



JUMPING THRU HOOPS FOR LOW POWER FM

Will Montague Get Its Station?
Page 16



In Memory of
MOLLY KAYNOR

Page 6

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 14

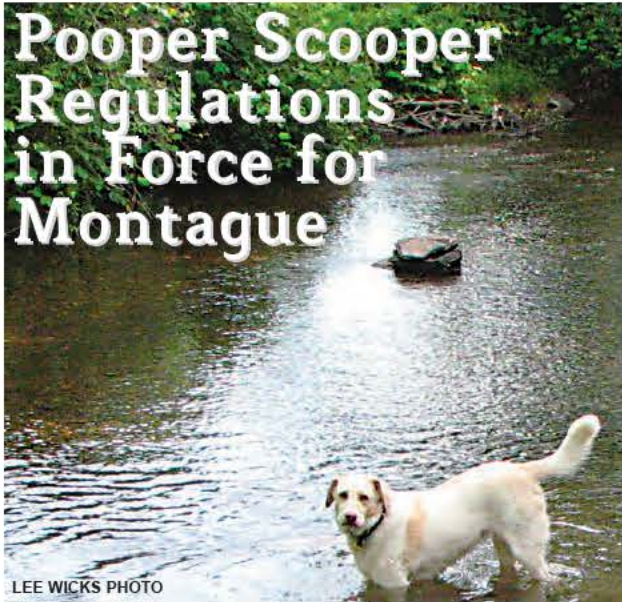
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JANUARY 6, 2011



Pooper Scooper Regulations in Force for Montague

LEE WICKS PHOTO

Iggy, happy and free.

But sometimes dogs go where it's hard to follow.

BY LEE WICKS - Montague is a haven for dogs and dog lovers, and an ordinance adopted by the board of health on July 21st, 2010 and effective after August 10th, 2010, aims to keep it that way — for dogs and people alike.

The Pooper Scooper - Dog and Cat Fouling regulation requires that, "Anyone who owns or controls a dog or cat within the town limits of Montague remove and dispose of feces left by said animal."

This does not mean kicking the matter off the path and into the bushes. It means carrying a plastic bag, turning it inside out, and managing to get the waste inside while flipping the bag and tying it off, without dropping any or getting it on your hands.

Sometimes the greatest challenge is finding the poop after your dog runs off into the woods. In fall, all the brown leaves make this especially tricky, but no less necessary.

Snow helps. The brown

piles show up better, and the cold makes the fecal matter firmer and easier to handle.

If this level of detail is disgusting to you, then you might consider various long handled devices that do the deed from a distance. But then, you still must carry it home.

It is not fun to be downwind of a dog walker; it is even difficult to linger and chat with a neighbor, bag in hand. But the container is a badge of good manners and consideration, (though having some trash containers around town would be nice).

First Light Power Company has installed some in Turners Falls near the river and the bike path, and the Montague Center Conservation area also has a can at the entrance, but it is overflowing, and it is not clear who is responsible for emptying it. Proper disposal of feces, according to the ordinance, "is in a toilet, trash container (after being secured in a plastic bag) or in an appropriate dog/cat composter, provided that the container poses no risk of ground water see **SCOOPER** pg 12

DEFENDING OBAMACARE



“It is very clear that some of the assertions made by the opponents of the legislation during the legislative debate are just flat out wrong.”

— Kathleen Sebelius Secretary of Health and Human Services

Jeny Christian Brill is Back

BY JONATHAN VON RANSON

WENDELL - Private first class Jeny Christian Brill got back safe and sound Sunday evening, December 26th, from a year in the Middle East as a member of the Massachusetts

National Guard. After enduring months of sweltering (up to 135° F), harsh working conditions, the vibrant 23-year-old Wendell - New Salem woman was greeted by some of her family and friends — and an old fash-

ioned New England blizzard — at the Deja Brew.

Brew pub owner Patti Scutari quoted Brill as saying, "I'd so much rather be here and freezing!" Scutari said Brill was in tears as she got out of the car in fatigues. She said Jeny Brill, her husband Kolya Brill, sister Kelly Adams and friends sat in the pub's holiday-decorated back room talking and watching the snow fly by sideways in the outdoor lights.

A friend described Brill as, "someone who wanted to serve her country but didn't expect it would be by going to war." Her deployment to Iraq and Kuwait last January left a part of the community in a palpable state of anxiety. Now that she's back, some normalcy feels restored.

As a soldier, Brill said on Wednesday, "I was the girl in the back of the room with her hand up asking, 'What did you say?' 'When?' 'You want see **BRILL** pg 5

BY DAVID DETMOLD WASHINGTON DC - The day before the new Republican-dominated Congress assumed power in Washington, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius held a conference call with regional reporters on the costs of repealing the Obama administration's health care law.

She did so as incoming House speaker John Boehner promised a vote to repeal the law — expected to pass the House with unanimous Republican approval by this time next week.

Nevertheless, Harry Reid and the Senate Democratic majority, backed up by President Obama's veto pen, will do their best to frustrate the ambition of the House majority and preserve the new health care law, for now. Meanwhile, attorneys general from at least fourteen states have filed suit to

overturn the legislation, with incoming Republican majorities in statehouses across the land likely to add their imprimatur to the legal challenge.

In the face of this rising momentum to repeal or strike down the Affordable Health Care Act, Sebelius mounted a spirited defense of the law, couched in Tea Party-esque cadences of American Freedom.

"Tomorrow, a new Congress convenes," said Sebelius on Tuesday, "and the new House Republican leaders have said one of their top priorities will be repealing the Affordable Care Act. I believe that is a bad deal for America."

In travels around the country where she visited with regular folks, small businesses, and health care providers, Sebelius said she'd found, "Already in the first nine months, the new law is giving people more freedom and more

choices, beginning to free families from some of the worst abuses of the insurance companies. Thanks to the new Patients Bill of Rights, they no longer have to worry about losing health coverage if an insurer finds a mistake in their paperwork, or if they are seriously ill and reach a lifetime dollar limit on their benefits.

"It's freeing Americans with pre-existing health conditions like cancer or diabetes from being denied coverage by insurers because of their health histories. It's freeing business owners from the burden of skyrocketing health costs which made it hard for them to grow, and to keep their best employees. It's freeing seniors to get the care they need, by reducing the cost of prescription drugs and preventive screenings like mammograms.

see **SEBELIUS** pg 11



JONATHAN VON RANSON PHOTO

Jeny Christian Brill

PET OF THE WEEK Fun and Faithful



Makepeace

I'm Makepeace, a gorgeous, grey, 11-month-old girl cat as soft as mist. I'm playful and fun. Fishing-pole toys are my favorite. I love to pounce. I'm fearless and curious too, like a cat should be. I can be feisty sometimes, so I'll do best with adults and older kids who know how to respect me and how to play wisely. I do love people, and I love to be petted too. I'll make a fun and faithful friend. I was a stray and I am so looking

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS Puppet Making

TURNERS FALLS - A puppet making program will take place on Saturday, January 8th at 10:30 a.m. at the Carnegie Library. Children of all ages can come and make puppets with Ruth O'Mara. There will be sock, finger and paper bag puppets to choose from. This program is free to all and is a great way to spend a Saturday morning.

For more information please contact the Carnegie Library 201 Avenue A, Turners, 863-3214.

forward to having a home of my own. Why don't you come and introduce yourself, and get to know me? Before you know it, it will be love, love, love!

To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

Historic Bridge Facts

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

- The Turners Falls-Gill Bridge is the longest in Massachusetts (in 1938).
- The longest vertical truss is a 44 foot beam at piers three and four.

More bridge facts next week!



(Left to right) On New Year's Day, Robin Lloyd, Julia Bonafine, Frances Crowe, Hattie Nestel, Ellen Graves, and Nina Swaim blocked the gates of Vermont Yankee and called for turning off the Vernon nuke and turning on the sun.

Vermont Yankee New Year

VERNON - Five women from Massachusetts joined four women from Vermont to bring posters of solar panels to the driveway of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant on New Year's Day. The nine, all members of the Shut It Down affinity group, blocked the access road to the nuclear plant for a period of time on Saturday, before submitting to arrest at the hands of Vernon, Vermont and Vermont state police at about 2 p.m.

Those arrested include Robin Lloyd of Burlington, VT; Julia Bonafine of Shrewsbury, VT; Martha Hennessey of Weathersfield, VT; Frances Crowe, aged 91, of Northampton, MA; Hattie Nestel of Athol, MA; Marcia Gagliardi, of Athol, MA; Ellen Graves of West Springfield, MA; and Nina Swaim of Sharon, VT.

Carrying a sign reading "No More Leaks and No More Lies - Shut It Down Now," the women said solar, wind, and water power along with energy efficiency can replace nuclear energy without endangering public health, providing power at a lower cost. As they stood in the driveway of the nuclear plant, they read a statement calling for the immediate shut down of the 38-year-old Vermont Yankee reactor.

"We resolve to do everything possible to support immediate decommissioning of Vermont Yankee. No more leaks, no more lies, no more so-called unusual events," the women said. "Out with the old and in with the new. We can be carbon-free and nuclear-free."

The women were booked for trespassing, and summoned to a February 28th appearance in Windham County District Court in Brattleboro. The Shut It Down affinity group has sponsored ten previous acts of nonviolent civil disobedience at the gates of Vermont Yankee since December of 2005. Despite the women's repeated insistence that

Solar Shower for the Montague Wastewater Treatment Plant

BY ANNE HARDING

MONTAGUE - The town of Montague has purchased the components of a new solar hot water system for the town's water pollution control facility (WPCF), and the energy committee is also looking at possibilities for installing solar photovoltaics on the new police station roof.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said three flat solar panels and an 80 gallon tank for the solar shower were purchased from the Greenfield Solar Store, using funds from a Clean Energy Choice grant of \$4,350 awarded to the town in 2009. The shower will be installed at the WPCF in spring.

The energy committee determined the WPCF would be the town building most suited to the solar installation because it uses more hot water than other town buildings. Workers at the facility

are tasked with producing clean effluent by treating the sanitary and industrial sewage from the villages of Turners Falls, Montague City, Montague Center and Lake Pleasant. Hot showers for the workers are a necessity at the end of the day when things go well, and more frequently when the day's events are troublesome.

Superintendent Bob Trombley said the collectors for the solar shower will be mounted on the roof of the administration building, which houses the potable water system. The panels will pre-heat the water that feeds the existing oil-fired hot water boiler. Trombley figures the facility uses about 150 or more

gallons of hot water daily. He expects to decrease oil usage in winter and heat primarily with solar in the warmer seasons.

When questioned about the efficacy of a solar installation in the New England climate, John Ward, co-owner of the Greenfield Solar Store was emphatic that any reduction in fossil fuel consumption is beneficial and affirmed Trombley's contention the system should be able to handle most of the WPCF's summer hot water needs.

Ward is in a position to know as he and his partner Claire Chang have weaned their 1400 square foot home off oil by installing photovoltaic panels

and other systems. A wood pellet heat and hot water system uses about two tons of pellets seasonally (at a cost of about \$500 a year). When the heat's off, their solar hot water system takes care of their hot water needs the remainder of the year. By instituting other conservation methods and reducing domestic consumption of electricity, they now produce about three times more electricity annually than they consume.

Greg Garrison, chair of Montague's capital improvements committee wants the town to aggressively pursue alternative energy as a means of stabilizing Montague's energy costs. He recently presented the energy

committee an overview of financing options for installing a 64 kilowatt photovoltaic array on the roof of the new police station at little or no cost to the town.

Garrison believes the town should plan to install solar arrays at three other sites as well - the middle school/high school complex; the town hall and the landfill.

Sally Pick, a member of the energy committee, expects her committee will be discussing Garrison's proposal in more detail at their next meeting, on Tuesday, January 11th.

Free Writing Workshops

Wordspring Writers will offer two free workshops, on Mondays January 10 and 17 from 6-8 p.m. Workshop leader Susan Malley is certified to teach the Amherst Writers and Artists method. Beginners as well as seasoned writers are welcome. Space is limited, so pre-registration is necessary. To register, or for more information, send email to wordspringwriters@gmail.com or call 413-773-8457.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - January 10th - January 14th

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine. **Presentation by Dr. Lisa Alber, Audiologist, on January 11th at 10:30 a.m.** Pot Luck Lunch Monday/17 at noon. All are welcome. Call the Senior Center to sign up.

Monday, January 10th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, January 11th

10:30 a.m. Dr. Lisa Alber presentation
No Yoga until 1/25
1:00 p.m. Canasta
Wednesday, January 12th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
11:15 a.m. Friends' Meeting
12:00 p.m. Birthday Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, January 13th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Coffee & Conversation
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, January 14th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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

hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center at (413) 423-3308 to find out when the next flu clinic will be held.

Monday, January 10th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise
12:00 p.m. Pitch
12-2:00 p.m. S.H.I.N.E. appts.
Tuesday, January 11th
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. Meeting
12:30 p.m. Painting
Wednesday, January 12th
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, January 13th
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Shopping/Leominster
Friday, January 14th
11:30 a.m. Lunch Out-to-Lunch

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

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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The Leverett selectboard facilitated food drives during the holiday season that resulted in nearly 500 pounds of non-perishable food donated to the Franklin Area Survival Center in Turners Falls. Selectboard member Peter d'Errico said this is an activity the selectboard enjoys participating in, and that another winter food drive is in the planning stages. Thank you, Leverett!

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District maintains three permanent "Super Sites" located in Bernardston, Colrain and Conway. They will all be open January 8th. (Bernardston from 9-11 a.m., Colrain from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Conway from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.) These super sites provide Franklin County district residents the opportunity to dispose of many hazardous materials. For more information on disposal of hazardous materials, recycling or composting call 413-772-2438 or go to www.franklincountywastedistrict.org.

Join Great Falls Discovery Center staff the second Saturday of every month from 10:30 a.m.

to 2:00 p.m. for a day of children's activities. Saturday activities may include crafts, games, investigations, or outdoor adventures. In celebration of the current featured artist in the Great Hall, Jim Roszel, on Saturday, January 8th, the program will investigate local fish species. Kids can learn about the amazing diversity of fish species in Massachusetts, and how to identify them by coloring and decorating a fish mobile. GFDC is located at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls. For more info call 413-863-3221.

Franklin County Technical School will hold the first annual winter carnival on Saturday, January 29th, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. There will be many indoor and outdoor activities for all ages, including snow mobile rides, snowman building, sledging, ice sculpture, snow golf, and ice skating, weather permitting. Indoor events will include cookie decorating, snowflake balloon toss, hula hoops, face painting, bowling, and more! The Montague police and fire departments will offer a K-9 demonstration, fast pitch baseball, car seat safety, fire safety, and helmet and badge distribution throughout the day. Refreshments served all day long.

The winter carnival will not only help relieve the winter doldrums, but will bring our communities and school together for a fun filled day of activities. See you there!

Boys and girls from ages 10 - 14 are invited to participate in the local competition for the 2011 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. Local sharp shooting youngsters should plan to be at the Sheffield Elementary School in Turners Falls on Saturday, January 15th, by 1:00 p.m. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For entry forms or additional information please contact Stephan Smith at 863-4373.

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

Christopher Gould Wins Sawmill River Run

BY JON DOBOSZ
MONTAGUE CENTER - The new year got off to a great start in Montague on January 1st, as the Montague parks and recreation department hosted the annual Sawmill River 10-K Run in Montague Center. Christopher Gould, of Amherst was the overall winner with a time of 36:23, and Sidney Letendre, of Florence, won the women's division with a final time of 42:51. The weather cooperated - it was sunny and

beautiful with temperatures in the mid-40s. What better way to welcome in 2011?

Approximately 125 runners, ages 15 - 80, from San Francisco to Hackensack came out to participate in this New Year's Day tradition.

Results for each division are as follows: Youth Division (ages 18 and under) - Women: Nazira Bashour (68:01), Men: Charlie Hale (38:36); Open Division (Ages 19-39) - Women: Sarah Rury (46:39),

Men: Aaron Stone (36:58); Master Division (Ages 40-49) - Women: Rachel Scheff (47:08), Men: Christopher Gould (36:23); Senior Division (Ages 50-59) - Women: Letendre (42:51), Men: Rich Larsen (39:26); Senior Plus Division (60 and up) - Women: Carol Ball (72:21), Men: Mike Murphy (44:15).

Proceeds from the event will benefit Montague parks and recreation's Sponsor-a-Child scholarship program.

Senior FarmShare Program in Jeopardy

BY DON CLEGG
SOUTH DEERFIELD - The Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture, (CISA) has been providing Senior FarmShares from the local harvest to income eligible seniors in Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties since 2004. CISA relies on a mix of state funds, public generosity and businesses to keep the program strong and growing. But continuing state support, at this date, is uncertain against the backdrop of the state's looming budget deficit.

In 2010, the FarmShare program provided 350 participating seniors with locally grown produce at a minimal cost of just \$10 for the entire 10 weeks of peak harvest season. Locally, there is a pick-up site at Power Town Apartments in Turners Falls.

According to Phil Korman, CISA's executive director, the Senior FarmShare program is a win/win situation for seniors, farmers and communities. Korman said, "Seniors should not be concerned about getting fresh and healthy produce. Many have worked their whole lives in the community, and in some cases the farms and outlets that supply this produce."

Since the founding of the program in 2004, more than 1,800 seniors have received benefits, with an additional \$200,000 paid to participating local farms.

According to Korman, the current program was mirrored after a FarmShare program operating in Maine with feder-

al assistance. Though no federal assistance became available to operate the program in Massachusetts, the state stepped up and provided the necessary funds, matched with private donations.

The partnership initiated by CISA has grown to 12 local farms and 16 distribution centers, which include senior centers, elderly housing complexes and council on aging centers.

Ray Payne, a Turners Falls resident who has participated in the program, said, "The process to pick up food on Fridays was simple, easy and quick." Payne added, "The organized effort at the Power Town Apartments pick up site was the best I have ever experienced."

Between now and the end of January 2011, CISA needs to raise \$30,000 to secure Farm Shares for income eligible seniors and to establish a pool of matching funds for SNAP/food stamp purchases at local farmers markets. Senior FarmShare provides critical food assistance to a vulnerable population, offers farmers a reliable source of income, and builds strong ties with community organizations that host the weekly distribution.

For more information or to make a donation please go to www.buylocalfood.org or send a check to CISA, One Sugarloaf St., South Deerfield, MA 01373. Korman added that phone calls in support of the Senior FarmShare program to local state representatives,

state senators or the governor's office would be a big help to seniors who depend on the program to provide them with a conduit to farm fresh produce each year.

In 2010, the program did receive late last minute funding through Governor Patrick's Executive Office on Elder Affairs, but there is no guarantee this support will continue for 2011.

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Our Slow Motion Global Accident

BY JANET REDMAN

CANCUN - Have you ever found yourself in the midst of a disaster — like taking a bend in the road too fast on a rainy night — where every second seems impossibly stretched?

The situation unfolds in slow motion. You know exactly how it turns out, even before your car plows into the guardrail. Somehow, there's time to ponder what you could have done differently — slowed at the yellow sign — and wish you could turn back the clock.

That's what it felt like in December at the 2010 UN climate summit held in Cancun, Mexico. The meeting's final hours, when world leaders gavelled through a flawed agreement, felt just as long as the preceding two weeks of negotiations.

Instead of calling the tow truck to haul away the wreck, however, leaders and representatives from the vast majority of the 194 countries present applauded their accord as a victory for multilateralism — saying a weak deal was better than no deal.

Sure, supporters admitted, the so-called Cancun agreement doesn't limit global warming to what scientists — and more than 100 countries — say is safe. Plus, pledges by individual countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions, if you add them up, fall short of this inadequate target. And, yes, the Cancun deal doesn't hold anyone accountable for cutting climate pollution because these new pledges are voluntary.

But besides that — and that a fund promised by rich countries to help poorer nations deal with the impact of climate change has no dedicated source of funding — it's a great step forward. Huh?

We have to do better.

The Cancun deal won't change much in the United States. Obama's goal to reduce our greenhouse gas pollution remains an embarrassingly low four percent from 1990 levels by the end of the next decade. European countries have pledged 20 percent and Brazil 39 percent.

We still don't have a comprehensive climate law — and it's unlikely we'll have one soon.

Industry simply doesn't have an incentive to kick its fossil fuel habit. In fact, the Cancun agreement could open a loophole that lets companies in the United States continue to pollute — as long as they pay someone else in another country to reduce their emissions. It's called carbon offsetting, and it means U.S. families living in the toxic shadow of big polluters will have to suffer the health impacts of dirty energy, while companies get to claim credit for cleaning up their act.

Instead of getting motivated to stop climate change now, the world's countries will wait another year before trying again to secure a climate agreement with teeth. The next UN Framework Convention on Climate Change — to be held in Durban, South Africa — won't take place until December 2011.

That doesn't mean we have to sit back and watch as more environmental disasters unfold. We can take action this year.

We can start investing now in the transition to a green energy workforce. We can create jobs that bring workers the dignity of contributing to a better world and give families the security of a steady paycheck in a growing sector.

We can demand now that every dollar sent overseas to help people get out of energy poverty goes to renewable energy and low-carbon development.

And we can raise billions of dollars to make this happen by taxing the financial speculation of the Wall Street fat cats who brought us the economic crisis. European countries are already considering a regional financial transaction tax. If they can do it, we can, too.

Regardless of what happens at these annual global climate talks, we must all think and act fast now to avoid having to clean up a big mess later. Real success means changing course toward a strong green economy at home and a global climate deal that protects people and the planet.

Janet Redman is co-director of the Sustainable Energy & Economy Network at the Institute for Policy Studies. This article first appeared in Other Words.

In 2011, Our Goal Will Be to Get The Afghans to Buy in to their National Government

- Richard Armitage



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Sound and the Furry

Thank you for the well-researched, well-written article by Joseph A. Parzych on the charcoal kilns in Leverett. Where else can one find articles like this? (Nowhere!)

I noticed in the article the word "whoof" was used. My husband's recent attempts to pass off that word as a dog noise in a Scrabble game were soundly rebuffed. Now I wonder if we

had been unjust.

Does seeing the word in the *Montague Reporter* make it legal for Scrabble? Just wondering.

Keep up the good work!

- Jude Wobst
Leverett

Editor replies:

Judith,

You are too ruff on your hus-

band. He may be barking up the wrong tree, hoping you would roll over and let his canine onomatopoeia lie. However, dogs are likely to onomatopoeia on any handy tree or shrub this time of year, so be lenient.

Once winter passes, bring out the dictionary. Until then, we con-cur with your husband, and join him in crying, "Whoof!"

GUEST EDITORIAL

Three Cheers for Vermonters and Their Neighbors

BY NANCY BRAUS

PUTNEY, VT - For those of us who have been working for a safe and timely closure of Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in 2012 as scheduled, 2010 was an extraordinary year. Much has changed in the past twelve months. Reflecting on this period, it is impossible not to feel proud and grateful to the people of Vermont, Massachusetts and New Hampshire for a willingness to think for themselves in devel-

oping opinions regarding Vermont Yankee.

Some of us who live in the towns surrounding the plant began 2010 with a 'crazy' yet amazing 120 mile winter walk from Brattleboro to Montpelier. We met with people in communities all along the way to share the message that we are scared to be living in the shadow of a deteriorating nuclear power plant, and there are safe, cost effective energy alternatives to Vermont Yankee. In the eleven days we were away from our homes and jobs, we were met everywhere by citizens who were wonderfully supportive, providing us with

places to sleep and eat lunch each day, with one woman in Barre even bringing fresh cookies to the sidewalk for us!

During the walk, we learned about the massive leak of radioactive tritium into the ground and water surrounding the nuclear plant. As the story of the leak unfolded, it became clear that Entergy, the owner of the plant, had lied to Vermont officials, under oath, about the existence of the pipes from which the leaks originated. In some places, corporate lying is a daily occurrence, but in this region of the country it is still really a big deal. People all along the route expressed their disgust with an out-of-state corporation that could not tell the truth to the people most affected by their for-profit nuclear reactor.

In a severe snowstorm in February of 2010, the Vermont Senate, led by Senate President Peter Shumlin, took the courageous and unprecedented step of

see VERMONTERS pg 8

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Leverett Examines School Roof Replacement

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Republican takeover of 26 state-houses and the U.S. Congress seemed to be weighing on the mind of Leverett selectboard

chair Rich Brazeau on Tuesday morning as the board struggled to put together a plan to repair or replace the slate roof on the elementary school.

"Everybody likes to cut taxes," said Brazeau, who noted there was a rumor going around the state Department of Conservation and Recreation

that Massachusetts is planning to close 50 out of 150 state parks, as the loss of federal stimulus funds socks Beacon Hill with another billion dollar-plus deficit for the coming fiscal year. "But if you want good schools, police protection, and state parks you've got to start paying for them."

The board examined a proposal from the Mahan slate roofing company in Springfield to spend \$40,000 to replace miscellaneous slates on the original elementary school building (the more recent addition is roofed with asphalt), and to replace flashing, install a chimney cap and snow guards over walkways to prevent pedestrians below from unheralded avalanches, and replace a frequently patched half round roof above the playground entrance with a new membrane roof.

Going into the meeting, the plan had been to remove the old slate roof, which has been shedding water since the 1950s, and replace it with a 40-year asphalt roof, at an anticipated cost of about \$300,000. But the Mahan

bid cast doubt on the wisdom of that approach, since the contractor estimated the "solid Vermont slate" on the school roof still has a life expectancy of 50 years. However, Mahan cautioned the slate will need annual maintenance priced now at \$2,500 until the roof is finally wears out completely.

As his colleagues juggled these numbers and time spans, board member Peter d'Errico noted the town's bond to pay off the school's addition will be paid off entirely in about ten years, freeing up several tens of thousands that are committed to annual debt payments. This might augur well for delaying the replacement of the slate roof for a later date, and going with repair for now.

see LEVERETT pg 11



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAHAN SLATE ROOFING CO

The slate roof at Leverett Elementary is in need of preventative maintenance, at least, to replace damaged tiles.

BRILL from page 1

us to do what?" "They told me to stop thinking so much and stop asking questions." She said the craziness of the orders "was the worst in the places where things were more secure, like Kuwait, where it gave the leadership 'boredom time'."

Brill said she naturally gravitates to simple, peaceful approaches to life's challenges. She participated in the founding of Wendell Sustainable when she and her husband were part of a homesteading, gardening community on Davis Turn Road. She's excited to begin working on their new home, the old former schoolhouse located just below the town offices on Morse Village Road. Spontaneous and heartfelt in conversation, she once or twice added a sparkle of enthusiasm even from Kuwait to discussions about simple living on the Wendell listserv.

"I only had to carry my weapon for two months," she said — "just while I was in Iraq." The rest of the time she was in safer conditions in Kuwait, maintaining and repairing the giant trucks that hauled equipment and supplies... now

predominantly headed out of Iraq. Her deployment coincided with the Obama-ordered "responsible drawdown" of American forces there in 2010.

"It was the biggest movement of equipment since World War II," Jeny explained proudly. "We maintained and supported 1,350,000 miles of travel. I'm glad to have been part of it — the drawdown. I wasn't in it for the guts and glory."

Her work was anywhere from eight to 16 hours a day, six days a week, and she said to her and her fellow Guardsmen it felt "more like a job" than national service. "It was about money, a job." She said she heard "a lot of negative Obama talk. I can't believe I heard people saying they liked Bush..." She called morale "poor". The higher-ups would choose "more work over our health."

Today she's within eight months of completing her six-year Guard commitment. As to how she got in, she said her recruiter had told her about the likelihood of having to serve in the Middle East, "but I lost sight of the war. I was young and didn't have anything else to do." She said she found out she'd be going to Iraq "a year before we

left." Her Web handle for a time was "Armygreenjeny."

She stayed in touch with her husband, Kolya, by Blackberry, sending "pictures and email. On Sunday, my day off, I'd call and talk to him and Mom," (Denise Christian in New Salem). For an additional hit of home, "We'd watch football on Sunday, but it didn't come on until like 3 a.m."

She and Kolya expect soon to begin gutting and renovating their house, which is on Franklin County Land Trust land and a gift from Kolya's mother, Nancy Cole, who lived there for several years. "I'm just excited to begin building it. Kolya knows it's a big project." She estimates it will take them about a year to complete the renovation. "I want a stupid, efficient house...as stupid as they'll let us!" she exclaimed.

What does she mean by stupid? "Simple, not this huge technological house, not solar panels for now, anyway. I want to make one batch of firewood last a long while."

Her reasoning: "That's going to be the thing that lasts. I want to be able to fix, deal with it myself. Like heat — I want to be in control myself. I don't think

anybody's selling things now out of the good in their heart; it's about money." She added something about the oil crisis that may have come from firsthand experience.

Jeny and Kolya housesat for this writer almost two years ago, and when she arrived for the interview Bailey, the dog, gave her a welcome he reserves for his very favorite people — licking her face so long and earnestly that he forgot to go get his toy. He was expressing the same joy we all feel at her safe return.



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Death of Much-Loved 'Matriarch' Touches Many

PHOTO COURTESY OF HUCKLE MAY



WENDELL - The death at age 61 of Molly Kaynor is reported here in three parts: an obituary, the reactions of some of her friends, and details of the funeral this Saturday.

Molly's Life and Passing

Mary (Molly) Reed Kaynor, 61, died peacefully on January 1st, 2011 at her home in Wendell from complications of small cell lung cancer. She had been in the loving care of her family, friends, and Hospice of Franklin County. She practiced a rare openness to the community in her last months that was in keeping with her wide friendships and considerate nature.

Molly was born in New Haven, CT in 1949 and graduated from North High School in Worcester, MA, but most of her life-long friends are from the Amherst area where she grew up, participated in 4-H and all things related to horses, and attended the Amherst schools, including Amherst Regional High School (class of 1968).

She was an artist who, as a young teenager, volunteered at the Leverett Box Shop (now the Leverett Crafts and Arts Center) led by Jerry Wyman, teaching art classes to children including plaster sculptures and Raku pottery. She attended the Worcester Museum School for two years and worked at the Worcester Museum Library. Molly spread her art among friends and acquaintances with stylistic greeting cards and drawings,

flower arrangements, and celebratory banners for events large and small.

Molly always followed her heart and made a career of volunteering and helping others. She helped start the Amherst Survival Center, which grew to a place to drop off supplies for those in need, and through her initiative it became a successful resource-matching service. She worked for an advocate program at UMass (now called Nexus) and organized meals for those in need in her community. She was an aide to a special needs child at the Swift River School, a substitute teacher, a regular substitute for the school secretary, and a perennial school volunteer. For nine years she served as the volunteer coordinator for the PTCA at Swift River School and wrote for and edited the school newsletter, and authored a regular school news update for the *Wendell Post* to help connect the community with the school.

She worked as a mediator for small claims at the Franklin County Courthouse, then helped start Quabbin Mediation (and designed their international award-winning logo). She worked for the Nurturing Program from the Athol office where she met with children and parents assigned by the court to help them understand each other. She was an avid member of the North Quabbin Time Bank, and spearheaded the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse, dedicated

to restoration of that historic building. Molly and her husband, Jerry Eide, were partners in their historic restoration business, Hilltown Restoration. They have been involved in restoration of dozens of historic homes and churches, mainly in the Northeast.

Molly treated parenting as a mission and was always active in her sons' and granddaughters' lives, and often in the lives of other children in the neighborhood. She was married to Peter May of Amherst in the 1970s, living in North Leverett, Montague and Belcher-town, then to Jerry Eide for the past 23 years, living primarily in Wendell.

She is survived by her husband Jerry Eide of Wendell; her three sons, Sam Eide of Wendell, Huckle May and Sharon Drumgool of Shutesbury, and Luke May and Danielle Pierotti of Lagrangeville, NY; her three brothers, Van Kaynor of Amherst, Cammy Kaynor of Melrose, and Chapin Kaynor of Williston, VT; and her grandchildren Kelsey, Taylor, Sidney, and Isabelle. She was recently predeceased by her parents Fay and Ed (Plug) Kaynor of Amherst, MA.

Interment will be at the Osgood Brook Cemetery on New Salem Road at 1:00 p.m. in Wendell on January 8th, 2011. An informal memorial and public gathering will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Deja Brew

see KAYNOR pg 10

NOTES FROM WENDELL SELECTBOARD

New Year's Energy Saving Concepts Discussed

BY JOSH

HEINEMANN - Laurie DiDonato of the energy committee introduced Dan Mascroft, a new arrival in town and a new energy committee member, to the selectboard on December 22nd, and together they offered two ideas for using some of the Wendell's Greener Watts grant money. The grant funds, earned through high participation by Wendell households in the Greener Watts program, are supposed to be spent by March 11 on reductions of town energy use. Most have already been spent to install photovoltaic panels for the library and for a speaker on the subject of net energy.

The less expensive and simpler of the two proposals brought was for a solar furnace. Commercial versions of solar furnaces are available, but the concept is simple enough that the committee is considering holding a workshop to help homeowners build their own.

A solar furnace is a black box placed on the south side of a building with an opening to the interior and a fan to blow warmed air into the building. The design works well for spaces of 1,000 square feet or less, or as a supplement to reduce the heat load of a larger space.

Selectboard members discussed several possible municipal buildings for siting a solar furnace, but

rejected them all for one reason or another, mostly because of building size or problems with southern exposure.

The energy committee's second energy saving idea was to install a solar water heater to supplement baseboard heat or domestic hot water. The town is already working to replace a leaky water heater in the town hall, and the estimate for two small electric tank heaters, one for the kitchen and one for the two washrooms, was high.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser was not at the meeting, but had said at the December 8th meeting that he would try to get a second estimate from a sole proprietor plumber who is not subject to prevailing wage requirements. If Pooser's efforts do not reduce the estimate, the selectboard plans to switch to a single water heater for the whole building, using timed switches that can be turned on when the building is in use. A solar heater on the south facing roof of the kitchen might reduce the load on the main water heater, and Selectboard member Dan Keller said he would have the building inspector look at the rafters to see if they could hold the extra weight.

Also discussed at the selectboard meeting was a copy of the board of health's letter to Jonathan and Susan von Ranson

denying their application to build a non-electric apartment for the couple's own use. The letter stated that a local board of health may put added restrictions on state law but is mandated to enforce state health codes, which require a house within 600 feet of an electric line to be wired, and to send wastewater and solid waste to a septic system if a sewage line is not available. The letter went on to state that the sanitary code has not kept up with the times.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said, "We need to change the law," and he added there is some legislative support to do so, at least insofar as state representative Steve Kulik (D-Worthington) is concerned.

In other environmental news, the selectboard got clarification of Mass Audubon's offer to Wendell and its schools in lieu of paying property taxes on land which the nonprofit organization owns in town. Mass Audubon has offered a three-year commitment of a scholarship for one Wendell resident to attend its Wildwood nature camp for either the week of July 17th or August 7th. The rest of the summer is made up of two-week camp sessions. The fee is normally \$975 and Mass Audubon is requesting that the fami-

see WENDELL pg 9

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Assist Fire and Other Police, Order Served

Monday, 12/20

6:50 p.m. Report of erratic operator on French King Highway, possibly intoxicated.
7:10 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with family disturbance on Gill Road.
8:53 p.m. Responded

to residence on West Gill Road for possible future assault and battery. Advised of legal options.

Tuesday, 12/21

3:59 p.m. Assisted fire department on French King Highway with a porch on fire.

Thursday, 12/23

4:46 p.m. Assisted Erving police department with possible domestic violence incident.

Friday, 12/24

8:20 p.m. Assisted Montague police department with

unwanted subject. **Monday, 12/27**

12:53 p.m. Report of restraining order violation on Boyle Road.

5:07 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with possible suicidal subject.

Tuesday, 12/28

7:24 p.m. Restraining order served in station lobby.

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NOTES FROM GILL SELECTBOARD

Fine Tuning the Budget Making Process

BY DAVID DETMOLD
There were times in years past when the Gill selectboard and the Gill finance committee did not make beautiful music together. Budget confabs were marked by discordant outbursts and mutual recrimination, as the doleful work of cutting department budgets in lean times moved forward.

But this year, the selectboard and finance committee are working in concert, with a new approach to budget making.

As administrative assistant Ray Purington explained on Monday afternoon, each member of the selectboard will team up with two members of

the finance committee to visit and become more familiar with each of the town's big three departments: police, fire, and highway. Then the selectboard and finance committee as a whole will hold budget hearings with the departments, and in the case of the fire and highway departments, they plan to hold those hearings at the departmental offices, rather than at town hall.

Ann Banash said, "There isn't room in the police department for 12 people."

The selectboard divvied up their roles, with chair John Ward agreeing to look in on the police department, Randy

Crochier (who asked not to be the selectboard's designee for the fire department, since his son is a firefighter) taking the highway department, and Banash agreeing to work with the preliminary budget deliberations at the fire department.

Despite the harmonious approach, all sides expect a particularly difficult budget season.

Purington said the best case scenario for state aid this year would be a flat funding. "But realistically we are expecting a cut, and hoping the cut isn't more than 10%."

A ten percent cut, Purington said, would translate to a loss of about

\$23,000 in state aid for Gill.

Proactively, the board agreed to send a letter to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation requesting the DOT to take over paying for street lights on the Gill-Montague Bridge.

Purington said the state pays for all other maintenance on the bridge, as on the bridge between Sunderland and Deerfield, where the DOT also picks up the tab for street lights. So why not here as well?

The town would save about \$1500 a year if the DOT agrees to the proposal. Montague might want to get in on the act, since the streetlights on that side of the bridge are billed to Montague.

In other news, Purington said, "Property

values will be scrutinized much more closely," in this triennial evaluation year, and, "In general, property values went down slightly," over the past year in Gill.

The selectboard approved a priority list of items for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (COG) to consider for technical assistance grant funding. Along with topics like updating the town's master plan and open space and recreation plan, the board agreed to ask the COG to consider helping Gill create a green burial cemetery, with an added note: "might be a good regional topic."

For readers who were left wondering at the turn of the year, the Gill special town meeting that took

place on Monday, December 27th, saw 22 voters acting positively and with alacrity on the five agenda items. Voters agreed to put \$38,000 left over from last year's budget making deal with the Gill Montague Regional School District into a special education fund to help alleviate expected shortfalls in the coming school budget cycle, and funding the installation of a new dump body on one of the town's old highway vehicles. Voters also allowed for the sale of alcoholic beverages between 10 a.m. and noon on Sundays, should any restaurant or club in town request that change. All this in the space of ten minutes between the opening gavel and adjournment, a new town record.

NOTES FROM MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mahar to Notify Wendell of New Assessment Method

BY KATIE NOLAN - At Tuesday's meeting of the Mahar school committee, Wendell representative Dick Baldwin asked superintendent Michael Baldassarre if he had formally notified the town of Wendell of the committee's unanimous vote last October in favor of Baldassarre's proposed alternative averaging method to make per student costs for each member town more equitable.

Baldwin reminded Baldassarre that the 2010 Wendell town meeting had asked for a formal response from the committee.

Baldassarre said he had provided the information informally to the Wendell finance committee, but said he would send an official letter to the Wendell selectboard.

Under the statutory method the district has been using to determine assessments, a town like Wendell that sends relatively few students to a regional school district can be assessed more in terms of total cost per student than a wealthier town, like Petersham. Wendell finance committee members have argued for years against the injustice of the statutory method, all the way to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in Malden. Wendell town meeting, though traditionally a strong funder of public education, has

voted down the Mahar budget several times in past years to protest the unfairness of the statutory method.

Baldwin said Baldassarre's proposed alternative method would not result in an entirely equitable distribution of per pupil costs between Petersham, New Salem, and Wendell. The intention among the proponents of an alternative assessing formula for Mahar has been to hold Orange 'harmless', since it is the poorest of the four member towns, while shifting the burden of the remaining assessment equitably among the other three towns.

If Baldassarre's method of alternative assessing had been used last year, Baldwin said Wendell would have saved approximately \$50,000 on its Mahar assessment, validating the finance committee's claim that their town is being over-assessed under the statutory formula.

According to Baldwin, Baldassarre is making a political calculation that the other member towns would not vote to support exact equity in per pupil costs if that would mean shifting some of the burden onto their tax-

payers. So he has proposed taking the difference in what Wendell would pay under the statutory method out of the school's budget. Baldwin said, "It's not that hard to find \$50,000 in a \$12 million budget, and Baldassarre is confident he can do that."

Baldassarre will present a preliminary FY'12 budget at the February meeting.

The consolidation process involving Mahar, Petersham Elementary School and Orange elementary schools has moved its focus from special education services - already accomplished - to the new central office functions. The school committee appointed Cara Deane of Orange to the interview committee for the position of assistant superintendent for elementary education in that office. Asked after the meeting about the financial effects of the consolidation plan,

Baldassarre said its purpose wasn't to save money, but "to make the education system stronger," adding, "It won't cost more." This particular effort pre-dates the Patrick administration's budget-minded push to merge administrative functions and school populations, he said. "We're doing willing regionalization - consolidation where it makes sense," something he feels the towns of the area "believe in."

Pat Smith of Orange was appointed to the negotiations committee for the consolidated central office.

Baldassarre presented the 2011-2012 school calendar for Mahar, Petersham Elementary School, and Orange elementary schools. He said it had been approved by the teachers unions at each of the three towns. Committee member Smith commented that the school year begins before Labor Day, which she does not favor. Baldassarre

explained that the MCAS English and language arts exams are scheduled in March and that it was important to schedule as many instructional days as possible before March.

Baldassarre reported that the cafeteria was continuing to reduce its long-term operating deficit (approximately \$37,000 in November 2010, down from \$49,000 six school months earlier). More students are buying lunches, but the number eligible for free or reduced-price meals has also increased. He told the committee that more sales of full price meals are needed to make a profit and reduce the cafeteria deficit. When committee members commented that some students were unhappy with lower fat foods offered at the cafeteria, Baldassarre explained state and federal nutritional guidelines restrict the cafeteria manager's choice of foods to serve. "Every time there's a move to make food more nutritious, the kids stop

see MAHAR pg 12

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Legend of the 'Smallpox Cemetery' Debunked

BY PAM RICHARDSON

WENDELL - For many of us who live in Wendell, the so-called Smallpox Cemetery at the far eastern edge of town holds much fascination. Local lore, reiterated in this newspaper as recently as five years ago, has it that a travelling tin peddler passed through Wendell Depot in the spring of 1833 and infected some of the townsfolk with the fatal disease. As the story goes, the victims' bodies were transported at night and buried at a site as far away as possible from the cemetery at the center of town out of fear of possible transmission of the disease to others.

Research, facilitated by a recent gift of old maps to the Wendell Library (see author's note at end of article), reveals a different story.

The section of town in question lies at the New Salem edge of the old road to Morse Village. In the mid-19th century, three roads converged there and, as the 1858 Walling map shows, there were at that time at least five homesteads and a sawmill in the area immediately surrounding the 'Smallpox Cemetery.'

The homes were owned by

Ebenezer Felton, Townsend Caswell (both Junior and Senior), C. Hathaway and, importantly, Jabez Sawyer. There is, however, evidence of at least twice that many cellar holes, which suggests the neighborhood was even more densely populated.

Between 1850 and 1854, Wendell lost 200 of its 900 inhabitants, so it is entirely possible that when the Walling map was made there were unoccupied - and thus unrecorded - homes in the neighborhood.

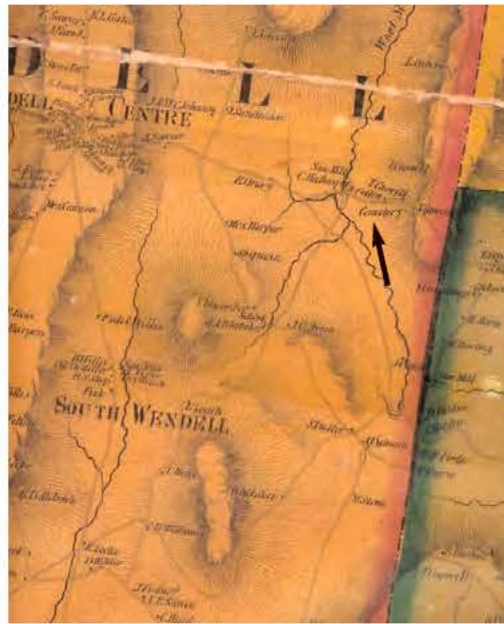
Now those roads are all discontinued, overgrown and, in some parts, even submerged by beaver ponds. Now a protected wildlife sanctuary, the land has reverted to forest.

Still, approached from Nielson Road in New Salem, the dirt path down to the cemetery and nearby cellar holes is clear, wide, and lined with the rotting remains of huge, old sugar maples.

A 1989 *Wendell Post* article contains some recollections of former long-time Wendell resident Rubert Goddard. In reference to the settlement around the cemetery, he said "It used to be quite a village down there on that road. My mother and father had a

house there past the power lines. You know, Kentfield Road goes off to the north a little further on. There was a factory there. My father died when I was 11, but if I remember right, he told me it was a hat factory."

Today, there is no evidence of



The arrow points to the so-called smallpox cemetery in this 1858 map, now available for viewing at the Wendell Library.

that particular factory, but remains of the sawmill indicated on the 1858 map can be found, as well as numerous barn foundations and wells. All in all, the impression is of a busy, close-knit neighborhood composed of small farms and a mill, not of some far-flung, uninhabited place where one might think to bury possibly contagious bodies.

More evidence can be found in the identities of the people buried in the 'smallpox cemetery' and their relationship to each other. The inscriptions on four of the five gravestones read as follows:

Jabez Sawyer, died January 28th, 1849, age 78, "an upright and honest man,"

Jemima, wife of Jabez Sawyer, who died of the smallpox, March 11th, 1833, age 54;

Lydia C. Sawyer, daughter of Jabez and Jemima Sawyer, February 11th, 1837, age 22;

Patty, wife of Elisha Hagar, Esq., of Halifax, VT, died March 16th, 1833, of smallpox, age 51.

The fifth stone, made of marble and badly deteriorated, is almost illegible. All that can be made out is "Otis ___ook, Watson, NY ___ 1833.

There are also two footstones, one marked "P.H." (Patty Hagar,

presumably) and the other "O.H." which adds a first letter [H] to Otis's last name.

It's clear that Lydia and Jabez, who died so many years after the three smallpox victims, did not die of that disease. Jabez, Jemima's husband, must have seen fit to bury their daughter with her mother. And when Jabez himself died in 1849, he must have chosen to be buried with them.

A trip to the town clerk leads to the yellowed pages of an old tome of recorded deaths. In March 1833, three people are listed as having "died of the smallpox:" Jemima Sawyer, Patty Hagar and Otis Holbrook - which solves the "O.H." mystery.

But it is a visit to www.ancestry.com that strikes pay dirt. Everybody in the tiny cemetery is related! Despite their different last names and different hometowns, they

are family. What's more, the cemetery lies just past Jabez Sawyer's cellar hole and barn foundation - leading us to the logical conclusion that this family burial plot was, at one time, located on family land.

Here are the details: Jemima Carruth Sawyer and Patty Carruth Hagar were sisters, daughters of Lucy Gary and James Carruth of Templeton, MA. Otis Holbrook, far from being an unknown vagabond, was Patty's son-in-law, husband to her daughter, Martha Hagar.

Jabez Sawyer, born in 1770 in Lancaster, MA and Jemima Carruth, born in 1778 in Templeton, MA were married in Athol on February 23rd, 1798. In the recording of their marriage intention, she is said to be "of Gerry," an evident mistaking of her mother's maiden name (Gary) for her hometown. By 1800, Jabez and Jemima were living in Wendell and eventually had six children there: Jabez, Jr., Asahel, Jemima, Levina, Lydia and Sarah.

Patty Carruth, Jemima's younger sister, was born in April, 1782 in Phillipston, MA where she met and married Elisha Hagar, also born there in 1781.

They had eight children and lived in Halifax, VT. After Patty's death from smallpox, he married Jemima's and Patty's younger sister, Levina, by whom he had a son in 1837 in Halifax.

By 1871, Kentfield Road had been discontinued while Morse Village Road and the road down to the twin ponds were still in use, although no one lived on the latter road in either 1858 or 1871, as shown by maps, and maintenance of it must have gradually ceased.

Where was Morse Village, you ask? Local historian Jean Forward believes it was a tiny hamlet located on what is now New Salem Road, just down the hill from the new town offices. It lay at the intersection of Morse Village Road and New Salem Road. The Baptist church was built there originally, and then moved up to its present location on the common.

Wendell didn't get electricity until the 1940s, and it may have been then that a great swath was cut across Morse Village Road to string high tension electric lines, effectively disconnecting the old Sawyer, Caswell, Hathaway and Felton properties from the rest of town.

Some people continued to live on Morse Village Road well into the 20th century, but in the 1980s it was finally discontinued from its fork off of New Salem Road to its end on the New Salem line.

Today, only the cemetery, cellar holes and crumbling stone walls hold the stories of the people who once occupied this place with the fullness of their lives. We scratch around in the dirt next to the foundation stones and peer into the murky depths of the old wells searching for more - more insight, more story, more proof of what was - but find nothing. What a god-send it is, then, that some long-forgotten people took the time to record such things as births, marriages, deaths, and property ownership.

These records hold the keys to our history.

Pam Richardson is a member of the Wendell Historic Commission and a genealogist. She recently worked with Dave Allen of Greenfield comparing roads and house sites on the 1858 Walling map with present day landmarks.

Allen received a Wendell Cultural Council grant for his study and has donated many large reproductions of old maps to the Wendell Free Library.

VERMONTERS from pg 4 voting 26-4 to oppose continued operation of Vermont Yankee beyond the termination of its 40-year license in 2012. During the entire day of this debate and vote, pages in the State House carried hundreds of messages of support to legislators from all parts of the state, and beyond. The vote was international news, bringing the message to people all around the world that Vermonters and their neighbors will not passively accept the rubber stamp extension of the operating life of an accident-plagued nuclear plant that is well past its prime.

Ever since, Entergy has been spending lavishly on a major public relations offensive, outspending our grassroots groups many times over. We have seen television advertising, full-page newspaper spreads, new media entries, lawn signs, lobbyists, and more. It is a real testimony to the public's sophistication that Entergy's spinning of the truth and attempts to look like they have popular support have largely fallen flat.

In an election year in which Republicans swept the country,

with an implicit message that Americans don't care about their environment, Vermonters elected Peter Shumlin as their new governor. The fact Governor-elect Shumlin has a serious commitment to creating a green-energy economy in this state means Vermont now has a real chance to be at the forefront of using genuine renewable power, and strengthening the efficiency of our power usage. One of the major issues in the gubernatorial campaign was replacing Vermont Yankee, and Shumlin's pledge to do so was supported by a majority of Vermont's citizens.

As we look ahead to the many difficult issues of decommissioning Vermont Yankee, we have faith that the residents of Vermont, with help from our neighbors in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, will continue to hold the owners accountable. Vermont Yankee was given a license to operate for 40 years. Their time is nearly up. When it is, Entergy has pledged to return the site to a "green field." We will be here to make sure that pledge is kept.



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Stone Brings Garden of Color to the Wendell Library Gallery

BY RICHARD BALDWIN - The Wendell Free Library presents its winter art exhibition, "Garden Musings," a collection of 16 paintings by Kerry Stone of Warwick. Stone's paintings are a perfect way to celebrate the New Year and stave off any hint of winter blues. They are bright, bold and exuberant, bringing the vitality of a summer garden into the gallery.

The works in this show were done directly from life, then reworked as needed in the studio. Some are focused on flowers in Stone's garden; others are based on flowers she has brought into her home. The garden paintings, such as "The Hollyhocks" (to the right), present flowers in full bloom directly in front of the viewer. The space is relatively shallow, the flowers dance like actors on a stage. In the paintings of interiors, space is again shallow, but the point of view is more complex and varies from piece to piece.

The colors in these acrylic works are mostly bright and intense, the shapes loosely painted. In many paintings Stone builds up a textured surface, especially where images crowd the space. This has the effect of adding a tactile sensation

to the riot of color presented. The use of bold lines emphasizing shapes adds a strong graphic element which enhances the energy of the work. Stone's directness in applying paint on canvas results in a feeling of freshness perfectly suited to her intention of conveying the liveliness of the flowers.

Stone earned her degree in art from Maharishi International University in Iowa and worked as a potter for more than 20 years making hand-built functional pieces. She has taught art for at least that long, teaching pottery in the after-school program at Swift River School and teaching art for 11 years at the private Village School in Royalston. Stone credits Leverett artist Louise Minks as her mentor; she has taken numerous workshops with Minks. For the past six years Stone has concentrated solely on making paintings.

Stone writes: "The garden is a place of great inspiration to me. I love watching the orchestrated blooming of flowers as they come up to show their beauty... I enjoy painting in the garden in the early morning hours before the sun is too hot. There is a magic in the air

at that time. The light is soft, the birds are singing and the bees are working. I want to capture these moments: the vibrant colors, the wonderful shapes, the energy."

"My intention with my paintings is to simplify shapes and communicate harmony and joy. I am inspired by the art of Milton Avery, Matisse, and Bonnard." Stone said she wants to convey the beauty of the world in her paintings, and so she does. Come and see for yourself.

Visit Kerry Stone's blog at kerrystone.blogspot.com to see more of her work. She can be reached by email at famstone5@hotmail.com and by phone at 978-544-5463. Arrange to visit her at her Sunflower Gallery in Warwick.

Stone will donate 10 percent of any sales to Forest Moon, a non-profit organization offering services to cancer survivors in Vermont.

The exhibition runs from Jan. 8 to Feb. 27 in the Herrick Room at the Wendell Free Library. A reception will be held on Saturday, Jan. 8, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Library hours: Tuesday 3-6; Wednesday 10-8; Saturday 9:30-3:30.



"The Hollyhocks" by Kerry Stone

WENDELL from pg 6 ly contribute \$50 so the camper and the family involved will have a stake in the program. The camp program is aimed at children from nine to 14 years old.

Keller and selectboard chair Christine Heard discussed methods for selecting a camper. They decided it should be based on a potential camper's interest, determined by an essay contest on the importance of nature, due by the end of February. Mahar Middle

School has a fish and game club, perhaps a way to get publicity to Wendell students who may be interested in the camp opportunity.

In other selectboard meeting news, Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that Wendell is eligible for an emergency management performance grant from MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management Administration) for up to \$2,500. The grant would have to be matched by an equal amount of town funds.

Lonny Ricketts, the

town's emergency manager, has requested a laptop computer and handheld radios. Aldrich suggested covering some of the expense of street number signs that would help emergency responders find a house during an emergency call.

The board of assessors received unanimous selectboard approval to continue with a single tax rate for residential and commercial property in the town for FY'12.

The selectboard also approved the lowest bid of \$2,157 to install leaf-guard

gutters from BT Seamless Gutters for the police station and the town hall. They also approved a bid of \$2,123 from Tri County Construction to replace windows in the police station with Anderson dual-pane windows with vinyl exteriors and primed wood interiors.

Later at the meeting, finance committee member Jim Slavas expressed concern about the possibility of renewed efforts by the state or by the Mahar school committee to entice Wendell and New Salem into a K-12 regional school

district. Slavas said the regionalization study conducted last year (and paid for by a \$10,000 state grant) showed that merging Swift River School into a K-12 district with Orange and Petersham would have neither economic benefit for Wendell taxpayers nor educational benefit for Wendell students.

The Orange and Petersham school committees have developed a regionalization plan that would combine their elementary schools into a K-12 region with Mahar.

Since the Orange elementary school superintendent is retiring, an assistant superintendent position for curriculum development will be created, thereby leaving the plan essentially budget neutral.

What wasn't left neutral at the end of the selectboard meeting was the four plates of cookies at this last meeting of 2010. Everyone who came to the meeting was invited to try one or more of the many varieties. Otherwise, it was business as usual for the Wendell selectboard.



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KAYNOR from pg 6

Pub, 57 Lockes Village Road. A celebration of life party will follow at her home in Wendell. Details can be found at www.soulsport.com.

The family thanks Hospice of Franklin County and the many generous friends and relations who have helped out during Molly's journey through her illness.

Mourning in Wendell

Molly went into hospice care in October, when doctors concluded that chemotherapy was only making her weaker and was of no more use. So, characteristically, while she was still strong enough, she called together a party at her house to celebrate the life that she shared with her family and friends. It was a joyful party with laughter, good stories, tables of incredible potluck dishes, homegrown flowers, three bands, dancing, and a drum circle around the campfire.

On New Year's Eve, there was another gathering of friends, vigiling outside the house as inside she weakened until breathing became too difficult for her. In a temporary shelter built next to the house by her husband and partner Jerry Eide, the video Stomp Out Loud played, there was live music, dancing, heartfelt drumming, more great potluck, and good friends. People came in from outside and sat quietly at her bedside, saying goodbye, or they sat quietly at the kitchen table, with the music, drumming, and conversations from outside filtering in.

After her death, a few of the many people who knew Molly in Wendell shared their memories and feelings about her.

Donna Horne called her "the nicest person in the whole world." Angie Ferris agreed, saying, "She was never mean to anyone. Even if she was having a bad day, you wouldn't be able to tell."

Lorraine Chaisson remembered her as "one of the mothers of the community, a mentor. So many young people at the New Year's Eve party said, 'She was like a mother to me'. She always put other people first."

Alia Kusmaul agreed, saying she had heard from many young

people in town that she was like a second mother to them. "Another matriarch has passed," she said.

Audrey White continued that theme, saying "I always called her Auntie Molly. She was such a beautiful person." Simon White, who played music at her house on New Year's Eve, said he was not good with words, but said, "She was a beautiful person, one of the best people you can ever have the honor to meet."

Charles Smith, who served with Molly on the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse, called her "the heart and soul of the Meetinghouse restoration." He also said, "She touched so many people and she had an extremely wide acquaintance." Melinda Godfrey, also a board member, said, "She was serving as treasurer and project manager and she was making it [the meetinghouse restoration] go. She would always think of an original way to advance it that would never occur to me. They say no one is indispensable," she added, "but I don't know if that is true of Molly." Godfrey also said, "No matter how busy she was, she would organize work parties for other people who needed help."

Dorthee said that she admired the way "Molly faced the end of life gracefully." Dor occasionally donated to the Meetinghouse and said Molly always remembered and recognized the contributions. "She was always so positive."

Next door neighbor Heather Tilley said Molly was "always so inviting. She always had a smile - there was a light coming from her."

Ellen Trousdale told a story from 2006, a bad year for her when Trousdale's husband died and she was diagnosed with breast cancer. At one point, when she felt overwhelmed, "Molly stepped in," and organized crews of people to do housecleaning, wood stacking, child chaffering, yard work. "She took the initiative - I think she called everyone in Wendell." Trousdale added that getting the work done was important, but the feeling that people cared about her was particularly uplifting.

Jonathan von Ranson men-

tioned "her heartfelt, selfless Molly way" and added, "My love of Molly comes from noticing her passionate love of this community, in her deeds like the Meetinghouse restoration, or the directory of skills and offerings she helped put together for Wendell Sustainable... I also remember words of real common sense from her during some of the discussions on the town's listserv."

Postmaster Charlie O'Dowd said, "I was inspired by her community involvement." He added, "I miss her a lot."

Katie Nolan recalled being easily drawn into work parties because Molly's sense of fun was infectious and because she always saw the good in each person. "I'll miss her a lot, too."

Family's Plans for the Funeral

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

A horse-drawn wagon carrying the casket (made in the last few days by Jerry) will arrive in the center of Wendell at around 12:00 p.m. where most people will catch up with the procession. We believe the town hall will be open at around 11:00 a.m. as a place to stay warm, get

some coffee or tea and to socialize while waiting for the horse-drawn wagon to arrive. We expect the wagon to pause at the center of Wendell until 12:30. At 12:30 p.m. the whole procession will leave the center of Wendell and follow the horses for a few miles to the cemetery (Osgood Brook Cemetery, north end of New Salem Road).

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

There will be a few family members who will speak at the cemetery. After the burial, Jerry will take a few minutes to play his drum using the same rhythms that have comforted Molly and helped her fall asleep for the last thirty years and especially over the past year. After that, people with drums are welcome to join in to provide a recessional background as people disperse back to Deja Brew for an informal memorial and public gathering (57 Locks Village Road, Wendell).

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Deja Brew will be open from 2:00 to 5:00 as a place for an informal memorial and public gathering. Finger food will be provided and everyone is welcome to attend. At around 5:00

p.m., people are welcome to come back to the house for a Celebration of Life party that is expected to last most of the night. It is fine to head to the house earlier if Deja Brew becomes overcrowded or whenever you would like. The house is located at 57 Old Stage Road. Please note that most GPS systems show Old Stage Road as a through street, but the middle is actually closed and impassable. Approach the house from the south side, Jennison Road.

5:00 - late

At the house, there will be music, bonfires, dancing, drumming, etc. most of the night. Any food, snacks or drinks that you could bring would be appreciated. Please keep in mind that parking may be challenging and you may have to walk a distance on a snowy/icy dirt road to the house so please dress appropriately. We ask that everyone park in a way that that regular traffic and emergency vehicles are able to pass for all the events.

Thanks to Huckle May, Katie Nolan, and Jonathan von Ranson for their help compiling this story. Farewell, Molly.

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SEBELIUS from pg 1

"Repeal," Sebelius said, "really takes away all of those freedoms and shifts power back to the health insurance companies."

Her home state of Kansas, she said, has already benefited from the earliest measures to take force. (The Affordable Health Care Act's regulations will not fully kick in until 2014.)

"In Kansas, with a population a little under three million, if repeal were to succeed, nearly one and a half million Kansans would be back at risk of losing their benefits when the worst abuses of insurance companies became legal again. Sixteen thousand young Kansans could lose coverage through their parents' health plans, just gained through the new law. Countless people would continue to see their premiums rise without new rules restricting the health care dollars insurers can spend on administrative costs like marketing and

CEO salaries."

Using her state of Kansas as an example, she said thanks to the Act's implementation 50 employers and unions have been able to maintain health coverage for early retirees.

"Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City has already enrolled more than 9,000 new members, covered by 400 new employers, more than a third of whom did not previously have coverage."

This year, Medicare recipients subject to the 'donut hole' in drug coverage have received \$250 checks, Sebelius said.

Next year, they'll get a 50% discount on brand name drugs within the donut hole.

By 2014, the donut hole in coverage will be eliminated.

"Repeal across the country," she said, "would take tax credits away from almost four million small business owners. What's happening in Kansas we can see replicated across the country."

Given how the new law is giving families and small businesses relief from skyrocketing costs and establishing a new level of accountability for insurance companies, "It is really so surprising that members of Congress are saying they really want to go back to the status quo that was not working very well on behalf of American families and business owners."

The secretary concluded, "Over the last nine months, working with our partners in states across the country, the evidence suggests the benefits of the new law are working for millions of Americans. We intend to focus on implementing the law effectively, and improving it where we can. No question, repeal would be a huge step back, a step we can't afford."

Secretary Sebelius then took questions from reporters.

Asked about the lack of enrollment so far in high risk

pools, due to high individual premiums, up to \$650 a month in states like Michigan, Sebelius replied, "Without an employer share, which a lot of people count on, coverage is expensive, even though this is capped at market rates. We're trying with these high risks pools to get from 2011 to 2014, when folks with pre-existing conditions will have a new marketplace and a new pool to be part of. Putting all the sick people in one pool automatically gives you, unfortunately, some very high rates. So the goal will be a new pool where you'll be able to balance that risk better."

Michael Booth of the *Denver Post* asked about the threat by the Republican Congress to defund the new law, if repeal proves impossible in the Senate.

Sebelius responded, "We intend to be good partners in the effort to reduce the deficit and control federal spending. We are scrubbing our departments and

our agencies to eliminate redundant programs and maximize the assets we have. There was some implementation money and self-funding mechanisms in the Affordable Care Act as passed. Unless these are repealed, the law will have a funding stream available. Frankly, we are going to use the administrative assets we have to make sure the American people receive the benefits that have been committed to them."

An AP reported asked if Sebelius was concerned that, politically, "The tide may be turning against the health care law," citing the numerous court cases now moving forward to strike down the law, and the Republican majority in Congress now "putting down that marker to repeal the law."

"No, actually this is the debate that has been underway since the president first proposed these sweeping reforms." Sebelius see **SEBELIUS pg 12**

LEVERETT from pg 5

The board is still committed to moving ahead with a companion capital project at the school, to replace all the older windows with energy efficient units. That project is also expected to cost \$300,000, but the town may qualify for 51% reimbursement through the state's Green Repair program, funding for which is apparently secure despite the state's budget difficulties.

Whatever the board decides about the best course for the roof project, funding will need to be approved at an upcoming special town meeting on February 15th.

School building maintenance supervisor John Kuczek said he had heard from some town residents that they would like to keep the slate roof to preserve the visual esthetics of the original building, and members of the selectboard said they had heard similar

comments.

Kuczek also mentioned that the piping in the one of the geothermal cells at the town library, the one leading to the foyer heating unit, was defective and needed to be replaced.

In other news, the board appointed Pam Stone (chair), Julie Shively, Janice Telfer, Catherine Brooks, Sarah Dolven, Dawn Saachs, Farshid Hajir and Don Gibavic to the newly formed education study committee. The committee will examine options for the future of public education in Leverett, at a time of heightened anxiety about the prospects of forced school regionalization. It meets for the first time on Thursday night, January 6th.

The board appointed Jonathan Ketchum to the position of transfer station attendant, at the rate of \$13.15 per hour, and promoted Orson Jones to the post of supervisor there, at the rate of \$14.30

per hour.

The board agreed to petition the attorney general's office to see if a recent change in state law making boards of health responsible for transfer stations, rather than the Department of Environmental Protection, amounts to an unfunded state mandate.

School committee chair Farshid Hajir delivered a preliminary operating budget for the elementary school for FY'12, showing a \$65,703 (3.87%) increase.

Hajir said the committee was hoping to restore funds that have been cut in recent years for maintenance and supplies, but the board focused on the impending contract negotiations with teachers and staff, and told Hajir the town personnel board has recommended a 1.5% cost of living increase for town workers for the coming year.

Selectboard member Julie

Shively said, "Because such high percentages were built into the last [teacher] contract, compared to the rest of the employees, we felt that should be taken into consideration."

"Most of the teachers are topped out at the top of the scale," Hajir pointed out, limiting their possibilities for raises.

D'Errico replied, "We'd like to see parity. Given that it's been out of balance for the last couple of years, we'd like to see the school come in less this year."

Town administrator assistant Marjie McGinnis said town employees have received COLAs at 2.8%, 3%, and 1% over the last three years, compared to 3%, 3%, and 3.5% for teachers.

D'Errico said, "We do need to deal with the perceptions of fire, police and highway employees. Their salaries are not there. I don't want to see resentment build."

The selectboard said they will send a [non-voting] representative at the negotiating table during the upcoming contract sessions.

Hajir said the preliminary budget was a work in progress. The board asked whether the delay in filling the vacancy left by the retirement of Union 28 business manager Charlie Paulin would negatively effect the school committee's ability to handle budget revisions, but Hajir said the superintendent, and a hired consultant have been helping take up the slack. Hajir, a UMass math professor, has also been contributing his own considerable skills to the budget preparations, and the board recommended asking finance committee member Tom Powers to pinch hit as needed.

"It takes a village to fund a school," Hajir offered.



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SCOOPER from pg 1
contamination.”

The new ruling was passed in the interest of public health, since dog and cat feces can and often do contain the eggs of hookworms and round worms, parasites that can be transmitted from one animal to another, and to humans as well. Gina McNeely, Montague's director of public health, has spent time working in local veterinarians' laboratories, and she said, "Intestinal parasites are common in domestic animals, and improper waste management simply increases infection rates. These parasites compromise an animal's health, cost pet owners a lot of money, and make people sick. They are not something you want to acquire just from walking barefoot in grass that dogs or cats have soiled."

McNeely explained the trans-

mission cycle. Fecal matter clings to an animal's paws. Later, when the dog licks its paws or the cat grooms itself, the eggs are swallowed and transferred to the digestive system where they attach to the intestinal wall. These parasites live on blood, multiply, and can cause anemia.

According to Peteducation.com, "The animal's gums will appear pale; the animal will become weak; vomiting and diarrhea may be present, and in severe infections animals may cough or develop pneumonia as the larvae migrate through the lungs. Animals may become emaciated and eventually die from the infection. Puppies are most vulnerable."

Regarding human infection, Peteducation.com states, "When humans are infected, larvae can penetrate the surface of a per-

son's skin (usually through bare feet) and migrate, causing a disease called 'cutaneous larva migrans' or 'creeping eruption.' The lesions appear as red lines under the skin, cause severe itching and sometimes break open at the surface. Usually, the larvae die in several weeks and the condition will disappear. In severe cases, the larvae may make their way through the skin and enter deeper tissues. This may cause lung disease and painful muscles. There have been some reports of humans having intestinal infections with canine hookworms."

Although wildlife also carries parasites, they are less of a concern. McNeely said, "Wildlife feces are widely dispersed throughout the land, often deep in the woods. Pet owners tend to walk their animals in locations people frequent, causing a con-

centration of animals, animal feces, and humans. This is an unhealthful situation. Pet feces are something each pet owner can and should manage. It is wonderful to be able to hike with them and watch them play, but the health department also felt the time had come to take reasonable precautions against disease."

Board of health agents, parks and rec staff, the police department, animal inspectors and animal control officers can enforce the regulation. Violators can be fined \$25 for the first offence, \$50 for the second and \$100 for the third. Repeat offenders will be subject to a hearing before the board of health and may receive a fine of up to \$1000.

Although the new regulation was discussed at a posted public hearing last summer, no citizens attended the hearing. In August, a

summary of the new regulations was published, but so far there has been little additional publicity. Last month, some signs appeared in the Montague Center Conservation area, but there are no other signs about the pooper scooper ordinance up yet around town, due to lack of funds. McNeely is hoping word will travel among pet owners, and that volunteers may come forward to fundraise for signs and cans.

For those who have thrown a tennis ball, gleefully watched the chase and pretended not to notice the squat that follows this burst of energy, the new law will be a trial. But learning to pick up after our dogs each and every time will pay off for everyone. And we are not alone. New York City has had a pooper scooper law since 1978, and the fine for not complying there is \$200!



SEBELIUS from page 11

claimed, "I am feeling more optimistic now because of what is happening across the country - people are beginning to see how the new health care law is benefiting them, and their families."

She said, "Some of the assertions made by the opponents during the legislative debate are just flat out wrong. Seniors will actually see additional benefits, new benefits as part of their guaranteed Medicare plan, and Medicare is stronger. The independent Congressional Budget Office [CBO] said this bill reduces the deficit over the next two decades by a trillion dollars."

"Families now can keep a young adult on a family plan, parents are no longer terrified about what happens to their child with a pre-existing condition if they have to shift jobs or move. We see freedom in early retirees no longer priced out or locked out of an individual market. And for the first time insurance companies are under a very

bright light of scrutiny. Rates are being reviewed. Consumers have choices.

"Right now Republicans are in a conversation with their constituents about taking benefits away and putting power back in the hands of the insurance companies."

The *Atlanta Journal Constitution* countered, "Opponents are saying the country simply can't afford this law."

Sebelius, for a third time, cited the CBO's estimate of a trillion dollars of relief on the deficit over 20 years with implementation, and said those who argue against the Act yet want to reduce spending, "need to come up with a trillion dollars to fill the gap." She said, "Every small business owner I talk to says the ability to have more affordable coverage is the difference between being able to hire more workers, to keep and retain their best workers, or lose them to a competitor down the street. Bringing people into the system where they can have access to

preventative care is a whole lot cheaper than treating those same folks in the emergency room with acute care."

Taking a final question from Maine public radio, Sebelius said the Obama administration would move to implement the law regardless of the split decisions in lower courts that are likely to wend their way to the Supreme Court in time. She said those court challenges are focused on one aspect of the law - the individual mandate - and the Virginia judge who has ruled against the constitutionality of the mandate that individuals purchase insurance (as a means to the end of universal health coverage) refused to stay the implementation of the law pending appeal.

Sebelius wrapped up her defense of the Obama administration's health care law in strong terms.

"We need a different way of providing health security. We need people to have the freedom to choose a plan, to deal with

their doctors and get the preventative care they need. I can't tell you how many parents are telling me, 'My child graduated from college this year and couldn't find a job where she could get coverage. I'm so thrilled we can keep her on our plan.'

"People in high risk pools who were really in life or death situations without coverage are now able to get the treatment they need for life threatening diseases."

"Early retirees who were being quoted prices approaching \$2,000 a month for retiree coverage now find their employer coverage will stay in place. Medicare beneficiaries who are looking at paying \$3 - \$4,000 out of pocket for prescription drugs will now have a 50% decrease, starting this year, and new annual wellness visits."

"People are just starting to understand those benefits are part of this new health care law, and I think people are going to be very attached to them, very soon."

MAHAR from page 7

buying it," he told the committee.

The open portion of the meeting was short and quiet in tone, but it ended with a two-hour executive session that ended inconclusively. The closed session was announced under an open meeting law clause that allows these sessions to discuss an individual, public officer, employee, or staff member, and another that covers discussion of collective bargaining agreements - this one with the Mahar Teacher's Association (MTA) for the next two school years.

Though MTA President Bill Curtis caucused on two separate occasions with School Committee Chair Maureen Donelan and Superintendent Baldassarre, the collective bargaining issue was left unresolved at meeting's end.

At 10 p.m. Donelan announced the discussions had been inconclusive. Representative Peter Cross of Orange said they will be discussed further at the next school committee meeting.



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How to Combat Abdominal Weight



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *What kind of exercise should I do to get rid of this big gut I'm carrying around?*

Exercise alone will not do the job. Strengthening abdominal muscles can help you look tighter and thinner. But spot exercises won't banish belly fat. The real secret to losing belly fat is a balanced, calorie-controlled diet and an hour a day of moderate activity such as brisk walking.

If you are going to do abdominal exercises, which ones work best? Most people figure that doing sit-ups is the logical solution, but there are better ways to

attack the middle.

Believe it or not, you can develop your deep abdominal muscles by sucking in your belly. Exhale completely and then pull your belly button in and up slowly. Hold this position for 10 seconds and then rest for 10 seconds. You can do this on your hands and knees or standing.

Pelvic exercises work on your lower abdomen. Lie on your back with your knees bent. Tighten your abdominal muscles and bend your pelvis up slightly. Hold for five to 10 seconds. Repeat.

Here's another pelvic exercise. Lie on your back with your knees bent up toward your chest and your arms at your sides. Tighten your lower abdomen and try to lift your buttocks up off the floor. Hold for five to 10 seconds. Repeat.

How often you do these exercises depends upon your physical condition. Don't do anything

that hurts. And checking with your doctor before starting a new exercise program is recommended.

Belly fat—or "abdominal obesity" as it is known in polite circles—is not just an unsightly mass of blubber that forces you to look for bigger pants. That spare tire is a health hazard.

Excess weight is unhealthy, but extra abdominal weight is especially unhealthy. Abdominal fat cells are more than just stored energy. These cells make hormones and other substances that impact your health. Too much belly fat increases your risk of heart disease, stroke, breast cancer, diabetes, gallbladder problems, high blood pressure and colorectal cancer.

There is some very good news for those trying to lose belly fat (I'm with you, Chubby). Belly fat is the first to go when you diet and exercise. Almost everyone who loses weight will lose it first

in the belly. And they will lose proportionately more weight in this region than in other parts of the body.

So, what exactly is a big belly? Most authorities will tell you that a man's waistline larger than 40 inches and a woman's waistline larger than 35 inches is too much middle.

The proper way to measure your waist is to use a soft tape measure. Lie down and wrap it around your natural waistline, located above your hip bone and below your belly button. Take the measurement without holding your breath or pulling your stomach in.

A big belly is a common sight on seniors. As you age and your metabolism slows down, the amount of fat in your body slowly increases. Women experience an even greater overall fat increase than men do. Then, after menopause, body fat tends to shift to the abdomen. However,

men are more likely than women to gain weight around the waist.

You can inherit a tendency to get a big belly. For most men, however, the cause is more likely to be what they do with their elbow. Too much alcohol will give you a spare tire. There is such a thing as a "beer belly." However, a more accurate definition would be "alcohol abdomen."

There seems to be a link between abdominal obesity and depression. There have been reports showing that cortisol, a stress hormone, is related to both depression and abdominal obesity.

Some researchers suspect that people who are depressed may have higher levels of abdominal obesity because of elevated cortisol. More studies are needed to determine the underlying causes for weight gain among those who reported being depressed.

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG
Copper Theft, Accidents on Icy Roads

Wednesday, 9/29
8:52 p.m. Unwanted person removed from Farley Road residence.

Tuesday, 10/5
12:30 p.m. Bank representative reported copper piping removed from vacant Cooleyville Road residence.

Monday, 10/11
6:55 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Jennison Road from last evening reported.

Wednesday, 10/27
7:00 a.m. Tree down on Depot Road blocking traffic. Removed by Highway Department.

Saturday, 11/13
12:30 p.m. WRATS reported trash turned in by individual who found it in a brook on Thompson Road. Referred to Environmental Police.

Saturday, 11/27
7:07 p.m. One-car accident on Depot Road due to icy roads. No injuries.

Saturday, 12/11
11:45 p.m. Transported lost female to Orange.

Sunday, 12/12
8:20 a.m. Freezing rain and snow cause of one-car accident on New Salem Road. No injuries.

Monday, 12/20
1 p.m. One-car accident on Lockes Village Road. No injuries.

Saturday, 12/25
10:45 a.m. 911 misdial at Lockes Village Road residence. All OK.

Tuesday, 12/28
12:23 p.m. Car off road on Locke Hill Road.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG
Chimney Fire, Assist Other Police

Tuesday, 12/21
10:55 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with out of control juvenile on Old Vernon Road.

Wednesday, 12/22
12:10 a.m. Assisted Montague police with a domestic dispute on Bridge Street.

2:30 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for speeding, seatbelt violation, failure to inspect motor vehicle, and operating after a suspension and warrant, on Route 2.

8:40 p.m. Report of chimney fire at a Moore Street residence. Assisted Erving fire department.

Thursday, 12/23
3:57 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for two warrants on Route 2.

Friday, 12/24
8:20 a.m. Motor vehicle crash on Prospect Street. Car vs. tractor trailer unit. Report taken.

3:28 p.m. Report of suspicious motor vehicle on Wells Street. Checked same.

Sunday, 12/26
10:35 a.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after a suspension.

7:50 a.m. Motor vehicle crashed into guardrail on Route 2 East Bypass.

2:16 p.m. Report of near collision on Mountain Road. Resident almost collided with a subject plowing a driveway.

Wednesday, 12/29
7:10 p.m. Alarm at Erving State Forest building. Building secure.

Thursday, 12/30
12:15 p.m. Large brush fire at Prospect Street Extension. Burn approved by fire chief.

Friday, 12/31
10:40 a.m. Report of illegal burn in East Prospect Street area. Assisted on scene. Handled by Erving fire department.

Saturday, 1/1
1:10 a.m. Assisted Bernardston police with assault and battery arrest at Bella Note.

Sunday, 1/2
12:10 a.m. Criminal complaint issued to [redacted] for speeding, seatbelt violation, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Monday, 1/3
6:10 p.m. Assisted Orange police with personal injury accident on Route 2 between exits I5 and I6.

9:09 p.m. Alarm at Christina's Restaurant. Found to be entry. Currently under investigation.

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GO GREEN FAMILY

Episode 39: Community Challenge & Rising Tide

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON

MONTAGUE CENTER – “I’m here at the Greenfield Energy Park,” explained host Sam Lively to the camera, “which was created by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, better known as NESEA, a nonprofit organization located right next door. We’ve picked this setting to introduce our final challenge because NESEA works in the

community to promote and educate people about clean energy.” “What we do as individuals is important, but we can only really create systemic and lasting change by joining together. So, for the next month, we’ve asked our three families to show us how we can work together as part of a larger community to develop more sustainable approaches. We’ll hear thoughts on this topic from each of the families in February during the Sustainable Energy Summit Conference organized by Coop Power. Then the summit’s atten-

dees will vote to determine the winner of this challenge.

“The final winners of the Go Green Family contest will be announced later that same night, at the conclusion of the conference. We’ll broadcast the results from the banquet hall where we will be holding our celebratory dinner.”



Meanwhile, Gerry Bartlett tried unsuccessfully to catch his wife Beverly’s attention.

“Listen to me,” Gerry said impatiently. “I’m going to be unemployed in a month. They’re giving me two month’s severance pay, then I’m on my own.”

Beverly, who had been draping fabric on a child-sized mannequin, finally looked up. “Business is down,” Gerry continued. “Rynotech is laying me off. This is really bad timing—we just took out a home equity loan for the geothermal system.”

“We’ll figure something out. You can help me out with setting up retail outlets for EcoSprouts,” Beverly suggested brightly.

Bartlett Family

Gerry, 59 Software Engineer
Beverly, 52 Business Owner
Jayden, 16
Connor, 14

Gerry’s spirits, already low, plummeted. He sought out his brother-in-law/permanent houseguest Brian Dubin, hoping to commiserate.

“Hey, buddy—come with me to Green Drinks?”

“What the F is ‘green drinks?’ Spirulina smoothies?”

“It’s a networking thing for people interested in the environment...at a pub that’s got good microbrew beer.”

“I’m there, mate. Let’s go meet a buncha greenies and get some grog!”

Later, when the two walked through the door at the Rendezvous, Brian and Gerry spotted a half a dozen people in a booth engaged in animated conversation. As they made their way closer, a tall man with a disarming smile rose to shake their hands.

“I’m Mark Sandler with the Solar Store.”

Thrusting out his hand in return, Brian said, “G’day—my name’s Brian Dubin and I just pulled up stakes in Australia.

Me and me mate Gerry are both gonna be on the dole—isn’t that right?” Brian added, putting his arm around Gerry’s shoulder.

“Maybe you should start your own green business,” Mark advised. “What do you know how to do?”

“Drink and yabber...just joking, mate,” Brian laughed. “I was a sales manager for a vineyard. Now I’m a climate change refugee.”

“I know,” a slender young woman with a knit hat offered, “You should start an NGO. You could lobby, do public education, all that stuff.”

“That’s a ridgy didge idea,” Brian responded. “An association for climate change refugees! I’ll be president, and Gerry can be the VP. We could shake things up a bit.”

Just then the waitress arrived with a platter of food.

“Wow—I need some of that!” Brian exclaimed, “I’m so bloody hungry I could eat the horse and chase the jockey.”

Continued next issue...

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Position Available
Leverett Elementary School
Leverett Elementary School, a small, friendly, child-centered public school is accepting applications for the following position: Part-time Certified ELL (English Language Learner) Teacher, 10 – 15 Hours/Week, Russian language helpful but not required.
Position begins end of January 2011. Complete a professional application and CORI form (found on the www.union28.org website) and send with cover letter, resume, MA certification and 3 current letters of reference to: Anne Ross, Principal, Leverett Elementary School, 85 Montague Road, Leverett, MA 01054. (413) 548-9144. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled
~ EOE ~

Notice of Public Hearing
Town of Wendell, Massachusetts
Notice is hereby given that the Wendell Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wendell Town Offices to review the application of T-Mobile for a special permit to construct a wireless communication facility in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A and the Town of Wendell Zoning Bylaws. The site is the existing monopole at 126 Mormon Hollow Road. T-Mobile proposes to flush mount on the monopole three (3) panel antennas with three (3) amplifiers and to add three (3) BIS cabinets and battery backup equipment in a 10’x20’ space. All interested parties should attend the hearing. A copy of the application is available with the Town Coordinator at the Town Offices and the Wendell Free Library during business hours.
- Nan Riebschlaeger, Chair
Wendell Planning Board

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG
Illegal Dumping, Robbery, Auto Theft
Tuesday, 12/21
8 p.m. Larceny at J K’s Liquors on Avenue A. Services rendered.
Wednesday, 12/22
8:18 a.m. Illegal dumping on Lake Pleasant Road in Millers Falls. Referred to other agency.
12:39 p.m. Fight on Central Street. Services rendered.
Friday, 12/24
2:29 a.m. Suspicious auto at Conte Anadromous Fish Research center on Migratory Way. Investigated.
6:12 p.m. Robbery at 4th Street Alley. Report taken.
8:22 p.m. Unwanted person on L Street.
Sunday, 12/26
3:32 p.m. Loud noise disturbance on East Main Street in Millers Falls.
Monday, 12/27
1:51 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a straight warrant.
11:05 a.m. Trespassing at Powertown apartments. Advised of options.
11:47 a.m. Illegal dumping on the Montague Plains. Referred to other police.
5:45 p.m. Structure fire on High Street. Services rendered.
9:54 p.m. Unwanted person at Powertown apartments. Investigated.
Tuesday, 12/28
10:10 a.m. Runaway on L Street. Advised of options.
11:46 a.m. Hit and run accident at Food City parking lot on Avenue A. No police service needed.
9:04 p.m. Structure fire on Federal Street. Services rendered.
Wednesday, 12/29
6:23 p.m. Motor vehicle theft on Vladish Avenue. Referred to other police.
Thursday, 12/30
11:38 a.m. Domestic disturbance on L Street. Referred to an officer.
5:00 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for speeding, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and no registration in possession.
10:24 p.m. Drug, narcotics violation at Food City on Avenue A.
Friday, 12/31
10:13 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Turners Falls Road. Services rendered.
5:00 p.m. Domestic disturbance at Fifth Street and Avenue A. Services rendered.
9:51 p.m. Assault on Fifth Street. Report taken.
Monday, 1/3
4:23 a.m. Larceny on K Street. Services rendered.
4:33 a.m. Officer wanted and domestic disturbance on K Street.
7:58 p.m. Structure fire, smoke investigation on Greenfield Road. Referred to other agency.

Meeting Notice
Turners Falls Fire District
The Turners Falls Fire District will hold a Special District Meeting on Tuesday, January 11th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Complex Community Room, located at 180 Turnpike Road in Turners Falls. All District residents are encouraged to attend. The meeting is called for the district to evaluate the tax increment financing agreement with Mayhew Steel.

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

Montague Grange: *Southern Square Dance*, Jennifer Steckler of Brookfield, Vermont will call the figures, with music by The New Barnyard Serenaders, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, Singing all your Johnny Cash favorites and many more, 9 to 11 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Ottomatic Slim*, Chicago Blues, 9 to 11 p.m.

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

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Pocket Funk* which features Peter Kim on bass, Tim Boucher on keyboard, Sam French on drums and Zack Holmes on guitar. Dance party! 9 p.m.

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

EVERY MONDAY IN JANUARY

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Weekly Knitting & Crafting Group*: Learn from experienced knitters and crafters, help assist others, or bring your own project to work on or share, at 37 Third Street. 7 to 9 p.m.

p.m. at 68 Federal St. All ages welcome. Drug & alcohol free event. (413) 774-5489.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Rhythm, Inc*, reggae, 9 to 11 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

JANUARY 1st Through FEBRUARY 26th

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

JANUARY 8 until FEBRUARY 27

Wendell Free Library: Herrick Room, *Garden Musings*, paintings by Kerry Stone of Warwick. Reception: Saturday, January 8, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Library Hours: Tuesday 3 to 6; Wednesday 10 to 8; Saturday 9:30 to 3:30.



The Green River String Band plays alt-country originals, blistering bluegrass, & fiddle tunes. Members: Charlie Conant, on dobro & guitar; Doug Reid, on banjo, accordion, & vocals; Eveline MacDougall on fiddle & vocals; & Mark Koyama on mandolin & guitar. First Church in Deerfield on January 23rd at 2 p.m. with the Amandla Chorus and Juanita Nelson.

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

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

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16th

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, Acoustic Trio, warped Americana, 8 to 10 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22nd

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23rd

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

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7th

The Recover Project, Greenfield: hosts an *Open Mic* night. 8:00 to 11:00



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Petie (Nabut) & Friends, 9:30 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Watcher*, 9:30 p.m.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Pamela Means* with valley based drummer Sturgis Cunningham, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *An Irish Session*, Amanda Bernhard, Jonathan Hohl Kennedy & Friends, 8 to 10 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Disorderly Conduct*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Second Saturday Children's Series*. This month: investigate local fish species. Learn about the amazing diversity of fish species in Massachusetts, and learn how to identify those species by coloring and decorating a fish mobile. 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m. Free.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13th
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, classic rock & dance music, 8-10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Coffehouse* featuring *Rosebush*, 7 to 9 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Run for Your Guns*, 8 p.m.

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2. SEASON OF THE WITCH PG13 DTS
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3. YOGI BEAR IN 3D PG
DAILY 12:00 2:00 4:00 7:00 9:10
4. GULLIVER'S TRAVELS PG
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
5. NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TRADER PG
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
6. LITTLE FOCKERS PG13 DTS
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7. TRUE GRIT PG13 DTS
12:00 3:00 6:30 9:00

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SAT 1/8 | 9:30 | \$3
WATCHER (rock)

SUN 1/9 | 8-Midnight | FREE
TNT Karaoke

TUES 1/13 | 9:30 | FREE
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One Last Hoop to Jump through for Low Power FM

BY MICHAEL MULLER MONTAGUE — Some very good news emerged in the waning hours of the 111th Congress for those who have been following the Low Power FM Radio story for the past few years.

Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCCI), the organization that owns Montague Community Television, has been waiting and hoping to build a community radio station since 2001. Although the organization was awarded a construction permit from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 2005, it was blocked from building the station in 2007 due to the proximity on the dial of another station (WGAI, now a WFCR repeater) under the so-called Third Adjacency law. The 2005 building permit has since expired.

Early last month, demonstrators gathered in front of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) clad in clown suits and jumping with hula-hoops demanding that the NAB stop making local communities "jump through hoops" to get

their Low Power FM (LPFM) licenses. A great deal of media attention followed, the NAB relented, and mysterious holds in the Senate disappeared. Just a few days before adjourning for the holidays, the U.S. Senate

strike down the Third Adjacency law. Now Montague has an opportunity to finally get a Low Power FM station.

Here's the time line of Montague's struggle:

In July of 2001, seeing that

Pittsfield moved to Mt. Toby in Sunderland on channel 288, which is 105.5 MHz, putting us on a First Adjacent channel.

In July of 2006 MCCI found a channel, 222 (92.3 MHz), and a location, the top of Dry Hill,

up. Industry lobbying tied up the bill for three years until the non-profit organization Prometheus Radio got tired of waiting and staged the kooky demonstration with the hula-hoops last month.

Now, with the Third Adjacency law in the dustbin, it would seem MCCI could finally go about building Montague's community radio station. Well, no. MCCI doesn't have a construction permit any longer. But that may not be such a difficult hoop to jump through.

The LPFM committee will soon be reconvening to put together a strategy. Two alternatives would be to either wait for the next LPFM application window and re-apply, or ask U.S. Rep. John Olver to sponsor an act of Congress directing the FCC to honor MCCI's expired permit, essentially grandfathering in and approving our request for modification back in 2006.

Stay tuned!

Michael Muller is a board member of Montague Community Cable, Inc. MCCI



COURTESY OF PROMETHEUS RADIO PROJECT

Community radio hopefuls Hula Hoop in front of the National Association of Broadcasters in Washington last month, prior to the successful Senate vote. Now, communities like Montague will have fewer hoops to jump through to set up low power radio stations.

handed communities across the country a great New Year's present by joining the House to

MCCI might lose the cable television assignment for Montague, (a circumstance which also, by the way, gave birth to *The Montague Reporter*) board member Mike Saari applied for a LPFM license from the FCC.

Four years later, in August of 2005, MCCI was awarded a construction permit for an 8-watt LPFM station transmitting at a location just off Chestnut Hill Road on channel 287, which is 105.3 MHz. However, in the time between when MCCI applied for the permit and actually received it, WVEI FM from

and submitted a request for modification of our construction permit to the FCC. Unfortunately an existing station, WGAI of Deerfield Academy, was on a Third Adjacent channel, so the FCC denied MCCI's request, despite the fact WGAI was no longer using the channel.

A year later, there was new hope in the 2007 Local Community Radio Act. This bill — H.R. 2802 — would relax the Third Adjacency law. But of course big full-power radio stations didn't want more competition, and the NAB did what they

could to block the passage, forcing communities like Montague to jump through hoops to get their stations

Town of Gill Public Disclosure of Proposed Assessments for FY 2011

The town of Gill has received permission to begin public disclosure of the Fiscal Year 2011 property values. These assessment values are preliminary and are pending certification following the final statistical analysis and approval indicating compliance with the Department of Revenue's standards. Public disclosure is part of the Revaluation or Re-certification of values required by statute every three years.

In accordance with DOR requirements, the valuations are established as of the appraisal assessment date of January 1, 2010. Values were calculated at "Full and Fair Cash Value" using market data including sales from calendar year 2008 and 2009 which was analyzed to determine the valuations appropriate as of the January 1, 2010 assessment date. The Town of Gill conducts its own in-house revaluation program with the assistance of consultants from the firm of Mayflower Valuation, Ltd.

The public disclosure period is being held from Monday, January 3, 2011 through Wednesday, January 12, 2011. As part of the Public Disclosure process, valuation listings will be available for review at the Assessors' office and Town Clerk's office at Gill Town Hall during office hours: Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Monday evening from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Call the assessors office at 863-0138 with questions.

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