



TOWN HALL

Citizen Initiated Sidewalk Replacement
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Santina King performs at Deja Brew
Page 15

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 11, 2009

TFHS Girls Softball Heartbreaker



DETMOLD PHOTO

Emma Butynski sets her stance in Wednesday's Div. III semi-finals.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

AMHERST – They say it ain't over til it's over, but when shortstop Kim Arsenault got to the plate with the bases loaded and two out in the bottom of the seventh, Turners trailing 4 – 1, and the semi-finals for the state Division III girls softball championship on the line, she drove home the truth of that old saying for everyone clinging to the edge of their seats at the UMass softball stadium Wednesday afternoon. She smacked a 3 and 1 pitch right over the left field fence. Her teammates came pouring out of the dugout cheering and screaming and the crowd went wild. Until the ump called the line drive foul – by a smitch.

The Turners squad, who won the Western Mass championship title on Saturday, defeating Pioneer 7 – 4, trailed Central Mass champs Montachusets Tech from the first inning, when

center fielder Ivette Tejada led off by smacking a single between third and short, advanced to third on an error, and scored when Montachusets pitcher Alyssa Babineau hit a solid line drive to center field.

With runners on first and second, Turners hurler Emily Mailloux walked the next batter to load the bases, with no outs.

It was looking grim in Mudville, and there was more rain in the forecast, but Mailloux buckled down and pitched her way out of the inning without further damage, striking out two and receiving excellent support from third base where Emma Butynski plucked a one-hopper off the baseline and fired it to home plate in time to catch the runner.

Turners came out swinging in the bottom of the first, when center fielder Ashley Costa powered a line drive over the shortstop for a lead off single.

Up next, Arsenault gave Kelly Lacroix, her rival on shortstop, no quarter, driving a sharp grounder to her left. Lacroix backhanded it, tried to make the play at second, but Costa beat the throw.

Left fielder Jadi Torres showed power when she fouled the first pitch away, threatening passing traffic on University Drive. But she managed only a short one-hopper to third, where Ashley Gowey flubbed the throw to Lacroix, covering the bag. All runners were safe, and Turners

see **SOFTBALL** pg 8

Questions and Answers on BIOMASS



McNeil Station, Burlington, VT (50 MW biomass plant)

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS – On Thursday, about 100 residents of area towns brought their concerns about the 47 MW biomass electricity generating plant proposed for the I-91 industrial park in Greenfield to a question and answer session with project developer Matt Wolfe, of Madera Energy. The two-hour session at the Turners Falls High School auditorium, moderated by Montague's Ray Godin, began with a 20-minute power point presentation narrated by Wolfe and colleague Cliff Orvedal, outlining the planned design and operation of the wood chip burning plant. (To see the slideshow, go to www.montaguema.net and click on local politics/documents.) A spirited back and forth

followed between the plant's proponents and the audience.

Janet Sinclair, of Shelburne Falls, led off with a question about levels of radioactive cesium and strontium 90 that may be present in wood ash in the Northeast, an aftermath of fallout from above-ground nuclear weapons testing from the '50s and '60s. She asked if Wolfe and Orvedal planned to test for radioactive elements in the wood ash generated at their plant.

Orvedal said he was familiar with the study Sinclair had referenced, but said he was unaware of any problems arising from the use of wood ash for soil amendments from the other biomass plants in the region. The Department of Environmental Protection does not require test-

ing for radioactivity in wood ash, Orvedal said.

Wolfe added, "It's up for debate whether there is radioactivity in wood ash," but when Sinclair pressed him on the question of whether he planned to test for it, Wolfe said, "We'll look into it."

A Greenfield man followed up with a question about how wood burning plants can be considered carbon neutral "when it takes 75 years to grow a tree."

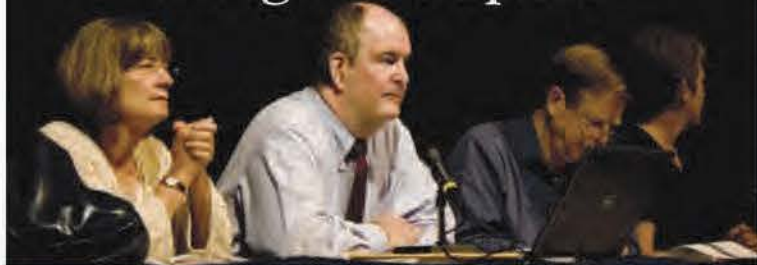
"The basic premise," replied Wolfe, "is when the tree grows it absorbs carbon dioxide; when it's combusted or decomposes it releases it. That's it. Some say [burning biomass] is carbon neutral; some say it's low carbon; some say it's not carbon neutral at all.

"We say it's carbon neutral," Wolfe continued. "State policy says it's carbon neutral. Federal policy says it's carbon neutral."

Then Wolfe quoted from a 2000 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: "If biomass is harvested and subsequently regrows without an overall loss of carbon stocks, there will be no net CO2 emission over a full harvest/growth cycle. In this way, land can be used continuously for the production of biomass energy to avoid fossil fuel CO2 emissions."

see **Q&A** pg 9

Town Meeting Looks for Budget Discipline



Montague finance committee members Marj Levenson, Mike Naughton, John Hanold and Carolyn Olsen at the annual town meeting on Saturday

BY HYRUM H. HUSKEY JR.

MONTAGUE – Montague may have lost a few town meeting members to the gorgeous weather on Saturday, but those who did show up to annual town meeting were in a questioning mood. The lack of clear plans for reducing future expenses to match anticipated revenues appeared to be at the root of most questions posed by town meeting members.

Following introductory formalities, town moderator Ray

Godin attempted to move the usual first five warrant articles as a package, since they are primarily administrative in nature. But Article 2 permitted town officials to apply for, and accept, various grants, and was immediately questioned by David Jensen, Precinct 2, who asked if the article was "applicable to future years."

Precinct 2's Jeanne Golrick supported Jensen, cautioning that town officials would, in effect,

be able to commit to future expenditures without sufficient prior input by town meeting. The fourth article, concerning fiscal year 2010 recommended salaries for elected officials, was also held for separate vote. Both articles subsequently passed following explanations of their purposes.

For the next hour and twenty minutes, members debated the proposed FY '10 town budget for departmental expenses. Although the total recommended budget of \$6,845,376 represented only a 1.3 percent increase overall from last year, a finance committee recommendation to cut \$30,000 from the police overtime budget became the focus of members' underlying concerns on fiscal discipline. Essentially, given the deep recession that has pinched state aid and local revenues, town meeting members wanted to know

see **BUDGET** pg 12

Family Fun to Benefit Therapeutic Riding Stables



The No Strings Marionette Co. will perform "Jack and the Beanstalk" for the benefit in Greenfield this Saturday.

BY ANNE HARDING

GREENFIELD – Opening Gaits Therapeutic Riding Center will hold a Family Fun Fair at the Greenfield Energy Park on Saturday, June 13th from noon to 4 p.m. The festivities are spon-

sored by River Valley Fencing, Greenfield Farmers' Cooperative Exchange, and Ashvana Stables. Entrance fees are \$5 per person or \$20 per family.

The afternoon kicks off with the noon performance of Vermont's No Strings Marionette Company and their rollicking version of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. This well-loved tale is retold with all the magic and mischief the marionettes can muster. The puppet theater stage can barely contain all 15 of these amazing hand-crafted wizards of rod and string, not to mention the ravenous roving giant. The show begins with an interactive sing-along and ends with an opportunity to view the puppets up close and ask questions of their master handlers.

The Energy Park will be a see **FAMILY** pg 8

PET OF THE WEEK

High Spirited Dude



Tubby

My name is Tubby and I'm a 6-year-old male Maltese in need of a good home. I'm full of pep and vigor, as a little dog should be. Like most small dogs, I'm an independent-minded dude. I believe that I'm in charge of the world – and I will be, if you let me! You will need to set down firm rules for me and enforce them. I tolerate dogs and could live with them, but I'd also be happy as your only dog. I am fine with cats and children over 12. For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: leverett@dpvhs.org.

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LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Learn more about Lyme Disease

BY LINDA WENTWORTH

LEVERETT - On Thursday, June 18th, at 7:00 p.m. there is a free showing of "Under Our Skin," an award-winning documentary by Andy Abrahams Wilson.

A dramatic tale of microbes, medicine, and money, this eye-opening new film investigates the untold story of Lyme Disease, an emerging epidemic. Following

stories of patients and physicians as they battle for their lives and livelihoods, the film brings into focus a haunting picture of our health care system and its inability to cope with a silent terror under our skin.

For more information, please contact the Leverett Library at 413-548-9220 or www.leverettlibrary.org.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Reading Program Starts June 17th

BY LINDA HICKMAN

MONTAGUE- The Montague Public Libraries' Summer Reading Program starts on the last day of school, Wednesday June 17th. Children of any age and teens are invited to participate. Sign-ups take place at the Carnegie, Millers Falls and Montague Center Libraries. Children read at home and receive weekly reading incentive prizes at the libraries. Many exciting programs and activities will be held throughout the summer. The kick-off events are "The Planets Magic Show" with Debbie O'Carroll on Tuesday, June 23rd at 10 a.m. and a fun hands-on science program, "Moon and Stars," Tuesday, June 30th with Dawn Marvin Ward - both programs at the Carnegie Library. Other special events will include a new No Strings Marionette Company puppet show, "Nick of Time," on Tuesday, July 14th, at 10 a.m. The Millers Falls Library Club, featuring arts and crafts and science, meets on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. Through June, Carnegie Library's weekly Story Hour with Ruth O'Mara is on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. Music and Movement for young children with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson is at the Millers Falls Library on

Thursdays at 10 a.m. through June and will be offered at the Carnegie on Thursdays at 10 a.m. during July and August. Special teen programs will include arts and crafts, a games and pizza party, and a vampire book discussion club. Parties will be held at each of the three Montague Libraries for summer reading program participants in the third week of August. The Carnegie Library party will include a live wild animal show with "Teacher Creatures." For more information and for registration for the summer reading program, visit the libraries.

The Carnegie Library, 863-3214, in Turners Falls is open on Monday - Wednesday from 1 - 8 p.m., Thursday 1 - 5 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. It is closed on Saturdays for the summer. The Millers Falls Library, 659-3801, is open Tuesday and Thursday from 2 - 5 and 6 - 8 p.m. The Montague Center Library, 367-2852, is open Monday and Wednesday.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15th

For every case of elder abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation that is reported, five go unreported. Never ignore elder abuse, neglect or exploitation! Call Elder Protective Services at

Franklin County Home Care at 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259 or call the Elder Abuse Hotline at 1-800-922-2275. Everyone has a right to be safe!

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – June 15th to June 12th

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

Monday, 15th
10:00 A.M.; Senior Aerobics
12:00 P.M.. Pot- luck lunch with Bingo to follow
Tuesday, 16th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:50 A.M.; Easy Aerobics
Wednesday, 17th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics

12:45 p.m. Bingo
11:00 A.M. Balance and the Elderly
12:45 P.M. Bingo
Thursday, 18th
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 19th
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:50 a.m. Easy Aerobics
1:00 p.m. Scrabble
• Sign up now for Cholesterol screening Wednesday June 24
• Tickets are on sale for the Senior Picnic, \$6.00, Tuesday, July 21 Buy early only a limited number of tickets available
Gill/Montague Senior Trips, Call 863-9357 or 863-4500 for more information.

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

FACES & PLACES



PHOTO BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

The Irises were still in bloom this week, although starting to fade. This bright white Iris in a local garden has only some touches of yellow for color. They look so cheerful they make me smile when I see them. - Ellen Blanchette

SLATE LIBRARY NEWS Starship Adventure



SUSAN WILSON PHOTO

Tim Van Egmond

GILL - A noted musician and storyteller, Tim Van Egmond will present a show entitled "Sun, Moon and Stars," sharing creation myths, stories and songs to kick off the Slate Library summer reading program, "Starship Adventure at Your Library"!

On Saturday June 20th, 11:00 a.m. on the Slate Library lawn, Van Egmond will perform a family concert of legends and songs. Find out how the Big Dipper is a bear that falls over and rises again with the seasons, the Pleiades are seven dancers in the sky, and more! Van

Egmond will accompany himself on a variety of traditional instruments, including guitar and dulcimer.

Children are also invited to pick up a gameboard and play our reading game. A summer tradition in Gill, it involves setting reading goals for each week and then coming in to the library to pick out a prize from our prize basket. This year's gameboard is ready to color and features outerspace creatures and planets!

On Saturday June 27th, 10:30 a.m., Come create space ships and robots from recycled material. Use cardboard, metal tins, glitter and glue to make a fun construction that is out of this world! Slate Library welcomes new patrons and is open Mondays 2-6 p.m., Thursday 2-8 p.m., and Saturday 10-2 p.m.. For more information call (413) 863-2591.

Montague Community Band

The Montague Community Band kicks off its 118th season with a concert in Peskeomskut Park on Monday, June 15th at 7 p.m. Also on the band's schedule this season are Peskeomskut Park concerts on June 29th, July 13th, July 27th, and August 10th. Bring a lawn chair, a picnic, and bring your friends.

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Green Jobs Expo at Greenfield Solar Store



Mark Skinder, co-owner of the Greenfield Solar Store

BY CHRIS WISE
GREENFIELD - On Thursday, May 28th, thirty area residents gathered at the Greenfield Solar Store to hear about the latest developments in clean energy and green jobs. Pat Fiero, the local council coordinator for MoveOn.org, explained the importance of the Waxman-Markey American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES) bill currently being debated in Congress.

The Waxman-Markey legislation proposes a cap on the total amount of carbon dioxide emitted nationally, and a trading system of permits to regulate the amount emitted by individual companies.

Fiero said passage of the bill would provide a huge boost to clean energy businesses and green jobs, but big oil and coal companies, facing potentially higher costs and decreased market share are pushing to weaken the bill. Fiero called on supporters to write to Congressman John Olver to urge him to offer amendments to strengthen the legislation.

Dr. Richard Stein, a science professor at UMass-Amherst, followed up with a presentation on energy supply and global warming. He explained the greenhouse effect, and described how continuing on our current carbon emissions trajectory could lead to catastrophic climate change.

Next up was Nancy Bair, the director of workforce develop-

ment at Greenfield Community College, who talked about careers in clean energy, and the training opportunities available for those jobs at GCC. She said there are 18 popular new courses covering this field, and GCC partners with the Sustainable Practices in Construction coalition to place graduates at local businesses that need workers trained in green technologies.

Sandra Boston talked about an initiative in Greenfield to get 800 households to commit to reducing their energy use by 10%, and promoted the October 24th Global Mobilization on Climate Change.

Chuck Patenaude, a farmer in Buckland and president of Hilltown Alternative Energy and the Franklin County Farm Bureau gave his thoughts on small-scale biomass and integrated energy solutions. His main point was that large-scale power plants are only efficient financially, and when all the other costs, such as environmental and social effects, are considered, smaller, more distributed systems are more efficient and desirable.

The final presentation was by Mark Skinder, co-owner of the Greenfield Solar Store. He described various incentive programs that can pay up to 75% of the cost of an installed solar system.

For more information on local MoveOn.org events and activities, contact Pat Fiero at patfiero@yahoo.com.

Open House at the Solar Village

BY JOE KWIECINSKI
GREENFIELD - Rural Development, Inc., a nonprofit subsidiary of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA), based on Canal Road in Turners Falls, has drawn national attention for building graceful, affordable, and energy efficient homes for low and moderate income residents of Franklin County. Now RDI is busy preparing for a Summer Solstice Celebration and open house at their newest development: the Wisdom Way Solar Village across from the Franklin County Fairgrounds.

The open house will take place Friday, June 19th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Anne Perkins, director of Home Ownership Programs for RDI, is delighted about the progress of their new sun powered development, which was recently featured on the *New York Times* website.

"Over half of our homes have already been sold," Perkins said, "or have been designated for buyers."

Perkins, a personable Idaho transplant, is also proud that the 20 solar-powered condominiums, which range in size from 900 square feet to 1500 square feet, and from two to four bedrooms, in ten duplexes, will comprise a mixed-income community.

"We want to be sure," stressed Perkins, "that people who have higher incomes know that we have homes for them, too. It's affordable housing for everyone."

As RDI's website notes, "Two homes will be rented to people with physical disabilities;" while "all 20 homes are accessible by people in wheelchairs."

Each home features wood floors made from trees grown in Western Massachusetts. All insulation is made from cellulose, a recycled product with high insulating value, Perkins said.

"We seal our houses very tightly," added Perkins. "And we

control the ventilation, as opposed to traditional New England homes. A house needs to breathe."

So, a "whisper green" Panasonic fan is standard equipment. The fan is designed to perform at very low levels of noise while "helping residents and the house to breathe."

The new houses on Wisdom Way, are Near Zero Net Energy homes, "buildings that produce almost as much energy as they use," according to Perkins. Each unit is outfitted with a photovoltaic array that will produce between 2.8 and 3.4 kilowatts of electricity from sunlight, enough to provide up to 80% or more of the homes' needs.

"We have a model community," said Robin Sherman, executive director of the FCRHRA. "And what makes a model community is the combination of energy efficiency, accessibility, and affordability."

Sherman also points out that while Solar Village's homes are affordable, they're also beautiful. "When folks think of affordable housing," said Sherman, "they might associate it with the word 'cheap.' But we're going to provide residents with a very high quality of life at a very reason-

able cost."

A combination of private and public subsidies have helped reduce the cost of the units, which range in price from \$110,000 - \$210,000.

The public is invited to the open house of the Solar Village on June 19th. RDI decided to forego an official ribbon cutting or groundbreaking.

Instead, the community at large will get a chance to view some of the completed units at the Solar Village firsthand.

The program begins at 1 p.m. with refreshments and socializing. At 2, Seth Glier will provide music. Then remarks are scheduled from invited speakers such as U.S. senator John Kerry, governor Deval Patrick, congressman John Olver, state senator Stan Rosenberg, state representative Chris Donelan, and outgoing Greenfield mayor Christine Forgy.

Starting at 3 p.m., tours of the village homes get underway. For directions to the summer solstice celebration and open house, or for other information, please call Cynthia Bleil at 863-9781, extension 149 or email cbleil@ferhra.org.

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A Summer Tour

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The summer is a good time to get away for a vacation, and we had the opportunity to do just that, a few weeks before the solstice makes summer official. Traveling on a road trip through the mid-Atlantic states gave us a close look at just how much struggling downtowns have in common along the Eastern seaboard.

We started out in Virginia, after leaving a family wedding outside Washington DC. First stop was Manassas, home to the first battle of the Civil War. After the endless, homogenous strip malls that seem to ring downtowns just about everywhere these days, we found our way into the heart of the old town built around the strategic railroad junction which was the scene of back-and-forth raids and two pitched battles during the course of the War Between the States.

Here, as everywhere in the South, history is not just below the surface, it is displayed proudly on roadside plaques, Civil War Trails, and in shop windows. In the North, the Civil War is ancient history; in the South, it is close at hand and present memory.

The railroad depot in Manassas is still a busy hub, with Amtrak running north to the Federal capitol, and south to the major cities of the Old South. It doubles as a visitor's center, a prominent feature of almost every town we stopped at, large or small. The cafes and antique stores were bustling, Confederate regalia was interspersed with American flags and reproductions of front pages from 19th century newspapers. A farmers market was just packing up the crates onto the back of pickup trucks under a central pavilion.

We stayed in Culpeper, a much bigger town, that night, and ate at the vintage corner café, with patterned black and white tiled floors, aluminum back splashes from grill to tin ceilings, and swivel chairs at the counter. Biscuits and grits, the common side orders, and a panoramic view of the main intersection. All the shops had photos and descriptions of their historic uses, including the black-owned grocery of a prior century, now a

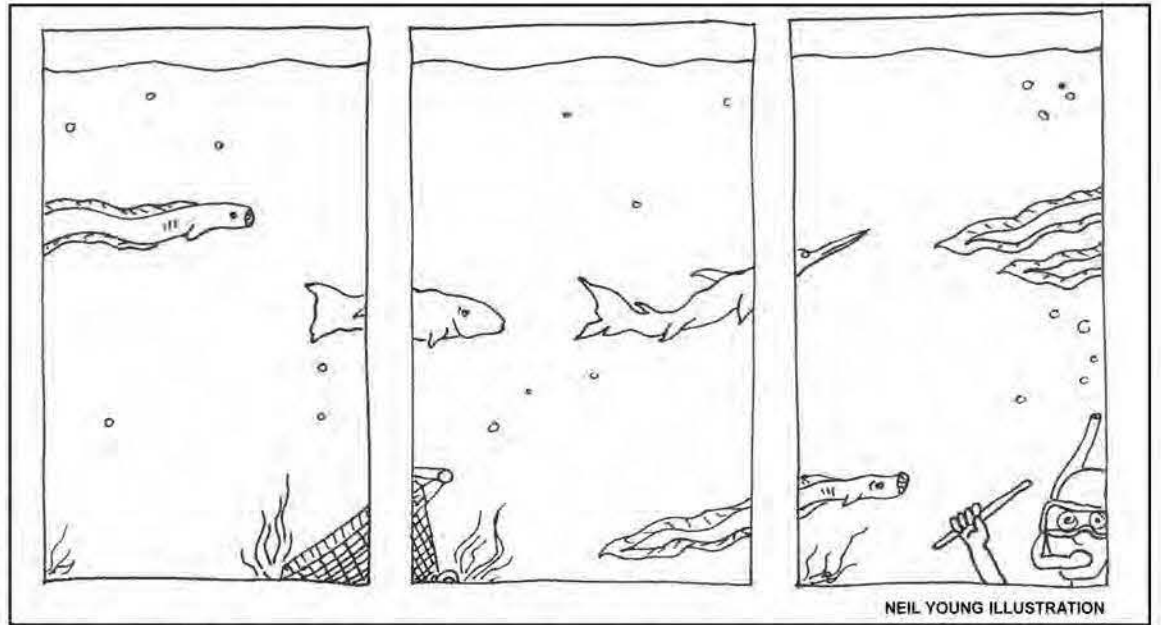
posh bistro. Across the street, in the rear basement of another fancy restaurant (with an old hardware sign repainted on the exterior bricks) was a pub that looked every bit as historic as anything pictured on the main street windows. The posts holding up the ceiling were formed of unshaped tree trunks, a pair of massive four-compartment ideal coolers sat beneath the back bar, placed there by giants, from which cold beers were hauled by sweating barmaids to slake the thirst of bikers and their babes, all of whom smoked incessantly, and a huge open stone fireplace and flue provided a little bit of a draft.

Like every town in the South, it seemed, Culpeper detailed the exploits of its citizens in the Civil War: where the 24-year-old artillery captain met and fell in love with the daughter of the innkeeper, and how he never lost a gun, even on the night of his last battle, when a Minie ball caught him in the back of the head. They carried him to the hotel, and despite the daughter's tender ministrations, he died at 3 a.m., another gallant hero gone, immortal in memory.

Farmville has transformed an old tobacco warehouse into a swank riverside eatery, with flashy cardinals hopping from table to table to nibble up the crumbs. The Goodwill store had caught fire in the night a few days earlier, and the charred window faced a main street that was in parlous shape, but there were signs of renewed life on many of the blocks.

Durham, North Carolina, where tobacco once was king, now plays host to Duke Medical Center, surely a coincidence. But the city is lively on a late spring night, with a well attended hula-hoop festival gyrating to a rocking DJ in a side street parking lot between artfully renovated old buildings. A hula-hoop festival is a fascinating thing to watch. Durham has outdoor cafes, pedestrian malls, cagey panhandlers, and all the beat and pulse of a modern city, losing none of its old industrial charm.

Everywhere we went, from Wilmington on the coast, to Charleston, SC, to Richmond, VA and back again we found people of



NEIL YOUNG ILLUSTRATION

The Turners Falls Fish Ladder is open for one last weekend, thru June 14th, for your viewing pleasure!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Skate Park Thank You

The Great Falls Skate Park has been bustling with activity since the weather turned warm, and it's all thanks to the community support that made the move to Avenue A possible.

Thanks are particularly due to the Skate Park Steering Committee members Sara Pearson, Bryan Dolan, Ellen Spring, Jesse Harmon, Micah Snow-Cobb, Danny Rivera, Evan Scheltema, Morgan and Mitchell MacConnell, and Nancy Holmes. The committee would not have gotten far without the ongoing support of the

all creeds and colors mingling harmoniously and socializing in public. Interracial couples on the beach and in the bars were common. At the Cape Fear museum in Fayetteville, home to one of the great newspapers of the South, the *Observer*, we observed two elderly couples, one black, one white, touring the premises like the best of old friends, which they obviously were. Somehow, this was one of the most comforting aspects of the tour, a different kind of society than the one remembered last trip through, 40 odd years ago.

But what struck us the most was the struggle at once so vital and so familiar to reinvent the downtowns, the beautiful old seats of commerce and civic life hollowed out by the malls and suburbs and crass cookie-cutter developments lining the access roads everywhere. Arts, sculpture and music, movie and playhouses are vying with abandoned lots and knickknack stores to lure people back to the town centers. Reconstruction (*that's* the wrong word!) and renovation are pouring new life and energy into these grand old relics. Can the patients be revived? We certainly hope so.

All who have worked so hard to rebuild and restore our own downtowns take heart: you are not alone. The same struggle is happening all

Montague selectboard and town administrator Frank Abbonanzio. Thanks to the *Reporter* for continued coverage.

As the coordinator of the skate park committee's efforts for the past two years, now leaving town for other challenges, I want to thank Montague residents for making this process fun and successful. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to maintain the park for ten years.

I hope to hear about a concrete skate park being built at Unity Park soon!

The Skate Park Steering

Committee sends special thanks to the following donors: the Montague Elks, the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership, the Montague Business Association, Round Here Café, the French King Bowling Alley, Ristorante DiPaolo, the Big Y, the Rendezvous, Stamp it Up, the People's Pint, and the many individuals who have sent us checks and helped keep the skate park clean and safe!

— Ruth Nervig
Turners Falls

BioMess

If I poured a gallon of motor oil from the Gill-Montague Bridge into the Connecticut River each day, I would be arrested and brought to trial.

Suppose at my trial I made these arguments:

"First, there's no impact from pouring oil into the Connecticut. A study of the Millers River, the nearest river with data, shows that the billions of gallons of water flow dilute the oil to negligible levels.

"Second, oil is carbon neutral. The Earth is producing more oil deep in its interior, far more than the gallon I'm dumping in the river.

"Third, stopping on the bridge affects traffic, so I propose to limit my activity to 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., but seven days a week.

"Last, jobs will be generated. Reporters, EPA officials, people to clean and monitor the effects. I rest my case."

I would be sentenced, jailed, and vilified for poisoning the river.

Now suppose I'm proposing a 47 MW tree incinerator to generate electricity in the I-91 Industrial Park that dumps 1,350 tons of greenhouse gases per day into the Connecticut River Valley's air supply. My reply to critics is:

"First, there's no impact from pouring half a million tons of hot gases and 180 million gallons of evaporated waste treatment effluent into the air each year. A model from Westover AFB, the nearest weather station, says the gases will be carried away or diluted to negligible levels.

"Second, burning 500,000 tons of Massachusetts' trees each year is carbon neutral. Even now, the trees of Massachusetts are growing.

"Third, 57 to 100 trucks a day are consistent with existing traffic, so there's no impact. I'll operate seven days a week, 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., because there are days when the wood is wet, or the roads are too bad to deliver the tons of chipped trees I need.

"Last, jobs will be generated. My plant will employ 20 or more people. Imagine the impact of 20 jobs in a city of 18,000 and a state of 6,500,000 people."

Does this really make sense to you? Please, make your voice heard in opposition to the biomass plant proposed for Greenfield. Your town and your air hang in the balance.

— Gary Greene
Greenfield

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MARINE LEAGUE

VIEW FROM THE STATE HOUSE

Tax Increases, Spending Cuts, and Reforms to Weather a Very Rainy Day

REP. STEPHEN KULIK WORTHINGTON – I cannot remember a more difficult time for both state and local governments. The economic slowdown has created such a large drop in state revenues that the proposed state budget has had to be periodically downsized since January in order to meet the fiscal reality of reduced spending and program cuts.

In just the three weeks between the conclusion of the budget debate in the House, and its beginning in the Senate, there was a reduction in the anticipated state revenue of an additional \$1 billion. The just-released revenue figures for May show a revenue drop of 14.1% from a year ago, and for the fiscal year to date, we have declines in income tax receipts of 13.8%; in sales and use taxes of 5.4%; and in corporate and business tax receipts a staggering reduction of 17.5%. The structural deficit of the state budget is approaching \$5 billion, out of a budget that used to total around \$29 billion. It is clear that times are very hard, and it is affecting many aspects of our personal, business, and governmental lives.

This new reality means that the uncertainties over the level and content of state spending also

have significant impacts to our local town governments. This is making for some challenging town meetings.

Since Proposition 2½ was approved by the voters of Massachusetts almost 30 years ago, towns have come to rely on

“We are doing our best to hold the line at level funding for Chapter 70 aid to schools.”

– Rep. Steve Kulik

increasing state aid to help balance their budgets. The legislature tries to provide reliable local aid figures for schools and towns as early as possible each spring so local budgets can be approved. Unfortunately, that has been impossible this year as the revenue picture has worsened every month.

The recession has also caused real cuts in the estimated local aid payments to the towns, although we are doing our best to hold the line at level funding for Chapter 70 aid to schools. We are able to do this with the use of federal stimulus money, which is also helping to bridge the budget gaps in higher education, healthcare, and human services.

The federal stimulus money is helpful, and we will incorporate more than \$1.25 billion of it into our FY ‘10 budget. However, the funding will only last for two years, and we cannot rely on it too heavily since it will be gone after FY ‘11. It helps in the short term, but we are looking at a period of several more years of tough budgets, so we must also use this time to make some fundamental changes in the way that Massachusetts government operates. This requires tough choices, some of which are incorporated into the budget proposals of the House and Senate.

These include such actions as proposing to increase the sales tax to 6.25% (House and Senate budgets); removing the sales tax exemption on alcohol, and permitting local option taxes for meals and hotels (Senate budget). Revenue from these proposed increases is intended to support additional local aid, substance abuse programs, and human services.

But they will cover only a portion of the budget gap. Therefore, we are also proposing permanent changes in spending such as charging state employees more for their health insurance coverage, and reducing funds for local law enforcement and the so-

called Quim Bill benefits for police officers with college degrees.

In addition to these budget initiatives, both the House and Senate have also passed legislation to reform the state’s pension system and restructure our transportation bureaucracy. These reform bills, which will have long-term financial benefits by changing the way we conduct business and provide services, are now being finalized in conference committees and should be completed around the same time we finish work on the budget later this month.

When all is said and done, it will be a combination of budget cuts, reform measures, federal stimulus money, use of the rainy-day reserve fund, and revenue increases that will help get the Commonwealth through this budget and revenue crisis. And as we slowly return to better economic times, we can also begin to re-examine and revise the close relationship between state and local governments in order to bring more predictability and stability to municipal government.

In closing, I also want to mention the very important ethics reform legislation that is also moving forward on Beacon Hill. Last year we were shocked by

photographs of a former state senator allegedly accepting cash bribes and stuffing them in her clothes. This past week brought the disturbing news of the indictment of former Speaker Sal DiMasi and several associates on charges of state contracting abuses for personal financial gain.

In late January, the new House Speaker Robert DeLeo took office and said the legislature would pass strong updates and reforms of our ethics and campaign finance laws in order to restore and maintain public trust and confidence in the legislature. Both the House and Senate have passed ethics reform bills in recent weeks, and they are now being reconciled by a conference committee. I support a strong ethics reform bill, and I expect that one will be finalized and passed in the coming days.

In this time of financial challenges and difficult policy decisions, it is especially important that the public has faith in the way state government conducts its business. There should never be any question that the public interest comes first and foremost, and that a more transparent and accountable state government, along with well informed citizens, is of paramount importance in a representative democracy.

GUEST EDITORIAL

BY CHRIS PELLERIN

MONTAGUE – On Thursday, June 4th, my family attended an informational meeting at Turners Falls High School on the proposed Pioneer Renewable Energy (PRE) power plant in Greenfield, which will burn wood (‘biomass’) to produce 47 megawatts of electricity. I am not an expert in air pollution, but one of the numbers I found on PRE’s website (www.pioneerrenewableenergy.com) caught my eye.

A report produced for Madera Energy (the developer) by Epsilon Associates, Inc. of Maynard states the plant will emit nearly 500,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year. Carbon dioxide is recognized as a major

greenhouse gas; however, the U.S. Department of Energy allows the burning of biomass to be considered carbon-neutral because the plant material absorbed carbon dioxide through photosynthesis during its life cycle, and is merely releasing that same CO2 when it is burned.

Whoa. Wait a second! Carbon neutral? Trees take in CO2 over decades, and that same CO2 is released in minutes when it is burned, as opposed to decades when a tree dies and decays. This plant will be burning wood at a rate of three million pounds per day according to PRE’s website. Trees just don’t grow back that fast.

I understand the developer had

nothing to do with setting our country’s or state’s energy policies, but he is certainly planning to exploit this loophole. Even the developer admitted at the informational meeting that the CO2 produced by burning wood is no different chemically from CO2 produced by burning fossil fuels, nor does it behave any differently in the atmosphere. His state-of-the-art air pollution control equipment won’t remove it from the emissions. Yet by law he doesn’t need to account for the additional 500,000 tons per year of CO2 his plant will add to our overloaded atmosphere.

Just how much is 500,000 tons (1 billion pounds) per year? To put it in some kind of perspective,

my husband suggested I try to figure out how much CO2 a car emits. I went to the EPA’s website and found that 19.4 pounds of CO2 is produced when 1 gallon of gasoline is burned by a car. I assumed a car that gets 25 miles per gallon is driven 12,000 miles a year in my calculation. That car would use 480 gallons of gas in a year, and would therefore produce 9,312 pounds of CO2 per year. One billion pounds of CO2 is the equivalent of putting 107,000 new sedans on the road every year.

The developer’s consultant projects some extra greenhouse gas emissions due to the operation of the plant: the diesel fuel for boiler startup, the emergency

generator, front end loader, water pumps, and the 54 daily truck deliveries are not carbon neutral. These direct and indirect CO2 emissions amount to a paltry 2,860 tons per year.

But wait, it’s OK because according to Epsilon Associates, the total greenhouse gas impact of the project works out to minus 374,435 tons per year because the plant theoretically offsets the emissions of a similar-sized coal-fired plant, saves the planet from the CO2 the wood would produce if it were landfilled or left to decay (wait, wouldn’t that be carbon neutral by definition as well?), uses low-E glazing and

see CARBON page 14

Is Burning BioMass Really Carbon Neutral?

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James Diemand

Dogfight Continues on Hickory Hill

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL – On Monday, June 8th, James Diemand, a Catholic priest and retired pastor of St. Mary's Church in Orange, returned to the selectboard meeting room to deliver a lengthy sermon on the purgatory of barking dogs he feels he has been suffering as a neighbor of the Hickory Hill Kennel.

Diemand presented a six page history of his complaints dating back decades against the kennel, which shares the private Hickory Hill Road with Diemand, off of Center Road.

Diemand claimed the town is being discriminatory in how it enforces a town bylaw prohibiting the barking of dogs from disturbing the peace and quiet of a neighborhood, and he maintains the Hickory Hill Kennel owners, Duncan and Jackie Elliot, have expanded their business without a permit to include more exterior cages and outdoor runs for dogs, resulting in continuous and intolerable barking from 6:30 in the morning to 4:30 in the afternoon, when dogs are again brought indoors.

Diemand read aloud supporting letters from three neighbors of the kennel to attest that the barking of dogs is a persistent problem in the neighborhood.

Duncan Elliot, who was present at the hearing with his wife and son, made a brief statement to the board, saying, "With all due respect to Father Diemand and the selectboard, we're not going to respond. This is not the correct forum to hear this complaint. If at some time this complaint is addressed to the correct forum [i.e. the Zoning Board of Appeals], we'd be happy to respond."

But later in the hearing, Jackie Elliot said, "The kennel still has the same number of runs as when we bought it, which is 25 runs." At which her husband added that the original kennel owner, Kenneth Clark, had maintained a

menagerie of 80 interior cages "stacked on top of one another," to house kenneled pets. "We've removed the boxes and replaced them with 26 aluminum cages."

By these points, the Elliots rebutted abutters' claims that the kennel had increased the capacity of kenneled dogs on the property from the 20 to 25 dogs former owner Clark was said to have housed there to 40 to 45 dogs.

The Elliots did not dispute a quotation from their own website [www.hickoryhillkennelonline.com/dog.html] referenced by Diemand to the effect that dogs "have access to the outside runs all day, until the early evening." Diemand attributed the worst of the noise problem to dogs using the outside runs, and urged a compromise whereby the dogs' use of the outside runs could be limited to certain hours, that neighbors could be made aware of so that they could "put earplugs on, or go shopping."

One of the letters Diemand read aloud was from Joseph A. Parzych, who owns land near the kennel. His letter said, "The kennel being on a hill allows sound to carry, especially since the trees left to muffle sound have been cut... I see no reason why the present owners cannot operate their business as good neighbors, as Mr. Clark once did."

A letter from Elaine Krejmas said, "We moved to Gill for peace and quiet. The barking of dogs at all hours whether [the

dogs are owned] by private owners or by businesses [affects] our peace and quiet."

A letter from Fred Sheard which Diemand also read aloud said the selectboard had formerly agreed to keep an eye on the situation with the Hickory Hill Kennel, but claimed, "New suites behind the present buildings," had been put up without a permit. "If that's not an expansion, I'll eat my hat."

Don Kaplan also came to the meeting, and had Diemand read a letter he had written, testifying to the barking of dogs, audible especially on summer nights when the windows were open. But Kaplan said the barking did not bother him much, since he was hard of hearing.

All three members of the selectboard participated in the hearing, after town counsel Donna MacNicol invoked the "rule of necessity," allowing John Ward and Nancy Griswold to hear the matter even though they both said they had kenneled their dogs at Hickory Hill, and though Ward said Diemand had been a customer of his at an auto repair shop where he used to work.

Board chair Anne Banash asked that the board take the matter under advisement, after MacNicol asked to inspect the kennel's original permit to see whether there was a limit set on the number of dogs that could be kept there, and town administra-

tor Tracy Rogers could not find a copy of the permit on file. The board seemed confident the relevant documentation could be found with further research.

Banash said the board would contact the police to make sure calls of complaint about barking dogs were being logged.

Jackie Elliot said Diemand had been "very rude to me and my son," and "very rude and aggressive to many, many of our customers," and said she had also called police to complain about his intimidating behavior.

MacNicol said Diemand could contact the zoning board's enforcement agent, cooperative building inspector Jim Hawkins, with his complaint about any supposed unpermitted business expansion at Hickory Hill, and then could appeal Hawkins' ruling on that complaint to the ZBA within 30 days if he was unsatisfied with Hawkins' response.

Duncan Elliot pointed out that Hawkins, acting on a similar complaint from Diemand last year, inspected the kennel in October of 2008 and found no basis for determining the business had been expanded without a permit. He said he showed Hawkins at that time \$1,000 worth of sound proofing insulation he had installed in response to abutters' noise complaints.

As the hearing concluded, Jackie Elliot left the room in tears, saying, "We're not bad people."

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Prepares for Tuesday Town Meeting Seeks to Pass "Affordable Budget"

BY DAVID DETMOLD – "Any budget we pass next Tuesday really has no basis in reality," said Ann Banash, chair of the Gill selectboard on Monday, June 8th, as the board went over the 15 articles remaining to be dealt with at the contin-

uation of annual town meeting on June 16th. "We don't know state numbers," for local aid, Banash contended, "and we don't have a final budget from the school."

"But," she added, "my feeling is we should present a budget that says this is what we can afford,

that takes into account town employees and departments."

Last month, Banash had advocated for presenting an unbalanced budget at town meeting, and then altering it at a later town meeting when final state aid figures are available. But Banash said she had changed her mind, and now supported coming to town meeting with an "affordable" budget for town departments and the regional schools.

Banash acknowledged the "affordable budget" approach would still most likely require a future town meeting to reconcile with final state aid and school budget numbers. "It's probably not where we're going to end

up," she said.

The board will urge town meeting to pass over articles relating to the town applying for a U. S. Department of Justice Cops Hiring Recovery Program grant, by which the town hoped to afford rehiring a third fulltime police officer. The grant would provide funding for a fulltime officer's salary and benefits for three years, with the town required to pay for the fourth year, but Banash said the likelihood of Gill receiving the grant was slim. Demand for Cops Hiring Recovery Program funding has been overwhelming, given the breadth of nationwide layoffs in the economic downturn.

"There's little to no chance we're going to get it, and there is no use fighting about it until we know," said Banash, who said the town would have to return to

town meeting for permission to receive the funds if the grant application were successful.

Banash said the board should assure town meeting that if Article 20, to establish a building maintenance fund to begin to put money aside for repair and maintenance of all town buildings, were passed, the board would not seek to spend any such funds "until there is a final budget. This may be one of the things we talk about if we need to cut," when final numbers are in, she said.

The selectboard and the finance committee will meet in joint session on Friday, at 3 p.m., at town hall to go over the budget prior to town meeting.

Banash said the board was still awaiting a budget request from the recreation commission and the agricultural commission. "They were due in February, for

see GILL SELECT pg 7

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Confronts the Unlikely Alternative Assessments for Mahar; Adult Entertainment Enterprises

BY JOSH HEINEMANN – Wendell's annual town meeting, with a warrant of thirty articles, took three evenings to complete. At the first session on June 3rd around 100 citizens were present; most stayed until the meeting recessed at 10:10 p.m. The second session was held Monday, June 8th, and as the meeting started 30 voters were present, with the crowd growing to 60 by the evening's end. The meeting carried over a third day, to Tuesday, June 9th, and at 7:00 p.m. the tenth citizen came in, making a quorum and greeted with a cheer from those already in the hall. Within a few minutes the voting citizens numbered 19, who considered and approved the warrant's four remaining articles before adjourning at 8:00 p.m.

On the first evening of town meeting, voters unanimously approved the warrant's first 23 articles, including the town's fis-

cal 2010 operating budget of \$1,676,534, a \$121,627 decrease from the fiscal 2009 budget of \$1,798,161.

In addition, citizens approved the use of stabilization funds to pay the annual debt service on the new fire truck, and the USDA loan for the town buildings, as well as \$60,000 for the purchase of a new used backhoe and \$110,000 for a new dump truck and sander for the highway department.

Harry Williston, chair of the highway commission said those two purchases would save the highway department \$20,000 in repairs that would be necessary if the old equipment were not replaced. The finance committee recommended that \$300,000 be taken from stabilization to reduce the impact of lower state aid on the tax rate and department budgets. Departments were asked to cut 1% from their 2009 budgets.

Voters approved paying for the regular annual bills, the Fiske Pond note, the note for the purchase of the town office property, the construction note for Mahar building renovation, \$20,000 to go back into stabilization, \$12,500 into the reserve fund, \$10,000 for an unemployment compensation fund, \$15,000 for a pension reserve fund, \$2,000 for tax taking expenses, and \$11,000 for the annual independent audit the USDA building loans require.

As has been the case in recent years, the most contentious discussion was on the budget for the Mahar Regional High School. Swift River Elementary School requested a budget decrease from \$348,661 to \$334,738, and voters approved their request.

Reza Namin, outgoing superintendent of the Mahar Regional School District, said the requested budget included a slight decrease in Wendell's assess-

ment, from \$357,915 to \$351,151. He did not mention that there has been a drop in the number of students attending Mahar from Wendell.

Wendell's finance committee recommended a much smaller Mahar assessment – \$257,406 – reflecting an alternative method of assessment.

The Wendell finance committee has been actively promoting the idea of switching (or returning) to the alternative method of assessment. Under the so-called statutory method of assessment now being used by the district, Wendell is paying \$8,600 per student, more than any other member town, while Orange is paying just \$5,100 per student enrolled.

Finance committee member Jim Slavas has developed an approach to assessing the towns in the Mahar region that would hold Orange harmless, but would make Wendell's assessment more in line with the town's aggregate wealth as determined by state formula.

Superintendent elect Mike Baldassarre said the alternative method of assessment would

require approval from all four towns in the district before it could be used. He also said the alternative method would add \$400,000 to Orange's assessment. Baldassarre said the Mahar budget has already been cut severely, and further cuts that would follow if other towns budgeted at the level Wendell proposed would require bus routes be cut, as well as drama, sports, and late busses.

Finance committee chair Michael Idoine said he had no illusions that the alternative assessment method would carry in all four towns this year, but he said the figure of \$400,000 was in error.

Baldassarre said if the district see **WENDELL** pg 10

from **GILL SELECT** pg 6 heaven's sake!"

On Article 19, regarding the annual transfer of interest from the Quintus Allen fund to the Gill Elementary School (this year totaling \$434), Banash, a trustee of the fund, said she wanted to make sure the principal of the elementary school was aware of the transfer, so that funds so transferred would not sit unutilized in an account. In past years, she said, the Gill Elementary school had come to town meeting to request appropriations from the Quintus Allen account for a variety of purposes, but that practice had lapsed recently.

Prior to town meeting, at 6:00 p.m. there will be a special town meeting to consider three items. The first is a transfer of \$11,000 in sewer user fees to offset sewer expenses. Town administrator Tracy Rogers said the operating costs of the Riverside sewer district had risen, partially because Gill has not raised its rates to compensate for an increase in

fees from Montague, where the Riverside sewage is piped and treated, and partially because a breakdown over the July 4th holiday last year required expensive overtime repairs.

The second article will allow town meeting to hear a report from Tighe and Bond about conceptual design for the Mariamante property on the corner of West Gill and Main Road.

The third article seeks to authorize the acceptance of a gift of 162 acres of permanently conserved land from the Franklin Land Trust on both sides of Hoe Shop Road to be used as a town forest, managed by the town's conservation commission.

Prior to the special town meeting, there will be a thank you reception for long time school committee member Valeria "Timmie" Smith and selectboard member Leland Stevens, in appreciation of many years of service to the town and district.

In other news, the board approved a new job description


for town administrator Tracy Rogers, who gained that new title at town meeting in May. The former town administrative assistant will now have new duties to go with her new title, but no commensurate advance in salary.

Rogers will now be the town's chief procurement officer, harassment officer, the chief of the town's financial management team, once that team is constituted (along lines suggested by a recent Department of Revenue report on improving town financial practices), and she will also assume a supervisory role with the three main town departments: fire, police, and highway.

The board approved plans by the highway department to expend \$110,000 in Chapter 90 funds to repave Main Road from Zack Farm to Renaissance Excavators, and Boyle Road to the elementary school, and also to spend \$62,500 in Chapter 90 funds to chip seal Franklin, Green Hill, River and Munn's Ferry roads.

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from Q&A page 1

“Our basic stance is that [biomass] is a better option than the alternative, the alternative being oil or coal: from a carbon perspective something that’s been in the ground for millions of years, taken out and released in the atmosphere...”

“Massachusetts generates 25% of its power from oil and coal, over 80% of its power from fossil fuels. Biomass, if it’s done right – and I believe we’re doing it right – it’s part of the natural growth cycle. A tree grows and it regrows. There may be disagreement on this issue and that’s fine.”

The questioner followed up by saying, “A three-foot tree can’t sequester carbon dioxide like a 75-foot tree, so where does that go? It changes the environment.”

Claire Chang, of Gill, asked what roads truck traffic would take to enter Route 2 from the east, carrying wood chips to the plant.

Wolfe said, “It depends on where the material is coming from. At one of the neighborhood meetings we had, one of the gentlemen who lives on West Gill Road informed me heavy trucks use West Gill Road for cutting through from New Hampshire. As part of the special permit

we’ve requested that heavy trucks be prohibited from using West Gill Road, unless that’s where the logging operation originates.”

Wolfe suggested a similar prohibition could be included to bar trucks carrying wood chips to the

“Are you aware of what the air quality is now in the Pioneer Valley? According to the American Lung Association, we get an ‘F’ for air quality. We get a ‘D’ for particulate matter. We have ozone from the Connecticut and New York metropolitan area coming up and sitting in our Valley in the summer. According to Dave Howland of the Springfield office of the DEP, we have 1500 – 3700 pounds of mercury deposited here annually. We’re already loaded.”
– Leeann Warner,

plant from crossing the Gill-Montague Bridge, but added, “It’s impossible to know where it’s coming from...”

Chang continued, “So, if it’s impossible to know where it’s coming from, how can you prevent them from coming down West Gill Road or Main Road or coming over the bridge?”

“These are our suppliers.

We’d ask them to stop.”

Chang pressed him for details on truck traffic, and Wolfe said trucks would run to the plant 14 hours a day, seven days a week, 60 trucks a day on average. He added that 375 trucks a day currently use Adams Road to the Industrial Park.

Norm Levesque, of Greenfield, said he’d read a report that biomass plants in the United States now produce 7000 MW of electricity, and wondered what other states are using biomass generation.

Wolfe said there are about 20 operating biomass plants in New England, including an 18 MW plant in Westminister, MA. Orvedal said California and the Northwest have a lot of biomass plants.

Montague selectboard member Pat Allen wanted to know about Wolfe’s background and experience, and also asked whether he was aware that “five or six biomass plants have been proposed for Western Massachusetts, and if we look at the 50 mile radius for each of them, they overlap considerably, and if we look at the 3 million units [of available biomass] you might be able to use, and if you use 500,000 [tons of wood chips annually in Greenfield] are you aware of all these different

plants and how that would impact us?”

To her first question, Wolfe replied, “Cliff and I used to work for a company called Tamarack Energy,” a subsidiary of Haley and Aldrich, a geosciences technology consulting firm based in Boston. At Tamarack, Wolfe said he and Orvedal worked on develop-



Jack Coughlin Illustrations

ing solar and wind projects, ground source heat pumps, and other renewable energy technology, including the permitting for a biomass plant in Watertown, CT, [sold to private equity firm Energy Investors Funds in April of 2009 for an undisclosed sum].

Wolfe left Tamarack a year and a half ago to found Madera Energy, Inc., a Cambridge-based firm of which he is the sole employee. He said Tamarack “is no longer in existence,” as Haley and Aldrich “lost their appetite for high-risk projects” and dissolved the subsidiary.

Wolfe said, “There have been a lot of questions asked about the permits,” he is seeking for the Greenfield plant: specifically, will they remain with Wolfe if he sells his interest in the project? “We will need to bring in an investor to see Q&A pg 12

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Tribute to Fred Oakes

BY JOE KWIECINSKI

GILL – I was deeply moved by the recent death of Frederick Oakes, a resident of Riverside.

As a new writer for the *Montague Reporter*, I interviewed Mr. Oakes for my very first assignment in December of 2007. At 94, Mr. Oakes could not have been a more kindly, articulate subject for an interview. With the help of his devoted wife Jane, Frederick was able to reconstruct for our readers a lifetime of service to his commu-

nity.

Even as I chatted with Mr. Oakes, I felt I was being edified by a man with a strong intellect who was a lifelong learner. He was a true gentleman: mannerly, affable, good natured, considerate to his pupil.

Frederick Oakes devoted his life to teaching. He completed four decades as a secondary or elementary school teacher in Montague in 1982.

He was an English teacher at Turners Falls High School for



Fred Oakes

many years. As I wrote in my profile of him, "the literary greats lived again in his classroom."

How do you measure a person's life? Certainly one of the

criteria must be the number of lives he or she touched. It makes me feel good to think about the countless students over the years that Mr. Oakes introduced to the power and enduring energy of literature as a guide for interpreting our lives.

With the passing of Frederick Oakes, there are now no surviving members of the class of 1934 at Turners Falls High School. If Mr. Oakes were with us, he would know just the right author and just the right book and just the right passage to ease our hearts upon his absence.

from **WENDELL** pg 7 cannot agree on a budget the state will set a 1/12th budget and assess towns monthly at 1/12th of last year's budget, which would be higher than the amount Mahar requested for FY '10.

Finance committee member Jim Slavus said all Wendell is hoping for is that the finance committees of all four towns get together in discussion to bring the assessments more in line with their relative wealth.

Jean Forward of the historic commission said when the 1938 hurricane washed away the dam in Wendell Depot along with half the town, the state recommended that the town disband. Wendell is still here today. When the state wanted to put Route 2 through

the Wendell State Forest, the town organized coffeehouses and resisted until the road was improved on the north side of the Millers River, in Erving.

Town voters approved the lower amount, on the finance committee's recommendation.

On the second evening of the annual town meeting, voters discussed two planning board articles for most of the three-hour session. The article to regulate adult entertainment establishments was defeated by a voice vote, and the right to farm article passed unanimously, after several amendments to change or add words were discussed and voted down. A third article, regulating wireless communication facilities passed with only a few minutes of discussion.

Deirdre Cabral, chair of the planning board, introduced the proposed adult entertainment bylaw by saying it was recommended as a proactive way to prevent an establishment from moving into town and making an unwelcome presence. The bylaw would place restrictions on the establishment that would not keep it out of town, but would insure that it would have a less obtrusive presence.

Moderator Kathy Becker suggested a straw vote, as select-board member Jeffrey Pooser said, "to save time and energy if the town was basically in agreement," but citizen Morgan Mead objected.

Mead said, "I think we should vote on whether to have a straw vote." Against the article, he said,

"This article would set the government up to decide two classes of expression. An adult bookstore would have to jump through hurdles, but the Aryan Nation could set up a bookstore without hurdles. It would regulate *Debbie Does Dallas*, but it would not regulate *Debbie Gets Dismembered*."

Jeff Willard said 40 years ago Wendell had no zoning laws, and a live and let live attitude, and the result was that people came in and built anything.

Peter Diemand said the town should have standards and boundaries. He said the adult store in Greenfield is a draw for unwanted activities. He thought the bylaw was a good idea.

Cemetery commissioner Richard Mackey suggested a 500' buffer from cemeteries to match the buffer with churches and schools, but Charles Smith saw no need to protect the dead.

Todd Soucie said there should be room for solemnity during a burial, and when people visit the family graves.

Rick Droen was taken aback "that we are considering this at all. The industry is dying because so much is available on the web."

Librarian Rosie Heidkamp said that adult entertainment and pornography has had a negative impact on women, but that she would rather err on the side of free speech and vote against the article. Voters went along with that sentiment and defeated the article by voice vote.

Agricultural commission member Linda Hickman intro-

duced the proposed the right to farm bylaw, saying that agriculture is threatened in the Commonwealth and that after years of working on a proposal the commission submitted the article with trepidation. Concern was raised over the possibility that a large obnoxious operation would be protected under the bylaw, but Hickman said the board of health could handle complaints, and others said that Wendell is not a likely target for something like a pig farm because it is far from the corn belt, and far from heavy transportation. Amendments to add activities to the definition of farming and to change wording here and there were defeated, and the article passed unanimously.

A third article limiting the location of personal wireless service facilities passed at 10:00 p.m. with little debate.

On the third night of the town meeting nineteen voters approved the remaining four zoning bylaws in one hour. The first allowed the planning board or special permit granting authority (SPGA) to hire a consultant when necessary and pass the expense on to the special permit applicant. The second article amended the large development site plan review process.

The third article restricted hill-top development, and the fourth added cell towers to projects that required a site plan review and redistributed the permitting authority for a range of activities between the planning board and the zoning board of appeals.

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MONTAGUE ENERGY CORNER

Clean Energy Campaign Drawing at the Voo

BY TIM VAN EGMOND

TURNERS FALLS – The Montague Grange's Montague Clean Energy Campaign will hold its raffle drawing on Monday evening, June 22nd at the Rendezvous, 78 3rd Street in the center of Turners Falls. Music for the event will be provided by the musicians who meet for a session every Monday night in Montague Center, playing the jigs, reels, and waltzes that are popular in the local contra dance

scene. The session will take place from 7:30 to 10 p.m., with the raffle drawing to be held in the middle of the show to allow time for last-minute entries.

Montague residents can enter the raffle by making a tax-deductible contribution to the New England Wind Fund, which makes matching funds available to the town of Montague for clean energy projects and programs. The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative will

actually match the donations twice: 100% to help fund a renewable energy project in Montague, and 100% matched again for clean energy projects to benefit low-income residents in Massachusetts.

The matching fund program will be ending on June 30th, and the Montague Clean Energy Campaign is asking Montague residents to help raise as much money as possible by then. As of March 31st, the campaign had only raised \$3,365, which falls far short of the amounts towns like Shutesbury and Wendell were able to raise to put solar panels on a school or library building.

The kitchen at the Rendezvous will be open until 10 p.m. during the raffle drawing

event, so people can enjoy good food, good drink, and good music as they sign up for the raffle.

David Kaynor, a prominent local fiddler and dance caller, has been hosting the music session three weeks out of every four at his apartment in Montague for the last 15 years. He says that the session welcomes all, and there's a good range of skills. Directions to the Rendezvous, menu, and much more information are available at www.rendezvousfma.com.

Raffle prizes include gift certificates from the Rendezvous, Mark's Auto, Stewart's Nursery and Garden Center, Deerfield Valley Heating and Cooling, Montague Book Mill, Lady Killigrew Café, Brooks Bend

Farm, and more. To view a full list of raffle prizes, go to montaguema.net and click on the Montague Clean Energy Campaign logo on the right.

Those who are unable to attend the raffle drawing can enter by making a one-time tax deductible donation of any amount to the New England Wind Fund, then printing and filling out a raffle ticket from the montaguema.net site. To make a donation, call CET (Center for Ecological Technology) at (413) 586-7350 x25, or go to www.newenglandwind.org.

The Montague Clean Energy Campaign is supported by the Montague selectboard, and the Montague Energy Committee.

For more information call: 367-9304.

from **PLEASE USE** pg 8

also allow the town to seek further energy efficiencies at the soon to be completed, geo-thermally heated and cooled police station.

On another front, Mason said, the Montague Clean Energy Campaign sponsored by the Montague Grange and supported by the selectboard and the energy committee has been working on a year-long project to recruit at least 3% of households in town to contribute to the New England Wind Fund. The campaign's website (see: www.montaguema.net) describes the drive: "Each time a Montague household or business contributes to the New England Wind Fund, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) deposits the same amount of money in a dedicated account for the town of Montague to use for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects for the town."

The town has already received \$3500 from the fund.

Referring to selectboard member Pat Allen's contribution to the fund, Mason said, "I think it's a crowning example, buying offsets, because it benefits the town and helps reduce carbon."

A raffle drawing to cap off the campaign will take place at the Rendezvous on June 22nd, with many great prizes donated from local businesses for people who enter by making a contribution to the Clean Energy Campaign.

On behalf of Canal Street resident Jack Nelson, the selectboard will send a request to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for a Brownfields Committee Phase I Site Assessment regarding a property Nelson owns on Turnpike Road.

The selectboard voted to declare a number of pieces of equipment surplus, at the request of DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron, including dump trucks, two recycling trucks, a sander, as well as a police cruiser, engines, a large poly tank, and a copier.

A memorandum of under-

standing (MOU) was signed with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District to provide for the hauling and disposal of sludge from the town's water pollution and control facility through July 2010. A separate MOU was signed with the DPW for hauling and disposal prices for recycling and bulky waste.

Megan Walsh was appointed to the Montague cultural council for a three-year term, ending in June of 2012. In her letter of interest, Walsh wrote, "I believe [Montague] is the loveliest town on Earth."

Selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt noted the cultural council has one more opening currently, with several more openings coming up in October of this year.

Finally, a big congratulation to the Turners Falls High School girls softball team! They are, once again, Division III Western Mass Champions, and played Wednesday in the semi-finals for the state championship.

A reminder that the selectboard now meets on a summer

schedule; that means every two weeks from now until September. The next meeting will be held Monday, June 22nd,

at 7:00 p.m. in the town hall's upstairs meeting room. By then, it should be safe to enter through the front door.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Tuesday, 6/2
5:19 p.m. Arrested [redacted] Avenue A address. Arrested [redacted] as a fugitive from justice on a court warrant.
9:43 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at an [redacted] ing person from a Fourth

Street address. Investigated. **Friday 6/5**
8:09 a.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a Crescent Street address. Investigated.
7:31 p.m. Report of a fight in the area of Central Street. Arrested [redacted]
Charged with disorderly conduct. 11:48 p.m. Report of a runaway from a Bangs Street address. Investigated.
Saturday, 6/6
1:17 a.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at an Avenue A address. Investigated.

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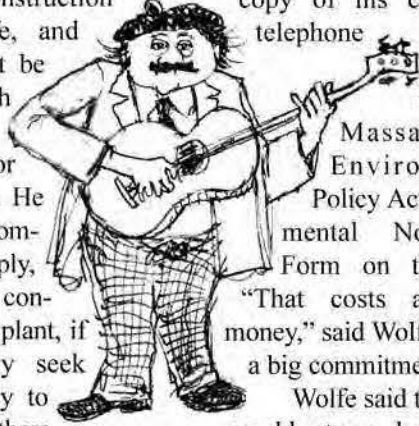
Q&A from pg 9

provide the capital. I don't have \$250 million to build this facility. Regardless of who that investor is, these permits will remain in place... with the facility."

As to Allen's second question, Wolfe said only one of the other biomass plants proposed in Western Massachusetts has advanced to the permitting stage, the 50 MW plant proposed for Russell, on the banks of the Westfield River. A biomass plant in Springfield is intended to mainly burn construction debris, said Wolfe, and therefore would not be in competition with the Greenfield and Russell plants for clean, green wood. He said due to the economics of the wood supply, and transportation constraints, the Russell plant, if built, would likely seek wood supply mainly to the south, though "there would be some competition."

As to other proposed biomass plants in the Southern Vermont and Western Massachusetts area, Wolfe said since 2002, when Renewable Portfolio Standards

came into play, requiring that a certain percentage of electricity be drawn from renewable sources, "which sort of kick-started our ability for our facility to be financially viable because we get these things called renewable energy credits," 214 biomass plants have been proposed in New England, and "the number that has been built is one. There is a major difference between proposing something and getting an article in a newspaper and submitting something like what we have here." At this he slammed a copy of his company's



telephone directory-sized Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Environmental Notification Form on the table. "That costs a lot of money," said Wolfe. "That's a big commitment." Wolfe said the market would act as a check against overbuilding biomass plants in a region where wood supply is inadequate.

Peter Conway of Gill said it was nice to meet Wolfe. "You're a lot better than the Frenchman

who came to Greenfield about 12 years ago and gave his presentation."

Wolfe smiled and cut in, "We'll be buying copper, not selling it."

Conway asked who Wolfe thought the potential buyers of the biomass plant might be, once he got through the permitting process.

Wolfe said, "My job is to get it to be financeable." In order to do this, Wolfe said, he looked at five different aspects of the project which would be of key concern to financial backers, beginning with wood supply. "Seventy-five percent of operational costs are wood: what does it cost, what is the long term availability of that supply, especially if you can't switch fuels, which you will not be able to. In order to bring in that investor we have to put together a wood supply. That's very difficult to do with wood, because it's a very fragmented market; you have a lot of different suppliers. It's not like coal or oil. That's a big challenge."

Wolfe said the other variables investors would be looking at were the cost of constructing the plant (estimated at \$250 million) and the cost of capital. "Who are

we going to sell the power to, and at what cost, and who are we going to sell the renewable energy credits to?"

Wolfe asked, rhetorically, "Will I continue to be an owner, in some way, shape or form?" once an investor is found. "I expect to, although it's possible not."

He said utility companies like WMECo are prohibited from owning power-generating facilities, but an energy company like Suez Energy, which recently purchased First Light Power's Northfield Mountain hydro plant and many others in New England, would be a more likely buyer. He reiterated that any permits his company wins for the plant would remain with the facility, with their attendant conditions.

Chris Pellerin of Montague asked three questions about carbon neutrality and biomass: "Is the carbon dioxide emitted from a wood-burning plant chemically any different from carbon dioxide from a fossil fuel plant? Would there be any difference in the atmosphere between 500,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATIONS

emitted from your wood-burning plant and 500,000 tons emitted by a fossil fuel plant? Will your state-of-the-art pollution control equipment remove the carbon dioxide from the emissions?"

Wolfe answered, "No," to all three questions.

A Factory Hollow resident characterized the proposed biomass plant as a "forest incinerator." Wolfe responded, "The technical definition of an incinerator is something that burns trash. We're not burning trash."

"Well, no," the Greenfield man replied, "You're burning something much more precious, 60 tons of wood per hour."

He cited the amount of cooling water the plant would use, see Q&A pg 16

from BUDGET pg 1

what exactly the town planned to do differently.

Police staff sergeant Chris Williams stated the department's overtime money is primarily used for "shifts which have to be filled" when an officer is out for vacation or illness.

Town accountant Carolyn Olsen attempted to explain that the \$30,000 reduction had to be "placed somewhere," and it being in the overtime budget line item did not preclude the police chief, Ray Zukowski, from making up that reduction elsewhere within the departmental budget.

Pamela Hanold, Precinct 5, wanted to know what "specific, concrete" police functions would be eliminated to make up for that loss of dollars. Her question was never directly answered, though finance committee member Michael Naughton noted the amount

was basically an attempt by the finance committee to reduce the amount of reserves being expended on the operating budget to a level recommended by the selectboard, and not an attempt to reduce the police budget because of its size.

Jensen and Jeff Singleton, Precinct 1, then agreed this was at least a start on the discipline needed in budget planning for future years. At that, the article passed, on the only standing vote of the day, 38 to 36.

The DPW budget recommendation (\$1,468,668; a minus 3.34%), along with an article approving DPW discretionary funds for equipment purchase and repair of \$50,000 (a 50% reduction from last year) both passed. Tom Bergeron, DPW superintendent, stated he agreed to the latter reduction, but noted the discretionary fund was an important part of his overall budget last

year, for instance "to purchase a fuel pump repair for \$3000, and a transmission for \$22,000."

The next contentious issue arose at the suggestion by the Gill-Montague school committee that town meeting members should defeat the district's own recommended budget, now pegged at \$7,125,199. The rationale given was that state aid estimates were too unstable at this point to approve a final budget.

Selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt supported the school committee's proposal to vote their budget down, but town meeting members had other thoughts. Garry Earles, Precinct 4, suggested the article be tabled, but this was not an option, according to the moderator.

Mark Allen, Precinct 6, questioned why the town should support more dollars for the schools when the district admit-

ted to a \$200,000 excess for the current fiscal year.

Singleton recommended voting a budget now in any case, and Naughton supported the finance committee's recommended school budget. The finance committee's recommendation of \$7,125,199 for the GMRSD then passed, with \$6,869,674 coming from taxation, \$125,000 from free cash, \$36,525 from school district reserves, and \$94,000 from the town's education stabilization fund.

Other articles, including a recommended water pollution control and DPW subsidiary budget of \$1,909,975 passed with limited discussion, as did an expenditure of \$1,000,000 (raised from borrowing in anticipation of federal reimbursement under the State Tribal Assistance Grant Program) for further repairs and improvements at the water pollution

control facility. In addition, town meeting members passed appropriations for continued maintenance of the Montague Center School building, lease payments for two six-wheel dump trucks, and an appropriation for \$385,180 for Chapter 90 transportation projects with anticipation of state reimbursement.

Finally, town meeting approved the formation of two committees: one to study possible changes in the regional school district agreement between the towns of Montague and Gill, and one to study the fiscal and educational advisability of joining other school districts or exploring regional educational collaboration.

With the meeting behind them, members then departed to pursue their plans for the rest of the week-end.



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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – Q: *I'm a healthy 71-year-old woman and I sweat a lot. I was wondering if it's something I should discuss with my doctor.*

Heavy sweating, or perspiration, is normal if you are exercising, in a hot environment, or you are nervous. It also happens during menopause.

Healthy people sweat, but the amount varies widely. Some people inherit heavy sweating, especially on their palms and the soles of their feet. According to

**THE HEALTHY GEEZER:
Don't Sweat It**

the American Academy of Dermatology, excessive sweating affects about eight million Americans.

Hyperhidrosis – or sweating too much – can be caused by a health disorder related to your thyroid gland, nervous system or blood sugar.

You should go to a doctor if, suddenly, you begin to sweat much more (or less) than usual. Other symptoms that should prompt a doctor visit are a change in body odor, the onset of night sweats for no obvious reason, and sweating that disrupts your life.

Perspiration is the body's cooling process. Glands in your skin produce sweat, which is a clear, salty liquid. Most people have several million sweat glands distributed over their bodies. Sweat cools your body as it

evaporates. When sweat mixes with bacteria on your skin, it can produce an unpleasant smell. Sweat, itself, is odorless

If heavy sweating and body odor are problems for you, try over-the-counter antiperspirants and deodorants. If these products don't work for you, your doctor may prescribe aluminum chloride.

In 2004, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Botox (botulinum toxin type A), a drug that erases wrinkles, to treat severe underarm sweating that cannot be managed by topical agents. The Botox is injected into the armpit temporarily paralyzing the nerves in the underarm that stimulate sweat production.

There has been an email circulating on the internet that links antiperspirants to breast cancer. The National Cancer Institute,

the FDA and the American Cancer Society say that no existing scientific or medical evidence links the use of underarm antiperspirants or deodorants to the development of breast cancer.

Some believe that the myth could have been started by women who were told not to wear antiperspirants or deodorants before a mammogram. The instructions were intended to prevent residue from these products showing up in X-rays and being mistaken for an abnormality in the breast.

Here are some tips to deal with sweating and body odor:

- Don't eat malodorous foods such as garlic.
- Cut back on the caffeine, which can stimulate sweating.
- Natural fabrics, such as cotton, leather and wool let your skin breathe. Wear clothing made of these fabrics to permit perspiration to evaporate.

- Use foot powders to absorb sweat.
- Change shoes and socks often.
- Remove your shoes occasionally during the day to allow your feet to dry.
- Because stress can produce perspiration, you should try meditation or other relaxation techniques to relieve your tension.
- Shower or bathe more often to eliminate bacteria.

If you have a questions write to fred@healthygeez.com

Erving Prepares for Senior Center Re-Vote

BY DAVID DETMOLD – On June 22nd, Erving will try again to approve funding for a new \$2.3 million senior center to be built on town-owned land near the Erving Elementary School.

On May 6th, the town failed by just four votes to approve spending for this project by a two thirds majority, but the vote was flawed by the failure to warn voters either in the warrant or by the moderator's instruction that a 2/3rd majority, instead of a simple majority, would be required for passage. So the town is holding the vote again, on June 22nd, as part of a seven article special town meeting at the Erving Elementary School, at 7 p.m.

The selectboard held a joint meeting with the finance com-

mittee on Monday, June 8th, to review the warrant. At that meeting, the finance committee, with members Dennis Wonsey, Dan Hammock and chair Stanley Gradowski present, voted not to recommend the senior center spending.

On May 6th, Gradowski had voted for the senior center article, and on Monday he said, "As a senior citizen, I strongly support the new senior center, but as a finance committee member, I had to vote, "No."

If the article for the senior center fails to pass again on June 22nd, articles further down the warrant will seek to allocate funds instead toward sewer inspection and repair (\$445,364) and to transfer \$637,435 from

free cash to the stabilization account.

Article 4 seeks to transfer \$25,000 from free cash for legal and engineering services to ensure the safety of the Usher Mill buildings and property, which largely burned in an arson fire two summers ago, and has been awaiting cleanup of the property by owner Patriot Environmental of Worcester.

In other news, the selectboard agreed to apply for \$250,000 in grant funds from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help the town develop an emergency management plan. If approved, emergency planning director Mick LaClair and police chief Chris Blair will co-chair

the effort to develop an emergency management plan for the town.

The board also forwarded a \$20,706 reimbursement request to MEMA to help pay for the town's response to the December ice storm.

The selectboard has formally petitioned the state legislature to name the stretch of Route 2 from the Route 2-A bypass to Orange west to Mountain Road in Erving after former selectboard member Dennis Rindone, recently deceased, who chaired the Route 2 Task Force for many years.

Newly elected selectboard member Jamie Hackett resigned his position as a part-time Erving police officer.

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JEP'S PLACE: Part CXXVI

In the Army Now



BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

GILL – The truth was, I didn't know what I was going to do. I'd felt good about being the only boy in town accepted to Mount Hermon. Now they were telling me they didn't want me.

I knew I could have done better. Getting the letter made me feel like a total failure.

Why hadn't I studied harder? The humiliation of going back to

Turners Falls High School and facing my former classmates was not something I wanted to do. Still, I wanted to finish high school and go on to college.

I tried to concentrate on pulling the trip rope so the piles of hay would be evenly spaced. But my timing was off. All sorts of thoughts ran through my mind.

Feelings of frustration, shame and anger came over me. The sun felt hot and hay chaff now clung to my sweaty skin in an annoying way.

This is a stupid way to try to farm, with a tractor made out of an old car dragging an old horse rake when neighbors drove Farmals and Ford-Fergusons pulling hay balers making neat bales, I thought.

When the hay was gathered into piles, I went back to the barn to get the wagon. Depression weighed me down. Louis, Ma, and Pa came out to help get the hay in. Pa drove the tractor towing the wagon through the field.

I pitched hay onto the load while Louis and Ma built the load and tramped down the hay. Usually we dressed the load. But I really didn't care what the load looked like; I just wanted to get the hay into the barn and be done with it.

A few days later I drove my Model A Ford pickup truck to a gas station to have an inner tube vulcanized. It was less than a year since the end of World War II, and the only tire tubes available were made of synthetic rubber. A regular patch wouldn't hold; it had to be vulcanized.

A friendly Army recruiter struck up a conversation. "You look a little down in the dumps," he said.

When I confessed I'd been kicked out of Mount Hermon, he assured me I could complete my education in the Army, get free room and board, medical and

dental care, shoes, clothes and \$75 dollars a month, besides.

"That's the perfect solution," he said. "And we got a special deal. If you sign up right now, we are offering an eighteen month enlistment. But, because you're only 17 you'll have to get your folks to sign for you."

I hadn't counted on needing my parent's signature, and I was afraid they wouldn't sign.

The next night after supper, I got up enough nerve to show them the enlistment papers and told them I wanted to join the Army. I thought I'd have a tough time convincing them it was a good idea, but they agreed without any coaxing.

I'd have felt a lot better if they'd shown at least a slight hesitation.

The day I was to leave soon came. Pa offered me a ride to Greenfield where the recruiters had an office above the post office. Ma came with us. That surprised and pleased me. It dawned on me that they both loved me and that this was a momentous day for them as well as for me.

I wanted to tell them I loved them, but I didn't know how, and sensed they felt the same. We rode along without conversation.

To break the silence, I said, "This would be a good day to make hay." Then I remembered that they were getting on in years and had depended on me to help get work done.

How would they get the hay in with Pa's heart condition and Louis only 13? Who would pitch the hay onto the wagon and then up into the hay mow? Guilt came over me for deserting them and for thinking only of myself.

At the post office, a big olive drab bus sat waiting. We got out of the car and stood not knowing what to say or do. I shook Pa's hand. Ma hugged me and tried to smile, biting her lip to try to keep from crying. Her eyes filled with tears. My eyes got a little watery, too, and I hoped the others on the bus wouldn't notice. I climbed aboard, went to a window seat and looked out to wave goodbye. But they were gone.

—Jep's Place
Concludes Next Week

ERVING BYLAW CHANGE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Erving's planning board has scheduled informational meetings at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 18th and Thursday, July 16th at Town Hall, 12 East Main Street, Erving to discuss changes to the bylaws that would allow gas stations and restaurant drive-thru windows.

PUBLIC FORUM

MONTAGUE CENTER SCHOOL REUSE JUNE 24TH

The Town of Montague will hold a public forum at 6:30 p.m. on June 24, 2009 in the Montague Fire Station, 28 Old Sunderland Road in Montague Center. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the final presentation of the consultant, Greenberg and Associates, on the plans for the reuse of the Montague Center School.

CARBON from page 5

insulation, and might be capable of providing heat for nearby businesses. No wonder the state has provided the developer with \$250,000 in pre-development grants, and the federal government will hand over a \$60,000,000 cash grant provided by the American Recovery and Relief Act (the taxpayer-funded stimulus package). What are we waiting for? This plant is the greenest thing since the bank bailout!

This project has been cleared through the Massachusetts Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and the next step involves getting special

permits from the Greenfield Zoning Board of Appeals. If you don't think this power plant is right for our region, please provide written or oral comments to the Greenfield ZBA. They will be meeting to rule on the project on Monday, June 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the Greenfield Middle School, 195 Federal Street. You do not need to be a Greenfield resident to attend the hearing or comment on the project. You must bring 14 copies of any written comments, and you must write "Please add the following comments to the Public Record for the Greenfield Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing of June 15th, 2009" on the top.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG Capsized Tree Trunk

Tuesday, 6/2

10:10 a.m. Assisted Gill police with vehicle crash investigation.

9:20 p.m. Report of despondent subject on French King Bridge. Spoke with subject who said he was fine and just out for a walk. Transported same back to destination.

Wednesday, 6/3

8:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield police in response to Northfield Pizza House to investigate report of child being abused. Well being of child checked, report taken.

Thursday, 6/4

11:30 a.m. Officer observed damage to fence at Usher plant.

9:30 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with motor vehicle accident on Pine Meadow Road.

Saturday, 6/6

1:03 a.m. Mountain Road resident reported pickup truck hit something in front of residence and then headed toward Northfield. Checked area, vehicle gone upon arrival and no

damage located.

3:25 p.m. Report of a man operating a mini bike at Weatherheads apartments parking lot. On arrival found to be in the woods, verbal warning issued.

5:52 p.m. Report of assault at French King Entertainment Center.

9:20 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with indecent assault and battery.

Sunday, 6/7

12:04 a.m. Report of loud noise disturbance at Laurel Lake camp site. Large gathering disbursed, several subjects consuming alcoholic beverages.

1:31 a.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] Charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, fourth offense, reckless operation, speeding and failure to dim headlights.

8:09 a.m. Report of a capsized boat

in the river near French King rock. found to be a tree trunk.

3:23 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license, abuse prevention order violation and a straight warrant. Arrested [redacted]

Greenfield for possession of class B drug and three counts of possession of class E drug.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, JUNE 11th

Coop Concerts, Energy Park, Miles St. Greenfield 6 to 8 p.m. Pat & Tex LaMountain with Tom Carroll and Seven Mile Line. www.coopconcerts.org.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Marcie Gregoire, Laura Cayer & friends, folkee, etc. 7 p.m. no cover.

At Deja Brew, Wendell, *Free Range* – Rock out with Betsy, Mark and Bruce to oldie cover tunes from the '60s & '70s. Caution! Spontaneous dancing may happen! 8 to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12th

Great Falls Discovery Center Coffee House: Rosemary Caine & Trine Cheile. Celtic music with harpist Rosemary Caine and the band Trine Cheile. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Coffee & homemade baked goods will be available. Donation \$6 - \$12/children free.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *The Deerfield – A Working River* at 7:30 p.m. Award winning director and producer Joe DeFelice from Newfane, VT, will be there to discuss the film, which will kick off the weekend-long Riverfest celebration. Music before the movie: traditional Irish tunes with *Rambling Pitchfork*, 7 p.m.

The Bookmill, Montague Center: *Don't Tell Darlings*. With Megan on guitar and Millie on the banjo, their repertoire weaves threads of the old-time, Western Swing, early country and blues, bluegrass, and jug band traditions. With *The Feel*. 8 p.m., \$10 cover.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Heroes*, classic rock, local favorites 9:30 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Jesse Smith and Bunny's a Swine (rawk musik), 9:30 p.m.

At Deja Brew, Wendell: Nexus, harmonic

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Santina King, guitar player and original songwriter performs at Deja Brew, Wendell on Sunday, June 21st at 8 p.m.

eclectic rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13th

Salmon Falls, an interactive history of the Deerfield River at Riverfest, presented by the Piti Theatre Company at the Arms Library, Main & Bridge Streets, Shelburne Falls, 2:30 p.m. Free.

Riverfest, Shelburne Falls. Pat & Tex LaMountain perform 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. (Immediately following the parade)

Join ABNC president Dave Small and naturalist Lula Field at Dave's house, 1542 Pleasant St., Athol, to hunt out lunas and other moths. Begins at 9 p.m. Participants are invited to bring their tents and favorite moth baits. (Don't know what those are? You'll find out!) Severe weather cancels. Info: Dave Small, (978) 413-1772. Dave@dhsml.net.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Southern Rail*. Exciting top-notch Bluegrass, high-energy exuberant fun, with riveting harmonies, irreverent humor and sparkling banjo and mandolin solo work. 7:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *The Stone Coyotes* CD Release party, *First Lady of Rock*, 9:30 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: '80s Prom Night! Dinner, quiz and dance contest. Call for more (413) 863-9026.

At Deja Brew, Wendell: Richard Chase Group, acoustic folk/ singer songwriter, 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14th

Picnic on the Common, Gill. Noon to 3 p.m. Food concessions, entertainment, FallTown String Band at noon, all welcome for an afternoon of family fun.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Refuge Rambles*, ten-minute informal talks on a variety of refuge topics directly related to exhibits. Ramble topics are announced within the museum and are scheduled between 10 a.m. and noon. Info: (413) 863-3221 or at

www.greatfallsma.org.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: Second Sunday Comedy, 7 p.m. Lots of laughs, no cover.

JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Stateline Quartet*, singing barber-shop style harmony. Jeff Incandella from Keene, N.H., singing tenor; Al Shippee from Ashfield, lead vocalist; Bob Lafond

from Troy, N.H., singing bass; and Tim Cornwell of Orange singing the baritone part. Stateline was honored as the 2007 Novice Quartet Champion for the Granite & Pine Division of the Northeast District of the Barbershop. \$10/children 12 and under, free. Tickets: www.1794meetinghouse.org.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke* with Opa Opa Beer Specials and swag, 8 p.m. no cover.

MONDAY, JUNE 15th

Evening Sing-Along, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. At the Montague Center Library with Children's Librarian, Linda Hickman. Guitar and banjo with a variety of children's music. For more information, call the Carnegie Library 863-3214 during the week, or the Montague Center Library, 367-2852, on Monday evenings.

Acting Like a Leader, the Piti Theatre's Creative Leadership Workshop held at Green Fields Market, Greenfield. Acting techniques can have all kinds of fun (and useful) applications in life, work and leadership. Participants will practice them in a supportive context and generate new



Winner of the national Junior Duck Stamp competition, painted (in color) by 16-year-old Lily Spang of Toledo Ohio. Selected winners from the Massachusetts winners are on display at the Millers River Environmental Center, Athol through July 2nd.

insights to take home. Advance registration recommended: (413) 625-6569, jonathan@ptco.org. \$15/free for co-op members. (FCC) www.ptco.org/next.

MONDAY, JUNE 15th

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: BINGO NIGHT!!! Free, Big Fun!! ZANY prizes! 8 to 10 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16th

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Knit & Craft Night, free juke box, 7 p.m.

Accessible Birding with Joe, 8 to 10 a.m. 2nd Tuesdays of the month visit local sites. Open to birders of all abilities. Meet at the Center. Rain cancels. Call ahead for wheelchair van access, (978) 248-9491.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: A very special evening with international guitar paragon Sir Richard Bishop and Oaxacan. 9:30 p.m., \$6 cover.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17th

Social Ballroom Lessons every Wednesday 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dance till 9 p.m. \$8 per person Come solo or bring a

partner. At the Montague Elks, Turners Falls. June classes: Fox Trot! Info: call Frances (413) 885-8888.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Knitting & Crafts Night, 7 to 10 p.m. Any craft/skill level.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Quizmastah Chad's Quiznite Quiz!!! Join a team, bring a team, 8 p.m.

The Great Falls Farmers Market, corner of 2nd Street and Avenue A, Turners Falls. 3 to 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18th

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jim Olsen's Rendezvous Ramble* (honky-tonk DJ). 8 p.m., free.

At Deja Brew, Wendell: Wailin' Dave Robinson, Tommy Filault and Company, blues based roots music, 8-10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19th

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Swinging Steaks* hailing in from Boston, 9:30 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Zach Holmes & friends* Night of MONK & MIN-GUS, \$3 cover.

At Deja Brew, Wendell: Josh Levangie, country folk guitar featuring Johnny Cash favorites. 9 to 11 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21st

At Deja Brew, Wendell: Santana King with Rick King, unique acoustic guitar phrasings, a rich and soulful musical experience. 8 p.m.

ONGOING

At the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: John Kudukey, black and white river photographs on display in the Great Hall through June.

Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, Turners Falls: In Gallery 85: *Stan Sherer – Life Studies*. Three documentary projects: 'Albania' and 'Shopkeepers,' studies of people & places; 'Lantern Slides,' a personal visual interpretation and construction by Mr. Sherer. On display through June 14th.

The Turners Falls Fishway is STILL open for the season! The fish viewing facilities are open Wednesday to Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., through June 14th.

On display: Massachusetts *Junior Duck Stamp Art*. Selected pieces of art that won awards in Massachusetts are on display at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street in Athol. Open Tues. & Weds, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Until July 2nd**. Teachers and their students are encouraged to participate in the Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp Program, a conservation education program designed to stimulate awareness and personal involvement in waterfowl and wetland conservation for students in grades K-12 through a student art project. Info: www.fws.gov/juniorduck.

HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

MONDAYS – Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m.

TUES & WEDS – Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 6 p.m.

THURS – Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m.

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Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.

Info: Jared at 863-9559.

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4. DRAG ME TO HELL PG13
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5. LAND OF THE LOST PG13
DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:15
6. THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3
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7. THE HANGOVER
R in DTS sound
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Thursday 6/18 Wailin' Dave Robinson, Tommy Filault and Company, 8 - 10 p.m.
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from Q&A pg 12



550,000 to 880,000 gallons per day. (About 50,000 of which would come from an onsite well near the Fall River, the rest from treated effluent from the Greenfield wastewater treatment plant, piped five miles north to the plant. Eighty-five percent of the water would be evaporated into the atmosphere in the process of cooling.)

"To me, that's an astronomical amount of resources you'll use to produce a little bit of electricity. It's going to make you a profit. It's not going to bring cheap electricity to Greenfield."

Wolfe said his plant would increase truck traffic going by Factory Hollow on Route 2 by 2%, and traffic as a whole would increase 1%. Noise would not increase perceptibly over the Mackin gravel pit's current operations on the site. Air emissions and particulates, according to the DEP, would be "insignificant," Wolfe claimed.

"There will be impacts. There are impacts in everything we do in life. There are lights on in this room right now, from the burning of coal, oil, nuclear power. Wind and solar are absolutely critical components. Conservation is absolutely critical. We need to turn the lights on."

Wolfe said the biomass plant's use of wood and water would be "sustainable." He added, "There are rules in place that govern cutting in Massachusetts."

Rich Kuklewicz of Turners Falls asked about the plume from the cooling tower at the plant. Orvedal said the cooling tower was only 30 feet tall, and the plume would not be visible from beyond the industrial park under most conditions.

In response to a question from Stuart Warner, of Leverett, Wolfe said painted or treated wood and construction debris would be prohibited from being burned in the biomass plant by condition of the special permit.

Jay DiPucchio, of Turners Falls, identified himself as the chairman of the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation. "I'm not indisposed to economic development or the complexity of what you're trying to do, and I'm sure you'll abide by the letter of the law. But I am also chair of the board of health. I do have some concerns with generic regulatory standards that don't necessarily

meet the reality of the locality.

"The 1990 EPA cumulative exposure projections established emissions baselines at the census tracts levels. Of the 28 DEP emission monitoring sites statewide, the nearest particulate monitoring sites are in Pittsfield and Ware. There are none in the Pioneer Valley or Franklin County. DEP's website states in the Connecticut River Valley region of Western Massachusetts, for example, temperature inversions can result in higher particulate pollution levels than would otherwise be expected."

DiPucchio continued, "I can personally recall when they were cleaning out that stack at Indeck, downtown, that particulate matter on a cold day when they blew it out would stay and hang and you'd get particulate matter all over your car and backyard."

Given all that, DiPucchio asked, "How would you measure particulate matter and other emissions for Turners Falls and the Montague census tract? What are your projections?" And why not wait until the new DEP standards for best available control practices are promulgated before going forward?

Wolfe handed this one off to Orvedal, who admitted Madera had based its projections for emissions on data collected from Ware. He said they would monitor emissions at the stack rather than in surrounding communities, partly as a consideration of cost, and also because DEP did not

require offsite monitoring, "because emissions are so low with this project you wouldn't be able to detect an increase." As to best available control practices, Orvedal said they were required to look at all comparable biomass facilities and install controls that are at least as good as theirs.

Wolfe said he had used Epsilon Associates for air quality consultants to develop his project's environmental notification



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATIONS

form, and offered to put DiPucchio directly in touch with that firm for more complete answers to his questions. He gave out his email address: mwolfe@maderaenergy.com and referred audience members to his website: pioneerrenewableenergy.com.

Next, LeeAnn Warner, of Leverett, said, "I'm disturbed there was no MEPA review for this plant."

Wolfe cut her off. "That's incorrect. There was a MEPA review. We filed an environmental notification form on March 16th. We did not trigger an environmental impact report."

Warner continued, "Are you

aware of what the air quality is now in the Pioneer Valley? MEPA would have looked at air quality. According to the American Lung Association we get an F for air quality. We get a D for particulate matter already. We have ozone from the Connecticut and New York metropolitan area coming up and sitting in our Valley in the summer. According to Dave Howland of the Springfield office of the DEP, we have 1500 to 3700 pounds of mercury deposited here annually. We're already loaded. So I understand when you say that this won't impact our area significantly. I'm just wondering if you know we have a problem here, that we need to clean up and not add anything else to the air because according to the AIR Now DEP website we already have the worst air in Massachusetts." (Sustained applause followed her remarks.)

Wolfe said, "The MEPA process is not a permit. It allows you to get your permits. The air permit will answer the questions that you are talking about."

Emily Monosson, of Montague, asked whether the proponents had examined the possibility that volatilized chemicals from treated sewage water used to cool the plant would also be among the emissions downwind residents would have to worry about. Orvedal said they were testing for that now, and the results would be part of their air quality permit.

Suzanne Carlson, of Greenfield, said local residents value their forests and water and certainly don't want their air any dirtier. "You will not be using the heat for co-generation at your plant. The profits will leave in your hands to create electricity we don't need."

Wolfe said the plant would produce jobs and revenue for Greenfield to pay for schools and firefighters, things communities run on. "There is no customer for the heat right now," but he hoped one could be found to locate at the site.

Wendy Lapointe said she and her husband had spent four years building their dream home on West Gill Road, less than a third of a mile from the proposed plant, for themselves and their two small children. She asked Wolfe if he would raise his child at that location. He said he would.

She said, "I couldn't do that."

John MacNamara, the last to come to the microphone, said, "We live in Turners Falls. We're not worried about the plume. We're worried about what we don't see. If you want to move downwind, move to Turners Falls. I have a feeling once you guys make a deal, you're going to be long gone."

Wolfe replied, "A power plant is allowed by special permit in the industrial park. If it hadn't been allowed, wouldn't have come here. We will work to minimize the impacts."



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