



**CONSERVATION HIKE**  
Erving Looks at Proposed Land Purchase  
see page 5



**NEW GOOSE ON THE LOOSE**  
Unity Park a Turners Gem  
see page 16

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 4 - NO. 36

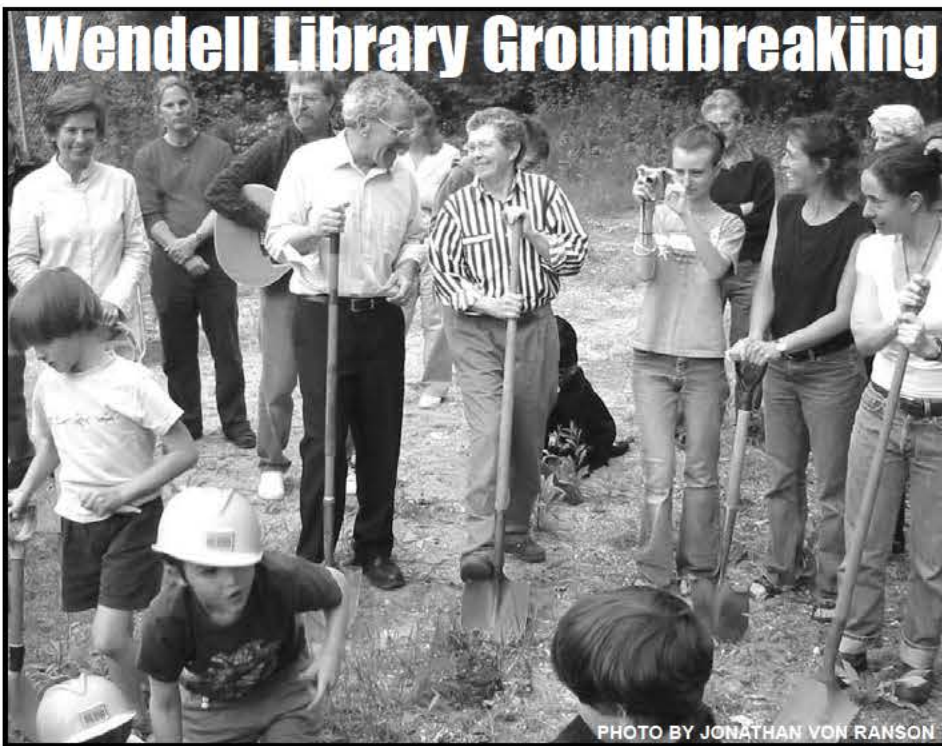
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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

June 15, 2006



## Wendell Library Groundbreaking

PHOTO BY JONATHAN VON RANSON

People young and old rotated through, taking turns digging a ritual spadeful of earth during the Wendell Library groundbreaking ceremony.

**BY LINDA HICKMAN & JONATHAN VON RANSON; WENDELL** - The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Wendell Library on Depot Road was attended by over 80 people of all ages on Sunday, June 11th. The original town hall, built in 1846, will be completely renovated and expanded to house the library. The old building has also

served the town as a schoolhouse and most recently has housed town offices and the senior center. The town offices will be housed in the new community center, which will be built nearby on Morse Village Road. The Senior Center may be relocated to the current library building.

The current 735-square-foot library, across

from the common on the corner of Lockes Village Road, was built in 1921 and lacks many amenities, including running water and flush toilets. The new library will feature these modern conveniences, along with much more room for a growing collection of books and audio-visual materials,

see **LIBRARY** pg 9

## Gill-Montague Budget Powwow

### CUTS PROPOSED AFTER \$600,000 OVERRIDE DEFEAT

**BY PATRICK RENNICK** Members of the Gill-Montague regional school committee, the Montague selectboard, the Montague finance committee, the Gill selectboard, and the Gill finance committee came together Monday evening, June 12th, at the Sheffield elementary school for a fiscal collaboration meeting to discuss the next step for the school district following Montague's recent rejection of a \$600,000 school budget override.

"This is a very difficult time for all of us," said Valeria Smith, vice-chair of the school committee as she opened the meeting for discussion. "I was always raised to see the glass as half-full and keep a positive attitude." The \$16.8 million FY '07 GMRSD school budget, billed as a 'level service'

budget, was still short \$600,000.

"We still haven't received any updates from the state," said G-M superintendent Sue Gee. Senator Stan Rosenberg and Representative Steve Kulik have both told Gee the state budget will most likely not be completed until the end of June. Although the district is holding out hope for some increase in state funding in the final budget, under the present circumstances the school committee will have to revert to operating month to month on the previous year's budget, and perform over half a million dollars of cuts.

"We are really already making cuts by [promoting a budget at] level services," said school committee chair Mary Kociela. "There are mandates placed on us

whether we have the money or not."

One of the chief concerns brought forward by the school committee during the meeting was losing students from the district, and the state aid that goes with them, to "school choice."

"We pay a minimum of \$5000 for any student who leaves our district for another public school," said Gee. "Four years ago we talked about closing a school, and cut 24 teachers. We lost 144 students." For the past two years the district has been able to hold a steady student population in the district schools.

"Families will look immediately to other schools based on the predictions that run in the paper," said Donna Klaiber, a fifth grade teacher. see **G-M** pg 7

## Gill Farm and Garden Tour, Annual Picnic

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**

The Friends of Gill will hold their annual picnic on the Gill town common from noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 25th, featuring horse drawn hayrides, the music of the Falltown String Band,



Lori Manson holds Henry & Bill during a previous Gill Picnic.

and a sawdust coin hunt for the children. The Gill firefighters will provide their world famous French fries, along with hamburgers and hot dogs. Gill's strawberry fields will contribute fresh berries for dessert. Across the way, the library will

hold a used book sale. New this year, the Friends will offer garden lovers a chance to tour the village's horticultural delights with the first annual Gill Farm and Garden tour. The tour will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 25th, with tickets available for \$5 in

advance, \$7 the day of the event. Among the highlights of the nine site tour are a water garden, a former Christmas tree farm turning into an arboretum, a working beehive, and the Northfield Mount Hermon farm, featuring a

see **GILL** pg 6

### THEATER REVIEW

## The Lion in Winter at the Shea

Presented by the Arena Civic Theater

**BY LESLIE BROWN** TURNERS FALLS -

Local theater goers have come to expect strong productions from fine local talents. Arena Civic Theater's current play at the Shea Theater is James Goldman's *The Lion in Winter*, directed by Elisa Martin. It does not disappoint. The script revolves around the life of Henry II, King of England, his estranged wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, and their three sons. Having reached the age of fifty, Henry wants to divide his vast empire and choose the next king. He and Eleanor each have their favorite contender. The resultant family squabbling also involves King



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELISA MARTIN

Susan Ford of Brattleboro as Eleanor of Aquitaine and Alan Maynard of Greenfield as King Henry II star in "The Lion in Winter."

Philip II of France and his sister Alais, Henry's current mistress.

Thirty-five years ago I stood on the stage at the Round House playing Alais to Ann Christem's

Eleanor and Rusty Blossom's Henry. Thus it was with interest and curiosity that I read about the new ACT production of *The Lion in Winter*. Theater lore has it that opening night is for working the bugs out, and the second performance is a better bet for ticket holders. As a performer, I experienced some openings when everyone's level of ner-

see **THEATER** pg 12



**PET OF THE WEEK**

**Indian Princess**



**Tiger Lily**

Tiger Lily is a three-year-old torbie cat in need of a good home. Tiger Lily was found stray; her foster family says she is affectionate, loving, and independent. This clownish girl just loves to be scratched! She would be OK with gentle children. For more info on adopting Tiger Lilly, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org .

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**The Montague Reporter**

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**CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS**

**Ladybug Stories**

BY LINDA HICKMAN  
**TURNERS FALLS** - Dawn Ward of Montague read ladybug stories during part of her insect program for young children at the Carnegie Library on

Monday, June 12th. The Community Partnerships for Children, a project of the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, sponsored the event.



PHOTO BY LINDA HICKMAN

Ladybug stories delighted children during Dawn Ward's insect program at the Carnegie Library on Monday.

**Montague Public Forum**

The Board of Selectmen will be meeting to discuss the status of the Railroad Salvage Building, 11 Power Street, Turners Falls, MA on

Monday, June 19th, 2006, at 8:00 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room, town hall, Avenue A, Turners Falls.

**Erving Residents Buckle Up!**

Failure to use safety belts remains one of the leading causes of deaths and injuries to motorists involved in vehicle crashes.

awareness, information, education and enforcement that seat belt use will significantly increase in our community.

The Erving Police Department encourages all those living, working and traveling through our community to buckle up and ensure that those traveling with them do as well on every ride.

Increasing safety belt use in our community will result in fewer deaths and injuries to those who live and work here. We hope with greater public

**GIANT TAG SALE!**  
Sat, Jun 17, 2006,  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Front lawn of the Grange hall, Montague Center, on the town common. All sorts of great items. Donations welcome on the morning of the tag sale.

Sale benefits MCTV - Montague Community TV, channel 17.

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**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES June 19th - 23rd**

**MONTAGUE Senior Center**, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Make meal reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Special trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

9:30 a.m. Aerobics  
**Wednesday, 21st**  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 22nd**  
1 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 23rd**  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

**Monday, 19th**  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11:30 a.m. PACE Aerobics  
**Tuesday, 20th**

**ERVING Senior Center**, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or

**FACES & PLACES**

**Montague Elks Flag Day Ceremony**



DAVOL PHOTO

Brian San Soucie respectfully retires his flag by burning it in the time-honored ritual at the Montague Elks. Wednesday's Flag Day was the 229th anniversary of the American flag.

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# Brick House Teens Create a Lasting Impression

**BY KAREN STINCHFIELD**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - One day recently, Brick House participants were working on creating a new garden and patio space near the side entrance to our building, that will enable teens to be outside during programs and drop-in hours. Woodworkers Mike Langknecht and Spencer Peterman, whose studio faces the Brick House from across an alley, commented that the Brick House garden patio would be giving them something nice to look at, and suggested they should return the favor by letting the teens who frequent the Brick House paint a mural on their long cinderblock wall. Thus, the Brick House Mural Project was born.

With the instruction of local artist Kerry Kazokas, and funds from the Community Development Block Grant Program, teenagers from the five villages, along with a few participants from other area



PHOTOS: KAREN STINCHFIELD



*Top: Jared Libby, right, Brick House Youth Programs Coordinator, and Simon Eaton, left, play Hacky Sack in front of the wall that is soon to be adorned with The Brick House Mural Project. Left: Artist Kerry Kazokas discusses mural design with local teens.*

towns, will be creating a lasting mural that will reflect the Brick House, the community, and the artists themselves. Kazokas will also infuse the painting sessions with information about what is involved in becoming a professional artist. She will discuss all aspects of creating a mural, from securing a contract to preparing the surface, to design and painting techniques, to the final

coat of sealer.

Each week, the *Montague Reporter* will run a photograph to share the progress the teens are making on their public art project. The staff encourages local residents to drop by the Brick House and inspect progress in person. While here, visitors can get a tour of the building and learn about the programs the Brick House offers the community.

The Mural Project Finale will take place at the Brick House on Tuesday, July 18th, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., and the public is encouraged to attend.

Visitors will have the opportunity not only to view the finished mural, but also to meet the teens who created it. The Brick House is located at 24 Third Street in the original Turners Falls Fire Department. For more information on the Brick House Mural Project, please call 413-863-9576.

## School-to-Work Graduates Recognized

The Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board, in its June 1st Annual meeting, recognized eight area graduates nominated by their schools to be the first recipients of an annual School to Work Graduate Commendation.

The Franklin Hampshire REB is the community board that oversees public workforce development funding and programs throughout the fifty communities of Franklin and Hampshire County and the North Quabbin region.

In a planning meeting earlier this spring, board members noted that students going directly on to college receive the congratulations and recognition of many, but that students going straight to work are also filling an important role in their communities.

"There are a number of local companies eager for the energy

and skills of these young workers," notes Board Chair Donna Jeanloz, of Renovators Supply. "They need youth prepared and motivated to start adding value to their companies right away, and these are some examples of young people who have proved themselves ready and willing."

Schools and Adult Education Centers were asked to nominate students who are 2006 graduates of an area high school or GED program, who have a full-time job lined up after graduation, and who are "on the road to becoming a productive and contributing member of their community."

Students receiving the commendation are Christine Annear, Turners Falls High School; Cheryl Barcomb, Easthampton High; Grant Giard, Pioneer Valley Regional; David Gralinski, Smith Vocational and

Agricultural High; Alan Grummell, Mahar Regional; Timothy Mathers, Northampton High School; Oscar Sanchez, Amherst Regional; and Brian Steiner, Franklin County Technical School.

They will be employed, respectively, at the Pioneer Valley Humane Society, Wintergreen Kennels; Vermont Farm, Adams Plumbing, Quabbin Valley Healthcare, M.J. Moran, Inc.; the Lord Jeffery Inn, and Montague Machine.

"I think the schools and employers should be commended as well," notes Patricia Crosby, executive director of the board, "the schools for valuing their accomplishments and the employers for investing in youth."

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### Montague Community Band - 115th Season

#### 2006 Schedule

<p><b>June 19th</b> - Masonic Lodge, Montague City, 7:00pm</p> <p><b>June 26th</b> - Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls, 7:00pm</p> <p><b>July 10th</b> - Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls</p>	<p>Falls, 7:00pm</p> <p><b>July 24th</b> - Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls, 7:00pm</p> <p>Above concerts sponsored in part by the Montague Cultural Council</p> <p><b>Aug 4th</b> Friday evening concert -</p>	<p>Music on the Common, Gill, 7:00pm</p> <p>Sponsored by a grant from the Gill Cultural Council</p> <p><b>August 13th</b> Sunday evening Walpole Concert Series, Walpole, NH, 7:00pm</p>
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# The Montague Reporter

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August, 2002

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## Fixing Montague's Budget Breakdown

BY MIKE NAUGHTON

**MILLERS FALLS** - The way I see it, Montague is facing two budget problems right now. We face an immediate need to finalize the Gill Montague Regional School District's FY '07 budget in the wake of the defeat of the \$600,000 Proposition 2½ override on June 6th, and the longer term need to address the underlying budget challenges that have brought us to this point.

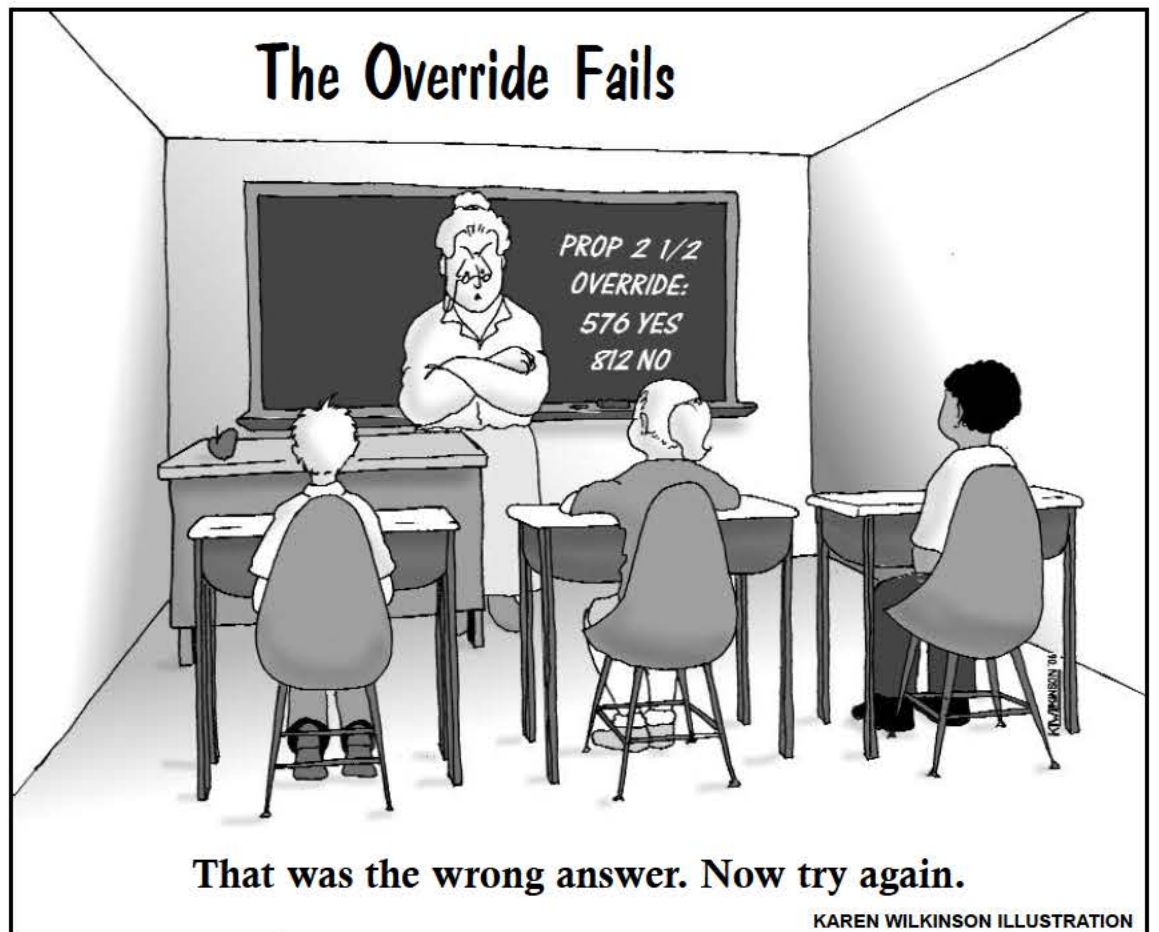
Interestingly, both supporters and opponents of the override stressed the need to address the second issue, and to begin doing so quickly, "the day after the vote," as Superintendent Sue Gee said at one recent finance meeting. This gives me encouragement that a solution may actually be devised. The budget crisis is a long-term problem, and it needs a long-term solution. Using an emergency fund to address a long-term budget deficit is certainly not a good idea, for the simple reason that over the long run, it won't work.

But some supporters saw the override as a short-term solution to the first problem. It was billed as a way to settle the FY '07 budget and thereby buy time to address the broader budget problems. They argued, rightly,

I think, that trying to solve those longer-term problems within the time frame allowed for setting the FY '07 budget was unrealistic and probably irresponsible, as it would require hasty decisions we would all then have to live with for years.

Since the override has failed, therefore, I think it's perfectly appropriate to consider using emergency funds, and also to consider pay, hiring, or spending freezes, postponing capital purchases, or any other short-term measures people can come up with to address the FY '07 budget problem. That problem has to be solved first, and it is an emergency because it has to be done quickly.

But I don't think anyone should be fooled into thinking that solving the short-term crisis will get us out of the woods. The real problem is how to deal with FY '08 and beyond. Failure to do so will land us right back where we were a month ago, and any short-term sacrifices made for FY '07 will have been wasted. Solving this problem will take careful thought and deliberation. In my opinion we should settle FY '07 as quickly as possible so all involved can begin doing just that.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Shea Appreciates Coverage

A big thank you from all of us here at the Shea Theater and Valley Idol. The coverage you gave Valley Idol was incredible. The phone was ringing off the hook with compliments and questions, and the outlets were clamoring for more tickets. It was just perfect.

As always, you were considerate, engaging and thorough. I appreciate *the Montague Reporter's* willingness to go forward with coverage of this important event for our non-profit theater, and also your genuine interest in helping us

inform the community of our fundraising contest.

The first night of the competition featured free admission so that the contestants would have a large crowd for which to perform and secondly, so the community at large could come to the Shea (perhaps for the first time), even if they could not afford to do so in the past. The Shea Theater has been, and continues to be, a cornerstone in the revitalization of downtown Turners Falls. Our board is attempting to make The Shea more approachable. Someone

might not buy a ticket for Shakespeare, but might take their children to see Cinderella. A night or two at Valley Idol might whet a couple's appetite for a comedy show or a musical instead of a movie!

Our first attempt at a contest of this type was so successful that we are planning to make Valley Idol an annual event! Thank you again.

- Suzanne Davis  
Shea Theater  
Board of Directors

## Vermont Yankee Protest

On Sunday, June 18th, a group of area residents calling themselves the Fathers and Others will stage a march and rally in opposition to the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. They will meet at 10 a.m. at the Vernon nuclear plant and walk north to Brattleboro (where they will arrive at the Common at 12:30 p.m.) and continue on to the headquarters of the plant's owners, Entergy Nuclear, on Old Ferry Road in Brattleboro, where a civil disobedience protest and rally will take place at 2 p.m.

In a prepared statement, mem-

bers of the group, which will include residents of Gill and Greenfield, said, "Fathers and Others are protecting their families - and others - by showing the way from danger. Starting at Vermont Yankee, we will be walking away from the reactor north on Route 142, 6.5 miles into Brattleboro. There we will meet more walkers at the town Common and continue north on Route 5, 3.5 miles to Entergy Headquarters on old Ferry Road." Interested members of the public may contact the group by calling Claire Chang at 413-863-8952.

## Memorial Day Thanks

On behalf of the Trustees of the Montague Veterans Memorial, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the following for their cooperation and participation in the parade and ceremony held on Memorial Day in the village of Turners Falls.

Turners Falls VFW Commander John Murphy, and Honor Guard

Turners Falls American Legion Post, Commander Brian San Soucie

Vietnam Veterans, Region Director Al Cummings

Placement of Wreaths, Walter Kostanski, Russell Deane, Nicholas Prokovich

Montague Girl Scouts, Deb. Siebert

Montague Boy Scouts, Bruce Dunbar

Montague Elks, Michael Blanchard

Montague Selectboard, Patricia Pruitt, Pat Allen

John Callahan, Spec. 4, U.S. Army

Turners Falls High School

Band and Buglers Ethan Kociela and Ben Garber, Director Steve Ciechowski

The Montague Police, Fire, Highway and Parks Departments for the many jobs placing flags and cleaning, mowing, etc. in preparation for this event. Thank you.

To my fellow Trustees for their assistance, Michael Cenzano, Chairman, Chris Boutwell, Donald Girard and John Murphy.

To Veterans Agent Leo Parent who, when asked to step in at the last minute to be Master of Ceremonies due to the hospitalization of Michael Cenzano, did so without hesitation.

Last but not least my thanks go to the many residents of our

villages who turned out to honor those men and women who served, who are serving, and who have given their lives in order for us to be able to write a letter such as this.

Again, thanks to all.

- Art Gilmore  
Trustee, Montague  
Veterans Memorial  
Millers Falls

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## American Dead in Iraq as of 6/14/06





## GUEST EDITORIALS



# Hike for Erving Conservation Land a Big Success

BY ROB FLETCHER

On Saturday, June 10th, hardy residents of Erving braved the wet weather and hiked the proposed 168-acre town conservation land on Old State Road in Erving. Brenda Bhatti of the Mount Grace Land Trust and Laura Herbert of the Erving conservation commission led the hike. Despite the grey skies, the misty day didn't dampen anyone's spirits, and the landscape was lush and green. The hikers traversed fields of ferns, enjoyed seeing the mountain laurel in bloom, saw a tiny tree frog up close and snacked on sassafras leaves.

The group paused to enjoy two of the streams that run through the property. Life-long Erving resident Barry Brocklesby showed the group a very pretty mossy waterfall. One hiker remarked how nice it would be to keep cool by the waterfall when the summer heat hits.

Barry grew up next door to the Guniusz Farm and spent a good deal of his childhood hunting and exploring the land. He

had many great stories to tell from when the land was a working dairy farm and told of bear and moose that he has seen.

He said, "Having lived here for sixty years and seeing the property change from pasture to mature woodland, I'd like to see it just take its natural course rather than get developed."

Hike leader Brenda Bhatti explained how con-

serving land avoids long term fiscal outlays for a community. She noted residential development can create a drain on public finances, demanding more in town services than it generates in taxes. With the possibility of a 20-plus housing development going on the Guniusz land if the town doesn't purchase it, that could translate to \$300,000 a year in additional education expenses for the town for the number of new children that



Erving residents joined conservation commission members, braving Saturday's wet weather, to check out the Guniusz land.

might be expected.

The 90-minute hike ran along the base of Poplar Mountain at one point. Although it was too wet to hike to the top, Poplar Mountain, part of the conservation land, affords breath-taking views of Gill, Montague, and Wendell (including a nice view of the Diemand Farm). The ridge trail on the top of Poplar Mountain also presents an extensive view across the Connecticut River Valley to the Berkshire

Hills on the south side and the Connecticut River and Northfield on the north face.

The hike ended at the entrance to the historic 1815 Holton Cemetery, where many of Erving's Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans are buried.

Erving resident Kevin Carpenter said, "I learned a lot about trees today," and his wife Samantha said, "Let the town use it for recreation, don't let the developers get it."

Conservation commissioner Laura Herbert said, "It's a great deal for Erving - with this one-time purchase we get this beautiful land for all the citizens of Erving to enjoy and the state will potentially reimburse the town up to 72% to 86% of the appraised value of the property."

Hike participants seemed hopeful that the Guniusz proper-

ty could become Erving's first conservation land. Cathy Kurnick said, "I'd like to see this property to stay the way it is; it's beautiful." Mike Shaefer remarked, "It's a nice place to walk a dog."

David Brule, the chair of the Erving conservation commission, said, "We have a once in a lifetime chance to set aside a huge tract of land in the center of our township and control growth, while keeping our tax rate down."

The town is proposing to spend \$800,000 to purchase the land. The application for the state Self-Help grant for reimbursement of approximately three quarters of that amount is dependent on prior town approval of the purchase. The vote will be held on Monday, June 26th at 7:30 p.m. at the Erving Elementary School. For more information contact Friends of Erving Open Space at 423-3027 or email at rob.fletcher@mac.com. Go to www.ervingopenspace.com to see photos of the land.

## Gill-Montague Schools at the Crossroads

BY JOYCE PHILLIPS

**TURNERS FALLS** - This week, I addressed the school committee with respect to the financial challenge before us. Having served as a member of the Gill Montague regional school committee for twelve years, knowing the district's history, and having witnessed its strengths and weaknesses; I felt a responsibility to the students, staff and community to advocate for them. I feel it is paramount for the future of the GMRSD to share my thoughts with the community at large.

Like many, I remember the devastation of the cuts three years ago. It was one of those experiences you never forget, but I learned a lot. I learned the importance of keeping a vision, the impact of pessimism and how it drives fear, the need to make tough decisions as soon as possible, and the need to maintain confidence and hope for recovery.

We experienced an exodus of students from our district three years ago due to a combination of factors. The potential of large class sizes in elementary. The large class sizes never happened, but by the time a solution was reached, it was too late for many families. The elimination of the arts. Sadly, we were just one year ahead of many other districts in having to reduce or eliminate the arts. The uncertainty of a school closing, coupled with the poor regional economy. Many families were not just leaving Gill-Montague, but they were leaving the state of Massachusetts.

Gill-Montague, like the phoenix, has risen from the ashes to overcome many difficulties. Literally, in the late 1980s, a fire destroyed Sheffield, sending teachers to "camp-like" teaching conditions. Following the rebuilding, the staff returned, only to be displaced once more due to problems with the 'air quality'. Once again this caused a change in teaching conditions. Each time they rebuilt community and continued educating our students. The district rose above a huge deficit, repaying and rebuilding the excess & deficiency fund. The past three years have been focused on restoration, following the massive cuts of '03. The steps have been small, but they have always moved us forward.

With every challenge, Gill-Montague has evolved - its staff always focused on students. This one constant is Gill-Montague's strength. It is so important, especially in these difficult times, to continually recognize our many strengths.

- The quality and collaboration of the Staff / Whole Faculty Study Groups

- Our technology advancements (Pre K - 12): we are ahead of many districts and schools

- Streaming videos from PBS & Discovery to enhance lessons

- Strong level of integration with community - Brick House, Montague Catholic Ministries, etc

- The Responsive Classroom now expanding from elementary

to GFMS

- State of the Art - MS/HS complex (finished on time and under budget)

- A commitment made to the taxpayers - they invested money in return for quality education.

- Our community invested \$32M for the future - with 90% reimbursement.

- Our community invested \$1M for a swimming pool with no reimbursement

- The high school must be marketed. We have more than any other facility in our area - the swimming pool, the technology, the theater, fitness room, studio, a Green School, the science labs, here and available'

- Pair up students (school-choice and Erving) for a "Taste of Education for the Future"

- Why not a "Cooperative Swim Team"- market our pool to other schools?

- Grade 3 at Sheffield was cited as the most improved in the grade test in the state for Reading First Schools.

- Our Reading First Schools have the 'best implemented program' in the state according to Cheryl Leibling, head of Mass Reading First

- \$21,000 in enrichment to academics, arts, and athletics during the 2005-2006 from G-M Education Fund. Mini-grants and small projects?

- Recognize both the new and returning students for all our schools in addition to TFHS. During this school year, nine returned from Charter Schools to

the GFMS; 34 came to Sheffield, 15 to Hillcrest, 2 to MOC and 9 to GILL.

There is school choice for Gill-Montague. We must continue the collaboration. Just like Interest Based Bargaining or the Building Project; the quality products were the results of trust, open and honest discussions and tough decisions for the greater good. No one obtained everything, it was all about compromise!

The Montague Center building must be closed. In a report from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, Montague Center has been identified as a Level 3 quality building. According to their report this means 'the building is in generally moderate condition and some building systems may need attention. The school is not ADA compliant. Its class sizes are limited without spilling into more than one room or into overcrowded physical space. The Massachusetts SBA and DOE will not approve renovating or adding to the building, because there is room in other Level 1 (Sheffield) and Level 2 (Hillcrest) elementary buildings.

I applied the 2006-2007 projected enrollment chart given to the School Committee in February, 2006. Entering the student count from Montague Center into Hillcrest & Sheffield, the results showed a reduction of teachers needed from 34 to 32. These positions could be part of the retired teachers that will not

be replaced. The class size ranged from 18 to 24. The cost saving of closing the building is equal to seven teaching positions.

I believe seven educators and the future of countless students are worth the closing of a building. I also believe that it is important wherever and whenever possible to remove uncertainties and unknowns.

In addition, the administration and school committee should consider closing the old side of Sheffield building, also a Level 3 building, and relocating the administrative staff to the Middle School/High School complex.

I challenge the school committee, the community and town officials to keep a vision with confidence and hope, avoid the impact of pessimism that will propel fear, and make the tough decisions.

At Tuesday night's school committee meeting, Superintendent Sue Gee announced that Joe Rappa, from the Massachusetts Office of Educational Quality has placed the GMRSD on 'watch'. This means serious attention must be paid to establishing a budget, maintaining quality staff, responding to the EQA recommendations and focusing on academics.

We are now at a financial crossroad, where life-changing decisions will be made. "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING SELECTBOARD MEETING

# Conservation Land Purchase Tops Special Town Meeting Agenda

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - On Monday, June 12th, the selectboard approved the wording for an eight article special town meeting to take place on Monday, June 26th.

Topping the bill will be a warrant for \$800,000 to purchase 168 acres of conservation land - the former Guniusz dairy farm on Old State Road - with the possible assistance of a state Self Help grant. If the purchase

is approved, the town would agree to permanently conserve the land for recreational use, in exchange for a possible 72% - 86% reimbursement from the state grant.

The conservation commission would be charged with developing a management plan for the property, which abuts an historic town cemetery, and includes fields, forests, and cliffs.

Also on the warrant is an article allowing the town to transfer to the Erving Paper Mill a "sliver" of town-owned land on which a well for potable water is located. The lack of a permitted source of drinking water for the mill has held up the multi-million dollar Route 2 bypass project since last fall.

The special town meeting will also have the opportuni-

ty to grant final approval for the town to take control of the private Laurel Lane, to be known as Ridge Road, now that final paperwork is completed. With this last formality out of the way, residents along Ridge Road will see services such as garbage pickup begin as of July 1st.

In other news, the board received news the town had scored 78 on the state of

Massachusetts Commonwealth Capital program, which grades communities by their commitment to open space, affordable housing, and a number of other markers. High scoring communities receive priority for state grants. Administrative coordinator Tom Sharp called the score of 78 "an excellent score for a community of our size."

## MCTV Schedule

Channel 17

### Friday, June 16

Eagle All Day From 6:00 a.m.  
7:00 p.m. Discovery Center Presents: Tracking Mammals  
8:00 p.m. Lake Pleasant Slideshow  
9:30 PM Montague Update  
10:30 p.m. Classic Arts Showcase

### Saturday, June 17

Eagle All Day From 6:00 a.m.  
7:00 p.m. Discovery Center Presents: The Importance of Pollinators and Plants  
8:00 p.m. Montague Update  
9:00 p.m. Franklin County Democrat  
9:30 p.m. The Grange Weed Walk

### Sunday, June 18

Eagle All Day From 6:00 a.m.  
7:00 p.m. Memorial Day Parade 2006  
8:00 p.m. GMRSD Committee Meeting 6/13  
10:30 p.m. Grand Canyon Rapids  
11:00 p.m. Classic Arts Showcase

### Monday, June 19

Eagle All Day From 6:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m. Montague Selectboard LIVE  
9:30 p.m. The Spirit of Lake Pleasant  
11:00 p.m. GaiaVision  
12:00 p.m. Classic Arts Showcase

### Tuesday, June 20

Eagle All Day From 6:00 a.m.  
7:00 p.m. GMRSD Committee Meeting 6/13  
9:30 p.m. Montague Update  
10:30 p.m. Memorial Day Parade 2006  
11:30 p.m. Classic Arts Showcase

### Wednesday, June 21

Eagle All Day from 6:00 a.m.  
7:00 p.m. Montague Selectboard 6/19  
9:30 p.m. Franklin County Democrat  
10:00 p.m. Montague Update  
10:30 p.m. Discovery Center Presents: The Importance of Pollinators and Plants

### Thursday, June 22

Eagle All Day from 6:00 a.m.  
7:00 p.m. Lake Pleasant Slide Show  
8:30 p.m. Discovery Center Presents: Tracking Mammals  
9:30 p.m. Grand Canyon Rapids  
10:00 p.m. Memorial Day Parade 2006

MCTV offers Studio Tours and Orientations on the Second Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. The Public is welcome and encouraged to come down to the studio at 34 Second Street in Turners Falls to see the MCTV studio and learn about the exciting opportunities MCTV has to offer Montague residents. Call 863-9200 for more information.

## GILL

continued from pg 1

cheesemaking dairy.

Tickets and tour brochures are available in advance from the Gill Store, Yukl's Greenhouse, the Songline

Emu Farm, and Upinngil Pick-your-own Strawberries on Main Road.

The tour will offer "some well-hidden gems" among the gardens and farms of Gill, said Barbara Elliot, of the Friends of Gill.

The farm and garden tour and the annual picnic on the common will take place rain or shine.

For more information, call Barbara at 863-9708.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

# Juvenile Assault & Battery

### Wednesday 6-07

5:45 p.m. Juvenile arrested for charges of assault and battery, vandalism and threat to commit a crime. Same was transported to Greenfield police for a juvenile transport to lock up.

9:25 p.m. Report of a possible past breaking and entering in the Walnut Street area. No contact made with the reporting party.

### Thursday 6-08

9:00 p.m. Mutual aid for Erving. 911 misdial. Same was confirmed as a misdial.

### Friday 6-09

1:20 p.m. General burglar alarm at a South Cross Road residence. Upon officer arrival all was reported to be fine.

### Saturday 6-10

1:35 a.m. Mutual aid for Greenfield. A large fight at the Lorenz dealership. Assisted Greenfield PD

2:15 p.m. Individual in the station to report receiving harassing phone calls. Report is on file. Matter is under investigation.

8:30 p.m. Report of an erratic operator on Route 2. Officer took the information from observers. The party was later located in Montague, and placed under arrest, for driving under the influence.

### Sunday 6-11

1:10 a.m. General burglar alarm at Northfield Mount Hermon. All was secure upon arrival.

9:30 a.m. Report of loose cows overnight at a River Road residence. Same situa-

tion caused damage to the property. Owner wanted the matter to be reported on file.

11:00 a.m. Report of a suicidal male subject, attempted to catch a flight to Gill from South Carolina. Same individual was found to be in another state.

### Monday 6-12

6:40 p.m. Alarm sounding at Main Road business, all secure.

### Tuesday 6-13

6:10 p.m. Received a report of a larceny from a vehicle on Barton Cove Road, under investigation.

7:50 p.m. Loud noise, vehicle operation complaint on West Gill Road. Checked area, spoke with reporting party.

No hormones or antibiotics

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# On to the State Finals!

## TFHS OVER BLACKSTONE VALLEY REGIONAL, 6 - 0

BY DAVID DETMOLD & GEORGE BUSH;

**WORCESTER** - After a half hour rain delay, the Turners Falls girls softball team took a while to warm up the bats on Wednesday afternoon. But by the time the last in an unbroken series of 0's popped up in Blackstone Valley Regional High's column at the bottom of the 7th, the Turners squad had racked up six runs on eight hits to subdue their rivals for the State Division III semifinals. They will face North Reading High School in Worcester on Saturday, 1 P.M., for the state championship trophy.

Turners enters the fray on Saturday undefeated for the season, 22-0, riding a 55-game winning streak, with a crack defense, a redoubtable lineup, and the overpowering strength of senior hurler Julie Girard's right arm. They will be tough to beat.

Wednesday, the first two innings were scoreless. Kim Lastowski got things going for Turners in the top of the third, stretching a walk with a stolen base. Ashleigh St. Peter doubled to left center to drive her in for the first run.

After a scoreless fourth, Turners came back with two more in the fifth when Boola Rosewarne tripled down the right field line. Katelyn Mailloux knocked a grounder to second, scoring Rosewarne on a fielder's choice. The throw was to the plate, and Kellie Lastowski went in for Mailloux as a pinch runner on 1st. Danielle Sullivan hit a triple to deep center field, bringing her home.

Down by three, the Blackstone girls threatened in the bottom of the fifth with two runners on base, one on an error, one on Balckstone's one and only hit off Girard, a bunt down the third base line, with one away. Girard struck

the next batter out, then coolly picked the runner off third to retire the side.

The Turners bats really got going with two out in the top of the seventh. Kim Lastowski beat out an infield hit, then stole 2nd. Ashleigh St. Peter hit a single, and stole another base herself. Dani Sullivan singled, driving in the runners. Girard capped off the rally by doubling to left center, driving in the final run.

Girard went the distance with 13 strikeouts, and one walk. St Peter had two singles, a double and an RBI. Sullivan had two hits, including a triple, and three RBIs.

Turners returns to Worcester on Saturday defending two consecutive Division II state championships. It will be Girard's last game for Turners, but not her last trip to Worcester. She will attend college at Holy Cross next year.



Dani Sullivan mopped up in the top of the 5th during the Indian Massacre on Sunday in the Western Mass finals in Amherst. Turners beat Ware 18 - 1.

**G-M**  
continued from pg 1

teacher at Sheffield Elementary. "When we lose children at the elementary level, we lose 'em."

The school committee came to the meeting with a rough idea of preliminary cuts including teaching and paraprofessional positions that could be eliminated without unduly influencing programs or class size. Ted Castro-Santos, school committee member from Gill, felt the proposed cuts were not distributed equally. Gee said she hoped to maintain the teacher-student ratio and present class size at the high school in particular, because that was one school in the district that was attracting students.

Jeff Singleton, chair of the Montague finance committee, said he was impressed by the proposed cuts.

"This is reality," said Singleton. "The public needs to be aware what happens when \$600,000 is cut. My feeling is that the override failed because we asked the town for everything without proposing the cuts first."

After the meeting, selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt said Montague is examining ways of cutting not less than \$150,000 from the townside of the budget, primarily by "pruning back" hours for personnel in some departments. But, "the town hall is a pretty lean machine right now," she said.

Gill is encountering parallel problems in constructing a budget for FY '07.

"We went over the budget line by line," said Ann Banash, of the Gill selectboard. "The budget was still about \$58,000 over, even with level services. Cuts in Gill mean decimating departments," since town departments are staffed by two or three people.

Montague town officials proposed cutting \$150,000 from the town side of the budget to help close the school's budget gap, though this amount was not tied to actual cuts as yet. The school committee also considered tapping into their excess and deficiency (cash reserve) fund, which would leave about \$126,000 in that account to meet unexpected contingencies in '07.

Several other methods of saving money were also discussed including: raising athletic fees and admission to school events. Mike Langknecht, school committee member from Montague, also suggested the possibility of establishing an inter-district school choice program to equalize class sizes in the regional elementary schools in Gill and Montague.

"We've got to be clear with the town of Montague about misconceptions about the schools," said Marge Levenson of the Montague finance committee. "I feel a poorness of spirit," she said, leaving aside the problem of poorness of pocket.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

## Racing Motorcycles

**Thursday 6-8**

8:20 p.m. Report of a car in a ditch on North Street. No injuries. Car pulled out by Arsenault's towing.

**Friday 6-9**

12:45 p.m. Report of alarm sounding at a French King Highway address. Alarm company reports all is secure.

**Saturday 6-10**

11:20 a.m. Checked on Cub Scouts camping at

Laurel Lake. All's well.

**Sunday 6-11**

12:15 p.m. Spoke with selectboard member Downs-Bembury who stated she received a complaint from a Laurel Road resident who said that vehicles were up near the high tension wires in the evening hours, and due to the deterioration of the area she is concerned for their safety. The selectwoman wants the evening officer to patrol the area.

5:36 p.m. Report of

motorcycles racing on Central Street. Same located parked. Officer spoke with operators and advised them of calls and to slow down in neighborhood.

**Monday 6-12**

7:50 a.m. Report of a tractor trailer vs truck accident on Route 2. Damage to truck over \$1000. No personal injuries. Vehicles not towed.

3:00 p.m. Report of a tree problem on Northfield Road. Referred to State DPW.

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## the poetry page

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

- William Carlos Williams

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

Poetry Page edited by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno & Chris Janke designed by Boysen Hodgson

The editors of the Poetry Page are please to print these poems by third-graders at Montague Center School. The teacher of these wonderful young poets is Maureen Keating who kindly sent us their work.

The Editors of the Poetry Page of The Montague Reporter are still seeking submissions for a special June Issue featuring work by students in the Gill-Montague Schools and neighboring districts. All ages and grades are invited to submit their best original poetry and/or artwork for this special poetry page.

### Math

Math is great.  
When math time comes  
I'm never late.  
It goes so high it goes over the sky.  
Numbers go on forever  
They fly so high in my mind's eye.  
I looked here.  
I looked there.  
There is math everywhere!

--Samantha Currier

### TEACHERS

Teachers are nice  
Teachers are blue  
Do you like teachers?  
Please tell me you do.  
Do teachers like you?  
At my school they do  
DAH they have to.

--Amber Coouette

### My Brother

My brother is 8 years old.  
He has a Spiderman collection.  
My brother is 8 years old.  
He wants to have an  
expensive toy car.  
My brother is 8 years old.  
Sometimes I think he is crazy!  
My brother is 8 years old.  
He likes to enter my room  
when I am gone.  
My brother is 8 years old.  
He is a lot like me.  
My brother is 8 years old.

--William Thompson

### Colors

Colors are like a rainbow  
Going across the sky  
Making the day so bright  
Coloring the days and night.  
Red, green, yellow, blue  
Are seen everywhere that's true.  
Even the black of night  
Can be a colorful sight.

--Hayley Black



### The Big Fat Pig

The big fat pig lived on a farm  
He liked to play with a wooden arm.  
The pig ate five hats.  
On Halloween he sat on five bats.  
We could not watch as he passed away.  
We bought another one on a  
November day.

--Spencer Harris

### Sneakers

Sneakers are white.  
Sneakers are blue.  
Sneakers make them run fast  
Just like you.  
They're colorful with stripes.  
You can wear them with tights.  
They help me jump high.  
I can almost touch the sky.  
I am an active child  
Who likes to run wild  
With the help of my sneakers.

--Lexi Nicotra

### Fat Cat

Fat cat Fat cat  
You sit on a mat.  
Fat cat Fat cat  
You don't need a hat.  
Fat cat Fat cat  
You eat eat eat!  
Fat cat Fat cat  
Each day you get fatter!  
Fat cat Fat cat  
Every day you clean your plate  
Fat cat Fat cat  
Will you ever lose some weight?

--Allyson Curtis

### Books

I love books because  
They give you adventures.  
You can dream when  
you read them.  
Books can be funny.  
Books are the best.  
I love books  
They are so good.  
You can do anything in books  
I LOVE BOOKS!

--Emmett Turn

### Cupcake

Cupcake Cupcake  
I love you a lot  
I can't get enough of you  
You're wonderful stuff.  
Cupcake Cupcake  
You have wonderful frosting  
I can't get enough of you  
Cupcake Cupcake.

-- Felicia Craver

### PURPLE

You're a grape.  
You're a shirt.  
You're a colorful skirt.  
You're plums.  
You're sticky jelly thumbs.  
You're a fabulous cheer  
That I can hear.  
You are purple!

- Mackenzie Salls

### Little Kids

Little kids love to play  
Little kids learn the ABC's  
Little kids love to nap  
Little kids like caps  
Little kids tire people out  
But if you play with them  
They will not shout!

--Liam Theis

### Halloween

The witches and goblins  
Stir up in the night  
Then all the people fall  
into spite  
The ghosts  
and the monsters are  
doing it right  
Scaring the people on  
Halloween night.

Zack Wright



Montague Center School Students, playing in the yard.

### Slim Jim

Slim Jim Slim Jim  
You're spicy and hot.  
Slim Jim Slim Jim  
I love you a lot.  
Slim Jim Slim Jim  
You have brown smooth skin.  
Slim Jim Slim Jim  
You're tasty all right.  
Slim Jim Slim Jim  
I'll eat you tonight.

--Paige Slauenwhite

### The Magic Monkey

Once there was a monkey  
That was magical and fat  
He went to his friend  
And ate his hat  
He went downtown  
And met up with a bat  
They flew to McDonalds  
And got terrifically fat!

--Sage Jillson and  
Spencer Harris

### Shoes

White shoes Black shoes  
You have shoes I have shoes  
We all have different kinds of shoes  
Shoes keep our feet warm  
Shoes protect our feet.  
I think shoes are really neat.

--Shaine Hardy



### My Pets

I have lots of pets.  
I love my pets a lot.  
Pets are fun  
And they run in the sun.  
I have horses that I can ride.  
I can catch my chickens  
and pet them.  
I can make my dog do tricks.  
I love my pets a lot.

--Trent Bourbeau

### Halloween

Halloween is the time when the zombies  
come up from the dead.  
It's the time when the witches and kliches  
are out at night.  
All the jack o lanterns are shining bright  
And the sky is dark but the moon is bright  
On Halloween night.

Giordan Noetze

### Red is for...

Red is for me, red is for you.  
Red is for someone who has a clue.  
Red is for happy, red is sad, red is angry  
Red is mad. I like red. It is my third  
Favorite color. I don't think red looks good  
On my mother, red, red, red, red, ho that's  
What I said.

--Emily Kells

### Candy

I love candy it's chocolatey and great.  
I love candy it has a wonderful taste.  
I love candy it's shaped in many ways.  
I love candy I eat it many days.

I LOVE CANDY!!!

--Kelly Rehorka

### Rainbows

Rainbows are pretty, big and round,  
They look so fine when they shine,  
The sun makes them glow.  
When it's raining they'll show.  
They'll go away some day  
With colorful colors  
Flying away.

--Melanie Howard

### Math

Math isn't easy.  
It can make me feel queasy.  
Numbers fill my head.  
Even when I'm in bed.  
Math is on paper.  
Math is on the board.  
Math is in my book.  
Math is everywhere I look.

--Rachel Savinski

### ICE

Ice oh, ice you are nice  
Cooling off my drink.  
Oh ice, oh ice you're as small as a dice.  
Floating in my drink.  
I like you a lot.  
Oh ice, you are as small as a dice.  
I like you a lot.  
Oh ice, oh ice, you have melted away,  
Quick as scurrying mice.

--Kyle Jarvis



# Graduation of Liam Walsh

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN WENDELL** - On May 27th, Liam Walsh of Jennison Road, Wendell, graduated with dis-

inction, with a major in military history, from West Point. The date marked the beginning of a career, but also the end of nine years of focused effort. President George W. Bush was keynote speaker.



Recent West Point graduate Liam Walsh

As a freshman at Mahar regional high school, Walsh decided he wanted to attend one of the military academies. He focused his high school class work and extra curricular activity toward getting into West Point; he interviewed with area liaison officers, and contacted Congressman John

Olver for a nomination. In his junior year, he enlisted in the National Guard, and in the summer between his junior and senior years he endured basic training at Fort Benning Georgia. The summer after he graduated from Mahar, he attended two weeks

of National Guard training at Fort Drum, New York, and during the next academic year he went to New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, New Mexico to improve his math skills, and transferred to a Guard unit in Las Cruces, NM. His nomination to West Point came from the Guard, which allowed Congressman Olver to nominate someone else. In July of 2002 he began BEAST, cadet basic training, and in the fall of 2002 he began classes at the Academy.

His Senior Thesis was on the

interactions between Special Forces and the Montagnards in the central highlands in Vietnam from 1961 to 1963, focusing on what made the relationship work and what changed later during that war. The Montagnards were too isolated to be a real part of South Vietnam's society and the Special Forces job was to help them maintain independence from the Viet Cong and North Vietnam. After the war many

Montagnards were left stranded, and moved to North Carolina, close to where their Special Forces friends settled after retirement. Walsh's paper was based largely on interviews with soldiers who were part of the operation. This summer he is editing the thesis to submit it for publication to Phi Alpha Theta, a collegiate national honor society.

In July he will return to Fort Benning for Infantry Officer

Training, and then he will go to Ranger School. He is slated to be assigned as a platoon leader in the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell Kentucky.

In January, 1994 Liam's father David Walsh died, leaving a widow and two young sons. From that time, Liam and his younger brother Brendan grew living and playing in the woods of Wendell in a single parent household with a single parent income.

## LIBRARY

continued from pg 1

audio-visual materials, computers and meeting space.

During the ceremony on the town common, many of the countless volunteers who have aided the project were thanked. It was a long impressive list of individuals and groups. Several speakers commented, "It takes a community to build a library."

A kazoo band led the crowd down the common to the former town office building (now vacated), where the library will be constructed. Many of the marchers carried their own dirt-encrusted shovels-there was no

golden shovel, and little or no distinction between dignitaries and ordinary citizens, many of whom had helped make one or the other part of the two-building project happen ways big and small.

Once the crowd was again gathered with their shovels, Ed Hines and Court Dorsey led a sing-along rendition of Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land." People young and old rotated through, taking turns digging a ritual spadeful of earth. Afterwards all again gathered at the gazebo where potluck refreshments were shared and people obviously enjoyed getting a chance to visit with each other.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

### 3 AWOL from Lake Grove

<b>Sunday 5-28</b>	Domestic problem on Old Motor vehicle accident on Depot Hill. Driver transported to hospital by relative
<b>Monday 5-29</b>	Lake Grove school reported 3 AWOL students.

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## TURNERS FALLS WATER DEPARTMENT 2005 Annual Drinking Water Report

The Turners Falls Water Department's main source of water consists of two artesian wells, located off Center Street in Montague Center.

These gravel-packed Wells #1192000 1G and #1192000 2G pump 1.2 to 2 million gallons of water per day to the filter plant. The treated, filtered water is then discharged into the gravity fed distribution system. The storage facilities in Turners Falls have a total storage capacity of 6.3 million gallons. Lake Pleasant and Green Pond are emergency backup surface water supplies



Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include: Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operation and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or results from urban storm water runoff. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses. Radioactive contaminants are naturally occurring. Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm runoff, and septic systems. The Department of Environmental Protection has granted the Turners Falls Water Department a waiver on testing of Inorganic and Synthetic Organic Compounds because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last samples collected for these contaminants were taken on 1/21/03 for SOC and 8/28/03 for the IOC and both were found to meet all applicable EPA and DEP Standards.

### Protecting Turners Falls Water Supply

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) for the water supply source serving this water system. Although the TFWD has many safeguards in place, the overall susceptibility ranking to contamination of the ground water supplies is high, based on the presence of numerous high ranking threat land uses within the Zone II water supply protection areas. The report commends our water system on its proactive approach to source protection. A complete SWAP report is available at the Turners Falls Water Department, Board of Health and online at [www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws). For more information call the TFWD 863-4542

### Things You Can Do To Protect Our Water Supply:

- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly
- Do Not use the river beds to dispose of any waste
- Take used motor oil and other such fluids to the Towns hazardous waste collection sites.

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Michael Brown

Pump Station Operators  
John Collins  
Jeffrey Hildreth  
Stephen Fitzpatrick

Clerk/Collector  
Nancy Holmes

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Stephen Call  
Kevin McCarthy

Regular Meetings  
1st Wednesday of the Month at the Fire District Office

Annual Meeting of the Fire District is held the third Tuesday in April.



### Numbers to Remember

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Turners Falls, MA 01376  
413-863-4542  
Fax 413-863-3175  
Email:  
[turnerswater@yahoo.com](mailto:turnerswater@yahoo.com)

Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline  
1-800-426-4791

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
1-413-784-1100



# Roots on the River

**BY MICHAEL BOSWORTH**  
**BELLOWS FALLS, VT** - At the Seventh Annual Roots on the River music festival in Bellows Falls, VT on Saturday, June 10th, I did something I have never done before. I purchased a festival t-shirt. Because the promoter, Charlie Hunter, is moving on to other things, this might possibly have been the last edition of this wonderful, small festival and I wanted a future reminder of the event and of the great musicians who played there. For a lover of

roots/blues/bluegrass/alt-country music, there was no better place to be. Saturday was shared with an intimate crowd of 500, keeping under tent cover from the fairly continuous rain. This was the third day of the four-day festival, and the one scheduled with acts from noon til after dark. While the event focuses on Fred Eaglesmith, the Canadian singer-songwriter (and humorous social commentator) whose rabid 'Fredhead' fans follow him down

from the North and from every other point of the compass, it also leverages Eaglesmith's wide musical contacts built up from years working the honky-tonks and local festivals in his native country and the U.S. This year groups and solo acts from the Austin, TX area were in abundance. The afternoon started slowly enough for my wife Naomi and me, as we missed the first act, Ingrid's Ruse, and found the second, Mike Plume, uninspiring.

Even Frog Holler, with its own rabid fans from their home state of Pennsylvania, took a while to grow on us, though our heads were bobbing by the last rocking songs of their bluegrass-infused set.



Ray Wylie Hubbard, known for the C/W anthem *Up Against the Wall Redneck Mother* played acoustic blues the way they were meant to be played Saturday in Bellows Falls.

From there the show just took off. Gurf Morlix, a complete unknown to us, but well-known in the industry for producing albums for people like Lucinda Williams, applied his slightly gravelly voice with sureness and directness while guitar-picking his way through spare, mesmerizing songs that wore their emotions on their sleeves. I imagined listening to these while driving straight roads across the Southwest desert during evening light. Next up, the performance tent was electrified with the energy of the Dan Whitley Band. It is amazing, sometimes, how much power and drive can come from a simple three-piece band. With Whitley himself on lead guitar backed up by wildmen on bass and drums, each new blues-inflected rock song shimmered, with Whitley's vocals up to the task as he rocked our tent world!

Then, in just the right change of pace, the legendary Ray Wylie Hubbard stepped up to the mike, accompanied by Morlix, and played and sang slow acoustic blues just like they were meant to be. Naomi and I love this type of music, so we were in heaven with the authenticity of their performance. And it didn't hurt at all that Hubbard's banter between songs kept the crowd in stitches.

All this, and James McMurtry and Eaglesmith himself still to come. Before they came on, however, the one momentum breaker turned out to be Syd Straw. Lionized for her work with the Golden Palominos and her classic mid-90s release *War and Peace*, she brought an avid following to the show, but her voice showed little subtlety, jumping between low and high instead of exploring her range. Her band Plankton, however, was a good one, including a saxophone player who added a soothing (and thankfully subtle)

tone every time he came in. Charlie Hunter calls James McMurtry the country's "most pissed off singer-songwriter," and that seems an apt description. It's a good thing McMurtry wants his audience to dance, as the catharsis of dancing somehow works in counterpoint to his sneering, growling singing and snarling lead guitar-playing. His angry yet often poetic lyrics are a standout on such songs as "We Can't Make It Here Anymore." An unwavering critic of the current administration, along with the general excesses of the American way of life, McMurtry makes no attempt to comfort his listeners. His backing band, The Heartless Bastards, likes it that way as well. Nevertheless, much of the audience was on its feet for most of his set.

Saturday night at Roots on the River always ends with Fred Eaglesmith himself, and his band the Flying Squirrels. His songs of Canada and the U.S. are touched with humanity, his keen eye both humorous and critical. His band - especially 20-year side-man Willie P. Bennett - knows his ways and plays well together. The music itself, however, is only part of Fred's act, as there are few in today's roots music world that have a better rapport with their audience. His fans know him well and he knows them well, many by name, and between songs he makes fun of one and all, and gets them thinking about their own foibles. While members of the audience may disagree and even respond accordingly, those who listen closely generally see his human and humane core. And then he's off on another poignant song from his large repertoire.

With the music over, at least two music fans headed home Saturday overwhelmingly satisfied with the day's experiences. May it always be so.

## Water Quality Report

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contamination. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

## 2005 Water Quality Testing Results



The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Range Detected	Highest Level Detected	Sample Date	Violation (Y/N)	Possible Source of Contamination
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	0-0.14	0.14	04/22/03	N	Run off from fertilizer use Leaching from septic tank sewage Erosion of natural deposits

## Lead & Copper Testing

On August 31, 2004 the TFWD sampled 30 homes for Lead and Copper. Again our results are below the Lead & Copper rule action levels. Our next round of Lead & Copper samples will be due the 3rd quarter of 2007.

Contaminant	Date Collected	Action Level	MCLG	90th Percentile	# of sites above action level	Likely Source
Lead	8/31/04	15 ppb	0	1 ppb	0	Corrosion of household Plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	8/31/04	1.3 ppm	1.3	0.0362 ppm	0	Corrosion of household Plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservation

## Definitions

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set close to the MCLGs (see below) as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**90th Percentile** - Of every 10 homes sampled-9 were at or below this level. ppm-parts per million ppb-parts per billion.

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# French King Bowling Center Replaces Snack Bar

BY RUTH WITTY

ERVING - Erik Semb, owner of the French King Entertainment Center, had been noticing that drivers on Route 2 frequently stopped in to use the bathrooms at his bowling alley. Although they would say they were in too much of a hurry to eat at the snack bar, they let him know they would appreciate the chance to pick up some convenience store items to take with them on their commute. In response to this need, Semb has removed snack bar at the bowling alley, and is replacing it

with a mini-convenience store. He will be offering hot dogs, soda, chips, nuts and also Green Mountain Coffee, a gourmet coffee which is also a 'fairly traded' coffee,



The snack bar is no more. The French King Entertainment Center is adding a convenience store serving Green Mountain Coffee.

meaning the growers get a fair price for the coffee beans.

When asked if bowlers have been annoyed by the changes, Semb said he has not heard any negative comments. He will still be selling pizza, and still has a pizza oven on the premises. Some may miss the French fries,

however.

Semb said bowling is as popular as ever, and the recent rains have been good for business. He will still be offering birthday parties, including soda and pizza. Teachers often bring their classes to celebrate the end of the school year with bowling, he said.

When asked to name the benefits of bowling Semb replied that anyone can bowl, from age two to a hundred and two. Bowling is something for the whole family to enjoy together, Semb said.

# Hippo Smokin' on Route 2

BY RUTH WITTY

ERVING - This spring saw the birth of a new restaurant on Route 2 in Erving as the Smokin' Hippo opened its doors in the former location of the Star Light Diner. Owner Gary Weiss, who previously held court as food service director at Greenfield Community College, kicked off his new barbecue-flavored eatery on March 14th with a fundraiser for G.C.C. scholarships. The restaurant opened to the public on March 15th and Weiss said the Smokin' Hippo has been doing a brisk business since. "The response from the public has been great!"

as much time with his family.

Asked why he chose to open a restaurant featuring a barbecue-centered menu, he recalled the

menu, including seafood, poultry and vegetarian items. Specials change daily and customer feedback has been very positive.

Weiss said he reads all comment cards and tries to make changes according to customer wishes.

If you are curious, Weiss will tell you the name of the his new eatery comes from a life-long love of hippopotami. His mother gave him a stuffed hippo when he was recovering from an illness as a child, and he treasured the memento for many years. Now, every table in the restaurant is graced with salt and pepper shakers in distinctive hippopotamus designs, the menu features photos of cavorting hippos, and a large hippo mural



PHOTO BY LISA DAVOL

Smokin' Hippo owner Gary Weiss serves up a pint of BBC Steel Rail at the Route 2 eatery.

Weiss said he is grateful for the initial assistance provided by the town of Erving in getting a liquor license and the permits needed to open a new restaurant. Weiss said the Franklin County Community Development Corporation also gave him invaluable assistance with business planning and start-up financing, with help from the Greenfield Savings Bank.

Although Weiss has worked in kitchens since he was twelve years old, and managed restaurants, the Smokin' Hippo is the first time he has ventured into business for himself. So far, Weiss said he has really enjoyed the experience, but he said the downside has been not spending

popularity of a class he had taught in barbecue at GCC. He really enjoyed it and saw that people liked it. However he wanted to offer other menu items as well, since not all members of a family may go for barbecue. The Smokin' Hippo also has a number of regular entrees on the

brightens the foyer. However, hippopotamus steak does not appear among the entrees.

The Smokin' Hippo is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

# Late Nite Flims at Pothole Pix

Pothole Pictures, the non-profit, all volunteer-run community movie theater in Shelburne Falls will continue its new tradition of 'late-night' shows with a presentation of the 1972 disco classic *Saturday Night Fever* at 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday June 23rd and 24th.

This film was John Travolta's breakout role and features him as a Brooklyn youth who only finds meaning in life while dancing at the local disco. More than a campy disco time-trip however, *Saturday Night Fever* is also a thoughtful, sensitive study of working class urban life. The dynamic dancing and pulsating Bee Gees songs make this a visual and aural treat.

Preceding it both nights at 7:30 is another movie about music and working-class urban life, *The Commitments*, a 1991 feature about ambitious Irish kids from the slums who form a soul band. Pothole Pictures is located at 51 Bridge St. in Shelburne Falls.

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# Branch No Show at Patriots Camp

BY LEE CARIGNAN

**TURNERS FALLS** - The New England Patriots started their annual mandatory mini-camp on Tuesday without their top wide receiver Deion Branch. Like Richard Seymour last year, Branch is skipping the camp because he wants a new contract. Branch is in the last year of his rookie contract and wants to be paid with the top receivers in the league. Branch has never been a pro bowl caliber receiver in his first four seasons, but has been extremely productive and is the number one receiver on the Patriots. The money-conscious Patriots want to re-sign Branch for the long term, but at a price they consider reason-

able. Branch definitely deserves a substantial raise in pay, but may want too much money for the Pats. The team still has enough salary cap flexibility to get something done, but may be waiting to get the Branch camp to lower their demands. Taken in the second round with the 65th pick in 2002, Branch has caught 213 balls for 2,744 yards and 14 touchdowns in four seasons. His best regular season was last year, when he caught 78 passes for 998 yards and had five touchdowns. Those are average numbers for a number one receiver, but Branch's big-game ability, chemistry with Brady, and his play making



skills make him extremely valuable to the Pats. He has caught 21 passes in two Super Bowls, placing him third on the all-time Super Bowl reception list. He was the Super Bowl MVP in 2004 against the Eagles and got consideration for the award in 2003 against Carolina, but Brady's last minute drive edged

out the award for the quarterback. His intelligence as a receiver is top-notch. Branch is scheduled to make \$1.1 million in salary this season, including escalators from last year. So it appears Branch enters this year having earned about \$2.5 million in salary and bonuses from the Pats since 2002. By the end of the year, he'll be around \$3.6 million, which has been a bargain for New England over the last five years. The Pats are already thin at the receiver position with the loss of wide receivers David Givins, Tim Dwight, and Andre Davis during this off-season and David Patton last year. To soften the blow, New England drafted

speedy wide out Chad Jackson out of the University of Florida with the 36th pick back in April, and signed free agent receiver Reche Caldwell, who has been a disappointment for most of his career with the San Diego Chargers. Either way, Branch is under contract for the 2006 season. He has no other recourse and will have to play for the Patriots for at least one more season. If he chooses to sit out he simply doesn't get paid. It's in both parties' interest to get something done sooner than later. If the Pats can't re-sign him now, Branch will be gone for sure after this season. This is something no Patriot fan wants to see.

## THEATER

continued from pg 1

vousness was too high, the timing was off or the audience was

dead. On the other hand, a certain level of anxiety makes for a better performance; comfort creates a certain complacency. It was after repeated shows

that I had the frightening experience of losing my place or forgetting a line. Sandwiched between Christern and Blossom, skilled veteran performers, I never relaxed, was always anxious and on edge. As it happens this played well for Alais, the pawn who is never sure of love, who is always on the verge of being tossed away for political gain. Ann's Eleanor was sharp, sarcastic and clever. Rusty's Henry was bitter, caustic and arrogant. It was like being torn between battling parents about to divorce. From the vantage point of the stage, I experienced the discomfort of my character's uncertainty and my own anxiety about being able to measure up. This tension translated into a sense of drama and infused meaning in the play.

This time, Saturday's second night performance played to a small but attentive audience. We laughed at the bitter humor and gasped at moments of treacherous audacity. Alan Maynard's Henry is a complex man, well aware of his aging life and wanting to control what is to come. He wars with Eleanor, but she still holds

him. Alais is young and beautiful, but no intellectual match for him.

Maynard's performance is compelling; he peels Henry layer by layer until the final scene when his sons' treachery and Eleanor's role in the plot are revealed. At the last we see Henry's anguish as his world spins out of his control. Maynard manages the development of Henry's character deftly and with great care. He never crosses the line into over-acting or bathos.

Susan Ford is a fine foil for Maynard's Henry. Eleanor is a chess player; Ford shows us the nuances of her moves and reveals her vulnerability without sacrificing any of her strength. Her sons are excellent cameos: the duplicitous Richard, the petulant John and the devious Geoffrey are well-played by Mat Bussler, Joey Stankiewicz and Dominic Baird. Alais and Philip are less deeply drawn, but in the capable hands of Danielle Labelle and Jack Styles they develop as characters. Alais is dependent and malleable, but it's clear she knows very well she is ultimately only a pawn in this game. Philip has few lines but his pain at his betrayal by

Richard is palpable.

All performances indicate the presence of strong direction. The simple staging and music are very effective. The requisite opening acts which fill the audience in on the story could have moved along more briskly, but once the conflicts unfold, the pace picks up nicely. Timing is critical, and this performance needed a little more attention to this element.

Goldman has created a snapshot of history in the lives of people whose political maneuverings had considerable impact on their time. He has created meaty roles that many actors in theaters and on screen have enjoyed. But strong character parts are not enough. Good theater entertains us; great theater forces us to look at ourselves and the world around us. Go and see this tight production and enjoy the fine acting. It deserves a bigger audience. You'll remember the characters even if you forget the play.

The Lion in Winter runs again this weekend at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with a matinee on Sunday at 2 p.m.



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**THE HEALTHY GEEZER**

# Detecting Aneurysms

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *Aneurysms are pretty scary things. Do they have any symptoms?*

Aneurysms are artery bulges. And, yes, they are scary because, if they burst, they are lethal. Many victims of a ruptured aneurysm die before they get to a hospital.

The type and location of the aneurysm will determine the symptoms.

Chest aortic aneurysms, which occur in the large blood vessel (aorta) that carries blood from the heart to other parts of the body, may cause shortness of breath, a raspy voice, backache, or shoulder pain.

Abdominal aortic aneurysms may cause pain or tenderness below your stomach, make you less hungry, or give you an

upset stomach.

Cerebral aneurysms may produce headaches, pain in your neck and face, or trouble seeing and talking.

Ventricular aneurysms in the heart's main pumping chamber (the left ventricle) may cause shortness of breath, chest pain, or an irregular heartbeat.

Fortunately, aneurysms can be detected by a physical examination, x-ray, ultrasound and modern imaging systems such as a CAT scan or an MRI.

The size and location of the aneurysm determines the treatment method. For example, aneurysms in the upper chest are usually operated on immediately. Aneurysms in the lower chest and the area below your stomach are watched at first. If they grow too large or cause symptoms, surgery may be



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

required.

The standard treatment for aneurysm once it meets the indications for surgery is replacement of that weakened portion of the aorta with an artificial graft. Usually, a graft made from Dacron, a material that will not wear out, is used.

In recent years, a treatment

has been developed to repair an aneurysm using less-invasive surgery. In the procedure, a stent-graft made of a polyester tube inside a metal cylinder is inserted into the bloodstream at the end of a catheter. The stent-graft is positioned to carry the blood flow instead of the aneurysm.

The following increase the risk of getting an aneurysm: being older than 60, plaque in the arteries (atherosclerosis), high blood pressure, smoking, injuries or infections of the blood vessels, a congenital abnormality, and inherited diseases.

Most aneurysms are caused by a breakdown in the proteins that provide the structural strength to the wall of the aorta. These proteins can gradually deteriorate with age. But

inflammation that is associated with atherosclerosis can accelerate this process. There are also naturally occurring enzymes that cause the breakdown of the proteins. An excess of these enzymes or other conditions that activate these enzymes may also contribute to the formation of an aneurysm, or its sudden growth. In rare cases an aneurysm may be caused by infection.

The combination of early diagnosis with safer, simpler, and ever more successful treatments can prevent needless deaths due to ruptured aneurysms. If you think you or one of your family members might have an aortic aneurysm, see a doctor without delay.

*If you have a question, please write to fredcicetti@gmail.com.*

**FINDING BALANCE: TIPS FOR A HAPPY LIFE**

## Oxygen For Life

BY JENNY CHAPIN  
MONTAGUE CENTER -

Oxygen is the most essential of all the nutrients, including vitamins and minerals. After five minutes of oxygen deprivation, the brain cells begin to die, and human life is over.

Most of the oxygen we inhale goes to sustain the brain and heart; the liver also needs oxygen for cell regeneration. Oxygen therapy benefits people with damaged liver and brain functions, such as alcoholics; with sufficient oxygen in the system, there is more life and less attraction to intoxicants. Oxygen brings vitality to our cells, organs, and attitude.

Oxygen is a purifier, helping eliminate wastes and toxins. It destroys germs, viruses, parasites, amoebas, and yeasts. It is the agent by which our metabolism (the complex physical and chemical processes necessary

for maintaining life) refines the fuel needed for the body's cells to perform their jobs. Oxygen is needed for vitamin C utilization, to retard collagen breakdown (collagen fibers, part of connective tissue, provide strength to the body and the ability to resist physical stress), and to prevent premature aging.

Oxygen deficiency symptoms include acid stomach, bacterial, viral, and parasitic infections, bronchial and circulation problems, lowered immunity, muscle aches, overall body weakness, and poor digestion; also depression, dizziness, fatigue, irrational behavior, irritation, and chronic hostility.

Try this simple exercise to take in more air. Stand (or sit), feet comfortably apart, arms relaxed down by your sides. Breathing in through your nose, turn your palms up, lift your arms out to the sides, and reach

up toward the sky. Fill your lungs, fill your whole body, with invigorating air. As you breathe out, turn your palms down, sweep your arms back to your sides, and push the breath out your open mouth to empty your lungs. Repeat three times.

Scientists have discovered that atmospheric oxygen content in ancient times measured twice as high as that of today: 38% 10,000 years ago, 21% today, and continuing to decrease due to pollution and industrialization. The lower the dissolved oxygen content, the greater our susceptibility to chronic illness and disease. According to molecular biologist Dr. Stephen A. Levine, "Hypoxia, or lack of oxygen in the tissues, is the fundamental cause for all degenerative disease."

What helps increase and distribute oxygen in the body?

Physical activity and regular exercise, because muscular action helps draw oxygen into the lungs, and helps the heart and circulatory system move oxygenated blood throughout the body. Yogic breathing exercises engage our awareness of the breath, allowing our intake of oxygen to deepen and move through the body. Living in a rural area helps, as oxygen content falls to 10% in city air.

Toxins in the body from overeating or excessive meat-eating use up oxygen reserves to deal with the ensuing waste matter. (If you like a 12-oz. steak for dinner, bear in mind that the body has difficulty processing more than 3 ounces of meat at one time.) Fasting, eating few animal products, and eating smaller amounts at meals is less taxing on the body, and frees up oxygen to bolster our systems instead of being divert-



ed to clear them out.

We don't generally think about breathing, since it goes on whether we're aware of it or not, but that doesn't mean we wouldn't do well to raise our consciousness of it. Besides taking a fuller breath in, it's important to fully exhale, to get rid of old, stale air in the bottom lungs. When we exhale completely, there's room for the next breath to come in, to fill the lungs with fresh, energizing air.

You're on your way to a more satisfying breath, and a more functional body - enjoy!

*Jenny Chapin is an acupuncturist, bodyworker, and yoga teacher in Greenfield. Suggest a topic or question for her column at jgchapin@crocker.com.*

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**Call for Public Art**

**TURNERS FALLS** - The Turners Falls RiverCulture Project is seeking three qualified artists to create non-permanent works of public art that will serve both decorative and informational functions in locations in the heart of downtown Turners Falls. In order to obtain artistic diversity, submissions are limited to one piece per artist. Geared toward pedestrians, they should create visual interest and provide a display place for project information about local history and culture (approximately 4 - 5 square feet) a map (approximately 1 square foot), and a space to accommodate printed fliers and public event postings (approx 4 - 5 square feet). Possible themes can include, but are not limited to, the natural environment of the Connecticut River watershed,

New England mill town architecture, industry along the hydropower canal, or Western Massachusetts Native American presence. Sculptures must withstand severe outdoor weather with wind, cold and hot temperatures for up to three years and should be low maintenance and durable. Site locations present a wide variety of viewer options, from people walking and shopping, to theater, art and restaurant patrons to those living, working, recreating and visiting in Turners Falls. Site locations include the 'common' at Peskeomskut Park, the main intersection at the corner of Avenue A and Third Street, and the canalside bike path near Unity Park. Please visit <http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.blogspot.com> for site pictures and a complete

description and history of Turners Falls. Three pieces will be chosen. The budget for each commission will be \$3,300, (\$1,000 for artist's fee and \$2,300 for construction materials, delivery, assembly and installation requirements.) Any adult artist 21 years or older may enter artwork concepts for consideration by the selection committee. For proposal requirements, and to receive an official request for proposal, please contact: Lisa Davol at [riverculture@montague.net](mailto:riverculture@montague.net). Deadline for submissions is July 12th. A selection committee made up of Project RiverCulture partners, town officials and outside jurors specializing in the field will review proposal submissions and background information to select the winning proposals.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Three-Foot Copperhead**

**Friday 6-9**

1:16 p.m. Report of an unruly shopper at Family Dollar. Officer advised subject either leave or be arrested. Subject left.

8:30 p.m. Report of a loose dog on Wendell Road by the State Forest. Found to live in Wendell. Turned over to Wendell Police.

**Saturday 6-10**

11:54 a.m. Report of an assault at a 4th Street address. Neighbors were fighting. Both parties advised of court options.

8:36 p.m. Walk-in to station reported an accident on the Gill-Montague Bridge.

\_\_\_\_\_ was arrested and charged with

operating under the influence of liquor, unlicensed operation, failure to wear a seat belt, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle

9:53 p.m. Report of a two vehicle accident at Federal Street and North Leverett Road. One driver cited for failure to use care when starting.

**Sunday 6-11**

1:02 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Winthrop Street near the Highland School, a 16-year-old juvenile male was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding.

**Monday 6-12**

12:15 a.m. Report of a loud noise disturbance at

Yesterday's on 3rd Street. Band was ending on arrival of officer.

**Tuesday 6-13**

9:52 a.m. Report of an animal complaint at a Swamp Road address. A snake was loose in the house. Referred to Animal Control. Animal Control Officer removed three-foot copperhead snake from residence.

4:19 p.m. Report of an assault at a Central Street address. Group of kids state it was verbal only. They were sent on their way.

5:14 p.m. Report of an assault at Unity Park. Kids migrated from Central Street. Subjects advised officer it was over a stolen bike. Advised of options and sent on their way.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**FRIDAY, JUNE 16TH**  
Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls: The No-No's, rockers, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

Ha Ha Sisterhood Improv Comedy. at the 1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem. A troupe of women who perform the brave and hysterical art of improvisational comedy. 7:30 p.m. (978) 544-5200 or www.1794meetinghouse.org

**FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY JUNE 17TH -19TH**  
At The Shea Theatre-Arena Civic Theatre presents *Lion in Winter* by James Goldman, directed by Elisa A. Martin. Friday & Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. Tickets available at World Eye Bookshop or call 863-2281, \$12.50 general; \$10 seniors and students.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH**  
The National Spiritual Alliance is sponsoring a workshop today from noon-4:30 p.m. entitled "Death, Dying, and the Grief Process." Facilitator is Rev. Cori Lovering, TNSA president and a retired nurse. The workshop will be conducted at Thompson Temple across from the Post Office in Lake Pleasant and the cost is \$25.

Rt. 63 Road House, Millers Falls: Four On The Floor, rockers, come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

MCTV Tag Sale on the front lawn of the Montague Grange. All sorts of great items. Donations welcome on the morning of the tag sale. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sale benefits Montague Community TV, channel 17.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH**  
5 p.m. Family dance with Cindy Green, followed by a potluck supper and a Pie Social at the Montague Grange Hall, Montague Center.  
7:15 p.m. Contra Dance for all with Cindy Green, David Kaynor, Steve

accessible w/ elevator. Reservations are requested by Friday June 16. Call Donna Liebl at 773-5555 or.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 22ND**  
COOP Concerts Franklin County Musicians' Cooperative performs

folk, alternative rock, classical, Celtic, blues and more. 3 Great acts every Thursday evening (through September 14). Featuring Jennie McAvoy, Tom Carroll, Laura Siersema. Bring a picnic dinner, a blanket or chair and enjoy the music. At the Greenfield Energy Park located at the end of Miles Street in Greenfield. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. 413-772-1553

**Benefit Print Sale for Doctors Without Borders Hallmark Museum**

Student: © Bruno Andrews, 2005

Over 100 modestly priced original photographs. Gala reception Sat. & Sun. June 24th and 25th from 1-5 P.M. with music & refreshments. Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, 85 Ave. A, Turners Falls

Howland, and the Montague All-Comers Band.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 20TH**  
Franklin County Home Care is hosting an LGBT Breakfast for (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) elders. 9-11 a.m. (9-10 social hour; 10-11 speaker and Q&A) at Franklin County Home care 330 Montague City Road, Turners Falls, MA Speaker will be Lisa Krinsky of the LGBT Aging Project of MA. This event is free and wheelchair

**THURSDAY, JUNE 22ND TO JULY 2ND**  
Benefit Exhibition and Print Sale Presented by Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography. Collaboration between the museum and contributing students from Hallmark Institute of Photography. Photographs featuring landscapes, seascapes, flowers and wildlife, nature studies, portraits of children, pets, abstracts, architectural studies, and more. Proceeds from print sale to benefit Doctors Without Borders. Located at 85 Avenue A in Turners Falls. Gala opening reception June 24 & 25. Open

Thursday to Sunday from 1:00 to 5 p.m. (413) 863-0009

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24TH**  
Strawberry Supper at the Montague Center Congregational Church. Baked stuffed chicken breast, rice, gravy, salad and veggies. Homemade breads and strawberry shortcake on homemade biscuits. \$9, children 10 and under \$4. For reservations, call 367-2736 or 774-7256.

The National Spiritual Alliance Psychic Fair 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple Lake Pleasant. Consultation is with a medium of choice. www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org.

Western Mass Highland Games & Celtic Festival at the Franklin County Fairgrounds. 9-6, rain or shine. Adults \$10 (advanced \$8) Kids 6 to 12, \$8, under 6-free. Uniformed members of the armed

services (or valid ID) free. Tickets at World Eye Bookshop or www.wmhg

**Upcoming at the Discovery Center**  
New seasonal hours: Open Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 1st to October 9th

**UNTIL JULY 10TH**  
Nature Landscapes by Elisa Campbell on display.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH**  
Family Program  
12:30 Nature Craft Time-Make a Kite.  
2:00 Meet a Animal-Come learn about weasels and their many relatives.  
3:30 Nature Activity-Animal Tools. Try to figure out how animals use their natural tools (adaptations) to survive.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 27TH**  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Animal Homes  
Growing Up with Nature: Four Class Series for Children. Join Dawn Marvin Ward for a series of nature programming for preschool aged children. Sponsored by the Gill-Montague Community Partnership for Children with grant funding from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

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- DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:20
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- DAILY 12:15 3:15 6:45 9:20
- GARFIELD: A TAIL OF TWO KITTIES PG DTS sound
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# Three Lovely Mergansers

BY FRAN HEMOND

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - Three lovely lady mergansers found South Pond a happy place to spend a few days recently. And when it is the family that reports bird sightings, it is a special delight. Merganser ducks do not have the distinctive color and pattern of the drakes, and it requires a close look to separate the Red-breasted and Common Merganser ducks. The Red Breasted are more likely to be found on salt water, and my records of past merganser visits have been Common and smaller

Hooded Mergansers.

The visiting ducks cooperated nicely. They held their reddish-brown crests high, their heads contrasting nicely with their white throats and gray bodies. And, of course, the long, sharp red bill that makes mergansers underwater fishermen *'par excellence'* were evident. The birds were lively and assertive, and the three resident mallard

drakes sat respectfully on the island and watched them sail by.

The Common Merganser



used to be called the American Merganser, which seems a good

name for a neatly put-together swimmer and diver. Perhaps a clue to the change in name is the modern bird books' reference to their presence in Eurasia. The terms sheldrake and fish duck are also applied to these experts who surface many feet from their dive, and, seemingly, minutes later.

The trio were seen a few times in the next week. They found a dock a good place to sit one rare sunny day. A young niece wandered down

with 'their space,' and they squawked with annoyance and flew down into their pond.

The male Common Merganser does not have a crest. He has a green head and long red bill, dark back and white underneath. At times he can be found in the canal off Migratory Way and in our river. In one of the Discovery Center's excellent displays, the male Common Merganser can be seen right up close in his fresh water habitat. It can help you identify him on your riverside walks.

## Why Grow Heirloom Tomatoes?

BY DANIEL BOTKIN

**GILL** - Growing heirloom tomatoes from seed is a serious task requiring rich soil, a bit of luck and a dogged commitment in order to reap precious, unusual fruits. I was smitten with heirloom variety tomatoes long ago and have since been cultivating, collecting and networking these historic seeds for nearly a decade. So, I was caught off balance recently by a colleague questioning the planting of so many exotic, off-colored, heirloom varieties, compared to more practical pursuits like *building community, paying bills or feeding the planet*. I felt vaguely defensive but it made me think again -- was passion for growing old-fashioned and unusual varieties ultimately more esoteric than practical? Or are these so called "heirloom trials" we conduct at Laughing Dog Farm each year really about sustainable agriculture and community food security or are they more traceable to the nagging of an unrepentant sweet tooth?

The tomato is a deservedly famous fruit. But, can a "Cherokee Purple," a "Brandywine" or a "Striped Roman" really make the world a better place? Given the fuss it takes to select, save, catalog and

hand-grow all those %&\*@ varieties, the obvious question keeps nagging me: "Are the heirlooms really worth it?"

First let's take a look at what heirlooms are and why they have endured the test of time. Heirloom tomatoes are often uniquely-colored, open-pollinated (breeding true year after year) historical cultivars that have been passed down to us by generations of known and nameless growers, a lost Indian tribe or someone's great, great, Ukrainian grandmother. Selecting and collecting genes from certain largely self-pollinating crops (like tomatoes) is technically simple and within the reach of most growers. But to endure until the present required a long, unbroken thread of motivation and diligence. I figure that people, being people, were inspired and motivated over the years to keep saving seed from particular strains of tomatoes because they were, well... *delicious!* Indeed, our favorite heirloom tomatoes possess rich, complex flavors that we adore - tropically sweet, idiosyncratic, smoky, fruity, and suggestive.

Selecting, saving and sharing native, open-pollinated seed stocks (varieties that breed true year after year - as opposed to hybrids...) also represents a

value-added aspect for small farms and gardeners. Heirlooms and other open-pollinated varieties are especially interesting to local market producers due to their vigor, save-ability and attractive aesthetics. Have you sampled bi-color, streaked tomatoes like the "Hillbilly," the "Pineapple" or the "Old German"? Aside from being unique and delicious, these unusual cultivars have also shown enormous ability to pique the imagination of those who behold them.

Sadly, heirloom tomatoes were largely abandoned by commercial agriculture over the last century in favor of allegedly superior, (disease resistant, uniform) hybrids and we Americans were largely conditioned to believe that a tomato was a red, round, blemish-free orb.

The resurgence of heirloom varieties is only partly due to their great flavor and performance in the kitchen. Growing and preserving heirloom variety crops from seed also recalls a kind of imagination and devotion shared by poets of all disciplines. These extraordinary varieties are worth planting simply because they evoke our imagination and reverence. That alone would be enough.

## Take a Gander at a Turners Gem

BY MEG BOWMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** - On the water front, the flashy male mallards sail alone as their mates have retreated

der with our Goosey Gander. Together, they visit with a lingering pair of Canada geese or with the mallards, or pause to look



Two geese look hopefully at passersby down by the riverside...

to hidden nests and maternal duties. Still, there is great news along the river in Unity Park. Surprise of surprises, our long-time resident, the great grey goose, has a new friend. From somewhere, another handsome domestic goose or gander has come to wan-

der with our Goosey Gander. Together, they visit with a lingering pair of Canada geese or with the mallards, or pause to look

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