a new executive director, a woman who is passionate about bringing faith communities into the vital work of social advocacy.

"All spiritual practice and religions have a call to take care of one's brother or sister," said Susan Mareneck, of North Leverett, who will now be in the position of being able to put that call into

practice as the head of the MCSM, where she assumed the director's role earlier this month.

Seated in her spartan office on the first floor of the Moltenbrey on 3rd Street, enlivened by a bouquet of flowers on a filing cabinet and a volume of Kim Klein's *Fundraising for Social Change* occupying a lone place on a bookshelf, Mareneck said she was wasting no time in applying her belief in the power of *Tikkun Olam* to the task at hand.

"*Tikkun Olam* is a Hebraic concept that through serving each other the world will be repaired," Mareneck said. "In Christian thought, this

translates to loving one's neighbor."

Already, on her third day on the job, Mareneck had found time in between meeting with the Community Coalition for Teens, and attending the opening of the Brick House's Community Art and Entertainment Space to view the inauguration of Barack Obama, to sit down with Greg Cote, troop guide for Boy Scout Troop 16 from Greenfield, who is planning a food drive at area supermarkets to distribute through MCSM, and to receive 30 new winter coats from a woman who donated them through MCSM to residents who are in need.

Given the quality of compassion assurance **see MCSM pg 11**

## Turners Man Seeks a Name Change

*~ for the Village*



Mark Canon

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** Mark Canon, of 4th Street, surprised the selectboard of Montague on Monday night with a call to change the

name of the village of Turners Falls, since it honors the memory of a man who led a massacre of Native Americans camped by the falls here in 1676.

"I've lived in the town of Montague all my life. I'm 49 years old. I was educated in the Montague school system. I am very proud of the school system, and very proud of the town of Montague," Canon began, speaking in the open comment period at the end of the board's regular meeting.

He continued, "It is ironic that this town, which has five villages, names one

of its villages after a man who killed hundreds of men, women, and children. And you do nothing about that."

Referring to the ongoing controversy in the Gill-Montague school system about whether to allow the use of a fight song — called the Tomahawk Chop — for the high school sports teams, who use a Native American mascot and go by the name Turners Falls Indians, Canon said, "We honor a man who killed hundreds of Native Americans. If we're going to change something because it is disrespectful to American Indians, we shouldn't stop there. I stand with American Indians. If we're going to do that, let's honor them completely," and change the name of the village, Canon said.

He suggested the name used by the middle school — 'Great Falls' — would make a better name for the town's most populous village.

"You are right to bring this up, unannounced," said selectboard chair Allen

**see NAME pg 7**

## PET OF THE WEEK

### How Good It Feels



### Joclyne

My name is Joclyne and I'm an 8-month-old female cat in need of a good home. When I first came into the shelter, I was very shy and scared.

I'm still very shy, but as soon as you start petting me, I start purring and rubbing up against your hand. I never realized before how good it feels to be loved and petted! Sometimes it feels so good when you pet me that I start to drool. I can't help it! It's great! I'm really looking forward to getting comfortable in a real home with my new family. Will it be you? For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: leverett@dpvhs.org.

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## MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

### Carnegie Valentine Party

BY RUTH O'MARA

**TURNERS FALLS** - There will be a Valentines Party at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, February 7th, for children of all ages, at 10:30 a.m. with Ruth

O'Mara. Children will decorate valentines; all materials will be provided, and refreshments will be served. For more information, call the Carnegie Library at 413-863-3214.

### TOWN OF MONTAGUE TAX BILLS MAILED

Fiscal 2009 real estate and district tax bills are in the mail! So are personal property bills, according to tax collector Patricia Dion. Payment is due on or before February 26th, 2009. To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and both copies of the bill with your payments. Any new owner not in receipt of a tax bill should contact the tax collector's office at 863-3200, ext. 202. The office is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., and Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. The town hall is

closed on Fridays.

Real estate abatement and exemption applications are available from the assessors' office. Abatement applications must be filed on or before February 26th, 2009.

For the convenience of Montague residents, you will now be able to pay tax bills on line. Have your bills and checkbook in hand, and then go to [www.montague.net](http://www.montague.net), click on departments, treasurer/collector, online bill payments, then complete each screen to process your payment. It's convenient, fast and secure.

## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE TOWN CLERK

### 2009 Montague Dog Licenses

Montague dog licenses are now available at the town clerk's office. All dogs six months and older must be licensed and tagged each year.

A license for a neutered or spayed dog is \$5.00. A license for an unaltered dog is \$10.00.

The clerk's office requires proof of rabies vaccination, and also requires proof of spaying or neutering unless previously provided.

There is a late fee of \$20.00 after May 31st.

The town clerk's office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town hall is closed on Fridays. For more information, contact the office at 863-3200, ext 203.

### Montague Nomination Papers Now Available

Nomination papers for the annual town election, Monday, May 18th are now available at the town clerk's office until Thursday, March 26th. They must be returned no later than Monday, March 30th, by 5:00 p.m.

Positions up for election are as follows:

- Selectboard, Moderator, Assessor, Board of Health, and Parks & Recreation, each for a three-year term.
- Library Trustees have three positions, each for a three-year term.
- Soldiers Memorial Trustees have a Veteran and a Non-Veteran position, each for a three-year term.
- Montague Housing

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- Feb. 2nd to 6th

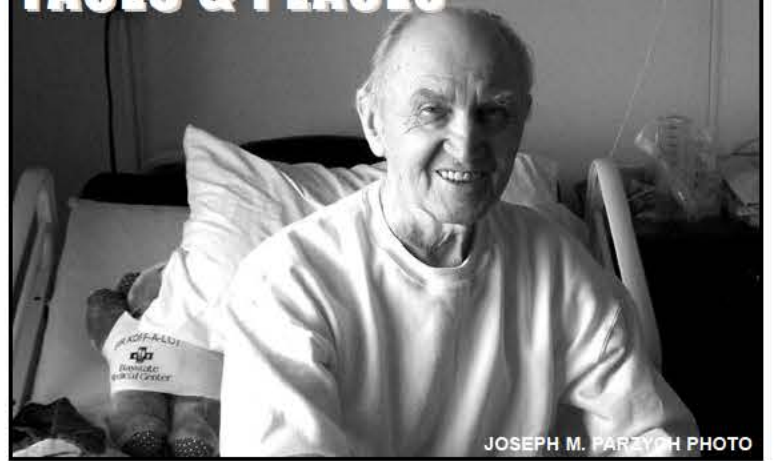
**GILL/MONTAGUE** Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Council-on-Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided.

Monday, 2nd  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics.  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
Tuesday, 3rd  
9:00 a.m. Walking Club.  
Weather permitting  
1:00 p.m. Canasta  
Wednesday, 4th  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, 5th  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
Friday, 6th  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11:00 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
AARP Tax-Aide volunteers will be providing free tax return preparation for Montague and Gill Seniors at Montague Senior Center. Please call to make an appointment. A few openings are still available on March 24. AARP Tax-Aide volunteers work in conjunction with the IRS to bring you this service. If filing a joint return, both spouses should attend the appointment unless impossible. Call the center for details.

**ERVING** Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director at 413-423-3308.

## FACES & PLACES



JOSEPH M. PARZYCH PHOTO

### Gill Gourmet Approves the Menu

BY JOSEPH M. PARZYCH - Reporting the latest on the Gill Gourmet, my father, Joseph A. Parzych, is doing well, resting up a bit at the Buckley Nursing Home in Greenfield after his recent bypass surgery. Joe is a bit tired, but doing OK, after all the vigorous workouts in the last few days.

While here passing the time, he has been catching up on his reading, walking the halls in search of good conversation, and finding some. He says the staff has been wonderful, and the food is "fabulous." That's high praise from a food writer like my dad.

His hard hat is still on the ledge of the rear window of his car, waiting for him to get back on the beat, scouting out con-

struction sites in Gill and Montague, and all points in between. Including those rusted girders underneath the bridge. They are due to be replaced soon, along with the rest of the crumbling deck, which will cause quite a bypass operation for the major artery between our towns.

Can't wait to have Joe back mixing it up with the excavators and engineers, MassHighway supervisors, and bean counters for the most expensive construction project to come down the pike in many a year, the \$47.5 million reconstruction of a bridge that probably cost less than a million to build in 1937.

Thanks for all your get well wishes for the Gill Gourmet.

Authority has one position for a five-year term and also has one position for a two-year term.

Nomination papers are also available for town meeting members for each precinct.

The annual town election will be held on Monday, May 18th. The deadline to register to vote in this election is Tuesday, April 28th.

Nomination papers regarding school committee seats are

provided by the Gill-Montague Superintendent of Schools at 35 Crocker Avenue. Kristin Boyle, Linda Kuklewicz, and Valeria 'Timmy' Smith presently hold the school committee seats that will be up for election this May. The Superintendent's office should have nominating papers available for these seats in the beginning of February.

For more information, please call the town clerk's office at 863-3200, ext. 203.

Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Polly Kiely at 413-423-3308.

Monday, 2nd  
9 a.m. Exercise  
12 Noon Pitch  
Tuesday, 3rd  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting  
Wednesday, 4th  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
12 Noon Bingo  
Thursday, 5th  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics.  
Friday 6th  
9 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Lunch:  
12:30 p.m. Embroidery

**WENDELL** Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Kathy Swaim is the director: (978) 544-2020.

More Wendell Senior News  
on Page 16

provided by the Gill-Montague Superintendent of Schools at 35 Crocker Avenue. Kristin Boyle, Linda Kuklewicz, and Valeria 'Timmy' Smith presently hold the school committee seats that will be up for election this May. The Superintendent's office should have nominating papers available for these seats in the beginning of February.

For more information, please call the town clerk's office at 863-3200, ext. 203.

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CLAUDIA WELLS ILLUSTRATION

**BY BRIDGET SWEET**

**TURNERS FALLS** - I looked out my apartment window, and there were two girls walking by, towing youngsters on sleds. Tasty deal. This is in lieu of trekking through yet another snowstorm. It's exasperating enough to continuously vacuum up the gigantic salt crystals, let alone walk around the snow banks. Those kids got it made!

[A Sweet Note to Our Heroic DPW, Long May You Run: I do appreciate the workers of the Montague Highway Department as they plow and dodge parked cars and pedestrians.]

For the adults: Scraping off cars, working and staying healthy can be a feat . . . and a fete!

Yet, have no fear. . . well, have less fear, anyway . . . We have a peerless studio and academy on our Ave. Black Belt Sean Marshall opened Montague Martial Arts Academy two weeks ago. Marshall and family reside in Turners Falls. Sean decided to open his own business after years of studying with Grand Master Bryan Lagimoniere (Long May

**Martial Your Inner Marshall Arts . . . for the Reporter . . . for Tim . . . Tonite!**

He Martial the Marshalls) of Athol Martial Arts Academy.

Marshall is happily accepting new Tae Kwon Do clients on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. He can be reached at cell 413-512-0007 or by email at marswarn@verizon.net.

His classes, incidentally, are held at the Peaceful Palm Studio of 37 3rd Street, which offers many other classes, for all ages, including: 'Midday Invigoration Yoga,' 'Pee Wee Yoga' and 'Pilates for Everybody.' I could go on, and sometimes I do. You can check out Peaceful Palm co-owners Tamar Allis and Deirdre Hall at [www.thepeacefulpalm.com](http://www.thepeacefulpalm.com), or email [answers@thepeacefulpalm.com](mailto:answers@thepeacefulpalm.com).

And once you martial those Marshall arts, you also might want to take a whack at Tim DeChristopher. Tim will offer up his dear nether parts for a little ritual abuse at the . . . ready? . . . at the long-awaited Second More-than-Annual Montague Reporter Fun Raiser (SMAM Fun) at the Rendezvous on Thursday, January 29th (That's Tonight for those of you reading this today!) beginning at 5 p.m.

You can give Tim the spanking he may-or-may-not deserve. Word is that you might be able to take a whack at our dear editor, too. You heard it here first. Your Sweetness may, however, be first in line.

Raise some fums! Oh . . . by the way. Tim's studio is, sadly, for sale. Seems the sculpting biz is a wee bit slow. Don't let it happen, loves. Martial it up for Tim, and give him a whack. Better you should turn to a sculptor in hard times than a scalper. He needs a break, not just from shoveling snow! I know the feeling!

Nevertheless, until the robins peck for worms and buds grow back to cover the bare limbs, we carry on.

President Pam Kostanski of the Montague Business Association opened the monthly 'Coffee & Convo' at Gallery 85 of the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography on January 14th. The enthusiastic minglers had coffee and doughnuts from Food City on the bitter cold morning, with the subjects of photojournalist Colin Finlay's work, "A Matter of Conscience" looking down hungrily from the walls.

Dan Guin of WHAI radio; Kevin Maroney of WRSI; Mike Currie of the Greenfield Recorder and our very own MR editor David Detmold spoke about advertising.

They emphasized that a successful business needs publicity and that businesses need to spend money to make money.

"People only go where they're invited," Guin said.

Detmold added, "We have one

big advantage over the other media, as far as advertising goes. We're cheaper."

They can be contacted for more information, respectively and respectfully, at [dan@whai.com](mailto:dan@whai.com), [kevin@wrsi.com](mailto:kevin@wrsi.com), [mcurrie@therecorder.com](mailto:mcurrie@therecorder.com) and [reporter@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter@montaguema.net).

Sweetie's Hint for a Cold Day: Almost-MBA member Nancy Paglia of Montague Integrative Health offers a 20-percent discount on a Swedish massage for all MBA members and for all Coffee & Convo attendees. She sweetly added that a gift certificate for a massage would make a lovely Valentine's Day gift. She can be reached at 413-548-9015 or by email at [npaglia@crocker.com](mailto:npaglia@crocker.com).

It has been a busy week on The Ave! Stay warm with a coffee from 'Round Here Café or the

2nd Street Bakery!

Lastly, congratulations for the Salvation Army unit for the town of Montague as they raised \$3,556.62 from the Red Kettle drive! Thank you volunteers from the TF Fire Department, Montague Catholic Social Ministries and Turners Falls High School students!

Oh! Don't Go! Not until you have read . . . Sweetie's Inauguration Moment of the Week:

"It is the kindness to take in a stranger when the levees break; the selflessness of workers who would rather cut their hours than see a friend loose their job which sees us through our darkest hours."

— President Barack Obama, January 20th, 2009

Keep that around. Might come in handy. Trust me. I know you do.



JANICE BOUDREAU PHOTO

Kevin Maroney, of WRSI, addressed the crowd at the Montague Business Association's 'Coffee & Convo' on January 14th, at Hallmark Gallery 85

**BUDGET** from pg 1

vious week.

Even at the late hour, it took several votes before the committee agreed to the placeholder number. Proposals for a 3%, 2.5% and 0% budget increase were all voted down before the compromise 2.7% number was approved. (This number would represent about a \$432,000 increase on last year's \$16,626,000 budget.)

Between 11:00 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. the lights in the room went out briefly, apparently because the 15 or so people in the room were sitting so still the motion sensors shut them off.

In the interim between 6:30 p.m. and meeting's end, the school committee listened to comments from the public about the Tomahawk Chop moratorium and the budget process. The chair of the Montague finance committee, John Hanold, said his committee would like to meet with the school committee to discuss the budget for FY10. He said the finance committee wants the budget process to begin with available revenues and go forward from there.

A meeting date will be set as schedules allow.

Marisa Vanesse, an educator from the Renaissance School in

Springfield, came to express her appreciation for the actions of the superintendent and school administration in addressing the issue of the Tomahawk Chop. She said she'd read Rocke's statement on 'the Chop' and found it "eloquent and beautiful." She thanked him for it, saying it was important to end "hurtful stereotypes" of Native Americans, whether it is five students, or 500 students in a school or community that are affected.

Vanesse pointed out that stereotypes of African Americans and other ethnic groups have long since fallen out of favor, but that, next to animals, Native

Americans are still the most popular sports mascots.

Referring to the Tomahawk Chop issue, Kociela stated that students showed courage in speaking out at meetings on the issue. With regards to students' statements that they intend to honor Native Americans by their use of the team mascot — an Indian — and the Tomahawk Chop fight song, Kociela quoted one student as saying, "If you mean to honor someone, wouldn't you want them to feel honored?"

Rocke said he appreciated the patience athletes and cheerleaders had shown during the morato-

rium on 'the Chop'. He asked them to continue to allow the process to go forward.

Committee member Michael Langknecht proposed that the school committee lead by example by stating that 'the Chop' is wrong, while expressing his opposition to a full prohibition in favor of educating students and the community. Also, he said, the school committee needs to distinguish between students under their jurisdiction and the fans in the stands at sporting events.

After further discussion, the school committee approved a statement of support for the see **BUDGET** page 7

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# The Montague Reporter

58 4th Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

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Harry Brandt David Detmold  
August, 2002

## Obama's War

President Obama spent his first week in office marking a determined shift from the policies of the preceding administration. By virtue of his pen, he ordered the long running scandal of detaining hundreds of men without charge, without trial, indefinitely, at Guantanamo Bay, to end - by this time next year. He ordered American intelligence agents to abandon the use of torture, immediately. He advised his military chiefs that he intends to follow through on his campaign pledge to wind down the war in Iraq - in about 16 more months.

Additionally, Obama ended the ban on U.S. funding of family planning agencies in foreign countries that also advocate or provide for abortion, and closed, or almost closed, the revolving door between the executive branch and the lobbyists of K Street.

Not bad for a first week, although really, does it take 16 more months to end a war Obama correctly pegged as "a dumb war.... of undetermined length, at undetermined cost, with undetermined consequences," in October of 2002, while he was still an Illinois state senator, before the fighting had even commenced?

The question John Kerry demanded of the U.S. Senate as a returning veteran of the war in Vietnam will now come back to haunt us all: "How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for

a mistake?" as the number of American coffins returning from Baghdad creeps upward... 4326, 4327, 4328... and the months crawl by.

But America is engaged in more than one 'dumb war' in what can broadly be considered the Middle East, and there is one action Obama took in his first week in office that above all showed his true colors as a commander in chief, in a way destined to dishearten the ideals of the millions who backed his presidential bid in hopes he could bring a timely end to America's misguided military adventures there. With his presidency only four days old, just three days after Hilary Clinton was confirmed as Secretary of State, pledging "sustained, forward looking diplomacy in every part of the world," Obama ordered unmanned military drones to fire missiles on villages in Pakistan on the Afghan border, killing 18.

According to *the Guardian*, on Saturday, January 24th, "The first attack yesterday was on the village of Zharki, in Waziristan. Three missiles destroyed two houses and killed ten people. One villager told Reuters that of nine bodies pulled from the rubble of one house, six were its owner and his relatives; Reuters added that intelligence officials said some foreign militants were also killed. A second attack hours later, also in Warizistan, killed eight people."

It was Obama's insistence that democracy could not be manufactured in Iraq at the barrel of a gun, his insistence that we must bring our troops home and end that war, that won him enough votes in Iowa to propel his candi-

see **OBAMA** pg 5



## GUEST EDITORIALS

### Thank you, Mr. Bush

BY PATTY SMYTHE

**WENDELL** - I, along with probably a billion or more people, watched the inauguration of Barack Obama last week. Among many emotions of joy and gratitude, I breathed a huge sigh of relief. I realized I had been carrying many fears about Bush wanting to hold onto power and manufacturing a crisis to do so. Thank God, none of my fears became a reality.

Bush, on the contrary, seemed relieved. He clapped well beyond others around him after Obama's speech was finished. His visage was tight and closed, but that is who he is. He is the quintessential example of denial. You can almost see the wall in his brain repelling any thought that might upset the fragile apple cart that is his personality. I felt sorry for him at times.

The Bush administration has been the most corrupt, incompetent bunch of alcoholic, sadistic thugs ever to steal the White House. We don't yet know a tenth of their damage, but I expect we will be seriously nauseated when the extent of their corruption and thievery is revealed. Bush may have quit drinking years ago, but there is no question but that his administration was an eight year binge.

Yet I believe there is a silver lining. If this past administration

hadn't been so blatantly incompetent or held such disdain for the American people, we would never have elected Obama president. I don't want to make Obama out to be more than he is, but I do believe he may just be our savior. He has the eloquence, intelligence and compassion to steer us back from the brink.

It wasn't just our president and the robber barons of Wall Street who went on a binge, although they gathered the most toys. We, the People, went on a binge. We got in over our heads and many of us were swept away by the false promises of capitalism. We allowed ourselves to be manipulated and lied to.

We had, and maybe still have, a media so profit driven that "embedded" journalism conveyed a fuzzy, warm feeling, instead of the skepticism such compromised coverage required. "In bed with" was closer to the truth, as journalists fawned over the machinery of war leading up to the invasion of Iraq. Weapons were portrayed as sexy, macho, strong and sophisticated. Did the Pentagon, using the media, actually get us to believe there is such a thing as a smart bomb? Can it smell the difference between a terrorist's blood and that of a terrified child? If we had turned off our TVs, closed our wallets and demanded

integrity, we could have taken back our power.

Now is the morning after the binge. We will awaken slowly, but we will awaken.

The great news is we have a president who does his homework. He graduated with honors. He comes from a working class background and he worked in the community with regular folk. He has some idea what a dozen eggs cost at the store. He's very, very smart. I really like that. He is the head engineer in the control room of this flailing nuke, trying to figure out how to keep America from melting down.

And we are his workers. We've got to help him. Those who don't want to help need to get out of the way. We can no longer let abuses of power and petty egoism impede our work. Too much is at stake.

When we come together and give of our talents, our possibilities are infinite. We've seen this during times of disaster. Now is such a time.

So I say thank you, Mr. Bush, for taking us to the bottom and forcing our consumer-driven, addicted nation into recovery. We have been destroying the very ground beneath our feet and the air we breathe in the quest for "stuff". I hope you find recovery for yourself, while you stand trial for war crimes, of course.

### Dr. King's Dream

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GREENFIELD** - When I set out to attend the Martin Luther King Jr. tribute at Greenfield Community College last week, I didn't know what to expect. I wound up being very moved by the event.

The ceremonies included an opportunity for people in attendance to talk about what Dr.

King's life and teachings meant to them. As they spoke of the history that had brought our country to this day, with all the anticipation of the inauguration of Barack Obama about to occur, I found myself reflecting on my own experiences over the years.

I was in high school in Philadelphia, when the civil rights movement began. With all

the history around me in that city where the Declaration of Independence was signed, my friends and I grew up knowing a great deal about the founding fathers, especially Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, and yet we were ignorant of much of our country's history, especially the legacy of slavery.

see **DREAM** pg 5

### American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 1/26/09



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**DREAM** from pg 4

As people spoke of their own experiences, I thought of the long march of events that brought us to this day, those that molded my own life as well as the nation's. Progress toward equal rights did not start with Dr. King, but he was the one who emerged as a great leader and made the nation face the indignities being suffered by Blacks in the segregated South. Ultimately, the effort to counteract discrimination moved north, with laws to address de facto segregation in schools all over the country.

The high school I attended was racially integrated when I entered it in 1958, and I took it as a matter of course that we all attended school together. When Dr. King's peaceful demonstrations in cities like Selma were met with violence, I was shocked. I saw on my (relatively new) TV pictures of police on horseback attacking ordinary people, who were doing nothing wrong. I saw police turning fire hoses on them, and dogs. I felt angry and very sad.

There was evidence of racism in my community I had not noticed when I was young. I didn't see the segregated neighborhoods. I didn't think about the fact that high school was the first time Black students went to school with me. I didn't even consider why my college bound classes weren't integrated. The only reason I got the chance to

have Black friends in high school was because I belonged to the school choir.

Because of my love of music, I got to know Connie, who shared a wooden desk with me as we sat together and ate our sandwiches. I got to know Brent Edwards, who sang in the choir and also in a 50s doo-wop group with four other young men, two of them black, two white. We thought they would be famous. Choir, swing band, musical shows every spring, we did it all and we didn't even know what we were doing was unusual.

The civil rights movement happened while I was a teenager and set the stage for broad based social change to come. The anti-war movement used many of the same tactics honed by Dr. King and his colleagues in the civil rights movement. Living in New York City by then, I participated in the sit-in's and peaceful demonstrations and watched as other non-violent activists were confronted with police violence.

The strength of non-violent protest was to show courage in the face of brutality and shame those using violence in the eyes of the world. A lot of people think the protests against the Vietnam War didn't work, but they brought down a president, Lyndon Johnson, and eventually ended the war.

Springing from the anti-war movement, the women's liberation movement became a powerful social force that did not

engender violence but certainly brought a lot of turmoil to personal relationships between men and women, while moving women out of the home and into the workplace in a decade. Today nobody expects a woman to stay home with her children until they leave for college. In the 1950s that was the norm.

The election of Barack Obama means so much to me because it shows that all of those struggles actually succeeded in a way I really hadn't recognized. It isn't easy to see the change if you only look at the community in which you live. It's easy to think racism is still rampant because you still encounter prejudice. And yet, there was white-as-snow Iowa electing a Black man over a very well known former First Lady, who is white, even as she made her own mark in the history books. That was the most amazing thing, and from then on I had faith that this nation has indeed changed.

It is the young people of today who are the beneficiaries of all those protests and marches and court cases and activists who were determined to give everyone in our society equal opportunity. Together, we brought about this day.

I don't doubt there is more for us to do on the path to social equality for all citizens. But isn't it amazing to see how far we have come in our own lifetimes? I know it makes me proud.



ances against the West for the history of colonization and exploitation of their lands and resources. Aid for development and education, cultural exchange, diplomacy, these are the paths to peace. But they will not remain open when death rains down on mud hut villages from unmanned planes, to prove Obama's mettle.

It is more than disconcerting for a man who speaks publicly of his admiration for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, and Jesus — three of the world's great avatars of non-violence — to begin his time in the highest office in the land by bombing and killing, by remote control, villagers in a land half a world away from his oval office.

King, Gandhi and Jesus showed the world it is possible to transform violent, repressive social structures without resorting to violence. It is only through such methods: communication, non-cooperation with oppression, and active engagement, that peace and justice can come to our suffering planet.

It is more than time we put away childish things, among them the age old belief that we can achieve any positive end through the organized, mass slaughter of human beings, the very definition of war.

Perhaps among the 18 people Obama decreed to die on Friday in the tribal lands of northwest Pakistan there were some who were training for or actively engaged in combat against the United States. Just as likely, there were those among the dead who were simply villagers trying to eke out a living in a harsh, mountainous land.

In either case, there can be no justification for their deaths if a goal of Obama's presidency is to bring peace to Afghanistan or Pakistan, rather than to perpetuate an ongoing and unequal campaign of retribution and destruction in that impoverished region. Does the world need more of this from a man who promised Hope and Change? Less than a week gone by, he has already squandered both.

**Wendell Holds Emergency Planning Sessions**

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN** - Wendell may have weathered the storm, but it won't be caught unprepared the next time. After most of the town lost power for three days or more, following the severe winter storm of December 12th, Lonny Ricketts, Wendell's emergency management director, came up with a series of coordinating meetings to help residents and the town to better plan for a future emergency.

At the second of these meetings, which the selectboard attended, was held last Sunday at the town offices, there were cookies, tangerines, coffee and teas. Ricketts began by listing planned workshops to be held after snowmelt on the town common, including chainsaw use and safety, cooking without electricity, bread making, and generator use and safety.

He went on to show some of the equipment each household should have ready for an emergency, from candles and flashlights, a first aid kit, a crank powered weather radio, a car battery jump starter, the 750 watt inverter that Jim Dunn and Jenny Fyler used to maintain their freezer during the power outage, using electricity from their tractor's 12 volt battery, even a hand coffee grinder and stove top percolator for households with electric drip pots. Before you brave the awesome power of nature, a cup of coffee

is essential. Ricketts showed a small butane canister camp stove during the period of time his West Street house had no electricity. He offered copies of a catalogue from Backwoods Solar Electric Systems, headquartered in Sandpoint, Idaho. The sheriff's office maintains a list of people who have medical devices at home that are dependent on electricity.

Neighborhood watch sections for Wendell have been proposed, but not yet developed. The idea is that people could organize within their neighborhoods, and, in a future emergency, walk around a small part of town to check in on their immediate neighbors to make sure all are OK.

The town will receive large topographic maps from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, so the next time repair crews come to town to assist from out of the area - or out of the state - they can be easily directed to various addresses.

Fire chief Everett Ricketts suggested residents could fly a flag at each house where the power is out, which a repair crew could take down when electricity is restored.

Radio station WJDF, 97.3 in Orange, has agreed to broadcast coordinating information to Wendell.

see **WENDELL** pg 11

**OBAMA** from pg 4

dacy forward. Yet now he proposes to take American troops from one failed theater of war and transport them to another where the tribal rift lines are as intractable, the terrain more unforgiving, and the ability of occupying forces to coerce political solutions foreign to the culture through bombs and bullets as impossible as they were in Iraq.

To what end? To prop up the presidency of a man who makes Nguyen Van Thieu look like a model of propriety? Hamid Karzai, the president of Afghanistan, runs a government based on graft, nepotism, and narco-dollars. If this is what democracy in the Middle East looks like, it is not worth fighting for.

There is a chance that for a brief window of time the Muslim world will look toward America's new leader with some degree of hope, some sense that as he grew up among them in Indonesia, he could understand their aspirations and longstanding griev-

**Thanks for Trail System Teamwork**

I am the secretary for the Porcupine Ridge Runners Snowmobile Club, which covers Wendell, Shutesbury, Leverett and New Salem and I want to take this opportunity to address the subject of cross country skiers and snowmobilers. I am sending thanks to everyone in both groups for the courtesy and teamwork they have shown on our trail system.

A special thank you goes to Phylis Lawrence and Jim Slavas for giving permission to our club to use their land to reach Lake Wyola and the Wendell State Forest and not to travel the Fiske Pond area. Although some have chosen to use the old trail, our club is addressing the new route with members and that will soon change.

Our club has spent many hours clearing the ice storm damage and grooming trails in our towns, with the help of

some skiers as well. It's been a long few weeks but our efforts have paid off. We really have quite an impressive trail system. It's an ongoing effort, but well worth the energy.

If there are folks in Wendell who would like information on our club and what we are about, please check out our website:

porcupineridgerunners.com or the state website that oversees our endeavor: www.sled-mass.com. We have laminated trail maps available for a small fee. Anyone interested, please contact a PRR member, or visit the Shutesbury Athletic Club.

We would love to expand out trail system and be able to reach the Deja Brew, but we will need help from landowners. Please contact our club at: lsoos@admin.umass.edu with ideas or concerns.

- Louanne Soos  
Wendell

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# The Tomahawk Chop Controversy as Process and Turning Point

BY DAVID BRULE

**MILLERS FALLS** - I'd like to offer a few observations on the issue of the Tomahawk Chop Controversy, from a sort of middle distance. I was not able physically to attend the meetings related to the controversy, but I did follow reports in the Montague Reporter and filmed sessions on MCTV. As a graduate of TFHS (Class of '64) and as a teacher for 40 years in a public high school, I think the following points have some legitimacy.

First of all, schools are not typically run as a functioning democracy. Administrators must often make executive decisions

without running those decisions through various constituencies and getting a vote. How they later deal with the fallout often makes those decisions more or less easy to accept. It looks like the Turners Falls High School administration did the right thing in suspending 'the Chop,' and opening up the discussion.

That said, it is axiomatic that students are passionate in attacking what they perceive as injustice. If actions or decisions are perceived to be unfair, you're going to get an earful from outraged teens and their parents. Again, how authority deals with the passion and outrage depends

on the communication skills of the administration.

As educators, many of us spend our careers taking our students to the edge of cultural and language borders, where the tension exists, where challenge exists along with great potential for growth and learning. My sense is that this controversy has taught all participants a lot about culture, politics, history, and conflict resolution. More so than you can learn in books. There's no substitute for experiential learning.

The Tomahawk Chop is not a harmless symbol. It's a gesture historically associated with the intended violence, injury, pain, humiliation, and painful death. Those thoughts perhaps never enter the minds of innocent team supporters who feel 'the Chop' and fight song engender school spirit. It's not for nothing that the NFL banned the throat-slitting gesture on the field after a score. The knife across the throat and the hatchet on the head carry the same symbolic weight, and as we have learned, are extremely offensive to many of us in our community.

Conflict resolution involves disputants meeting face to face, each to be given a fair, uninterrupted chance to explain how the conflict or issue makes them feel. Often a good mediator paraphrases the feelings expressed by the disputants, so that each can sense some validation of the feelings they've expressed. This has a therapeutic effect, and oftentimes opens the door to a resolution. The key is to not get bogged down in trying to determine who is historically correct, and what the historical truth is. The point is to find a way to contribute to a solution and to move forward. It sounds like this process is underway at TFHS.

Native Americans are fighting anti-defamation battles, much like battles that were fought against anti-Semitism in all its manifestations in our society in the past. Most of us have learned to avoid such actions or words that cause pain and anger to a part of our community. My sense is that Native Americans have to be extended the same courtesy and rights as others in our multicultural community.

Our town is reaching a turning point in dealing with the tragedy that occurred so long ago, in May of 1676. An Abenaki scholar, Marge Bruchac has said, (MR Feb 07) "The massacre is not somebody else's history. It is the town's history and the town should deal with it." The town has begun to deal with it. We entered into a reconciliation agreement with tribal peoples in 2004. The federal government has granted a place on the National Registry of Historic Places this year to the ceremonial hills and sacred landscapes of Native Americans that are found within our town's borders. A learning center dedicated to educators and reconciliation may be built near the site of the massacre by the Falls. All these are signs that we are dealing with our past, without seeking to place blame. The Tomahawk Chop, an offensive stereotype to tribal people, as it also should be to all people, probably should be sent to history's dustbin for misguided symbolisms and anachronisms that belong to another age.

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**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**  
**Fight on the Avenue**

<b>Wednesday, 1/21</b> 12:43 a.m. Report of car accident with property damage. Arrested [redacted]	Investigated. 9:36 a.m. Report of identity fraud at a Federal Street address. 2:50 p.m. Arrested [redacted]	arrested [redacted] Charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, vehicle lights violation and impeded operation. 6:41 p.m. Report of a fight at a Fourth Street address. Investigated. 7:32 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at a Third Street address. Peace restored. 9:38 p.m. Report of a fight on Avenue A. Peace restored.
[redacted] Charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, second offense, operating to endanger, speeding, failure to operate vehicle within marked lanes, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and operating a vehicle with no inspection sticker. 5:23 a.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a Fourth Street address.	6:20 p.m. Report of domestic disturbance at a G Street address. Arrested [redacted] Charged with Section 12 mental health protection, removed to hospital. <b>Sunday, 1/25</b> 1:20 a.m. Following a traffic stop,	<b>Monday, 1/26</b> 10:48 p.m. Report of vandalism at an L Street address. Investigated. 8:47 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Unity Street address. Investigated.

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NAME from pg 1

Ross. However, he continued, "Having this as a forum for the naming of the town... people should be given advance notice if this is going to be discussed."

Canon said, "I find it's ironic that we want to eliminate a little thing, but we still honor a big thing, which is hundreds of times worse than a cheer."

Board member Patricia Pruitt said, "You're point is well taken." But, she said, "It's not the schools' place to change the name of the town. But they do have authority to control what students do."

She encouraged Canon to work with others who may share his sentiments about changing the name of the village of Turners Falls, if he wants to, saying, "This is an issue that comes up from time to time."

Ross said the town had more

pressing matters taking up its attention at the moment, and asked Canon to notify the administrative secretary in advance if he wanted to bring the subject up again at a future meeting, so the matter could be placed on the agenda and posted in advance.

Following this discussion, as Pruitt read the names of four new reserve officers — Peter Lapachinski, Brian McCarthy, Jesse Green, and James Waitkus, who have passed the civil service exam and are ready to join the police force — she made a motion to appoint them to the Turners Falls Police Department, before correcting the motion to read: the Montague Police Department.

"We're still the town of Montague," said board member Pat Allen.



BUDGET from pg 3

moratorium on 'the Chop' and for continued community discussion. The committee will work with the school administration to develop a process to help students come up with an alternative fight song, in conjunction with the community as a whole.

Superintendent Rocke reported to the committee that Governor Patrick has decided to spare Chapter 70 aid from the budget cuts now falling on cities and towns. Chapter 70 is the most significant category of state funding for local schools.

Patrick said Secretary of Education Paul Reville, in his visit to Franklin County Tech School last Friday, called support for education the most important and ethical way to meet the challenge of the current economic crisis. On that occasion, Reville emphasized the state's position that savings from regionalization and consolidation of services should go toward improving education. Reville added he was not enthusiastic about partial regionalization. The secretary said he is not looking to make the system more complex, but to

simplify it. He stated he prefers K-12 districts, and that the data shows larger districts have better MCAS scores.

Rocke said that the data doesn't take into consideration differences in economic and social conditions in those districts. Rocke said he questioned Reville about contradictory state policies, asking how the GMRSD can create a collaborative environment with other districts when the state has created a competitive environment around school choice.

Rocke added that state legislators and officials have painted a bleak view of the economy, but Reville said the states may get more money from the federal economic stimulus package for education, and some may flow directly to local school districts, bypassing the state.

There are now 18 students entered in the Educational Transition Program between the high school and Greenfield Community College. Rocke said G.C.C. president Robert Pura has reported the students were extremely positive about the chance to attend G.C.C., taking advantage of academic support

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

Full Day Program Humming at Sheffield

BY BRIDGET SWEET - Sheffield Elementary School's 21st Century Learning Center Full Day program, led by director Abbe Bryant, began its second semester on January 12th.

Bryant said, "The morning program has about 100 students enrolled, and there are about 65 in the afternoon."

"Students can attend an activity from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and have breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to the start of school," she explained.

Sheffield is close to achieving status for the Universal Free School Breakfast program. "We need a handful of kids to get it," Bryant said.

The federally funded Free Breakfast program is ten years old, and provides breakfast for students in qualifying schools, regardless of economic status.

For the Full Day program, Bryant has kept the Arts and Crafts, Beading, Cameras & Computers, Cooperative Games, Homework Center, Tae Kwon Do and Yoga programs from last semester, while adding Book Adventures, Earth Science, Science Exploration and Speed Stacking programs.

"Eight or nine new students signed up this semester," for the Full Day program, said Bryant.

Hillcrest and Sheffield School staff Gary Newcomb and Jim Klaiber work with this

program, said Bryant, and Dr. Steven Smith volunteers daily to tutor math in the Homework Center.

Bryant said she hopes local sculptor Joe Landry will return to work with the students to create another project for the 3-D sculpture park on Canal Street this spring. She would like to see more parent volunteers come to help out with the students. Reach her by phone at 413-863-9326, or at abryant@gmrtd.org for more information.

The Sheffield-Hillcrest Community Council held a round-table discussion about reducing the high school drop out rate, which has been as high as 22.9% recently. Rebecca Olson, the Gill-Montague schools English Language Learners teacher has been attending meetings at the Center for New Americans, collaborating with this and other organizations to reach out to new citizens whose students may be at risk, hoping to work together with parents to help their children succeed in school.

The fourth graders will be first to see Tomáš Kubínek perform at the Fine Arts Center at University of Massachusetts, Amherst on Friday, February 3rd. The Fine Arts Center website describes Kubínek as: "the wildest thing to fly out of Canada since geese! His one-man show has captivated

audiences of all ages with its outrageous theatrics, surreal feats, and mind-boggling 'miracles.' Part vaudeville, part improv, and completely magical, this artist of international renown leaves his audiences with a comically altered view of life's creative possibilities."

The fourth graders held a raffle last December to raise money for the trip.

School to Career Program

Technology teacher Jeff Jobst of Turners Falls High School is hoping to enlist the aid of Montague businesses to start a School to Career program at the high school. Jobst, a 23-year veteran of TFHS, has seen the high school drop-out rate rise, and hopes a School to Career program could help reverse that trend.

He said, "Gary Howe and I held a Career Fair in the past, where 35 professionals presented their work for the students so they could take a tour of the career possibilities available in the area."

Jobst's plan is for students to work for one and a half hours a day, five days a week in town, for six to twelve weeks at a time. They'd have a time sheet; and a review every three weeks.

Interested parents or business owners can contact Jobst at 413-863-7200, extension 1155 or at jjobst@gmrtd.org.

from counselors there. The school committee will write a letter of appreciation for Pura to pass on to the anonymous Franklin County donor who is backing the program financially.

The school committee continues to feel that the public view of the district schools does not reflect the good quality of the education students receive at the GMRSD. The committee wants to improve the public perception of the schools by finding ways to publicize the many good programs they offer students.

Rocke suggested establishing a revolving fund for publicizing, "good things kids are doing," in the public schools, and the committee concurred. The fund will go to pay for a public relations person with journalism skills. As seed money for the fund, Rocke offered to contribute \$300 of his own money, and committee member Valeria Smith wrote a check matching his, for another \$300. Committee member Terry Lapachinski said, "It's sad that this is what we need to do." Anyone who wants to

contribute to the public relations fund should contact either Lapachinski or Rocke.

Meetings on the school budget will be held on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The next school committee budget meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on February 3rd at TFHS. A public hearing will be held on the budget on February 10th at 6 p.m., with a regular school committee meeting to follow at 7 p.m.



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### ERVING from pg 1

pal services and planning organization. Among its many offerings are the Community Coalition for Teens, a cooperative purchasing program, regional economic development and planning, emergency preparedness, engineering services, regional health inspection, and assistance to member towns in land use planning and zoning.

Tessier pointed out that the town of Erving has paid extra for FRCOG assistance in the town's master planning process, and the development of a proposed new senior center.

Also on Monday, police chief Chris Blair came to the selectboard to discuss his department's policy for dealing with discrepancies in the new voter approved state law decriminalizing marijuana use. For one thing, Blair said, fire fighters and police officers in the state have been explicitly prohibited from smoking tobacco since 1988, but "Under this new law, officers can technically smoke marijuana. It's a civil, not a criminal offense."

Blair said, "What if we had an officer who was habitually using marijuana?" In that case, Blair said, just as in the case of demonstrated alcohol abuse, he could revoke the officer's license to carry a gun and suspend or fire him.

"How do you determine that?" asked board member Andrew Goodwin.

"It's up to me," responded Blair. "We do it all the time with alcohol," referring now to suspending a private citizen's license to carry a gun. "Alcohol is legal, but if you have a substance abuse problem, we can revoke."

"The law is a joke, as written," said Blair in a follow-up interview. "We have passed a departmental policy on how we will handle the situation, until the legislature enacts new measures to tighten up the loopholes. Until then, we will issue \$100 fine," for anyone caught smoking marijuana.

Blair informed the board, in response to a citizen complaint about a barking dog at 73 Mountain Road, that he had contacted the dog's owner, got the owner to agree not to leave the dog out unattended for long periods of time, and to have the dog licensed at the town clerk's office.

The selectboard put off until at least the 23rd of February a request by Tim's RV, located across Route 2 from the town hall, to obtain a Class I motor vehicle license to sell, repair, and store recreational vehicles there. The planning board recently approved a special permit for the firm to sell RV's at that location.

Sharp said town counsel advised the selectboard to take the opportunity to address traffic concerns, green belt landscaping and other issues at the license hearing for Tim's RV.

The Route 2 Task Force is

hopeful the economic stimulus package working its way through Congress now will contain enough state transportation funds to allow for resurfacing and related work on the pockmarked Route 2, which spans the town from east to west, a sentiment that seemed to resonate with everyone in the audience.

The board signed a two-year contract for liability insurance with the Massachusetts Interagency Association, entitling Erving to a 10% discount on last year's rates.

The board spent some time going over a preliminary budget for 2010, which Tessier said he had prepared without calculating any increase in local receipts, and without counting on any state lottery funds for the town. He said he had developed the budget using the assessors' conservative figures for the levy limit, but worried those numbers "weren't conservative enough."

He said by committing the entire amount of the annual reimbursement for the elementary school building, \$578,364, to one-time capital expenditures and the stabilization fund, he was able to come up with a draft budget that was only \$17,000 short of the expected levy limit, but he anticipated a sum of money returning to the town from the '09 school budget would cover that amount.

The budget will go to the finance committee for review next.

### Town Meeting Includes Renovators Supply in Expedited Permitting Program

BY DAVID DETMOLD

ERVING - On Monday night, January 26th, Erving voters approved articles at a special town meeting to allow the town to apply for a state \$60,000 technical assistance grant through the expedited permitting program, and to expand the target sites for assistance under that program to include the Renovators Supply Building, as well as the former International Paper mill building, both located in Erving.

Though the selectboard had earlier scrapped a plan to use about \$10,000 of the hoped for grant to study the possibility of lowering the road under the Arch Street railroad overpass to improve truck access to the site of the former Usher Mill in Erving Center, town meeting returned to the subject of the Usher Mill at the end of Monday night's special town meeting, voting overwhelmingly by straw poll to support a plan by the selectboard to take down the derelict mill buildings using town funds, if necessary, and to seek town ownership of the property, which borders the Millers River and contains a 100,000 gallon holding tank used by the fire department.

The move to include the Renovator's Supply building in the article seeking expedited permitting assistance came on the last minute request of that building's owner, Claude Jeanloz, who said his building could profit by marketing assistance from the state, part of the package of incentives under the expedited permitting law to attract developers to reuse empty or underutilized buildings in the state.

"We don't have a problem with hazardous waste," Jeanloz told the 30 or more voters who turned out for the meeting. "We don't have a problem with sewers. We have a problem with marketing." Jeanloz said that during the course of his lengthy ownership of the former tool factory, he has cleaned up hazardous materials on the site, fixed the sewer lines and brought in new water lines.

The selectboard intends to devote the bulk of any expedited permitting funds the town may receive to conducting a study of the sewer line infrastructure at the former paper mill in Erving, to determine how it could be retrofitted to make it suitable for use by small businesses.



Claude Jeanloz, owner of Renovator's Supply, with Franklin Regional Council of Government's Jessica Atwood in background. Atwood attended the town meeting to answer voter's questions about the state expedited permitted program.

### Discovery Center Goes Bats



Little Brown Bat

BY DON CLEGG

GREAT FALLS - Bats and more bats.

If you are interested in bats, curious about these mysterious flying mammals or just looking for ways to remove them from your belfry then the Great Falls Discovery Center is the place to be. February is Bat Month at the Discovery Center.

On Saturday, February 7th, come learn All About Bats from noon to 1:00 p.m., with Sarah

Martell. This all ages program will separate truth from myth and dispel popular misconceptions about these interesting animals.

Have you heard about white nose syndrome? This poorly understood malady — which appears to be associated with the deaths of thousands of bats — was first identified around

several caves near Albany, NY in 2007, but has since spread to Vermont and Massachusetts. On Thursday, February 12th, from 7:00 p.m. - 8 p.m., Susi von Oettingen, endangered species biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will offer an introduction to northeastern bats and this newest threat to their well being. Von Oettingen, who works on recovery of federally listed species, will briefly cover the different species of local bats and

their life cycles, then focus on white nose syndrome, explaining what it is and the potential impacts of the syndrome to our local bats.

If flying mice aren't quite your thing, the Discovery Center is planning a weekend of sweet Valentine activity: on February, 13th, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., when the Friends of the Discovery Center presents its monthly coffeehouse with Kate Spencer and 'Shingle the Roof,' in the Great Hall, and on Saturday, February 14th from 1:00 p.m. - 3 p.m. when a reception will be held for nature photographer Tom Stratford, whose color photos of local flora, fauna (including a wonderful shot of a fox glancing at the camera as he glides across an open field), and landscapes are now on display in the Great Hall.

Donations for the coffeehouse are appreciated, baked goods are available, and doors for that event will be open at 6:30 p.m.

The following Saturday afternoon, February 21st, from

noon - 1 p.m., Sarah Martell will offer story time and an arts and crafts activity featuring — you guessed it — Bats! Geared for children, but all are welcome.

The Great Falls Discovery Center will wrap up the month of February on Saturday the 28th, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. when the New England Wildflower Society will hold their Annual Meeting, and Plant Conservation volunteers will be meeting in the Great Hall. If you've ever thought about becoming a volunteer for the Wildflower Society, you can email the Discovery Center for an application, at greatfallsma.org. There will be a training if you're new to the organization. Ideas will be given to help you strengthen your skills if you've volunteered before. Call John Burns at 508-877-7630 for more information about this opportunity.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is an invaluable community resource, with diorama displays about the

various habitats — and the creatures who inhabit them — up and down our part of the Connecticut River Valley.

The Center's winter hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The friendly and knowledgeable staff includes Sarah Martell, (pictured at right on top of page 1, with Erin Sibald, left) who is at the center on a stewardship from Northwoods of Northern Vermont, Sarah Bevilacqua from Fish and Wildlife, and (welcome back!) Sue Cloutier from Fish and Wildlife.

Community volunteers help out and staff the Discovery Center's gift store. New members are sought for the board of the Friends of the Discovery Center.

The Great Falls Discovery Center, located at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls is handicapped accessible. Check out their events posted on greatfallsma.org, or montaguema.net, or call for more information at 413-863-3221.

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# Locals at the Inauguration

BY JOE KWIECINSKI

**TURNERS FALLS** - Among the millions of people who descended on the nation's capital for the inauguration of President Obama was a Franklin County family which was able, each in his or her own way, to connect with the historic proceedings.

Dean Letourneau, 63, of Turners Falls joined his daughter, Nicole Letourneau, and his 15-month grandson Jonah to witness the swearing in of Barack Obama as the nation's 44th president of the United States. Nicole is a former press secretary to U.S. Representative John Olver.

The Letourneaus originally had Blue Section tickets for the swearing-in ceremony, right in front of the podium, thanks to congressional aide Ken Willis, a Greenfield native. En route to their seats, as the Letourneaus entered the magnetron, the airport-like security gate that admits about 20 people or so at a time during different intervals, the complex machine stopped working.

"By the time we would have gotten into our seats," said Dean Letourneau, "the ceremony would have been over. Besides, my grandson was getting cold and naturally was acting up."

It was time for some quick thinking. Fortunately, all the government buildings were open to the public. So Nicole, who knows her way around town, herded the group into the Longworth Building, where senators and representatives have their offices.

Dean, his daughter, and Jonah were able to see the swearing-in ceremony from the vantage point of the office of Ninth District Tennessee Representative Steve Cohen. They were even served coffee and doughnuts.

While most of the family was warm and comfortable viewing the inauguration, Nicole's husband, Matthew Cavanaugh, was a bit chillier and much more pressured. As a staff photographer for the European Pressphoto

Agency, a wire service headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany, Cavanaugh's assignment was to cover the swearing-in ceremony and inaugural speech. Later, the Greenfield Community College graduate and former stringer for the Springfield Republican would be taking shots of the gala parade and the first of many inaugural balls that night.

"My position for the swearing-in," said Cavanaugh, "was on the 'South Media Riser' which faces the president when he takes the oath. The riser had a lot of other still photographers and TV journalists on it. It was very crowded. I had three cameras set up to shoot the event. Two of the cameras were wired directly to our editors, so they had my images almost instantly."

Cavanaugh, whose regular job is covering the White House and Capitol Hill, said he has to concentrate intensely photographing high-profile occasions such as the inauguration.

"When I'm photographing an event like that, I concentrate on the visual aspects and can never recall much of what was said. So, I didn't know that the Chief Justice (John Roberts) had flubbed the line (of the president's oath) until later in the day when people were talking about it. The same was true of the President's speech. It seemed good, but I only caught bits and pieces. I watched it on my computer the next day. I did the same in Denver when I covered his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention."

As soon as the new chief executive left the platform, Cavanaugh and fellow photojournalists seized their equipment and scooted "to catch a shuttle that would deliver us to our next assignment — the inaugural parade."

The former Montague resident was stationed at Freedom Plaza, located some two blocks from the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue. "It was a

nice view, looking east towards the Capitol as the motorcade came towards us," said Cavanaugh. "We had heard that the President was on foot, but he must have gotten cold, because he was inside the limo when he passed our position. The limo is pretty impressive, but my favorite pictures of the parade were of people in the stands cheering. They all looked very cold and they had clearly been waiting a long time, but their faces lit up when the parade finally passed."

Cavanaugh then headed two blocks to the National Press Building where he donned a tuxedo to cover the inaugural ball. He then walked to the Convention Center with a group of his peers since the Metro trains were packed and "taxis were impossible to find."

"I shot the first ball of the night — the Neighborhood Ball," Cavanaugh noted. "It was really fun to witness and photo-



Matt Cavanaugh

graph because it was the Obamas' first dance together as President and First Lady. With Beyonce providing the soundtrack, the first couple danced and a thousand camera phones were held in the air to capture the moment."

While Matthew was involved in his second inauguration, his father-in-law, Dean Letourneau was seeing his first. "What

impressed me more than anything else," Letourneau said, "was the fact that I saw no incidents. Everywhere we went, people were orderly. I saw no disturbances despite the massive crowd. People were simply there to celebrate. You felt like you knew everyone wherever you went. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

## New Works by Kathe Janke



CLAUDIA WELLS PHOTO

**TURNERS FALLS** - Now showing at the Rendezvous, 78 Third Street, in Turners, new works by Kathe Janke. Large mixed media paintings and drawings fill the walls of the popular watering hole with jazzy compositions in hues of pink and white, recent works

from the Greenfield artist's 2008 palette. The larger pieces are two and a half feet tall by seven feet wide, so they really relieve the eye tired of winter. "They are dream and nature inspired," said Janke. "They are semi-narrative works, dealing with communication between

people over time," like many of the conversations that take place in the bar itself.

"I do like red food coloring," said Janke.

An artist's reception will take place on Saturday, March 7th. Do yourself a favor and stop by for a gander.

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## Winter Fare Farmers' Market Returns

**BY MARY MCCLINTOCK GREENFIELD** - We can all enjoy local food in February, whether we're preparing meals for a family or friends or attending a community potluck. Don't believe that is possible in New England? Find out for yourself, by attending the Winter Fare Farmers' Market at the Greenfield High School on Saturday, February 7th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pack your shopping bags and wallet and head to the Winter Fare Farmers' Market to shop, attend a workshop, enjoy a cup of soup, and participate in the Barter Fair. Winter is a great season to savor local foods.

What will be available at the Farmers' Market? Everything from apples to yams and lots in between: baked goods, cheese, cider, eggs, greens, honey, maple products, meat, preserves, pickles, root vegetables, squash, and more.

The Winter Fare Farmers' Market will feature a soup café from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., which will include soups featuring locally grown food. Restaurants

serving soup at the Market will include: Bart's Café, Green Fields Market, Hope & Olive, the People's Pint, and the Wagon Wheel.

Bring copies of recipes featuring local foods to participate in the recipe swap and chat area at the market.

Winter Fare sponsors include the Greenfield Farmer's Cooperative Exchange, Franklin Community Co-op (Green Fields & McCusker's Markets), and Greenfield Savings Bank.

Workshops at the Winter Fare Farmers Market will include: backyard maple sugaring with Margaret Christie, bread making with home baker Lora Sandhusen of Belchertown, including a presentation by Wheatberry of Amherst and the Pioneer Valley Heritage Grain CSA, cheese making with a local cheese maker, and container gardening with Robyn Croningshield, a homesteader in Ashfield.

The display area at the Market will include information about locally grown food and local agriculture, and demonstrations

of a bike-powered grain mill designed by Hampshire College students, and a hand-powered device to strip kernels off of ears of corn.

At the end of the market, the local food barter fair will take place from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Do you have too much winter squash and not enough dried peaches in your life? Bring your surplus home-grown or homemade foodstuffs to the second annual Winter Fare Barter Fair and trade them for someone else's homegrown goods. Last year's, participants traded everything from frozen pesto, healing salve and homemade vanilla extract to herbal tea, chestnuts, and of course, pickles.

How does it work? Anyone who has homemade items to barter will gather at 1 p.m. with their goods and take part in informal trading during the last hour of the Winter Fare Farmers' Market. This is a great chance to meet your home-growing neighbors, practice the art of bartering, and bring home delicious food and goods without

exchanging money. Open to gardeners, gleaners, foragers, canners, dryers... even professional farmers!

For information about the Winter Fare Farmers' Market and updated lists of Winter Fare community events, visit the Winter Fare website at [www.winterfare.org](http://www.winterfare.org) or contact

[winterfare-owner@yahoo-groups.com](mailto:winterfare-owner@yahoo-groups.com) or Claire Morenon at 413-665-7100, Ext 16. Volunteers are still needed to help this event run smoothly.

For more info. about the Barter Fair, contact Anna Hendricks at 413-863-9197 or [gillgarden@riseup.net](mailto:gillgarden@riseup.net).

### FILM SHOWING AND DISCUSSION ABOUT GLEANING

There will be a showing of "The Gleaners and I", a film by Agnes Varda, on Wednesday, February 11th, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Sunderland Public Library, 20 School Street, in Sunderland. A discussion of local gleaning efforts will follow.

Gleaning is the practice of collecting that which is left over. "The Gleaners and I," a French documentary about gleaning in contemporary Europe, will provide a basis of discussion for considering what happens locally to food left behind after the harvest. Jessica Harwood will discuss her community gleaning efforts in the Valley

with school children in recent years. Her work has taken her to farms in all three Western Massachusetts counties in conjunction with Rachel's Kitchen, of Springfield, which distributes to agencies all over the Valley.

There is plenty of food left over after the harvest that either cannot be picked, does not make the truck, or is not the right size or condition for formal processing. From July through November, there is opportunity for gleaning at area farms. All who are interested in gleaning in the Valley and gleaning in general are welcome. For more information, contact Mary Nelen, at: [mary-nelen@gmail.com](mailto:mary-nelen@gmail.com).

### NOTES FROM WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Generators, Cemeteries, and a Push for Regionalization

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN** - On the selectboard table lies a triangular box with clear sides that show the stars of an American flag that Jacob White Diemand, Charlie Company, Third Helicopter Assault Battalion flew over Baghdad in honor of Wendell during his deployment in Iraq. The flag and its informational plaque are waiting for their permanent place in the town office building.

Cemetery commission chair Richard Mackey opened the January 21st selectboard meeting as an unscheduled speaker, saying he had written up a proposed set of cemetery bylaws, based on other towns' bylaws, but without any requirement for vault burials. A vault can prevent graves from

sinking, but following the movement towards Green burials, Mackey thought Wendell would prefer taking the approach that a sinking grave could easily be made level again, and would not be viewed as a problem.

He hoped the proposed cemetery bylaws could be voted at the next town meeting. Selectboard chair Ted Lewis told him to work with town administrative coordinator Nancy Aldrich to get an article written.

He also said that the recent ice storm made a mess of the town center cemetery. Branches that fell to the ground could be removed with relative ease, but the branches that were caught on their way to the ground were still hanging as a threat to

anyone who passed through.

New Salem selectboard chair Steve Verney was the first scheduled attendee at the meeting. He said that during the December ice storm, New Salem kept town buildings open and heated, using generators to provide electricity for the furnaces, and had solved the problem of fumes that plagued one building. He came to the Wendell selectboard with a proposal to provide Swift River School with a generator, and make the school available as a shelter for the two towns if the need arises again.

He said that during the power outage Petersham elementary school was kept open, and they fed up to 90 people a day there, including National Guard soldiers who were in town

cleaning up the ice storm damage.

Swift River School has an 800 amp two leg service, and an electrician gave a very rough preliminary estimate of \$60,000 for a propane powered generator, installed with an automatic start when electric service is cut off, and automatic switches to disconnect the school from the electric grid so linemen don't get electrocuted. Verney said that systems are available with manual start and manual disconnect switches, but he prefers the automatic systems because they can come on at night when the building is unoccupied, and the isolation from the grid is not subject to human error. These generators automatically test themselves once a week.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said, "I think we're interested."

This type of power back-up would also protect the building, and the food in the coolers and freezers. The school may be the best shelter in either town with bathrooms, a kitchen, food on hand and more room for cots than other buildings in either of the two communities.

Since a generator would protect the school building, while making it available as a shelter, selectboard member Christine Heard said the school might be willing to be a third party sharing the cost.

Keller had a catalog with generators and related equipment, and estimated the system's cost as quite a bit

continued next page

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lower. Verney said the number he provided was very preliminary. A grant for an emergency generator might be possible, or the school's capital improvement fund might be tapped for the purchase if the town accountants approve.

Lewis said once a system like that is installed, maintenance costs are minimal.

Aldrich said she had an estimate of \$5,608 for installed 17 Kilowatt generator systems, self-testing and with automatic start and isolation from the grid. The town is considering one each for the well, the town hall, senior center, library and office building.

Changing the subject, Verney said there is a strong movement for K through 12 school district regionalization. The Department of Education (DOE) wants no district of fewer than 1,500 students.

Lewis responded that "Regionalization won't save us money, and it will wreck a system that's working."

Heard continued by saying that joining the Mahar district would require Swift River

School to raise teachers' pay to the rate paid in Orange, and would increase the expense of maintaining the art and music programs at Swift River.

Verney responded by saying state representative Chris Donelan is predicting drastic cuts in state aid. Representative Steve Kulik said the state cannot force anything, but they can withhold money, and they are looking to dissolve Union 28.

He added the state Department of Education (now the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) is the same institution that created school choice as part of education reform and did not foresee that its mechanism would take money away from poorer school districts and give it to richer schools.

Later in the meeting Wendell's finance committee met the selectboard and continued the discussion on regionalization. Finance committee member Jim Slavas said the state is using a carrot and stick approach, with more stick than carrot. The DESE wants to see a four town K through 12 region of Wendell, New Salem, Petersham and Orange, Slavas

said. Within Union 28, Leverett and Shutesbury are looking towards Amherst for regionalization.

The governor's office will look at a town's reserve funds in determining cuts, and by being responsible, maintaining a relatively large stabilization fund, Wendell has made the town look richer in the eyes of the state than it is, and may be hurt in this round of cuts. Slavas said the town might consider prepaying a part of the new town building mortgages with stabilization money to make itself look poorer to the state.

He said it is more effective to express objections to state aid cuts and to imposed regionalization to state representatives and other state agencies now, in the planning phase, rather than after a policy is drafted.

Changing subjects, Slavas said that maintaining an across the board 3% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for town employees is not sustainable right now, and offered a possible split, with a 1% across the board raise, and 2% more dependent on performance.

Lewis said, "I don't like that

idea. It will create bad feelings." He would rather work with an employee to improve performance, and if necessary, terminate him if there is no improvement after enough bad evaluations.

Fin Com member Barbara Caruso suggested using a consultant to establish what might be necessary in addition to a generator to make the Swift River School useful as an emergency shelter. She also said the holiday fair raised almost \$1,300 for the school music program.

Aldrich said the bearing assembly in the town office building heating system's circulating pump was replaced a second time, and the pump is now operating well, and quietly. The Johnson Control thermostat system still has problems.

Aldrich showed board members the FRCOG 2008 traffic counts. The selectboard forwarded them to the police department. As in other years, several vehicles were clocked going over 80 mph in town, and too many were traveling faster than 60 mph.

Aldrich also said that MEMA and FEMA will contact the town to set up a kickoff meeting and

establish a system for repaying the town for extra expense incurred during the ice storm. Town departments need to isolate those expenses from their normal operating expenses. Keller said the town has up to 60 days to gather that information, and FEMA may pay up to 75% of authorized expenses.

Nominations are open for this year's state Unsung Heroine Award. This year the state will honor only 100 women, not one from each town as it did last year. Anyone can submit a nomination through the website Mass.gov/womans. Nominations will be closed on February 27th.

The selectboard met again on Sunday, January 25th as part of the Emergency Management Preparedness Meeting.

The selectboard is looking to schedule a special town meeting late in February to certify free cash, to ratify a cemetery bylaw, to consider a revision of the Conservation Development bylaw, and to consider appropriating funds to install generators at town buildings and the town center



MCSM from page 1

that Mareneck emanates, this day's activity seems likely to be just a harbinger of things to come.

Mareneck comes to MCSM from a year and a half as the acting director of the Interfaith Coalition of Advocates for Reentry and Employment in New York City, a faith-based effort to help people marginalized by criminal conviction. Mareneck, who got involved with prison support work through her congregation, the Trinity Church of Wall Street, in New York City, one of the nation's oldest churches, said ICARE did not seek to evangelize, as so many faith-based prison outreach efforts do, but instead tried to provide "emotional and other kinds of support" to released prisoners as they attempted to re-enter society and beat the two-thirds

national recidivism average. She said ICARE did its work by forming "circles of support" for ex-cons, educating faith communities about the problems former prisoners face, and advocating for systemic change in Albany and elsewhere, on issues like health care, employment, and voting rights for ex-offenders.

Though she lived in New York City for many years, Mareneck has always maintained a home in North Leverett, on Dickinson Road, one of the oldest houses in that community. She lived there for a time in the late 60s, after leaving one of the area's fabled communes, the Montague Farm on Ripley Road, now the site of the Zen Peacemakers Community.

In recent years, Mareneck commuted to North Leverett on a regular basis, as she maintained her painter's studio there. Mareneck is a former teacher of

art history and studio art at Northfield Mount Hermon. She went on to teach in private and parochial K-12 schools in New York City. She has two grown children, and two grandchildren.

Mareneck said her art education background may be one of many useful talents she brings to her new job at MCSM, which has provided programs for women and children in Turners Falls and surrounding communities to develop skills in a variety of media, including art and music, computer literacy, and basic life skills like money management and resume building. While their mothers have attended classes like these at MCSM, the children have taken advantage of the care provided by after school drop in programs, and tutorial sessions.

Mareneck said MCSM offered a Sunday Spanish language playgroup at Suzee's

Third Street Laundramat, as an example of how the agency's programs have grown organically from the needs of its participants.

For now, Mareneck said she will be listening and learning from her capable staff and board. Although the programs at MCSM have focused largely on the needs of women and children in the community, based on early survey results showing a prevalence of domestic violence in Turners Falls, Mareneck said she feels there should be no proscription against reaching out to the entire community with programs that meet perceived needs. MCSM's programs are non-denominational, and open to people of all faiths and beliefs, she said.

"Everyone is excited!" Mareneck added. "I'm feeling blessed to be here."



WENDELL from page 5

For future storms, the highway garage will be the incident command center, and Ricketts outlined the beginning of an incident command structure with himself or town health agent Elizabeth Swedberg as incident commanders and selectboard chair Ted Lewis as public information officer, because, "He keeps it real."

However, many of the boxes in the flow chart are still empty, and some may not be needed in Wendell. The incident command structure itself was developed following wildfires in California in the 1970s.

The next emergency preparedness planning meeting will feature a tabletop drill of a train derailment in Wendell Depot, and is scheduled for March 1st at 2:00 p.m. in the town office meeting room.



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## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Town Will Remove Pine Trees By Treatment Plant

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - Since they were planted to provide a visual screen for the wastewater treatment plant from Greenfield Road, back in the 80s, the 22 pine trees inside the fence line have grown so tall they shade the road, causing ice and snow to build up along that section of pavement. With no lower branches, they no longer fulfill their original purpose as visual barriers.

Donald and Mary McKay, who live across the street from the plant, came to the selectboard meeting on Monday to warn the board that the poor road conditions in the shade of the pines could cause an accident. "I have witnessed near accidents," said Don McKay. I saw someone do a 360 into a snow bank there. It surprises folks. That roadway used to be completely clear."

Treatment plant supervisor Bob Trombley said he had discussed the problem with the highway department and the town planner since the McKays wrote a letter bringing the matter to his attention recently. He estimated it would take two days, and cost \$1600, to hire a tree service to take down 17 of the 22 pines, opening up that section of Greenfield Road to winter sun. He said he had that amount of money in his grounds maintenance funds.

Selectboard chair Allen Ross said no public hearing was required on the matter,

since the trees presented a hazard to travel on a town road. The board voted unanimously to take the trees down.

Trombley said he would replant that section of the fence line with rhododendrons, or lower lying greenery.

In other news, students from the Turners Falls High School came to update the selectboard on activities there. Lisa Jackson said TFHS students had performed 102 hours of community service helping out with bell ringing for the Salvation Army at Food City during the holidays, raising \$2000 in the process. Brooke Hastings said the high school had adopted three families - 15 people - during this year's Adopt-a-Family program, supplying holiday gifts for all on the Friday before Christmas.

And student council president Josh Gammon said the high school/middle school's recycling program was filling so many bins with recycled paper that it was getting to be hard to bring them all to the transfer station. He asked whether the town could not include the high school on its regular recycling route. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio promised to look into that question.

Hastings said high school students were available to perform more community service in the months to come, and the selectboard thanked the

students for that offer.

"I don't know if we could be office clerks," joked Gammon.

Students from the high school government class will be traveling to Elliott County, KY in March for four days to help an organization called Frontier Housing build homes for low income families there. Elliott County is in the rural northeast of Kentucky, with a entire population smaller than the town of Montague's; the county seat is Sandy Hook, population 678.

Gammon reminded the selectboard that the boys basketball team was playing a winning season, currently tied for first in the county, with a 7 and 3 record. He invited them to attend one of their games.

Speaking for the board, chair Allen Ross thanked the students for their presentation and their efforts and invited the government class to attend some meetings of town government to get a close up view of the democratic process in action.

On the news that 12-year senior center director Bunny Caldwell will be retiring at the end of June to spend more time with her husband and grandchildren, Ross said, "Thank you very much from all of us. I'm sure it's been an absolutely vital service, and you've done everything to make it so."

Board member Pat Allen added, "It's hard to imagine the

senior center without Bunny."

The board voted to establish February 17th as the deadline for monetary articles for the annual town meeting, assuming it will be held on May 2nd, and to establish March 17th as the cut-off for non-monetary articles for that meeting.

Abbondanzio reported that Governor Patrick's announcement at the Massachusetts Municipal Association meeting in Boston last Friday spelled out mid-year cuts to local aid for cities and towns - including Montague - of about 10%, or about \$157,000, with cuts of a similar size expected in the governor's budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1st.

With that news, Abbondanzio said he asked town accountant Carolyn Olsen to prepare a draft budget for next year, taking into account the two-year drop in state aid of about a quarter of a million dollars. Without dipping further into town reserves, Abbondanzio said it appeared Montague would be facing "a million dollar deficit" going into the budget making cycle for '10.

The town administrator said Winrock International has notified the town it will be vacating its offices in the Colle Building in 90 days, as part of a company consolidation. However, Abbondanzio said the Northeast Foundation for

Children is interested in expanding into that space.

Abbondanzio said the state of Massachusetts has notified the town of plans to accept 110 acres of farmland along Meadow Road owned by Lena Garbiel into the Agricultural Protection Program, to conserve it for agricultural use and protect it from development.

The Conservation Commission will spend \$15,000 of the \$30,000 remaining in its open space fund to provide the town's match on the purchase of development rights on this prime farmland.

### Global Warming Talk

**GREENFIELD** - The Interfaith Council of Franklin County and its Sacred Earth Committee are co-hosting with Greening Greenfield Energy Committee a talk by UMass professor Raymond Bradley on Global Warming. Bradley was one of many researchers who contributed to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore.

The free talk takes place in the parish hall of the Second Congregational Church, 16 Court Square, Greenfield, on Monday, February 2nd, at 7:00 p.m., with a snow date of February 9th.

Professor Bradley will speak about the facts of his work; a discussion and question-and-answer session on the moral and ethical implications will follow. Since global warming may seem academic on certain January nights, cookies and warm drinks will be offered.

### MCTV Afternoon/Evening Schedule 1/30 - 2/5

Visit [www.montaguema.net](http://www.montaguema.net) for complete listing

**Friday, January 30th**  
2:00 p.m. Changing Face of Turners Falls  
4:00 p.m. Child and Family: Children's Mental Health  
4:30 p.m. Coffee House, Jeff Martell  
6:00 p.m. Common Man Cowbell Prescription  
7:00 p.m. GMRSD 1/27/09  
11:00 p.m. Discovery Center Open Mic Night 2007

**Saturday, January 31st**  
2:00 p.m. Girls Softball 08  
4:30 p.m. Green by 2015  
5:00 p.m. Independent Voices  
5:30 p.m. White House Chronicles #941-942  
6:30 p.m. Wisdom Way Solar Village  
7:30 p.m. Women Girls & HIV: Services  
8:00 p.m. Underground Railway Concert 07  
9:30 p.m. TWB Snoring and Sleep Apnea  
10:30 p.m. Town Forum-Unity Park Hearing

**Sunday, February 1st**  
3:30 p.m. Common Man Stephanie Marshal  
5:00 p.m. John Root-Wild Flowers  
6:30 p.m. Dodging The Bow  
8:30 p.m. Eaton Do Ryu  
9:00 p.m. Exploring New Worlds in New England  
9:30 p.m. On The Ridge New England Brush Wolf Hunting  
10:00 p.m. Over The Falls: Dove Tails to Dories

10:30 p.m. Physician Focus Young Athletes and Sports Injuries

**Monday, February 2nd**  
3:00 p.m. Seabrook 1977.  
4:30 p.m. Seneca Falls  
5:00 p.m. Senses of Place  
6:30 p.m. The Western MASS Democrat  
7:00 p.m. Select Board (Live)  
10:00 p.m. Tiny Tim  
11:00 p.m. Tomahawk Chop Hearing

**Tuesday, February 3rd**  
3:00 p.m. The Western Mass Dem: Chris Forgey  
4:00 p.m. The Spirit of Lake Pleasant  
5:30 p.m. The Rise and Fall of Lake Hitchcock  
6:30 p.m. GMRSD (Live)  
11:00 p.m. the epics at the vous

**Wednesday, February 4th**  
3:00 p.m. Physician Focus  
4:00 p.m. Discovery Center-Root Cellar  
5:30 p.m. Common People Celtic Harp  
7:00 p.m. Art Fest 2007  
8:30 p.m. Block Party Parade 08  
8:35 p.m. Block Party 08  
10:30 p.m. Carlos Anderson "Get a Clue"  
12:00 a.m. Encore Body Art #10

**Thursday, February 5th**  
2:30 p.m. Enjoy The Ride Share the Road  
3:30 p.m. Falls Table Michaelangelo "Gnoccki with Shrimp"  
4:30 p.m. Fate of the Stallion  
5:00 p.m. Dodging The Bow  
7:00 p.m. Select Board 2/2/09  
10:00 p.m. FCHC Estate Planning

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

#### Deer Crossing Hazardous

**Tuesday, 1/20**  
12:20 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on a default warrant.  
7:00 p.m. Assisted Montague police with medical call on Montague City Road.

**Thursday, 1/22**  
5:48 p.m. Report of car vs. deer on Route 2 near Wheelock Street.  
9:00 p.m. Suspicious person at

intersection of Route 2 and River Road. Spoke with same, person waiting for his ride to pick him up.

**Friday, 1/23**  
3:20 a.m. Report of car vs. deer on Northfield Road in the area of Erving/Northfield town line. Checked area, both car and deer gone on arrival.  
11:30 a.m. Report of larceny from French King Entertainment Center on Route 2. Under investigation.  
4:00 p.m. Suspicious activity at Erving elementary school. Subject photographing school bus. Spoke with same, all okay.

**Sunday, 1/25**  
9:45 p.m. Assisted Montague police with a fight on Avenue A.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

#### Depot Road Treacherous

**Sunday, 11/30**  
10:20 p.m. One car accident without injuries on Depot Road.

**Monday, 12/8**  
911 call hang-up from a Stone Road address. All okay.

**Thursday, 12/11**  
Ice Storm - no electricity or telephone until 12/17.

**Saturday, 12/20**  
Welfare check of New Salem Road resident requested by a relative. Check all okay.

**Friday, 1/2**  
11:30 p.m. One car accident without injuries on Depot Road.

**Saturday, 1/17**  
4:10 a.m. Maple Valley School reported a runaway student.

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. Do you think an annual physical is really necessary?

Regular health checkups are important. How often you get one depends on your condition.

Let me put it to you this way. How often do you have a mechanic check your new car? How many times do you visit the garage with a car that's cranked over 100,000 miles? If you're over 65, get regular physical exams, even when you feel great.

Below are some federal guidelines for people with no diseases.

**Age 40 - 65**

Have your blood pressure

checked every two years.

Men over age 34 should have their cholesterol checked every five years.

People between the ages of 50 and 80 should be screened for colorectal cancer. This may involve an annual stool test, flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years, and colonoscopy every ten years.

A dental exam and cleaning should be scheduled once a year.

After age 40, everyone should get an eye exam every two years.

You should receive a flu vaccine every year after age 50, and a tetanus-diphtheria booster vaccination every ten years. A shingles vaccination may be given once after age 60. Ask your doctor if you should get a pneumonia vaccine.

Your height, weight, and body mass index (BMI) should be checked every one to five years.

Most men age 50 or older should discuss screening for

prostate cancer. Tests may include the PSA blood test and a digital rectal examination.

Women should have a complete breast exam by a healthcare provider every year. Women over the age of 40 should have a mammogram done every one to two years.

All postmenopausal women with fractures should have a bone density test. Women under 65 who have risk factors for osteoporosis should be screened. All men ages 50-70 with risk factors for osteoporosis should discuss screening with their doctors.

Women should have a yearly pelvic exam and Pap smear done to check for cervical cancer and other disorders.

**Age 65 and Older**

Men between 65 and 75 who have ever smoked should have an ultrasound done once to screen for abdominal aortic

aneurysms. An aortic aneurysm is a weakened and bulging area in the aorta, the major blood vessel that feeds blood to the body.

Blood pressure should be checked every year.

If your cholesterol level is normal, have it rechecked every three to five years.

One of the following screening tests should be done: a stool test every year, flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years with a stool test, and a colonoscopy every 10 years.

A dental exam and cleaning should be scheduled once a year.

Get an eye exam every two years.

Have your hearing tested every year.

Get a pneumonia vaccination if you have never had one, or if you received one more than five years before your turned 65. Get a flu shot every year and a tetanus-diphtheria booster every ten years. A shingles vaccination

may be given once after age 60.

All men should discuss prostate cancer screening with their healthcare provider.

Your height, weight, and body mass index (BMI) should be checked every year.

Women should have a complete breast exam by a healthcare provider every year.

Women should have a mammogram done every one to two years depending on risk factors to check for breast cancer.

All women should have a bone-density test to check for osteoporosis, a disorder in which the bones become brittle. All men over age 70 should have a bone density test.

Women should have a yearly pelvic exam and Pap smear done to check for cervical cancer and other disorders.

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

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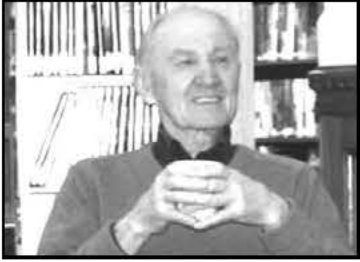
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# JEP'S PLACE: Part CVIII

## Bleak House



**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL** - Late one winter night when I was on the way home from visiting friends, I decided to risk taking a shortcut across a flooded swamp. The ice held fine until I got to the brook. I could hear the rubbery ice cracking and knew it would never hold me

where the ice would be thinner over the swift running brook.

I lay face down to distribute my weight and worked my way across in a swimming motion. When I stood up on the other side, my foot went through the ice and I felt water fill my shoe. I ran home, pants leg freezing. When I got home, I thought everyone would be asleep, but I found Emmy there. She had come to visit, and had waited for me, worried that I'd fallen through the ice. Ma told her where I'd gone, and Emmy figured I would probably try to take the shortcut.

She scolded me for crossing the brook alone, and reminded me about the time she and Irene nearly drowned falling through the ice on that very same brook. She didn't come right out and say she loved me, but she didn't have to - I knew by the way she scolded me and hugged me and told me she didn't want anything

to happen to me.

Gladys had run away by then - where she'd gone, no one knew. Now, there were just two other kids, besides me, at home - Lora, two years younger, and Louis four years younger than me.

Pa had long since given up his dreams of regaining prosperity. His heart disease, ulcers, hard times, poor decisions, and bad luck had all taken the fire out of his burning ambitions. I sometimes felt as depressed as he did.

With criticism at home and continued harassment by the nasty new teacher at school, life looked pretty bleak. My marks nose-dived. But, just when I thought school would be a nightmare forever, our red brick schoolhouse closed for good. Instead of having neighborhood

schools with eight grades, the Gill schools were consolidated with the grades split up, so that teachers taught two grades instead of eight. A Pontiac station wagon served as a bus to take me to Sunnyside School on the other side of Gill.

After studying my school record, my new teacher, Miss Quintillio, an enthusiastic redhead, asked me why I did so poorly the previous year in fifth grade when I'd done so well before that. I didn't know what to say. She said she would help me get caught up. But she didn't need to. My marks went right back up.

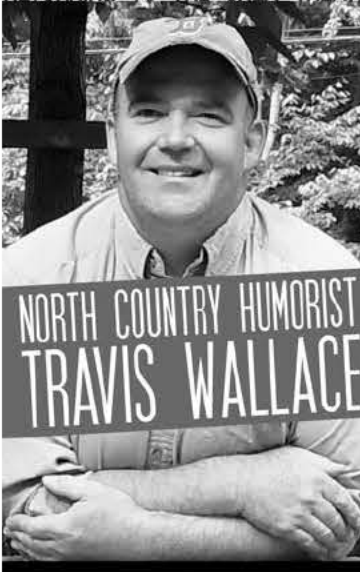
Miss Quintillio lifted our spirits by banging out lively tunes on the school piano while we all sang. When she praised me, I felt as though I could

accomplish anything. My only problem was being a newcomer, an outsider. The attention she gave me brewed resentment in the other boys.

One day, Miss Quintillio asked us to draw a picture of a panda bear. The crayon virtually swept around the paper by itself. When she praised me, the other kids asked me to help them draw theirs. I cranked out panda bear pictures, left and right. When the kids passed their pictures in, the teacher saw that they all looked pretty much alike and made the kids draw them over again with no help from me. Though she chided me for giving too much help, it felt good to be reprimanded for doing something well. I was the happiest kid in school - maybe in the world.

— Continued Next Week

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### NOTICE OF HEARING

**Erving's Conservation Commission in accordance with MA Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40, will hold a public hearing Monday, February 2, 2009, at 7:45 p.m. at the Erving Town Hall, 12 East Main Street, to discuss a Request for Determination of Applicability. The Notice was filed by MA Highway for resurfacing and related work along Rt. 2 in Erving.**

## HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is currently applying for funding for the Towns of Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Heath, Leverett, Montague, Rowe, Orange, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Warwick & Whately. At this time we are establishing a waiting list for each town.

Income eligible applicants who qualify for a full-deferred payment loan will be able to borrow up to \$30,000.00. This is a 0% interest, deferred payment loan, the loan is secured by a lien placed on your property, and the loan is due when you sell or transfer the property.

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Homeowners must have an annual gross income equal to or less than the following amounts:

# In Household	Gross Annual Income
1	\$41,450.00
2	\$47,350.00
3	\$53,300.00
4	\$59,200.00
5	\$63,950.00
6	\$68,650.00
7	\$73,400.00
8	\$78,150.00

If you are interested in applying for the Housing Rehab program please call Charity Day @ (413) 863-9781 ext. 132 or email at [cday@fchra.org](mailto:cday@fchra.org)

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 29th

**How to Start a Common Good Bank in Your Community** a multimedia presentation, a new kind of community savings bank, designed expressly for economic justice, sustainability and strong local economies. [commongoodbank.com](http://commongoodbank.com) or (413) 628-3336, Warwick Public Library, 6:45 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Montague Reporter Benefit w/ live music, skits and more. Suggested donation to benefit the paper!

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Radio Free Earth*, crossover music performed by Kim & Josh Wachtel, 8 to 10 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 30th

Communities That Care Coalition meeting 11 to 1 p.m. (with lunch served). Anyone interested in hearing about the Coalition's work is encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to [pprususke@communityaction.us](mailto:pprususke@communityaction.us) or (413) 774-7028 x657.

At the Brick House, Turners Falls: Open Mic Night 7 to 9 p.m. First Open Mic in the renovated space!

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus*. Dancing tends to break out when this group gets going. Harmonic, eclectic rock/alternative, 9 to 11 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Eric Hnatow* and guests, \$3 cover.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Mike Stetson Band*, rock & roll, 9:30 p.m.

Between The Uprights at 2nd Street, Turners Falls: *Curly Fingers Dupree Band*, 7 p.m. and at *DJ Brownie* with top 40 hip-hop music at 10 p.m.



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*Wendell Full Moon Coffee House turns toward love with Norman Blain and the Authentiks, an original acoustic/electric group made up of singer songwriter and Grammy and Emmy recording engineer Norman Blain with Valley veteran musicians; Billy Klock on drums, John Nuhn on bass, and Mark Cohen on guitars. One of the best remedies we know for cabin fever is a night out in Wendell, musically exploring Blain's take on the "big question side of life." 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 7th, Wendell Town Hall.*

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 31st

Wendell Free Library artist talk with Helen Haddad, 10 a.m. Potato print workshop will be Saturday, February 28th, 10 a.m. to noon. To register, call (978) 544-3559.

Cabin Fever Music and Storytelling with Tim Van Egmond for all ages at Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center. Cozy up with family and friends in our heated yurt and be enchanted. Van Egmond will accompany himself on a wide variety of traditional instruments, including mountain dulcimer, hammered dulcimer, guitar, mouthbow, and limberjack. Free, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Blame It On Tina*, \$3 cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Zydeco Connection*, 9 to 11 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Alchemystics*, Hip Hop Reggae dub, 9:30 p.m.

Between The Uprights at 2nd Street, Turners Falls: *DJ MIA* with top 40 hip-hop music at 10 p.m.

**THROUGH JANUARY 31st**  
Landscapes and Nature Art Exhibit by Thomas L. Stratford in the Great Hall

of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1st**  
Montague Book Mill, Montague Center: Free Films For The Frozen. 7 p.m., *Ninotchka*. Written by Charles Brackett, Billy Wilder and Walter Reisch; directed by Ernst Lubitsch, 1939. Greta Garbo & Melvyn Douglas. Completely politically incorrect and completely wonderful. A 1939 classic.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Joe Laur on Guitar*, 8 to 10 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4th**  
Super Fun Bowling Club. Fun in a non-competitive setting, all ages welcome. Held every other Wednesday, French King Entertainment. This is a community group, not sponsored by the bowling alley., 7:30 p.m. [www.superfunbowling.com](http://www.superfunbowling.com).

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5th**  
Jazz at DiPaolo's, Turners Falls: NYC world class guitarist *Freddie Bryant*, 6:30- 9:30.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Open Mic hosted by Peter Kim & Jimmy Arnold, 8:30 p.m., no cover. [www.r63roadhouse.com](http://www.r63roadhouse.com).

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6th**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *A Ghost Quartet*, 9 to 11p.m. Jazzy Blues with a taste of fist fight swing!

Moonlight Snowshoe at Northfield Mountain with

Wendell Center: Norman Blain and the Authentiks at 7:30 p.m. with an open mic 7 p.m. \$6 - \$12 (978) 544-5557. Partial proceeds benefit the Shutesbury Education Foundation. [www.wendellfullmoon.org](http://www.wendellfullmoon.org).

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Mass Production*, 9:30 to 11:30 p.m. Reggae with Simon White, Joe Cunningham & Christian Marano.

Family Moonlight Snowshoe at Northfield Mountain. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For ages 6 and older. \$5/person, \$10/snowshoe rentals. Pre-registration required. 800-859-2960.

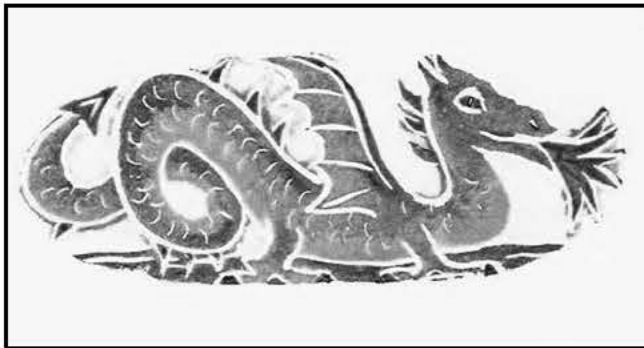
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8th**  
Montague Book Mill, Montague Center: Free Films For The Frozen. 7 p.m.: *Eddie Izzard: Dress to Kill*. 1999. Comic and executive transvestite Eddie Izzard takes his show to San Francisco to give a brief history of pagan and Christian religions, the building of Stonehenge, the birth of the Church of England and of Western empires, and the need for a European dream, to name just a few of the topics covered. Outrageous.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, acoustic trio/warped Americana, 7:30 to 10 p.m.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12th**  
Jazz at DiPaolo's, Turners Falls: *Interplay Jazz Band* with John Michaels, guitar; Mark Dunlap, bass; Rick Tutunjian, sax, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14th**  
American Heritage Chocolate Celebration at Historic Deerfield. Learn all about cacao, taste chocolates and make decorative Valetines. Adults \$14/\$5 youth, under 6 yrs. free.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14th & 15th**  
Shea Theatre, Turners Falls: *Ja'Duke Productions* Presents *Willy Wonka*. 2/14 at 8 p.m. 2/15 at 2 p.m. Tix 413-863-2281, continues 2/20-2/22.



*Helen Haddad's potato block prints are on display at the Wendell Library through February. Saturday, January 31st at 10 a.m. Helen gives a gallery talk and demonstration of potato print making.*

Naturalist Beth Bazler, 6:30 - 9 p.m. For ages 12 and older, \$7/person, \$21/snowshoe rentals. Pre-registration required. 800-859-2960.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *All About Bats!* noon to 1 p.m. Learn interesting facts about bats in their natural environment.

Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls: Artist's reception for Josephine Sacabo her display *Lux Perpetua* and Susan Bozic: *The Dating Portfolio*, 1 to 5 p.m. Public illustrated Artists Talk in the auditorium at Hallmark Institute of Photography, 27 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls, at 7:30 p.m. free.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House,

## THROUGH FEBRUARY

On display in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center: Landscapes and Nature Photography exhibit by Thomas L. Stratford. Hours are Fridays and Saturdays, 10 to 4 p.m. [www.greatfallsma.org](http://www.greatfallsma.org).

## THROUGH MARCH 29th

Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography: New Orleans photographer Josephine Sacabo, featured in Gallery 56, displays work from three distinct projects on exhibit; "A Geometry of Echoes," "The Nocturnes" and, "El Mundo Inalcanzable De Susana San Juan." Also on display work by Susan Bozic: *The Dating Portfolio* in Gallery 56. Regular museum hours are Thurs-Sun, 1 to 5 p.m.

## HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

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



**GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS**  
Main St. Greenfield, MA 413-774-4881  
[www.gardencinemas.net](http://www.gardencinemas.net)  
Showtimes for Friday, January 30th - Thurs., February 5th  
1. **PAUL BLART: MALL COP** DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG  
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00  
2. **MILK R** DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9:10  
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00  
3. **THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON** DAILY 8:30 PG13  
3. **HOTEL FOR DOGS** DAILY 6:30 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00 PG  
4. **GRAN TORINO** DAILY 6:40 9:20 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15 R  
5. **UNDERWORLD III: RISE OF THE LYCANS** R DTS sound DAILY 6:40 9:20  
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15  
6. **TAKEN** PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 7:00 9:30  
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30  
7. **THE UNINVITED** PG13 DTS sound DAILY 7 9:30 (NO SUNDAY EVE SHOWS)  
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30



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*Radio Free Earth*  
Friday, 1/30, 9 - 11 p.m.  
Eclectic Rock/Alternative: *Nexus*  
Saturday, 1/31, 9 - 11 p.m.  
*Zydeco Connection*  
Sunday, 2/1, 8 - 10 p.m.  
*Joe Laur* on guitar

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SAT: 1/31 | 9:30PM | \$3  
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**THE GARDENER'S COMPANION**

*Roses Feed the Soul*



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

**BY LESLIE BROWN**  
**MONTAGUE CITY** - We all know better. We go grocery shopping armed with a list, alone if we can get away with it, and never hungry. As the cost of food, especially fresh foods in this season, continues to rise, we try to stick to our lists and leave for the supermarket after having a snack.

The stores know us. They vent the bakery smells near the front door, put the cooked deli offerings up front and shelve the 'bad foods' at eye level. I try hard to avoid smells and temptations, buying only what I need.

Still this midwinter, I crave the scents and bright colors of flowers. I remind myself of the Amaryllis, which are emerging again, of the gorgeously white, scented blooms of the Narcissi at home. They are not enough.

While I can pass by the sweet baked goods and the high salt and fats of the prepared deli items, my soul craves bloom, whatever the cost.

And so, though the Brown garden has always been a largely practical, vegetable affair, this year I am also planning for the scent and beauty of flowers. I am going to buy more roses.

Many of us New England gardeners have fallen for the beauty and fragrance of the hybrid tea roses. They are indeed striking and elegant, each bloom a showpiece. Unfortunately, they are also high-maintenance, requiring extra feeding, cold weather protection and treatment for black spot and powdery mildew.

Not all of these are hardy in New England, because our winters are often more rigorous and stressful, with repeated thawing and freezing of tender plants.

Enter David Austin, breeder of specialty English shrub, old and modern roses, who is now offering English roses especially suited to our cold Zone 4-5 conditions. He has even modified the

planting directions, suggesting a deeper planting depth than most rose growers have dictated in the past. His American nursery is in Texas, so there's no worry about international shipping regulations.

David Austin roses grow in my yard and in some cases, frame the vegetable garden. The hardiest of the original offerings is the Heritage, a repeat blooming, fragrant pink beauty, which I planted at the end of a stone wall that edged an acid, mossy and ferny area where I once tried to start an herb garden. Although it is surrounded by ferns, day lily and other persistent growth, this plant is the hardiest and most reliable of my roses.

I lean towards the beauty of apricot colored, scented bloom, and for this reason, Sweet Juliet has long been one of my favorites. Despite the fact that each new season's tender root growth is also the favorite feast of voles, this beautifully scented rose continues to persist, even if it does not thrive.

This year I am going to



Crocus Rose

indulge in some of the cold zone hardy roses David Austin recommends.

The Austin English rose is characterized by complex, multi-layered petals in a characteristic form, repeat blooming throughout the season and a habit of scent.

This year I am indulging in Crocus Rose, an English musk rose of a yellow-white color, robust with a light, tea rose fragrance, and Abraham Darby, an apricot-yellow beauty with a strong fruity scent.

These lovelies will arrive at a

seasonable planting time, and I will prepare bed space for them, will set them more deeply and will not hesitate to prune them after the first blooming to encourage bushing and increased second blooming. I will plant them as part of a flowering fence of frivolity around my vegetables.

While the vegetables will feed my body and provide produce to share with friends and family, the roses will feed my soul.

Nourishing the body will maintain your frame. Don't forget to feed your soul and spirit too.

**Free Wildlife Tracking Workshop**



Snowshoe Hare

**ATHOL** - Local tracker and naturalist Paul Wanta will lead a morning walk through the trails and woods around Skyfields Arboretum, headquarters of the Mount Grace Land Trust, looking for tracks and signs of New England wildlife. The walk, which will be held Saturday, February 7th, from 9 a.m. to noon, is the fourth in a series of popular tracking days which have turned up signs of fisher,

coyote, red fox, and snowshoe hare, to name a few. The free event is open to all ages and trackers of all levels, from experts to first timers.

Paul Wanta, formerly of the Farm School in Athol, has been a tracker for 22 years. In the past some of these walks have been oversubscribed, so this year's workshop will be limited to 25 participants. To register or for directions, please call or email David Kotker at (978) 248-2055 x19 or kotker@mountgrace.org



Snowshoe Hare tracks

**News from the Wendell Senior Center**

The Wendell Senior Center, now located in the former town library building at 2 Lockes Village Road, holds regular monthly blood pressure and body mass index and foot care screenings. The next one will be held on Wednesday, February 4th, from 10 to 11 a.m. Call 978-544-2020 if you need a ride.

The second in our series of Soup-er-Suppers will be held on Sunday, February 8th, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Senior Center. Volunteer seniors will provide soup, bread, cake and cookies, and tea, coffee, and cider free of charge in our welcoming new space. This supper will also provide an opportunity to discuss future programming at our new Center.

If new seniors, or others who have not yet filled out their sur-

veys would like another chance to share their preferences for programming in the new space, please call Kathy Swaim at 544-2020. Town groups who wish to schedule meetings in the new Senior Center should call Nancy Spittle at 544-6760.


Happy February Birthdays to Jerome Jay Barilla (2nd), Virginia Schimmel (4th), John D.Cremins (6th), Donald L. Drowski (7th), Rita E. Jean (10th), Myron J. Becker (10th), William A. Facey (12th), Michael T. Anderson, Sr. (16th), Theodore Carl Setterlund (14th), Susan VonRanson (15th), Ina L. Phelps (20th), Michael Kozak (21st), Ellen M. Santos (21st), Bette A. Richard (22nd), Susan E. McCaffrey (23rd), Sharon L. Bradshaw (23rd), Priscilla A. LeGrand (27th), and Phylis Lawrence (28th).



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