



## GILL'S SLATE LIBRARY

The Place to be Seen

Page 2



## PATRIOTS VS. GIANTS

On Superbowl Sunday

Page 10

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 6 - NO. 17

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 31, 2008

## Polling Place Move Generates Heated Discussion

**BY ALEX GOTTSCHALK MONTAGUE** - The Montague Select Board meeting on Monday, January 28 was the scene of a lively and sometimes fractious discussion over the topic of the recently-moved polling location for town voting.

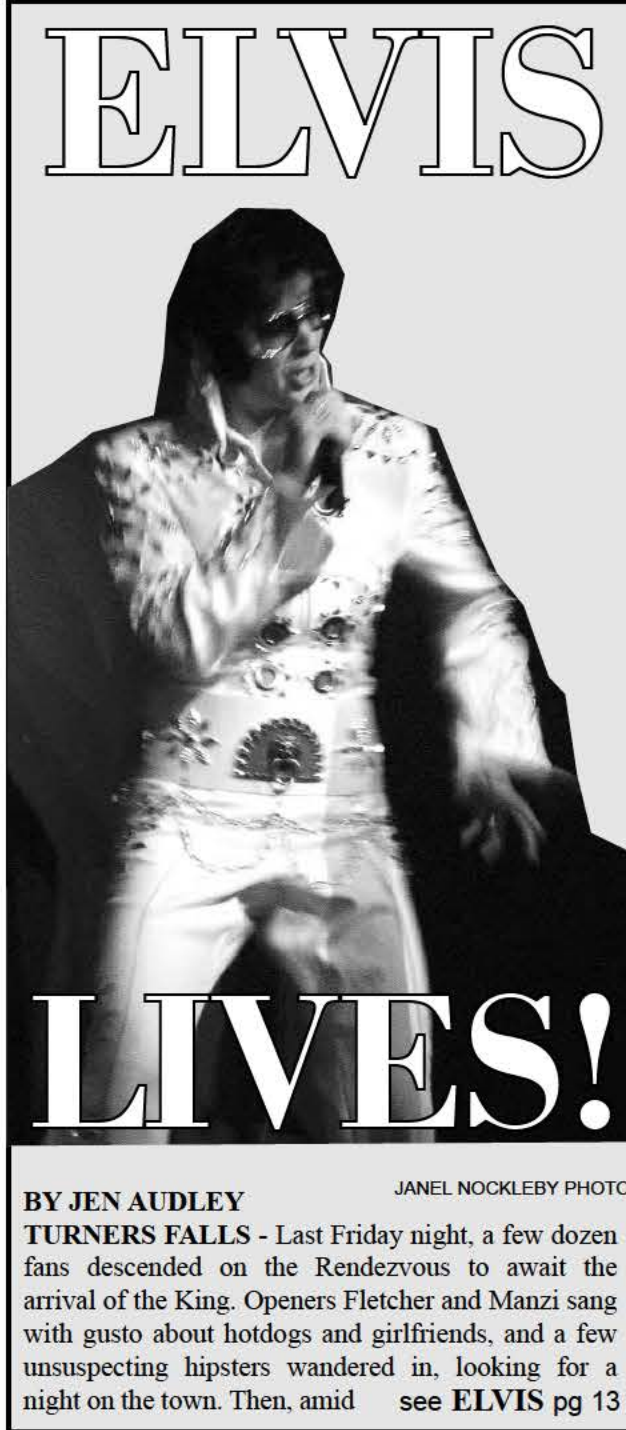
Jeff Singleton of Montague Center, addressing the select-board and those assembled, said: "I recognize that there may be a problem in the current location, but it's a radical step to move it. People are reminded to vote by seeing voters coming in and out of the library." Singleton was referring to the change in location from the Montague Center Library to the Montague Center Fire Department on Old Sunderland Road. Several others in attendance echoed Singleton's concerns, mentioning the

more remote location of the fire department and the need to use cars to reach it.

Town Clerk Deborah Bourbeau was on hand to explain the decision. The space available for voting at the library measures 18 by 14 feet, which Bourbeau stated "gets smaller when you put in the polling booths, the places where people check in and check out, the poll takers and the ADA compliant [American with Disabilities Act] voting machine." The State Voting Board had recently visited the library and stated that a move was, in the words of Bourbeau "recommended." The voting space at the fire station would be 18 by 48 feet.

Susan Sansoucie, director of the library, was not present at the selectboard meeting but

see SELECT pg 7



**BY JEN AUDLEY**

JANEL NOCKLEBY PHOTO

**TURNERS FALLS** - Last Friday night, a few dozen fans descended on the Rendezvous to await the arrival of the King. Openers Fletcher and Manzi sang with gusto about hotdogs and girlfriends, and a few unsuspecting hipsters wandered in, looking for a night on the town. Then, amid see ELVIS pg 13

## Virus Strikes Connecticut River Salmon Stock

**BY EMILY MONOSSON MONTAGUE**

Here in the Valley, many of us love our local Atlantic salmon. We wait patiently watching as thousands of shad and hundreds of eel pass by the murky fish ladder windows - where thick panes of glass separate us from the roiling Connecticut in spring - hoping to glimpse the rare silvery salmon. We scan the scoreboard, where FirstLight Power Resources, the local dam and fish ladder operators, records numbers of each species passing by the ladders. How many salmon, we wonder, will make it back to Holyoke, where the majority of returning fish are captured and transported to the Richard Cronin National Salmon Station in Sunderland for spawning?

Each winter and

spring, school kids tend salmon eggs in their classrooms, watching as the large salmon embryos develop. They squeal with delight as the young salmon squirm from their translucent shells and begin to dart about the tank, their oversized yolk sacs sustaining them for the months to follow. Finally, as the salmon absorb the last of their maternal sustenance, developing into fry - the stage at which they'll be released into the wild - they name them, and say their farewells, gently tipping cups of fry into local streams. In this valley, to paraphrase Monty Python, "every salmon is sacred."

So when I awoke one Monday morning this past fall to Laurie Sanders' familiar voice explain on Field Notes, her weekly show aired on WFCR, why most of this

see SALMON pg 06

## From Mowing Our Lawns to Closing Our Schools

### NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

**BY JOANNA FRANKEL AND STAFF REPORTS**

It seemed only fitting that at the end of the opening pledge of allegiance at Montague's special town meeting, a voice loudly emphasized the "FOR ALL" in the phrase "liberty and justice for all." Many from ALL the villages worked to have their voices heard throughout the two and a half hour meeting, asking probing questions, challenging others' opinions, and attempting to make fiscally responsible choices for the town.

Not surprisingly, passions flared during the lengthy discussion around the amendment to change school closings to a deci-

sion made by 2/3 of the school board and a simple majority of town meeting members, rather than the 8 out of 9 school committee vote it had been. Mary Kociela, head of the Gill-Montague school board, made the case and fielded questions from a number of concerned townspeople. She explained that she understands the original 8 out of 9 vote system because closing a school is a very important decision for a school board to make, but that the committee's "inability to make a decision has led to a rift in the community." Chris Sawyer-Laucanno of Turners Falls responded, saying, "I don't think you're going to avoid divisive-

ness by lowering it to a two-thirds vote. I don't think it should be an easy decision to make; schools matter."

Despite numerous questions by town meeting members about the specific schools this article might impact, Mary Kociela and interim superintendent Ken Rocke responded adamantly that this vote was not about closing individual schools in the district right now (although the vote to close Montague Center School has already passed), but that it was more to ensure future protocol. Ms. Kociela also said that the district agreement provided for Gill to have its own school. Patricia see MEETING pg 12

## Gill Override Not Necessary

**BY CHRISTOPHER SAWYER LAUCANNO**

The much anticipated and dreaded \$93,000 Proposition 2 1/2 override scheduled for February 5 will not be necessary. According to the Gill Board of Assessors property values have increased enough that revenue is expected to be \$122,000 instead of the original sum of \$30,000 that had been projected. Although the Board of Assessors undertakes reevaluations each year, this time around the Board performed a far more thor-

ough evaluation in which they reassessed every building in town. The result was that a number of commercial properties, previously undervalued, were brought up to current valuation.

While the new tax burden will largely fall on commercial property owners, a fair number of homeowners will also see a rise in their property taxes. How much an increase has yet to be determined, since the town and state are still working to set a tax rate. The town does hope to have a tax rate set by next Tuesday, February 5.



**PET OF THE WEEK**

**A Tiny Boy**



**Benji**

My name is Benji, and I'm a 1-1/2-year-old male Jack Russell terrier mix in need of a good home. For such a tiny boy, I have a lot of energy! I love to play, explore, and poke my nose in things - there are a lot of neat things to see out there! I am as cute as a bug. I am super tiny, but I have a big fabulous personality! I can be a little shy, but I'm sure once I start to settle into my surroundings in my new home I will be feeling much better. Kids - 15+, Cats-yes, Dogs- Yes. For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email levrett@dphvs.org.

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**MONTAGUE LIBRARIES NEWS**

**New Children's Music CD's**

BY LINDA HICKMAN

A young children's music collection in CD format has been established at the Montague Public Libraries, thanks to the Mother Goose on the Loose grant. New titles include For the Kids volumes 1 & 2, Folk Playground by various artists, Here Come the ABC's by They Might Be Giants, and Jazz for Kids. Laurie Berkner titles include Buzz Buzz, Under a Shady Tree, Victor Vito and Whaddya Think of That. The Child Celebration series titles include a Child's Celebration of Song, Folk Music, and Rock N Roll, all with various artists. World music selections include

Dreamland and Sing Along with Putumayo, Putumayo Kids. The new CDs, as well as a wide variety of cassette music tapes, are available for borrowing at all three Montague Libraries. The Carnegie Library also has a wide assortment of music CDs for adults. The new music CDs were funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The Carnegie Library, 201 Ave A, Turners Falls is open Monday - Wednesday, 1 - 8 p.m., Thursday 1 - 5 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information, call 863-3214.

**Meeting and Greeting at Gill's Slate Library**

BY JOE KWIECINSKI

**GILL** - Since the closing of The Gill Store, the Slate Library has become the meeting place for town residents in the center of this picturesque town. The library is open only 14 hours a week, and the local athenaeum may be small when compared to its sister-lending libraries in Franklin County, but there's a warm spirit of friendship, brisk business at the take-out desk, and an easy-going atmosphere that greets visitors who enter its doors.

One of the main reasons the Slate Library is such an inviting place is the work of its young librarian, Jocelyn Castro-Santos, who is in her second year as head of the bibliographic building and its stacks. Castro-Santos and her assistant, Kim Sprankle, oversee the programs and ser-

vices of the Slate. The library is funded by the Gill-Montague Community Partnership For Children, an organization which has its office at Hillcrest



*Slate Memorial Library has become the unofficial central meeting place for the Gill community.*

3,000 volumes including a splendid children's collection. She pays tribute to the dedicated efforts of Lissa Greenough, who was the librarian at the Slate for 10 years and now serves as the library's trustee.

Despite its size, the Slate Library has appealing programs. "We're very proud of our weekly Story Hour," said Castro-Santos, who spent three years as an assistant at the library. She and Sprankle run the program in the library each Friday at 10 a.m. for pre-schoolers five years old and under. "Every session we also do an art project based on the theme of the particular story hour," Castro-Santos said. For example, Groundhog Day is the theme for Friday, February 1, dinosaurs Feb. 8, stories about nighttime

Feb. 15th, and monster tales Feb. 29th.

Another popular program is the knitting group, under the direction of Sprankle, held every third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. "Kim is an see SLATE pg 7

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES -- February 4th - 8th**

**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, 4th**  
 10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
 11 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
**Tuesday, 5th**  
 9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi  
**Wednesday, 6th**  
 10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
 12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 7th**  
 9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi

**Friday, 8th**  
 10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
 11 a.m. Easy Aerobics

**ERVING Senior Center**, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday 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. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 978 544-3898.

**Monday, 4th**  
 9:30 a.m. Exercise  
 9:45 a.m. Library  
 12 Noon Pitch  
**Tuesday, 5th**  
 9 a.m. Aerobics  
 12:30 p.m. Painting  
**Wednesday, 6th**  
 9:00 a.m. Line Dancing



*Lynn and John O'Riley, along with Jim Koldis at Foxborough Stadium. John O'Riley was head football coach, and Jim Koldis assistant coach of the undefeated and 1976 Turners team.*

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**JOE GRAVELINE**



# It's All About the Groundhog

BY FRAN HEMOND

Ground-hog day on February 2nd intrigues us, for it leaves winter weather predicting to a little farm animal whose wisdom is questionable at any time. I see him as the stocky fellow out by the barn shed, sitting up on his hind legs, silhouetted against the sky, looking around to see if anyone is after him before settling down to a tasty nibble of greens. Somehow the weather conditions of Candlemas Day, an old Christian religious holiday which celebrated the presentation of the infant Jesus at the temple, and perhaps an agricultural 'get back to thinking about spring planting' after the Christmas holidays, have turned up in America as an opportunity for our vegetable-loving woodchuck.

A groundhog lives in a hole in the ground, often a stumble spot in my garden, from which he emerges in season to dine on the finest broccoli and other goodies. He, according to the experts, is one of the few animals that truly hibernates in

deep winter, but every February 2nd, he is said to leave his hole to check out the weather. If the sun is out and he sees his shadow, he dives back into his hole, and we have six more weeks of cold weather. If he does not see his shadow, he stays out and we enjoy an early spring.

Britannica quotes a Scottish version of the Candlemas Day prediction: "If Candlemas is fair and clear, there'll be two winters in the year." And a warning in the country: "February, second day, have half your corn and half your hay."

America's official groundhog, Pennsylvania's Punxsutawney Phil, has been represented by the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club President since 1887. He alone understands "Groundhogese," and since the first official trek of the club to

Gobbler's Knob, has interpreted Phil's actions and commentary. In that year Phil saw his shadow and dove back in. The 'official records' of the club have superseded the less organized winter predictions of the early German settlers of that region. Phil has seen his shadow 96 times, no shadow some 14, and nine years are unrecorded. Punxsutawney Phil's website tells much of his personal data. He is 22 inches long and weighs 15 pounds, drinks the "elixir of life" at a regular summer event, and so has outlived a groundhog's usual eight years.

And he is a celebrity. A few years ago there was a movie that added more heat to the old myth, and indeed Phil has been

entertained himself by politicians and entertainers for years, including Oprah Winfrey. The old English hedgehog turned groundhog, who found Candlemas Day a time to make predictions, keeps picking up sponsors through the generations.

For some of us logic is not necessary. But to make the weather myth graphic for some literal-minded children, we drew a winter meadow and sky on 8" by 11" paper, made slits to accommodate a properly aligned strip with the sun at the top and the groundhog at the bottom. We tucked the sun in, and the groundhog popped out. Spring is here! We pulled the sun out, and the groundhog dived back into his hole for six more weeks of winter.

Guess on your own, or depend on Punxsutawney Phil for his sage prediction!

(With thanks to the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls for fine help.)



## CORRECTION

The headline in last week's front page article on the Turners Falls High drop-out rate contained a serious factual error. According to a report from the state DOE, the drop-out rate has more than doubled in the last year, from 10.4% to 22.9%. The error occurred in the phrasing of the headline, which reads "22.9% of TFHS Students Leave School in 2007". In fact, 22.9% of the 2007 cohort left school - students who otherwise would have graduated last June - a very different statistic. Since there were 96 students in that cohort, it appears that 22 of them dropped out. Headlines are the last thing written in the wee hours of the evening, and the least likely to be proof read. We apologize for the error.

**Karen Adams, LIC.AC.**

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**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WENDELL POLICE LOG**

## Snowy Accidents

<b>December 31, 2007</b> Motor vehicle off road, stuck in snow, no one at scene on arrival.	<b>January 23</b> Welfare check on individual on Montague Road, all ok
<b>January 14</b> Tractor-trailer jack-knifed on Wendell Depot Road, no injuries.	<b>January 25</b> Unwanted person at residence on West St., gone on arrival.

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## A Pipe Dream

Standing in the shadow of Olivier de Cavelle, John Anctil came to the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce breakfast at the Greenfield Corporate Center on Friday, January 25th hoping to win support among the gathered bankers and business heads for his scheme to transform the former Strathmore Mill in Turners Falls into a mecca for the burgeoning Massachusetts film and television production industry. Instead, the Swift River Group impresario gave the impression of someone floundering in a backwater and in over his head.

After a bumbling introduction by his partner Daniel Perriera, who referred to Swift River as a "loose collective of affiliates from film, television, media and some aspects of education" who have been "pulling in lawyers, accountants, and financial guys to keep sculpting our vision," Anctil, with his movie star good looks, stood at the podium and began, "Media, film and television is a great way to communicate ideas to change the world." But he stopped to apologize that his PowerPoint projected slides were too small to be seen by most viewers in the room, who responded in a loud affirmative when he asked if they were having trouble hearing him at the microphone.

Having stumbled badly at the start, Anctil never recovered, and raced through the remainder of his presentation, tossing out phrases about "co-creating the means to a better world" through media that "focuses on our planet, using good scripts with content value." Not forgetting that Massachusetts has a "great film tax credit."

The latter point is indisputable. Since 2006, the state has in place a 20% payroll and 25% production tax credit for films shot in Massachusetts,

one of the most aggressive incentive packages in the country to lure this lucrative industry. And, to his credit, Anctil has a good idea, and appears to be motivated by laudable environmental and communitarian ideals in pursuing his plan to establish a film and television school and production facility at the Strathmore. For those who were sitting close enough to see them, his slide renderings of what the old mill would look like with an elevated walkway for bike riders and pedestrians to flock to his "Gold LEED, mini-hydro, geo-thermal and photovoltaic powered" Sundance in the Valley, "just up the street from New York City," were very attractive. Unfortunately, with Anctil and his "sociocracy" of like-minded entrepreneurs at the helm, the "the extreme make-over of the mill" he envisions is not likely to ever get off the drawing board.

He got the biggest laugh of the day when describing the financing package for what he referred to as a "20 to 30 million dollar project," to include state and federal historic tax credits and new market tax credits equaling "\$18.1 million," with "\$6 million in equity" (no word given on where this would come from) and "\$4 million in debt financing." When he finished by saying he expected the state to "kick in \$2 million to complete the package," the crowd could not contain themselves and broke out in loud guffaws.

Olivier, you were a silver-tongued orator with a gold-bricking scheme for Greenfield's old mills and a portmanteau full of copper pipe as you were unceremoniously booted back to France. Why does your pied piper song still sound so sweet in the wintry streets and windblown alleys of Turners Falls?



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Have no Fears

In response to the article, "Plan for Group Home Discussed", I have had personal experience with the "ACL" people. This corporation is composed of the kindest and most effective staff of people you will ever meet. Their goal is to provide a meaningful and produc-

tive life for their clients who blend into the community with the staff's assistance. You could not have asked for a better corporation to staff this group home if you handpicked them yourself. Have no fears.

Sincerely yours,

- Joann Olsen  
Dover, PA

(P.S. I have a relative residing in one of the "ACL" staffed group homes in a town other than Gill.)

## February 5th: Presidential Primary Voter Information

Tuesday, February 5th is the Presidential Primary. The polls will be open from 7:00am to 8:00pm. Registered voters who belong to any one of the four parties, Republican, Democrat, Green-Rainbow or Working Families must vote their party affiliation. Unenrolled registered voters can choose any one of the four party ballots.

Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office in all towns served by the Montague Reporter. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon on February 4th. To vote absentee you must be

out of town on the day of the election, have a religious belief that prohibits you from being at the polls or have a physical disability that prevents you from going to the polls. All absentee ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office by the close of the polls on February 5th.

The Montague Town Clerk's Office is located at the Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls. For more information call 863-3200, ext 203.

Polling locations for Montague are as follows:

**Precinct One:** Montague Center Fire Station, 28 Old Sunderland Road, Montague Center

**Precinct Two:** Highland School Apartments, 446 Millers Falls Road, Millers Falls

**Precinct Three:** Hillcrest School, 30 Griswold Street,

PHOTO BY CHRIS SAWYER-LAUCANNO



Montague Town Clerk Deb Bourbeau (left) and Asst Town Clerk Mandy Hamp check ballots for Tuesday's primary election.

Turners Falls

**Precinct Four:** Hillcrest School, 30 Griswold Street, Turners Falls

**Precinct Five:** Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls

**Precinct Six:** Masonic Lodge, 20 Masonic Avenue, Turners Falls

Voters in Wendell, please note that the new polling place is in the New Town Office Conference Room.

No changes for the polls in Erving or Gill.

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## American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 1/30/08



(Casualty sign temporarily located next to Wagon Wheel Restaurant on Rte. 2 in Gill)



# GUEST EDITORIAL

## Not a Nice Town ...

**BY WESLEY BLIXT GREENFIELD** - My friend called me not long ago after spending some time in our area covering the latest mayhem over at the Franklin County Courthouse.

"So, what's up with Greenfield, anyway?" my friend asked.

"Oh, y'know," I said. "Murder. Melodrama. Just the same old."

"I dunno," my friend said. "The town looked pretty edgy to me . . . unusually bleak and threatening and . . ." He paused. I wasn't sure what would come next. My friend normally likes covering edgy places, as do I. "What I mean is . . ." he paused again. ". . . is that Greenfield seems really crappy."

I have to admit that this stung. Edgy is one thing. Crappy is another.

"Listen, my friend," I told my friend. "Greenfield is a lot of things. Greenfield has some rough edges. But, we're all just people who are struggling to get

by, one way or another. A lot of folks are working valiantly to change things. We may be a lot of things in Greenfield. But we are NOT crappy. Not quite 'nice' maybe, but not crappy."

"Definitely not nice," my friend said, eager to exit the conversation. "Not nice at all."

Which got me to thinking: what is all this about niceness? What, exactly, is a "nice" town?

A nice town, my friend and I agreed, is one where you don't have to worry about your kids being slaughtered or poisoned . . . where the schools have textbooks that were written sometime after the Reformation . . . where people can count on healthy food, reliable medical care, safe and affordable housing, a sense of civic engagement, cultural possibilities, and a stable (if not thriving) natural environment. A nice town sustains itself with good work, good will and good luck.

"C-minus on all counts, dude," my friend observed. "I'm sorry to tell you, but you have a

ways to go, and from the look of things, you ain't going there. The only reason Greenfield hasn't tanked is that you haven't screwed up the surrounding countryside too badly. Not yet, anyway."

We are, I assured him, working on it. On not screwing things up too badly, that is.

I forgot about all this niceness stuff until later when, in *The Recorder*, I read a delightful little "modest proposal" parody which compared Greenfield very favorably to that shining Capital of Niceness - Amherst.

Nice, I realized, as I read the piece, is a code word - kind of like Am-erst itself, without the h. It means cafés, bistros, galleries, and live entertainment. It means people sitting on the sidewalk reading newspapers from all over the world. It means interesting restaurants, and bookstores. It means architectural integrity and cinema revivals. It means blossoming artisan studios, cooperative work spaces, rehabbed housing, public art . . . and worse. Sometimes, it even means bridges with flowers.

"Nice" is a code word for everything Greenfield is not and, at this rate, will never be again. Nice is code word for everything that the current crew

in Town Hall fundamentally rejects. It's not that they don't need nice. It's not that they don't think they can afford nice. They simply don't want nice.

That's when it struck me. Maybe they are on to something. Why aspire to being "nice?" Maybe there is, after all, something to be said for NOT being nice, or for even being mindfully "Not-Nice." Maybe there's a lot to be said for simply being crappy.

This is my thinking: There are a lot of "nice" towns in the Valley. But for all those nice towns, there have to be a few crappy towns, and there are fewer and fewer of those. THAT could be our niche. Our industry. Our identity. Our future.

Take Amherst. (Please.) Amherst is nice specifically because Hadley is crappy. Amherst NEEDS Hadley to be crappy, congested and commercial. (Except that Hadley, after all, has decent schools.) Or take Northampton. Northampton is nice because Easthampton is crappy. (Well . . . it used to be, anyway. Easthampton has gotten pretty trendy lately.)

Or take Turners Falls. Turners can create a born-again downtown arts and entertainment scene because Greenfield

is ready to pitch in with a culture of sprawling parking lots, spray-on nail jobs, abandoned river banks and flunk-out factories.

For every town that becomes a destination for dining, entertainment and the arts, there has to be a town willing to become a repository for Supersize Wal-Burgers and Targelopolises. For every town that becomes a nice place, another town needs to become a noplacé, squatting on a highway in the smog, a generic cog in a generic machine that is controlled from someplace else.

In short, some towns get the cachet and culture, others get the congestion and crap.

Not that there is anything wrong with it, however - not once you find your niche and play to your strengths. Not, that is, when you realize that there are a lot of great towns and a lot of nice towns, but that there are fewer and fewer towns in the area willing to be greatly crappy. Greenfield may not be turning into a nice town, but it is becoming a great town—a truly great and immaculately crappy town.

I can see the signs on I-91, near exit 27, enticing folks as they speed by on their way to Turners: "Greenfield! Somebody's Got To Do It!"

## WORD ON THE AVE

## Who are you voting for in Tuesday's presidential primary, and why?

Interviews and Photos by David Detmold



John McCain, because he's served us well in his years in Congress and the military. I call myself an independent, leaning Democratic. I agree with a lot of his views - not all of them: not his views on illegal immigration. But he's the most honest candidate out there.

- Rick Regan Gill



Hillary. Because of the fact she's a woman. I hear her commercials about putting money into education; I have three children. She's talking about tax breaks for middle class families. Too many families are one paycheck away from losing their house. I can relate.

- Michelle Smith Greenfield



I feel McCain is the most genuine of the Republicans. Hillary would make a fine president, with Bill advising her. We did pretty good up until 2000. Obama would make a fine president too, but he wouldn't have as good a chance, number one, because he's black, and number two, because people say he lacks experience. On election day, I'll vote for the lesser of two evils.

- Ian Ledford, Turners



Clinton. She has experience, with her husband. She's familiar with foreign policy, and she knows the issues.

-Karen Downs, Greenfield

(NO PHOTO) I really like Barack Obama. I moved here from Chicago, so I had some experience with him as our senator. He's got a good heart. He's the best guy. - Kiersten Hanna, Dummerston, VT



I'm ashamed to say, I'm looking at electability. The Supreme Court is at stake; that's my main concern. I don't think Clinton can beat McCain. Therefore I'm probably going to vote for Obama.

- Chris Janke Turners Falls



I think I've picked John McCain. I'm also a Navy vet. I was stationed in Pensacola, where he got his wings. I like all his messages, and he's a conservative Republican.

- June Escott Scarborough, ME and Greenfield



I've been waffling between Obama and Dennis Kucinich. Kucinich represents my values, and Obama seemed pretty electable. But now that Kucinich has dropped out, I'll go with Obama. I'm excited to not vote for a white male.

-Rebecca Sletcher Northampton

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**SALMON** from page 1

year's 141 sea run returns - 121 salmon possibly raised and released by some hopeful school kids, fish that had spent the past two or so years at sea, dodging predators, seeking out food, and finding their way back home - were destined not for reproduction but for destruction. I turned to my own resident salmon expert, conveniently lounging in bed beside me: my husband Ben.

For the past ten years, as an aquatic ecologist at the Silvio Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center in Turners Falls, Ben has led a team of scientists and resource managers who mix and match salmon mates, using genetic marker-assisted broodstock management techniques to better understand the factors limiting restoration and population growth of Atlantic salmon.

"What does she mean," I asked, "that they have to destroy all those salmon?"

"Not just the salmon," he said, regretfully, "but all their eggs too." He'd just spent over a week at Cronin playing matchmaker for those 121 doomed salmon. Turns out, as Ms. Sanders explained, ovarian samples from two of those returning adult fish were infected with Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus or IPNV, a potentially lethal disease in salmon. And so, as a precaution to prevent the possible spread of the disease, all of the adults, and over seven hundred thousand of their eggs, were slated for destruction at the hands of the hatchery managers who had tended and cared for these precious wild fish.

As one who'd killed many a fish for research, but who towards the end of her career could barely kill a minnow, I couldn't imagine how they must have felt.

"I was devastated," said Mickey Novak, hatchery manager for the Cronin station, speaking of the drastic measures required to stay the spread of IPNV. "I've tested thousands of samples. I've never had to do

this in my entire career."

On the other hand, noted Novak, "had we missed those eggs, once they hatched (fertilized salmon eggs from Cronin are transported to the White River National Fish Hatchery in Bethel, VT), they could have contaminated the entire Connecticut River watershed with IPNV - and other susceptible species like bass and trout could easily have been wiped out." Humans, notes Novak, are not susceptible.

Because of the threat that sea-run fish may bring to not only their own progeny but to the program as a whole, salmon that come into the hatchery are run through a battery of tests for viral, fungal and bacterial diseases. Some tests rely on blood samples, while others like IPNV require different bodily fluids. In this case, ovarian fluid from strip spawned females is collected and sent to the Lamar Fish Health Center, U.S. Fish Wildlife Service, in Lamar, PA, where it is cultured for IPNV.

According to Trish Barbash, assistant fish health biologist at Lamar, who tested those samples, "IPNV is endemic to freshwater rivers and streams in the northeast and may actually have originated here in Brook Trout... This is the first occurrence of IPNV in Northeastern wild Atlantic salmon since many of these restorations began." That is, in the over 30 years since efforts to restore Atlantic salmon stocks began, this disease has never once been detected in Atlantic salmon returning to natal rivers along the northeast coastal United States. Additionally, as Barbash noted, though the disease is endemic in

Pennsylvania and some other Northeastern states, it has not been detected in Massachusetts rivers and streams in any species.

Where did the strain infecting the Cronin salmon come from? Barbash's analysis reveals that the virus infecting the Cronin salmon is not a known North American strain, but is genetically more similar to a Canadian genotype. So, it is unlikely that the salmon were infected with IPNV during their life stages in the waters of the U.S., but may have come in contact with Canadian or

first appearance of IPNV in wild U.S. salmon stocks, IPNV is well known in Europe, particularly in (or perhaps thanks to) European fish farms in Norway, Scotland and Ireland. Because of its impact in Europe, it is currently considered the most important viral disease for salmon in the European Union. Several years ago, IPNV was estimated to cost Norwegian salmon farms upwards of 100 million kroner. In case you haven't traveled to Norway lately- that's roughly 20 million dollars. And, IPNV is just one disease of many endemic to

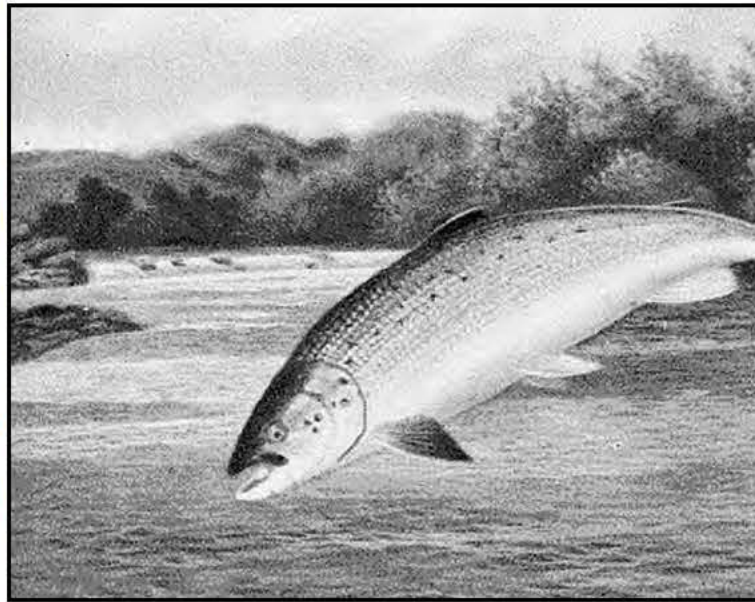
infected fish shed virus in feces, urine, dead and dying fish into surrounding waters. And, according to some reports, IPNV can survive up to twenty days in seawater. As wild salmon migrate past infected Norwegian or, say, Scottish fish farms, though they may flip a fin at their captive cousins, they may also swim away host to a deadly disease.

But wait, you say. What's fish in farming Europe got to do with Connecticut River salmon? It's a big ocean after all - hard to imagine our small fry out there mingling with the Euro crowd.

Yes there's lots of wide-open space out there in the North Atlantic. But, in the ocean, as on land, migrating animals tend to follow the beaten path, so to speak, or in this case ocean currents. So after spending two to three years, half their lives, in freshwater rivers and streams around the Valley, the salmon that many of us gently tip from PVC buckets, increase in size and grow into sea-ready salmon smolts, and head on out into the big blue. There, according to Janice Rowen of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Connecticut River coordinator's office, "They migrate to the North Atlantic following ocean currents. They spend a couple of years off the west coast of Greenland feeding, and sometimes, rarely, they stray further east. European salmon may mix with North American salmon there. But, the majority of European salmon seem to migrate to an area closer to Europe, near the Faroe Islands." Large quantities of capelin are apparently at least one attraction, as salmon from afar mix, mingle, gorge, and - as with any crowd anywhere - share disease before heading back from whence they came.

For years, Mickey Novak has been sampling - looking out for what wasn't there. Thanks to Mickey, Jan, Trish and others who patiently sample and test, year in, year out, it still isn't.



*Before the virus salmon leaped like this in the Connecticut River*

European fish carrying this virus strain during their migration in the ocean. As Novak explained, back in the dark ages of conservation, the late 1800s, IPNV was likely transported from the U.S. to Europe along with native brook trout. Over the past 100 years all sorts of trout and their associated diseases have crossed the Pond, in tanks rather than under their own piscine power, thanks to our incessant meddling, and

over the years, IPNV has diversified into a whole range of different strains. These strains are geographically scattered across the world, but not necessarily out of reach of the Connecticut River Atlantic salmon when one considers their migratory trek.

Ironically, though this is the

bagel, cream cheese and, you guessed it - salmon. Salmon that likely traveled from a farm in Norway, Scotland, Chile or maybe Canada to my breakfast plate. As we all know, viruses thrive when their hosts gather in high densities, be it a crowded airport, our kid's classrooms, or a fish farm. So while scientists estimate the prevalence (or number of existing cases) of IPNV to be very low in wild fish populations - making this year's finding of IPNV in wild North American stock all the more important - that is not the case in fish farms.

Fish farms may be, according to a recent report by the Norwegian Seafood Federation's aquaculture division, "the most important reservoir of IPNV virus in the aquatic environment," as



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## MCTV Schedule: Channel 17 Feb. 1st - 7th

### Friday, February 1

8:00 am Montague Update: Jamie Berger  
9:00 am Montague Select Board (1/28/08)  
11:00 am Birds of Prey  
12:30 pm Enjoy the Ride  
1:00 pm MCTV Video Camp  
1:30 pm Over the Falls: The Big Read  
6:00 pm Bermanke  
7:00 pm GMRSD Meeting (1/29/08)  
9:30 pm Chronicles of Czestochowa: Vol 24  
10:30 pm Discovery Center: Open Mic Night

### Saturday, February 2

8:00 am Bernake  
9:00 am GMRSD Meeting (1/29/08)  
11:00 am Chronicles of Czestochowa: Vol 24  
12:00 pm Discovery Center Open Mic Night  
6:00 pm Veteran's Day 2007  
7:00 pm Montague Update: David Detmold  
8:00 pm Road to Recovery: Helping Families Find Recovery  
9:00 pm UN Panel  
11:00 pm Silly Wizard: Fantasy Fish

### Sunday, February 3

8:00 am Veteran's Day 2007  
9:00 am Montague Update: David Detmold  
10:00 am Road to Recovery: Helping Families Find Recovery  
11:00 am UN Panel  
1:00 pm Silly Wizard: Fantasy Fish  
6:00 pm Montague Update: Steven Stoia  
6:30 pm Special Town Meeting (1/23/08)  
9:30 pm Independent Voices 41  
10:00 pm Living in the Shadow of Vermont Yankee  
11:00 pm Physician Focus: Weight Loss Surgery

### Monday, February 4

8:00 am Montague Update: Steven Stoia  
8:30am Special Town Meeting (1/23/08)  
11:30 am Independent Voices 41  
12:00 pm Living in the Shadow of Vermont Yankee  
1:00 pm Physician Focus: Weight Loss Surgery  
6:00 pm Veteran's Day 2007  
7:00 pm Montague Select Board: (Live)

9:00 pm Chronicles of Czestochowa: Volume 25  
9:30 pm Bermanke  
10:30 pm Cities and Town Build our Economic Future  
11:00 pm Coffee House Series: Fabulous Maurice

### Tuesday, February 5

8:00 am Veteran's Day 2007  
9:00 am Chronicles of Czestochowa: Volume 25  
9:30 am Bermanke  
10:30 am Cities and Town Build our Economic Future  
11:00 am Coffee House Series: Fabulous Maurice

6:00 pm Montague Update: David Detmold  
7:00 pm GMRSD (1/29/08)  
9:00 pm UN Panel  
11:00 pm Silly Wizard: Sharpy Show

### Wednesday, February 6

8:00 am Montague Update: David Detmold  
9:00 am GMRSD (1/29/08)  
11:00 am UN Panel  
1:00 pm Silly Wizard: Sharpy Show  
6:00 pm Independent Voices: 41  
6:30 pm Road to Recovery: Investing in Treatment  
7:30 pm Seabrook 1977  
9:00 pm Montague Update: Jamie Berger

10:00 pm Great Falls Middle School Soccer  
11:00 pm Power Canal Draw Down

### Thursday, February 7

8:00 am Independent Voices 41  
8:30 am Road to Recovery: Investing in Treatment  
9:30 am Seabrook 1977  
11:00 am Montague Update: Jamie Berger  
12:00 pm Great Falls Middle School Soccer  
1:00 pm Power Canal Draw Down  
6:00 pm Montague Update: 3 D Collaborative  
6:30 pm Child and Family: Children's Mental Health  
7:00 pm Montague Select Board: (2/4/08)  
9:00 pm Common Man Eric Goodchild  
10:00 pm Veteran's Day 2007  
11:00 pm Mik TV

### SLATE from page 2

experienced knitter," stated Castro-Santos, "but she is happy to work with those who have never knitted. It's a nice social event. We have people coming from surrounding towns, and we're always getting new book titles in crocheting, needlework, and knitting."

In addition, classes from the Gill elementary school visit the library with their teachers. All the children have library cards and can take out books. The Slate also has a computer which is open to the public free of charge. Castro-Santos noted, "We're hoping to get high-speed, wireless Internet, so people can use their laptops."

Another exciting offering at Slate is a popular summer reading program on Saturday mornings. "It's a way to help kids continue their reading on an independent basis during the summer," said Carlos-Santos. "We had 60 children enrolled last year. This year we're calling our program 'Get Wild About Reading At Your Library.' And we've already started planning for it."

Different performers have descended upon Slate Library in past summers, entertaining the young children at their reading program. The list of artists includes musicians, puppet troops, and even jugglers.

With the increasingly difficult

economic conditions facing local towns these days, Carlos-Santos said, "We're on a wait-and-see basis at the library. We're open only 14 hours a week as it is. It would be very sad if our hours would be reduced."

Library patrons love their charming, nearby library. Sally Shaw, along with her husband and 10-year-old-daughter Celia, think the world of Slate Library. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw have been coming to the building since they moved to Gill in 1998.

"We can find the books my husband and I both want," stated Shaw. "My husband's reading tastes are very eclectic---comedies, mysteries, and fantasies. I like non-fiction or classical fiction. Despite our disparate leanings, our family can always find good things to read here. Our library is simply the 'destination resort' for Gill residents. This is the place to go now after the Gill Store closed."

Perhaps their daughter Celia, who is in the fourth grade at the local elementary school, best sums up the importance of the Slate Library to the community.

"I love the library for two reasons," she observed, "reading and seeing my friends."

The library is open to the public from 2 to 6 p.m. on Monday, 2 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

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### SELECT from pg. 1

had sent a letter that was read to those in attendance. The letter stated that the library fully supported the move and that the old location was "disruptive to the vote counters as well as library patrons" and that the library needed to remain "vigilant in our purpose" to serve the community.

Addressing Bourbeau in a raised voice, Singleton countered: "This information seems to have come after a decision was already made. You seem to be completely unwilling to admit there's a possible effect on voter turnout." In an attempt to defuse the tension, Select Board member Allen Ross said: "The good news is that, if this is the challenge to democracy we're facing, we are in good shape. Given the things we read about fraudulent counts, voting machines that don't work...if voting in town plummets we'll re-look at the location. Right now it's an awful lot of energy being spent on a minor problem".

Montague Resident John

Reynolds pointed out that some felt they had been excluded from the decision making around the polling location in the first place, and that had been the true issue. "The point is, a little more public discussion of this would have been better. That would have been a lot more work but it's how democracy works. This is only an issue now because we didn't pre-think it."

### Railroad Salvage Owner Heading to Court

In other news, building inspector David Jensen gave a report to the board about the ailing Railway Salvage Building. In recent times bricks have fallen from the building and most recently a large piece of the building's wall collapsed. "The owner is incapable of comprehending his plight," Jensen told the board, "and at this point us telling him things will do nothing. We need the courts. Efforts on his part have been truly marginal." The board supported Jensen's plan to continue speaking with an attorney for the town. "We need to take the most aggressive

stance that we can take", said Selectman Ross.

Speaking to The Reporter later, Jensen said the owner of the building was "pursuing a dream, instead of fixing what's real."

### Ancil on St. Anne's

On a more hopeful note, John Ancil of the Swift River Group was on hand to talk with the board about the continuing plans of the group to buy St. Anne's Church from the Springfield Catholic Diocese and to convert the church into a live music venue. "We want to develop it along the lines of something like Club Passim in Cambridge, MA," said Ancil referencing the world famous folk club. "A soft venue, if you will, that would attract the sort of material you see on PBS and shows like 'Austin City Limits.'" Although Ancil noted that the project was still at "the exploratory stage" he expressed cautious optimism that the project was indeed moving forward, with a February 29th closing date for the sale of the property from the Diocese

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Regional Four-Town K-12 School District Proposal Moving Forward

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

When Wendell's January 23rd Selectboard meeting began, the Finance Committee was still interviewing Barbara Caruso in their office to fill a vacant seat on their committee. Her qualifications satisfied them, they nominated her and brought her in to meet the Selectboard which approved her appointment, and placed her on the Committee effective immediately.

The Fin Com also spoke with the Selectboard about a variety of issues: the agreement for sharing capital expenses with New Salem, wages of town employees, and the ongoing effort by Orange and Petersham to create a four-town K through 12 school district with Wendell and New Salem. Michael Idoine of the Fin Com said that before the end of the process, the Selectboard would probably want to get involved. Tony Palmieri, Steve Varney from the New Salem Selectboard, and Randy Gordon from the New Salem School Committee had attended the K through 12 meetings, and had questions about the origins of the regionalization committee.

An initial four-town boiler plate agreement has already been drafted but it leaves many concerns unanswered, such as the fate of Erving, Leverett and Shutesbury if Wendell and New Salem leave Union 28. State Representative Chris Donelan says that Department of Education support for the four-town K - 12 district is so strong that the DOE feels that the Union 28 issue should not be a major obstacle.

A four-town region would still fall short of the 2500 student target that Governor Patrick and the DOE set for school districts.

Concerning Swift River School finances, Idoine said there are three types of expense, each of which may be shared according to various guidelines. The Fin Com has consistently favored paying for operating expenses with each town assessed by the number of students it sent in the prior year and according to the original contract with New Salem. That approach is defined as the alternative method of assessment. (They have sent a letter to both the Swift River School Committee and the

Mahar Regional School Committee stating their position.)

Long term capital expenses have been set by each town's number of students in the year prior to when the loan was taken out.

Short term capital expenses have been shared by the towns in the same way. Idoine favored sharing all capital expenses evenly, 50-50, as more fair and less confusing, but changing that arrangement would require amending the original contract.

Selectboard Chair Ted Lewis commented that he had favored that approach 35 years ago.

The Fin Com and the Selectboard also shared information about wages of town employees, cost of living increases, and the idea of allowing more leave time as likely more valuable to an employee than a 3% raise. Selectboard member Christine Heard questioned whether a driver with ten years of experience got the same pay as a newly hired driver. Apparently, except for a short probationary employment, that is true.

In other business it was noted

that the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency sent Wendell a dividend check of \$29,000.

Also, The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is offering the service of Paul Swem for computer assistance at the rate of \$45/hour. Town workers can use his help without going through the process of a RFP. Heard wondered if the school could take advantage of this offer as well.

The Montague Emergency Management Director asked if Wendell would be interested in using their service since Wendell's own emergency coordination and dispatch is currently out of service. Selectboard member Dan Keller stated that he had no problem with that, and Lewis said the Selectboard should forward that request to Police Chief Ed Chase, and Fire Chief Everett Ricketts to see if either of them had objections.

The FRCOG sent the town a memorandum of an agreement about a clean energy future, with no binding acceptance necessary at this time. Meetings will be Tuesday January 29th at

7:00 at the Greenfield Community College downtown campus, Thursday January 31st at the Buckland town hall, and Saturday February 2nd at the Orange town hall.

On Sunday January 13th Heard met with Kate Nolan, chair of the Community Garden Committee and together they staked out a possible site for a shed to be shared by the Community Garden and the Landscape Committee. Snow fell that evening and buried the stakes, but Heard suggested that other Selectboard members check the location and consult with other people who might have a concern, for example, the road crew who will plow the parking lot, and the town custodian who will need to get a snow blower in and out of the shed.

Finally, Town Coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that the Septic System Construction account has \$429 remaining with the project now completed, the Library construction account has \$11,000, and Town Office Construction account has \$57,000. This money may be used as part of the first USDA loan payment.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Public Hearing for CDBG Grant Focuses on New Senior Center, 0% Rehab Loans

BY NICHOLE CLAYTON

The January 28th Erving Selectboard meeting began with a public hearing to review the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) request. The money--yet to be determined-- that the town expects to receive by July 1 is earmarked for two major projects: design of the Erving senior center and low-income home rehabilitation loans. The loan grant will give income eligible homeowners the opportunity to take out a loan at 0% interest to make necessary repairs to their homes. Even better is the provision that the

loan does not have to be paid back until the sale or transfer of the home.

John Catlin, the architect hired by the town of Erving to do a feasibility study for the new senior center, did a presentation on the type of building he feels is appropriate for the parcel of land, as well as the type of use the town is proposing for the building. The new senior center will be erected adjacent to the elementary school on Route 63. The folks attending the meeting were very receptive to the proposal. If all goes as planned, the senior center project is

looking like it will come into being in approximately two years.

The finance committee met with the board of selectmen and went over the FY09 budget for the first time. Though things are looking tight, the committees noted that there seemed to be adequate finances to fund the necessary budget items for the coming year.

The board also signed two loans that were recommended by the Community Development Corporation as part of the Ten Town Loan Fund that is offered in Franklin County. A loan of \$13,000 with

an 8%-fixed rate was given to Sangha Farm of Ashfield MA to purchase equipment to start an organic goat cheese operation. A \$6000 loan, with a fixed 7.5% interest rate, was also issued to Four Winds School in Gill for working capital. These are short term loans that will be paid back to the county. When repaid, the funds will be loaned out to other businesses in need.

The Erving Board also signed a reimbursement request for \$68,047 that will be sent to the Massachusetts Highway Department for paving and catch basin work.

A business license was

issued to TOPS -- a weight loss organization that meets at the town hall one evening a month.

Resident Susan Smith approached the board out of concern. She feels that the sewer mains that connect to her home are in need of inspection and repair. The board assured her that it would be looked at as soon as weather permits.

The next select board meeting will be held in joint with the Cable Committee as a public hearing at the elementary school at 6:30pm on February 4, 2008.

Advertisement for Nancy L. Dole Books & Ephemera, featuring a vintage car illustration and contact information: 413-625-9850, ndole@crocker.com.

Comic strip titled 'WILL VALLEY' by Karen Wilkinson, showing a man on a TV screen and a woman reacting to a stimulus package offer.

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Advertisement for Liebenow Auto Body, 'WE DO THE COMPLETE JOB', listing services like insurance collision repairs and auto glass replacements.

Advertisement for Fretted Instrument Workshop, 'fine instruments bought and sold repaired and restored', located at 49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass.

Advertisement for Uping Gil, a farm store selling fresh milk, farmstead cheeses, eggs, and butter, located at 411 Main Road, Gill, MA.



# Clowns and Grannies on the Greenfield Common

**BY ALEX GOTTSCHALK GREENFIELD** - At 8:30 on the morning of Friday, January 25th, approximately thirty people braved the forbidding January temperatures and gathered on the Greenfield Common to show their disapproval of the ongoing war in Iraq and their support for Waffles T. Clown, aka J.J. Waffleman, aka Joshua Dostis. Dostis, of New Salem, had been arrested at the Big Y Plaza on December 6th, 2007. Dostis, himself a veteran, had spent more than an hour of that morning atop a former movie marquee sign that read: "Support Our Troops, God Bless America, 7,000 square feet of space for lease". Dostis, dressed as his own permutation of Uncle Sam ("Uncle Sammy") had covered the sign with his own banner bearing the legend: "Stop The War, Support The Vets, 6,256 Vet Suicides in 2005", while yelling anti-war slogans at passersby through a megaphone. Dostis, eventually taken off the sign by Greenfield police, was arrested and charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct. The demonstration slowed traffic and caused a jam in the Big Y parking lot.

Three other citizens were arrested that day. John Thomas McLean and Gail Noble Carson

(of Greenfield and Northampton, respectively) were charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct. Emily Peyton of Putney Vermont, was charged both with illegal taping of someone else's voice, as well

day, Gidseg has not complied with the Board's wishes. Dostis referred to the sign in his press release as "An illegal sign that supports an illegal war declared by an illegal president."

The January 25th gathering

Peace Demonstration, Illegal Photos of Greenfield Police" as well as "Admit One, GNFLD Court House".

In addition to Dostis and his supporters, the "Raging Grannies" made their presence

songs to address current social issues. There are granny "gaggles" worldwide, including several in Massachusetts. In addition to singing "Study War No More" the grannies also rallied those present with their version of "Yankee Doodle Dandy", with new words criticizing President Bush and his administration.

Dostis briefly addressed those gathered after the group marched from the common to the steps of the Court House. After reiterating the importance of the First and Fourth Amendment Dostis said, "Thank you all for coming, you fill my heart with hope", before changing into his old army fatigues for the courtroom.

The result that day was an anti-climatic rescheduling of the pretrial hearing for February 29th. Dostis/Waffles was not allowed by the Court to make a statement.



as trespassing and disorderly conduct. Peyton had been present at the protest and had videotaped it from the parking lot of the plaza and then her car. She was ordered to stop taping and to leave the lot by police. When she didn't, she was arrested by the police and her video camera confiscated.

There had been some dispute prior to that day over the sign that Dostis had covered. The Greenfield Zoning Board had declared it illegal since the sign was no longer being used for its original purpose, and the Board ordered its owner, Barry Gidseg, to take it down. To this

was billed the "Speak Truth To Power Rally" and was organized by Dostis to drum up publicity for the pre-trial hearing of Dostis, Peyton, McLean and Carson, now known as the "Greenfield Four." The four were scheduled to appear in the Franklin County Court House later in the morning.

Orange and black tickets had circulated throughout Greenfield for several weeks prior to the 25th rally. The tickets, imprinted with a clown face with a peace sign bore the charges "Illegal Trespass On Public Property, Disorderly

felt on the common. Founded in British Columbia in 1987, this activist group consists of women ranging in age from their fifties to their eighties who dress in parodic clothes that tweak the image of elderly women. The grannies also rework the lyrics of well known

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

#### Assaults and Under The Influence Again

**Tuesday, Jan. 22**

7:15 a.m. Medical emergency on Swamp Road. Assisted subject until ambulance transportation.

**Thursday, Jan. 24**

9:30 a.m. Report of Assault and Battery at French King Motel. Assisted subject in retrieving property. Verbal altercation. Advised of options.

3:38 p.m. Medical emergency on Old State Road.

9:20 p.m. Report of erratic operation of motor vehicle on Route 2 at Bowling Alley. Stopped same, subject on her

cell phone.

**Saturday, Jan. 26**

2:05 p.m. Assisted Northfield Police with suicidal male at Northfield Mountain Ski Area. Subject transported by ambulance.

9:44 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, subsequent offense (5th) and marked lanes violation.

**Sunday, Jan. 27**

1:22 a.m. Report of domestic

disturbance. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for domestic Assault and Battery and Assault and Battery on a police officer.

8:30 p.m. Assisted Montague Police with domestic assault and two arrests.

**Monday, Jan. 28**

1:30 p.m. Traffic stop for BOLO out of Northfield, arrested [redacted]

[redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] for

probable cause for Northfield Police for Breaking and Entering, Malicious Destruction of Property over \$250 and

Larceny over \$250.

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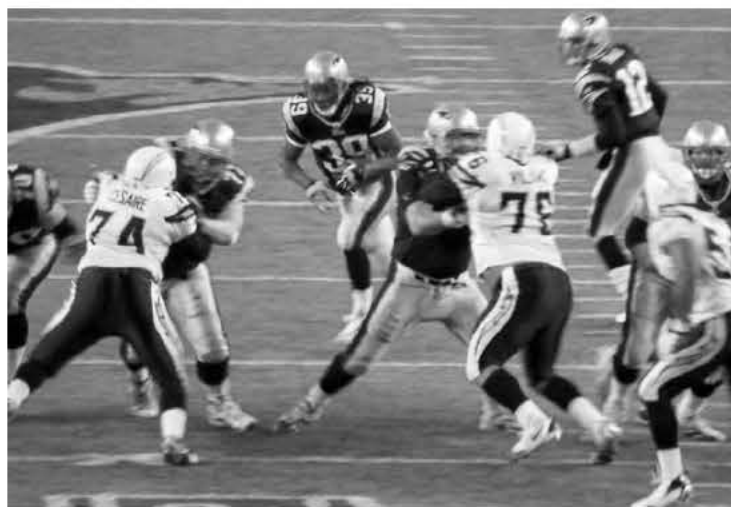
# Dream Game Not So Dreamy

BY DENIS BORDEAUX

It finally happened! Deep down you knew it could, but really, chances were slim that it actually would. Back in the black and white 50's every Sunday the old Zenith would crackle with understated game time excitement. Our home team was on and just like pot roast, and church at St. Johns in Millers, it was a Sunday ritual. Trouble was, our home team came from 200 plus miles away in Gotham (N.Y.C.).

For those of you born unfortunately too late to be baby-boomers, there were no New England Patriots back then, not even Boston Patriots. We were Giants fans! Giants starting lineman Andy Robustelli had a little Italian restaurant, slash pizza parlor, slash beer joint right across Barton Cove in Riverside. The team was filled with stars like Grier, Katkavage, Moduleski, Shofner, Connelly, Huff, and, of course, "The Giffer." They were good, contended for a title every year, and they were the only game in town. We couldn't help but be G-men.

Then in 1960 along came 10 to 12 golfing buddies wearing checkered pants or checkered sports coats (perhaps that was the cause of the insanity, but I'm betting it was cheap clubhouse booze), and they threw a couple of grand each in a pot and started what was at the time basically a semi-pro league, the A.F.L. But, it had a real home team, the Boston Patriots. Already being a dyed-in-the-wool kelly green, red sox red, and black and gold of Boston teams, it was natural to root for them right out of the chute. Anyway, you knew they'd never usurp the mighty football Giants of New York-and, yes, of New England. With names like Cappelletti and Parilli making headlines all the time, you swore it was "yooz know dat" Italian club from



"duh Nort End".

Even after the '67 merger and league-wide parity, the Giants and the Patriots had varying degrees of success and failure throughout the 70's. These were the beginnings of great double-headers every Sunday. If one lost, the other might win, salvaging your day. Both could win, and supper was tastier and M.A.S.H was funnier that night on T.V. Or both could lose, and - like when you catch the flu - you could mope around all week in double self-pity. Fantastic!

"The Show."

Not very possible, or so it seemed. But in the words of you-know-who, "it is what it is."

And now, it's happened! My long-time beloved "Gints" with heart-pounding, historic run through the N.F.C., beating hated Dallas and Green Bay along the way, going up against my beloved old rag-tag hometown team "The Pats," on the brink of historic perfection. Whenever I had mused about this game actually happening, I always dreamed a win-win sce-

nario; but truth is, it sticks. One of "my teams" will lose the Super Bowl. One may lose the chance ever again for a team to go undefeated. One may lose the chance to pull off one of history's great upsets. Phew! Be careful what you wish for, man!

I don't know about all you other G/P-men, and there are tons of us I know, but I haven't figured out a rooting strategy yet. I'm leaning towards cheering for a triple overtime game with Pats winning by one after Eli throws what seems like a t.d. to win it, but Rodney H. wrestles the ball away for a Pats win. The replays will be totally inclusive and we can argue about "the call" for the rest of our lives.

Or...they play ten o.t.s and finally give up in a tie with both teams getting rings, trophies, and Canton enshrinement for all, after playing the greatest game of all time, ever, period, ad infinitum!!!

Prediction: Patriots 37, Giants 37.

(We can dream, can't we?)

## DEFINITELY ON THE BEATEN TRACK

# Green Fields Market Publishes New Cookbook

BY FLORE

This was the welcoming sound that would shake our whole household!

It seemed to resonate from yonder walls and roof!

As children, if we happened to be climbing trees, or doing loops with the swings, or even playing a game of "hide and seek," everything would come to a stand still.

"A table!" (Time to eat!) The clock would strike its twelve rings, it was midi... (twelve noon)

The nearby church, would confirm punctually the time.

If we were at school, we

would rush home like a Discovery shuttle!

The adults would close their books or whatever activity they would be up to.

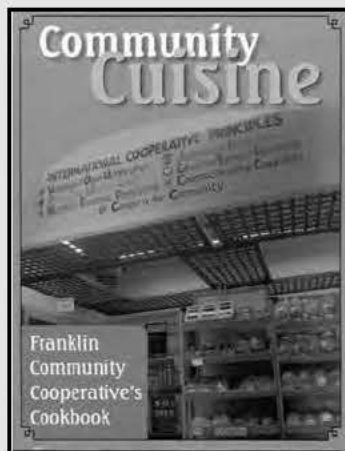
Everyone converged towards a room considered sacred, then...

The dining room! This dining room of our youth has now regained its laurels!

Believe me, be prepared to taste the finest recipes.

Who is responsible for this culinary renaissance?

Announcing a soft, illustrated bound book, 136 pages, fresh off the press: the



Franklin Community Cooperative Cookbook! Its 52 contributors share for us their spells for creative cuisine! It is a delight of inventive mix-

tures, from people who know their way around the kitchen! The kind of recipes your tongue remembers having tasted, you know, centuries ago.

The book is divided clearly into six parts.

The first literally tempts you from the start, with unbelievable colorful appetizers.

Secondly, the book offers soup recipes galore. You are able to turn magically into a Julia Child!

The third section keeps you heading toward fabulous giddy entrees.

The fourth asks, do you still have "un petit creux" (a little

space left)? The vegetables arrive as reinforcements.

Fifth, the dessert battalion offers you enough sugar for your sweet tooth. Siesta time?

That is a good time for reading the sixth part of the cookbook, a refresher on kitchen basics, in order to prepare your menus, almost one new one for every 364 days to come!

Where to get this gem?

At the Green Fields Market, of course, 144 Main Street in Greenfield, and all the coops in the county and beyond! Its modest cost? \$8

Enjoy.

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ILLUSTRATION BY ANJA SCHUTZ

# THIS WILD PLACE: Good Timing

BY KARL MEYER

**GREENFIELD** - It is the last day of the first week of January, and its 50 degrees. Dusk is nearing in a bona fide January thaw, plunked down in the midst of global warming. I decide to let it cheer me.

Leaving work I make the two blocks for home, weighing the idea of a dusky walk. I've been enjoying them lately. The day's best moments thus far have been a mid-afternoon tryst with the sun on an outing for stamps. But there's a tangible wildness and mystery to dusk that appeals to me.

As I pass the last driveway before mine I hear shoveling, my neighbor Tracey. I haven't seen her for in a bit; this is good timing. A pitched roof slumped snow into her path. I remark on the work and she turns, surprised and smiling. We exchange New Years greetings and chat above a quiet shovel-work, holidays, exercise. We promise to catch up further.

I drop my bag in the door and decide a blinking answering machine can wait. Buoyed by warmth and lingering light, I head back out. Streetlamps are flickering along side streets. At a little hollow on School Street an apparition catches my eye, as if it simply materialized from between houses and shrubs. The thick, stubby, shadow crosses 40 feet ahead, giving a flap or two. It glides and then settles onto a patch of bare ground.

As it swooped past I noted a rounded head and shortish tail, unmistakably an owl. But it's too big to be a screech owl (urban/suburban); and seems too small to be a great horned owl (also urban/suburban) in this setting. The middle choice is a barred owl, a more woodsy creature to my mind. It seemed a bit small for that too.

For a split second I try out

short-eared owl, though there's virtually no habitat for it here. Friends have been reciting owl sightings to me lately. Their descriptions are always mysterious; hard to pin down: it was very light colored; it didn't move; sitting in the same place every day; big. Always their guesses are of something exotic, uncommon: barn owl (nearly impossible); snowy (unlikely but not impossible). Caught up in their spirit, I've dismissively mentioned short-eared owls: (rare and unlikely, though not impossible).

I wake myself: this is not going to be a short-eared owl. I slow, and keep what I think is the owl's shadowy, upright silhouette in my sights. There are snow-banks in this section. I'm walking on the street. I can either move to the cleared sidewalk, making a closer approach, or keep to the pavement and leave the owl more room. Having some history with owls, I make my best guess about this one's boundaries and keep to the pavement. Given the exquisite engineering of this creature, it's certainly noted my clunky presence. You don't sneak up on owls.

So I keep on, through the half-dusk, slowing to a halt when I'm abreast and just 30 feet away from this shadow. A low snow pile separates us. As expected, the owl swivels its softball-sized head nearly 180 degrees and stares at me. It's a barred owl, smack in the throws of suburbia. My notions of this hunter will have to shift a little.

Standing still, my eyes widen. I blink back. But it doesn't spend long sizing up my bulk. Shortly, it rotates its stare back to the work of early evening, hunting an open patch of ground sheltered by cedars.

I watch quietly a minute or two more. When the owl turns

to me again, briefly, then goes back to work, I decide it's time for me to move on. I nod, walking unhurriedly down the street. This interaction too has been timely and neighborly - I didn't disturb the wild business at hand. A block or two on, my friend Joe comes bundling past on his bicycle. He's out in rain, snow or cold, his blinking light keeping him visible on early January nights.

I call to him. We stop and trade stories: my fresh one

about the owl, his recent one about a hawk strafing his feeder. Dark is approaching. Joe heads off with my call for him to get a helmet ringing in his ears.

I continue a twilight neighborhood circuit, finally reaching home under starry skies. The blinking answering machine contains a curious dinner invitation, weeks in advance, a menu filled with wild game. This fills out a curiously wild suburban evening.

The next morning I retrace

part of my walk in bright sunlight; I'd lost a glove. My good timing continues. A mob of crows is screaming above the dense cedars where I lingered last night. I now know who's hidden there, resting among those dense, dusky branches.

Cooling thought: Plan now to start your own hothouse tomato seedlings in your own hothouse - so you won't still be relying on some Florida hothouse come late July.

## HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) are currently applying for funding for the Towns of Erving, Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, Montague, Northfield Rowe, Orange, Shelburne & 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.

The goal of this program is to enable low to moderate-income homeowners to bring their homes into code compliance, handicap accessibility, do needed repairs and weatherize their homes.

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

# In Household	Gross Annual Income
1	\$40,150.00
2	\$45,900.00
3	\$51,600.00
4	\$57,350.00
5	\$61,950.00
6	\$66,550.00
7	\$71,100.00
8	\$75,700.00

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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**MEETING** from pg 1

Pruitt, of the selectboard, noted that while the Gill school might be protected, the new provision would also allow three school committee members from Gill (half of the vote) to decide the fate of a Montague school. Finally, Steve Ellis of Precinct 4 spoke the thoughts of many when he replied, "There's no way to separate this decision from the political situation with the schools right now."

But local politics suddenly got shunted aside, and the constitution itself evoked when Robin Sherman asked whether the article might be amended to require that a two-thirds majority (instead of a simple majority) also be required of town meeting to approve closing a school. Attorney Russell Dupere, the lawyer for the school committee, responded that requiring a two-thirds majority vote from town meeting would violate the 14th Amendment to the Constitution that he summarized as "one man, one vote." When Ms. Sherman looked baffled, he added that the

"Brockton Case" also stipulated that only a simple majority could be required. He also emphasized that he had been assured by the Attorney General that the wording was correct. A still unsatisfied Sherman asked Montague's town counsel, Rich Bowen, from Kopelman & Paige, to weigh in on the matter. Mr. Bowen, who seemed startled that he'd actually been asked a question, flipped through the Massachusetts General Laws noting that a two-thirds majority was required to approve a wash house. He never did quite decide how or whether the 14th Amendment applied.

Eventually the change in the district agreement did pass, 45-21, but not before a standing vote needed to be taken. Next the amendment will be put in front of Gill town meeting. In order for it to be ratified, it needs to pass in Gill as well.

Another great debate took place during the discussion of Article 7, a proposal to appropriate \$81,080 for the purpose of purchasing mowing equipment for the Turners Falls Municipal Airport. Mike Sweeny, airport

manager, explained that now that the airport has 90 additional acres of property to mow, some of it a protected grassland habitat, upgraded services are needed. He explained that the majority of the cost will be reimbursed by the state and some will come from the Airport Enterprise Fund, which raised money through a timber harvest.

Immediately there were questions from the floor: Where would the equipment be kept? (The airport barn). Do we have insurance in case of accidents? (Yes) How long is the equipment expected to last? (10 years or so) What do we do now? (Contact mowing) How much do we pay? (\$38 an acre) Could we have a grazing program rather than a mowing program? (No.) Did you get actual bids for contract mowing? (No.) Who would drive and service the equipment? (We'll have to hire people; Sweeny volunteered to do some of the work). At this, Marge Levenson of the finance committee, stated that she was "not only stunned but aghast" that her airport manager would be mowing

the airport lawn instead of thinking creatively about bringing in revenue. Finally after some more debate, the article was moved and passed by a majority vote.

All other articles on the night's agenda moved along quickly. Article 1, appropriating about \$400 for a 2007 bill to the town clerk's office, was passed unanimously, as was Article 2, appropriating \$15,000 for replenishing the Reserve Fund. Chief Zukowski spoke to Article 3, appropriating \$4,800 for new defibrillators, and this vote passed quickly and easily. Article 4, appropriating \$25,000 for supplementing the Veteran's Benefits Account, also passed with no discussion.

Onto Article 5, which appropriated about \$18,000 for two students to attend Smith Vocational High School. Both students study animal husbandry, a program not offered at Franklin Tech. The state mandates that the town fund the costs of tuition and transportation for these students

since their program of study is not available within the county. This article passed by a majority vote. Article 6 posited an appropriation of over \$21,000 for replacing some sections of boiler at Hillcrest School. It passed unanimously, despite questions about some maintenance that was done to the boilers a mere three years ago.

It was getting late by the time Article 8 came around, formalizing an existing policy about Medicare. The tired town meeting crowd asked no questions of town planner Dan LaRoche when he spoke to Articles 10 and 11 regarding easements needed in the replacement of the Prospect Street bridge in Turners Falls. Lastly, and also passed unanimously at nearly 10:00 PM, was Article 12, ratifying an agreement between the Board of Selectmen and the Turners Falls Fire District in the construction of the new public safety complex.



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**  
**Larcenies and Disturbances**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p>1/23<br/>9:05 a.m. Report of accident with property damage at Seventh and L Streets in Turners Falls.<br/>11:03 a.m. Report of motor vehicle theft from Fourth Street address, Turners Falls. Under investigation.<br/>3:46 p.m. Report of burglary/breaking and entering from an East Main Street address, Millers Falls. Under investigation.<br/>7:34 p.m. Report of larceny from an H Street address, Turners Falls. Under investigation.</p> | <p>10:43 p.m. Unwanted Person at a Fourth Street address, Turners Falls. Subject taken into protective custody.<br/>1/24<br/>7:36 a.m. Report of accident with personal injury. Report taken.<br/>10:55 a.m. Report of larceny from Survival Center on Fourth Street, Turners Falls.<br/>11:30 a.m. Report of larceny from Second Street address, Turners Falls.<br/>3:29 p.m. Report of fight at</p> | <p>Turners Falls High School. Services rendered.<br/>6:54 p.m. Officer Wanted at an Avenue A address, Turners Falls. Peace restored.<br/>8:29 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Turners Falls Road address, Turners Falls. Peace restored.<br/>1/25<br/>2:03 a.m. Medical emergency at K Street address, Turners Falls. Subject removed to hospital.</p> |
|--|---|---|

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**THE HEALTHY GEEZER**

# Nicotine Gum

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ** -- Q. *My uncle used nicotine gum to get off cigarettes. Now he chews the gum all the time. Do you think he's hooked?*

Over-the-counter nicotine gum, which is sold under a variety of brand names, was introduced in the United States in 1984. Since then, there have been many reports of gum addiction. There are chewers who've been consuming in excess of 10 pieces a day for more than a decade.

Nicotine is an insidious and highly seductive drug that is responsible for making cigarettes an addiction. Nicotine gets into your brain, gives you pleasure and makes you want to come back for more. In addition,

nicotine helps you to concentrate and reduces anxiety. There are many drug experts who rank nicotine over alcohol, cocaine or heroin for creating dependence.

[Personal note: On the first day I tried a cigarette, I consumed an entire pack. I quit 38 years ago and still would love to have a cigarette.]

Each year, about two million Americans use nicotine gum to quit smoking. The nicotine level in the gum is much lower than it is in cigarettes. You're supposed to use the gum no longer than 12 weeks. More than half of those who use the gum stay with it for longer than six months.

The gum is available in 2-mg and 4-mg pieces. Users are instructed to use a piece of gum

every 1-2 hours for the first 6 weeks, then to reduce use to one piece every 2-4 hours for 3 weeks, and one piece every 4-8 hours for 3 weeks. In highly dependent smokers, the 4-mg gum is superior to the 2-mg gum.

Using nicotine gum can double the quitting success rate from about 10 to 20 percent. Most side effects such as a sore jaw or headache don't last long. If you absorb too much nicotine accidentally, you may suffer some dizziness, a racing heart, nausea, and insomnia.

If you try to stop chewing the gum and experience withdrawal symptoms, you're probably addicted to the nicotine. Symptoms include headaches, irritability, depression, and difficulty concentrating.

There's no proof - so far - that chewing nicotine gum for long periods is harmful. While

nicotine increases your heart rate and accelerates blood pressure, there is no known vascular or heart problems associated with long-term use of nicotine gum. One study has suggested that using the gum for a long time may lead to diabetes. Another study indicated that nicotine was linked to delays in the emptying of the stomach.

It's not the nicotine in cigarettes that kills you. Cigarette smoke is a complex mixture of chemicals produced by the burning of tobacco and the additives. The smoke contains tar, which is made up of more than 4,000 chemicals, including more than 60 known to cause cancer. Some of these substances cause heart and lung diseases, and all of them can be deadly.

One of the most cited problems with nicotine gum is the price. A daily supply of 10



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

pieces of the gum costs about the same as a pack of cigarettes. The price of gum-and cigarettes-varies widely. If you shop online and buy in bulk, you can get 2-mg generic gum for about 15 cents a piece. You can also get low-end cigarettes online for about \$1.50 a pack.

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

## ELVIS from pg 1

prerecorded fanfare, Elvis emerged from the bathroom, resplendent in a mightily grommeted white polyester jumpsuit and serious 70s shades. The folks near the stage roared their approval. Some of those further back looked a little confused.

Elvis smiled that familiar devilish sweet grin, picked up the mic, took the stage, and started to sing. Despite spotty sound quality, all the moves were there -- the windmilling arm, the thrusting hips, the moved-by-the-spirit of rock and roll shakes and kicks. When the music stopped, Elvis said, "Thank you, Thank you very much" just like you'd expect. And then, in her own disconcertingly girlish voice,

Erving's Laura Baxter Herbert, aka Lady Elvis, giggled nervously and attempted a little between-song banter. Soon though, she cued the next song and resumed channeling the King, singing and gyrating in what seemed to be an almost trancelike state.

Lady Elvis performed two full sets that included familiar hits such as "Heartbreak Hotel," "Are You Lonesome Tonight," and "Bossanova Baby," as well as a few obscurities. Herbert, who was born the year that Elvis died, estimates that she's been performing as Lady Elvis for about four years, but singing rather than lip synching for only the last two. Between sets, she offered an array of reasonably-priced Elvis-related paraphernalia (glue-on sideburns, 'I Love



Laura Baxter Herbert IS Lady Elvis

Elvis' buttons), all made by her at the Rendezvous' Craft Night on January 8, Elvis' birthday.

Despite several diehard fans, including one very enthusiastic chair-dancer and a fellow who announced that he'd eaten a peanut butter and banana sand-

wich that very day, the hipsters in the back proved hard to win over. Janel Nockelby, who had just returned from a month's sojourn in her native Northwest, did her best to set an example, squealing convincingly as she charged the stage for a kiss and a scarf, and showing off the actual blue suede shoes she just happened to be wearing. By the time "Can't Help Falling in Love" came up, the crowd had loosened up enough to sing along, and they took to the dance floor in earnest for the finale, "Suspicious Minds."

www.ladyelvis.com  
www.fletchermanzi.com  
www.rendezvousfma.com (check out the newly expanded menu!)



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# JEP'S PLACE: Faith, Hope and Other Disasters Part LXIV

## IMMUNITY AND SELF ESTEEM

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL** - Miss Pogoda could make a person feel good even when reprimanding.

"You boys look so nice," she said one day as she looked out at her classroom of grungy looking boys. "I wonder if we could start school with a nice clean shirt each Monday."

The boys were apt to wear the same shirt to school until the sleeves took on the sheen of

leather. Pants were changed with the seasons, but she let that go. Girls were no problem because they usually wore clean dresses and did not get them dirty the way the boys were apt to do. Though often, the girls had but one good dress to wear all year.

Even in High School, my sisters wore their one good dress all year washing it on weekends. My sister Irene always remembered the embarrassment of seeing other girls sporting a different outfit each day. But she kept her dress clean and it proved no deterrent to friendship.

Miss Pogoda allowed the boys to come to school bare foot after the first of May. But she would not tolerate dirty feet. Since there was no plumbing at the school, we washed our feet in a nearby brook if we got them dirty walking on the dirt roads. It would have been good if we'd drawn our drinking water from the brook, too.

The teacher rewarded boys by choosing among the best behaved to fetch the water from an old bachelor's dilapidated house diagonally across from the school. The slate roofed

house was collapsing around him. A school committee member had the water tested and found it highly polluted. From then on, we carried water from a farm farther away.

The farm water ran by gravity, through a lead pipe, a fair distance from up in a cow pasture dotted with meadow muffs. We dipped water out of the farm watering trough with a galvanized pail. The pupils all drank from the pail using the same dipper. The student body, on the whole, was remarkably healthy. Perhaps the constant exposure to a variety of germs served to build immunity. The school doctor put our little inoculation program in jeopardy by mandating that each student bring in his own drinking glass.

On a shelf by the water pail, we lined up an assortment of glasses and jelly jars, each labeled with the student's name on a piece of adhesive tape. The jars sat gathering dust while the

students continued taking turns drinking from the dipper.

Miss Pogoda never learned of our arrangement because she never drank from the pail, that was in the back hall out of her sight. In fact, other than drinking what she carried in a small thermos bottle, the sip or two of soup was the only thing we ever saw her eat or drink. The soup was part of our Hot Soup Program--2 cans of Campbell's Alphabet Vegetable Soup and 4 cans of water heated on a hot plate. At about a quarter to twelve, our teacher sent a couple of girls into the back hall to prepare the soup. Soon the mouth-watering aroma of vegetable soup drifted into the classroom, making my stomach rumble. I don't know why it was always alphabet soup. Perhaps the school committee felt it would be more educational. They were right, because we did try to arrange letters to spell out words. Though the soup was thin, it was hot and delicious compared to the jam or mustard sandwiches we brought from home.

The girls gave our teacher less soup stock, but extra vegetables and letters. Not completely selfless, they took turns polishing off Miss Pogoda's uneaten portion, out of sight in the back room where they washed dishes in a basin.

Since Miss Pogoda was completing her teacher training by internship rather than attending classes at Fitchburg State College, she needed to report there from time to time. She always brought back sorely needed school supplies. She departed the school Friday noon, leaving us on our honor, she said. No one uttered a word to breach the code of honor.

We'd sit quietly doing our school work until the end of the school day, lock the door, and leave.

The school committee heard rumors that Miss Pogoda was leaving the school unattended for half a day at a time, and decided to investigate and see, for themselves, what havoc we were creating. We spotted the group parking their car some distance away from the school and watched them out of the corners of our eyes as they crept up to listen at the window. The school room was as quiet as a cloistered convent. The school committee members looked in on a room full of silent kids bent over their work. They trudged back to their car, shoulders slumped in disappointment.

Soon after that, the school committee sent Miss Pogoda a problem kid from another school. The petite Miss Pogoda possessed a benevolent power to tame the most unruly child. Tommy was a product of a troubled home. Under Miss Pogoda's loving care, he strived to please her and soon excelled.

When I'd first started grade school with her, I spoke more Polish than English, because only Polish was to be spoken at home. But it didn't take me long to learn English. Later, she asked me to help an English speaking kid, which made me feel proud and happy. Miss Pogoda had no idea I was a bad boy and I felt a little guilty whenever she praised me. She even praised me for day dreaming - said I had a great imagination. She told me I was smart and caught on to reading easily. When I was in the fourth grade, Miss Pogoda announced she was getting married. Teachers could not marry if they wanted to teach, but love won out. We were ever so sad to see her go.

She said she left word for the new teacher to let me skip the fifth grade because I got good grades and knew the fifth grade work. With all eight grades in the same room hearing the lessons recited and watching the blackboard made it easy to learn ahead. We loved Miss Pogoda but never knew how good she was to us until we got the new teacher.

*Continued Next Week*



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### ERVING PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Erving's Cable Committee invites all residents to learn about the town's next contract with Comcast. Two hearings will be held, Monday Feb. 4th at Erving Elementary School at 6:30 p.m. and Monday Feb. 11th at Erving Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. This will be an important opportunity for town residents to express their priorities and concerns about our cable service from Comcast. Questions to 413-422-2800 Ext. 100.

### PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, General Laws, as amended, the inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that The Montague Parks & Recreation Department will be discussing the future development of Unity Park. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 20 at 7:00pm, at the Unity Park Fieldhouse, 56 First Street, Turners Falls MA. Public participation is encouraged.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1st**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: **Green Thumb Brothers** - Reggae, 9 to 11 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **TBA** - rock & roll covers, come dance! 9:30 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **DJ Pushplay & Iron City Jazz** a dance party, 9 p.m., \$3 cover.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1st & 2nd**  
Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: Local Award Winning Film Weekend, *The Nightingale Princess*, Hampshire College student film & *Darkon* - everybody wants to be a hero. On Saturday local filmmakers Christopher Dreisbach & Luke Meyer will be present to discuss these intricate and involving films, 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd**  
Groundhog Day Farmers' Market and Week of Winter Fare, 10 to 2 p.m. held at the Second Congregational Church, Greenfield. [www.buylocalfood.com](http://www.buylocalfood.com) or call Ferdene Chin-Yee (413) 665-2041.

All Out Adventure Winter Outdoor Recreation Programs: Wendell State Forest. **Every Saturday till February 23rd.** Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, kicksledding, ice skating, sled hockey & snowmobile rides. Pre-registration please. (413) 527-8980, [www.mass.gov/dcr/universal\\_access](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/universal_access).

Mardi Gras Dance, Potluck at the Montague Grange Hall, Montague Center. Potluck 6 - 7:30 p.m. Dance 7:30 - 11 p.m. Music by Bob Naess, Jon Bekoff, Paula Bradley, Liz

Toffey and friends. Mardi Gras costumes and cajun food encouraged. Donations welcome.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Usquabae Jazz** - Jazz, no cover. 9 to 11 p.m.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **TBA** - rock & roll covers, come dance! 9:30 p.m.

Mardi Gras Party with **Zydeco Connection**, 7-10 p.m. at Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main St., Northfield.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for gallery viewing. Louisiana gumbo and beverages on sale. (413) 498-0283 [www.greentreesgallery.com](http://www.greentreesgallery.com)

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **Ameri-MF-cana**: Ed Vadas and Sue Burkhart, 8 p.m., \$3

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd & 3rd**  
The Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts presents *Nunsense*, A Musical Comedy. at 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 3 at 2 p.m. Reserve tickets at 863-8333 or available at World Eye Bookshop.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd**  
Laughing Dog Farm workshop: *Starting Early Vegetables from Seed*: Seed handling, germination, choosing varieties, soil mixing, disease prevention as well as ways to grow and manage valuable seedlings in limited space circumstances. 10 to 12:30 p.m. Suggested donation of \$15-\$25. Followed by soup, bread and informal discussion. Limited to 12. RSVP [dbotkin@valinet.com](mailto:dbotkin@valinet.com)

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Adam Bergeron** - Classical Piano, no cover. 7 to 9 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **VOOPERBOWL I**, big game, big screen, snacks, it's a party in our living room.

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**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4th**  
"Meet the Artists" reception, 12 to 1



*Sue Burkhart and Ed Vadas "Ameri-MF-Cana" perform Saturday, February 2nd at The Rendezvous, 8 p.m. "An arresting blend of blues, folk, jazz, old timey, and purely original material performed in an eclectic, humorous, sophisticated, and slightly twisted manner." D. Sokol*

p.m., South Gallery, GCC. Display ed through Thurs., February 14th. Mon. - Thur. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Live jazz at Ristorante DiPaolo, Turners Falls, **Doug Hewitt** - guitar, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, 78 Third Street, Turners Falls: **Ghost Quartet**, progressive electric jazz trio with guests, 8 p.m., no cover.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5th**  
*The Plow that Broke the Plains* Historic documentary (1934) depicts the social and economic history of the Great Plains from the settlement of the prairies by cattlemen and farmers through the WWI boom to drought and depression, 30 min., 6:30 p.m. Deerfield Library.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Kellianna** - Acoustic, 8 - 10 p.m., no cover.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **Death Vessel**, 9 p.m., \$10 cover.

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7th & 8th**  
Choreography Showcase: Deerfield Academy dancers perform original pieces, from ballet to hip-hop and everything in between, 7:30 - 8:45

p.m., Memorial Building. Free and open to the public.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8th**  
Open Swim at Turners Falls High School Pool. Family Swim 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Adult Lap Swim 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Also March 7th.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Falls Coffee House, 7 to 9 p.m. **Amandla Community Chorus** performs music from around the world. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. \$6-\$12 donation.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **DJs' Holiday**: XML & TBA (lounge/dance) 9 p.m., \$1 cover.

**Chocolate Festival** at Harmony Lodge, Turners Falls. Hand dipped fruit, chocolate fountain, Valentine gifts. 10 to 2 p.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10th**  
Childrens' Music Show with singer/songwriter Sarah Pirtle, 1-2 p.m. at Greenfield Center School, 71 Montague City Road, Greenfield, 773-1700, FREE. Refreshments provided. Open House to follow, 2-4 p.m.

The Dead of Winter Film Series at the Montague Bookmill, Montague Center. Free film for the frozen: **Rebecca** (1940) Joan Fontaine and Laurence Olivier star in Hitchcock's classic.. 7 p.m. Food & drink at the Lady Killigrew & the Night Kitchen.

Rt. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Eat, Drink and Laugh at the Second Sunday Comedy series: **Smokin' Joe Holden, Heath Jennings and Dave Yubruh**. 7 p.m., \$5.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12th**  
The Montague Reporter Presents: A reading and publication of love poems -- the good, bad, ugly, bold, and beautiful. Come read your love poems at The Vou! 7 p.m. Submit your love poems for publication in The Montague Reporter's Valentine's Day edition by 2/12

## 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

## Upcoming at the Great Falls Discovery Center

[www.greatfallsma.org](http://www.greatfallsma.org) 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls  
Winter hours open: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday & by special arrangement 863-3221

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd**  
*Winter Birds*, join Refuge staff for bird walk along the canal and riverside. Meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 9 a.m.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8th**  
Great Falls Coffee House, 7 to 9 p.m. **Amandla Community Chorus** performs music from around the world. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. \$6-

\$12 donation suggested.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9th**  
Winter is Wonderful and Ice is Nice Join Gini Traub of DCR for this adventure. Become animals and discover ways to keep warm in winter. Bring your hat and mittens to see how they help keep us warm. Use ice to change cream into ice cream and taste its sweet-

**ONGOING**  
On display at Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls: Paul Taylor *Themes and Variations* at Gallery 85, Susan kae Grant *Night Journeys* at Gallery 52 & 56. Photographs displayed till March 16th.

**Memorial Hall Theater**  
**POTHOLE PICTURES**  
Friday & Saturday  
February 1st & 2nd at 7:30 p.m.  
**THE NIGHTINGALE PRINCESS & DAKRON**  
Local award-winning film weekend, with appearances by directors.  
Music before movie 7 p.m.  
Friday Abdul Baki & band - reggae & Saturday Fancy Trash - folk rock.  
51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

**GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS**  
Main St. Greenfield, MA 413-774-4881  
[www.gardencinemas.net](http://www.gardencinemas.net)  
Showtimes for Friday, Feb 1st - Thursday, Feb 7th  
1. JUNO PG13 DAILY 6:30 9:00  
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00  
2. ATONEMENT R DAILY 6:30 9:00 R in dts sound  
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00  
3. NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS PG MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00  
3. NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN DAILY 6:30 9:00 R  
4. THE BUCKET LIST PG13 DAILY 6:45 9:15  
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15  
5. CLOVERFIELD PG13 DAILY 6:45 9:15  
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15  
6. THERE WILL BE BLOOD R DAILY 7:00 in DTS sound  
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:30  
7. 27 DRESSES PG 13 in DTS sound  
DAILY 7:00 9:30 exct Sun. no 7 p.m.  
MAT FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30  
7. SUPERBOWL XLII Patriots vs Giants, 6 p.m. FREE

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## VILLAGE SKETCHBOOK

# The Bridge over the Millers

BY DAVID BRULE

**MILLERS FALLS** - The post card, mailed from upstreet in Millers on August 12th, 1916 arrived here the next day. It was addressed to Lizzie Smith, my great-grandmother, and it was sent from a friend in the village center. The message was just a simple hello. More than likely the two women hadn't seen each other for a while, even though they didn't live far from one another.

The post card made its way into a drawer upstairs with other souvenirs for 90 years or so, until I took it out the other winter day, remembering having seen it years ago. That's the way things work out this time of year, with a few hours to spend outdoors and the rest of the time for indoor chores, a good book, or in this case, a visit to the family souvenirs tucked away in various drawers, nooks and crannies. That's how it tends to be when you live in an old family homestead. The walls have memory, but beyond that, here and there are letters, postcards and pictures with legends on the back.

Now, because of that post card, plus the current state of affairs of the bridge over the Millers, and the way this day lends itself to some musing, slowly various mental pictures, bits of conversation and village lore begin rising to the surface. Before long, that picture postcard from 1916 has brought to mind a loosely connected story involving the bridge, a legendary parish priest known as Father Mac, plus another preacher from the Congregational Church, a wedge of chocolate cake, and my own grandfather, Abe.

Now, as a few long-time residents will testify, Abe was quite a colorful local character, who lived out his entire life in Millers Falls. He was instantly

recognizable by the way he wore his wool cap (he was never without it, indoors or out) which was always cocked at a rakish angle, his corn-cob pipe jutting out and set firmly between his teeth so that when he spoke, it was out of the corner of his mouth. He often had a shrewd

the pastors of the First Congregational Church in Millers, the picture of Rev. Charles Clark got Abe started, still protesting his innocence almost seventy years later. To hear him tell it, he was framed!

He claimed that he, an innocent child of ten years old,

River Street to tell his parents how he was so unjustly punished. Back up the street came Abe's father Judah, not one to spare the rod and spoil the child, but wanting to get the story straight first. (I wonder did Abe have that foxy gleam in his eye, or was he thinking he'd get wal-

concrete with bituminous concrete on top for a wearing surface," according to historical accounts.

This is where Father Mac comes in. He spent years in Millers Falls as the pastor of St. John's Church before being sent to another post in the early 50s.

He was an old-fashioned non-nonsense rough-hewn Irish priest with a hearty sense of humor, a contagious laugh, and a deep sense of enjoyment of the social life in the village. So of course, he and my grandfather hit it off well right away, two very hearty gents, full of life and mischief, both of whom filled the room when they entered. Considering that my grandfather was, shall we say, an outcast from the Protestant Church, when my Catholic Irish grandmother married Abe, Father McCormick became a fixture

in family life here, spending time in the warm kitchen of this old house when he got the chance. I do remember him myself.

Well, to tie this disconnected story together, it was Father Mac who was invited back to Millers Falls in 1954 to dedicate the new Vets Memorial Bridge, which is now taking so long to replace, by the way. He was the keynote speaker of the day, back in 1954, and according to the Montague Historical Review "he opened his talk by noting 'It's great to be home.'" Apparently, a First Congregational Church pastor was present also, a Reverend Lawrence, and he gave the benediction. I'm sure that both Abe and Father Mac gave each other a roguish wink at one point in the ceremony, and luckily, there was no chocolate cake within reach.



BRIDGE ACROSS THE MILLER RIVER, MILLERS FALLS, MASS.

*This postcard shows the bridge across the Millers River circa 1916. Postcard photo courtesy of David Brule.*

look in his eye, especially when he squinted at you while telling you a bold lie, or even a little fib, just to see if you believed him.

For example, he swore he had pet alligators in the pasture along the Millers, and they liked peanut butter sandwiches and could sing the "Beer Barrel Polka." And so on. You just never knew with Abe. So when he explained that he wasn't the one who hit the preacher in the forehead with a wedge of chocolate cake at the Congregationalist picnic in 1906, I didn't know whether to believe him or not.

All this came back to him, when in his seventies we were looking at the 1954 Montague Bicentennial book. I flipped the pages to the section on Millers Falls to see what he remembered from the historical pictures in the book. When I turned to the page with the pictures of

indeed was at the church picnic in 1906, and indeed maybe he was among some of the boys who were doing what most ten year old boys do, which is to get rowdy and unruly. And just maybe, he was one of the three boys who were winding up baseball style to throw pieces of chocolate cake at each other, EACH OTHER, not the preacher, when he, the truly innocent one, ducked as the first piece of cake left the hand of one of the boys and smacked that preacher on his venerable, substantial forehead.

Now, you didn't mess with men of the cloth in those days, and the Congregationalists didn't shrink away from corporal punishment, so my innocent bystander grandfather got caught by the nearest available appendage, which was his good-sized left ear, and got a good thrashing on the spot. So down came Abe to the farm here on

developed again once Judah talked with the pastor?)

Now Judah himself was an impressive man, well over six feet, a teamster for the Millers Falls Tool Company, a stalwart member of the volunteer fire department (Franklin Engine No. 2), and probably a close equal to the preacher in the eyes of some in the village. Judah had a few stern words with the Reverend Clark, and when father and son got back home, Abe was told that he no longer had to go either to Church or Sunday School ever again!

But to hear him tell it, he never got that flying cake accusation out of his system. So how does this story get back around to the bridge? It turns out that the bucolic scene pictured on the post card of a 15-foot-wide plank deck called the White Bridge was replaced in 1954 by "a 40-foot roadway with 7-foot sidewalks, a deck of reinforced

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