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**OLD HICKORY**  
Stalwart over time  
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Year 3  
No. 35  
50¢

# The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 16, 2005

## Montague Backs Away from Strathmore Purchase

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

In a scene reminiscent of the sweatbox in *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, though with considerably less suspense, the selectboard met in a sweltering room on Monday, June 13th, and voted unanimously not to exercise the town's option to purchase the Strathmore Mill from its current owner, Western Properties, LLC. Although the town will not own the building, it will continue to have an active interest in its structural integrity and development poten-



PHOTO: JAMES DAMON

tial. "I would like to save as much of it as we can by making it as developable as possible," said selectboard chair Allen Ross. "The responsibility is and will be on town shoulders," he added.

Ross made it clear he was not in favor of purchasing the property, but admitted that its future was part and parcel of the town's own interests. "We'd love to work with a developer as long as the developer is proposing something that makes sense for the building and for Turners Falls," said Robin Sherman, town planner, who spoke with Western Properties' Jerry Jones about the town's position. Although the extensive feasibility study was encouraging in regard to the potential for development, the current market for such structures does not appear to support the costs. Finegold Alexander and Associates, consultants hired by the town to conduct the feasibility study for the 250,000-square foot mill complex, estimated it would take up to \$14 million to redevelop the Strathmore, perhaps as a mixed use facility for arts and small industries,

see MONTAGUE pg 13

## Millers Falls IP Mill Draws \$500,000 Bid at Auction



BY IVAN USSACH

ERVING - An auction held June 13th for the International Paper (IP) mill building and property site along the Millers River ended with one buyer submitting the highest bids on the two separate parcels offered. According to Mark Abramson, manager of the Commercial Investment Division of Benchmark & Pratt Realtors of Greenfield, who represented IP, the auction began at 11:15 a.m., following an informal walk through the site, and was over in 30 minutes. A formal site tour had been held on June 2nd, attended by six people.

Abramson said about 30 people were in attendance for the auction proceedings, but only four registered to bid, including two who had toured the site on June 2nd. The

winning bids, totaling \$500,000 for both parcels, were submitted by telephone; the bidder's identity has not been disclosed, but the call was apparently long-distance. IP has five days to respond to the offer.

The winning bid for Parcel #1, including the former paper mill and 44 acres, was \$450,000, \$15,000 higher than the competing bid. The mill site was described as containing a total of 220,000 square feet, on up to six levels-including two basement levels. The winning bid for Parcel #2, containing five acres across the river in Millers Falls, a village of the town of Montague, was \$50,000. Abramson said that after a competitor opened the bidding for Parcel #2 at \$1,000, the telephone bidder took the bid straight to \$50,000. Adding the 10

percent buyer's premium, the total purchase price came to \$550,000.

In other matters discussed at the June 13th meeting of the selectboard, Chief Gary Sibila of the Northfield police department met with the board agreed to serve in a supervisory and oversight capacity as acting chief of the Erving police department. Sibila, who has served 18 years as police chief in Ashfield and Northfield, will be available to advise officers, handle the occasional serious service call, and visit the department for a few hours on Fridays, his day off from Northfield. He will receive \$25 per hour in compensation, taken from the department's full-time wages account. Because Sibila has been on details in Erving, he is already on

see IP MILL pg 12

## Students Explore the Sawmill River

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE CENTER - On Wednesday, June 8th, students from the Montague Center School held a community and all-school presentation about their year long study of the Sawmill River. They showed their final projects and a slide show of their studies. This was the culmination of the second year of the project, which has been funded by grants from the Massachusetts Environmental Institute, under a school community program called Environment as the Integrating Context (EIC).

Colleen Kelley, elementary science coordinator for the Hitchcock Center in Amherst, has been the school's coach for the EIC program, helping the students focus their activities around exploring the Sawmill River watershed. She said this year the program expanded to include all grade levels, K- 3, at Montague Center.

"The kindergarteners observed animals and plants in their river habitats. The first graders have been researching the pond next to

the school and how it is connected to the river." (Turns out it is connected by a small stream that joins the river across from the Bookmill's deck.) "The second graders have been mapping habitats along the Sawmill, along with the flora and fauna." Some of their field trips were daunted this year by the demolition of the foot bridge to the North Street Conservation Area, but Kelly said the students soon discovered an alternate path to the land, via the graveyard on Turners Falls Road and across Goddard Stream.

Meanwhile, the third graders have been exploring why the river is called the Sawmill, researching mills along its banks. Local histori-



The Sawmill River

an Richard Colton assisted with their research, and led them on tours of the old mill sites. The result of the third graders' research has been collected in a hand bound book on the Sawmill River, which will be available, along with the results of the other classrooms' efforts, at the Montague Center Library in July. Come and learn about the students' knowledge of our local environment, and learn about the history of sawmills on the river!



**PET OF THE WEEK**  
Tiny and Sweet



**Lots of Kittens!**

The Dakin Animal Shelter will have many young kittens from now until November. If you're looking for a young kitten, come on by to visit and see all our young charmers! If you're looking for a particular color, please give us a call on the day you plan to visit and we'll let you know who is available that day. To learn more about adopting kittens, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at [info@dakinshelter.org](mailto:info@dakinshelter.org).

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Published weekly on Thursday  
24 3rd Street  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
PHONE (413) 863-8666  
FAX (413) 863-3050  
[reporter@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter@montaguema.net)

Postmaster: Send address changes to  
The Montague Reporter  
24 3rd Street  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

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**CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS**

**Questing Club Begins**

The Carnegie Library Questing Club weekly series begins Thursday, June 23rd from 2 - 4 p.m. Activities will include field trips to the Silvio Conte Fish Lab and the Great Falls Discovery Center. Other sessions will include geocaching with GPS units and using compasses. Bev Whitbeck is running the program. The club is free and is for children in grades 2 and up. Space is limited; please register at the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

**SUMMER PROGRAMS**

**Montague Parks & Recreation Department**

The Montague Parks & Recreation Department would like to announce that registrations are still being accepted for the following programs:

**Children/Youth Programs:** Summer Playground Program, Tennis Lessons, Soccer-Mania Soccer Camp, American Red Cross Babysitting Course.

**Teen Programs:** Tennis Lessons, American Red Cross Babysitting Course.

**Adult Programs:** Tennis Lessons, Tennis Doubles-Mixer League

For more program information, to register, and to receive our Summer Program Flier contact the MPRD Office at 863-3216.

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• Montague Reporter T-shirts also for sale • New Sizes include long sleeves and tank tops!

**Come on out and support your local newspaper!**

**FACES & PLACES**

**Goin' to the Dogs**



Officers from Greenfield and Montague recently participated in the 5th Annual "Cops & Nozzles" golf tournament fund-raiser. The fund-raiser was the brainchild of Ray Zukowski of the Montague police department and Bob Escott of the Turners Falls fire department. This year's "scramble format" tournament, open to golfers of all abilities, raised about \$2,500 in donations along with about \$1,000 from the 136 players comprising 34 teams who played, according to John Dempsey of the Montague police department.

While the tournament win-

ners will be announced soon, the real winners are the K-9 dogs, pictured above. All funds raised are split between the Greenfield and Montague K-9 programs, helping to purchase much-needed dog food and K-9 equipment, as well as help to pay vet bills. This is particularly good news for K-9 Jack, pictured second from left, who suffers from lupus.

*Pictured above, left to right, are: Rick Brook/K9 Badger - GPD, Tim Currier/K9 Jack-GPD, John Dempsey/K9 Kyra-MPD, Chris Greene/K9 Logan-GPD.*

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**Montague Reporter**

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**Senior Program on Protecting Your Assets**

**GREENFIELD** – Senior Class at Franklin Medical Center will offer a program, "Protecting Your Assets," on Tuesday, June 21st, from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street, in Greenfield. Guest speakers will be Christopher Cloutier, MSFA, a

financial planner from South Hadley, and Michael Hooker, Esq., a Northampton attorney. They will focus on elder planning and how to protect your assets from long-term illness. They will also give an overview of estate taxes, gifting, and how to avoid probate. The free pro-

gram is open to the public; however, pre-registration is required. Refreshments will be served.

To register for "Protecting Your Assets," call 413-773-8557 or 1-800-377-HEALTH. You can also visit our website at [baystatehealth.com/fmc](http://baystatehealth.com/fmc).

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES June 20th - June 25th**

**MONTAGUE** Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Meal reservations need to be made 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. Trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

**Monday, 20th**  
9:45 a.m. Senior aerobics  
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics  
1:00 p.m. Canasta  
**Tuesday, 21st**  
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
**Wednesday, 22nd**  
9:30 a.m. Blood sugar and cholesterol screening  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:30 a.m. Blood pressure screening  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 23rd**  
11:00 a.m. "Preparing for

Recovery Before Surgery"  
**Friday, 24th**  
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics  
\*Tickets are now on sale for the Hawaiian Luau at the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club.

**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 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

**Monday, 20th**  
9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library  
12:30 p.m. Pitch  
**Tuesday, 21st**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting  
**Wednesday, 22nd**  
10:00 a.m. Line Dancing  
12:00 Noon Bingo

**Thursday, 23rd**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
**Friday, 24th**  
7:00 a.m. Trip to RI and Foxwoods  
**Saturday, 25th**  
8:30 a.m. S.E.R.V.E.

**WENDELL** Senior Center, located in the town offices on Wendell Depot Rd. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for info, schedule of events or to coordinate transportation.

**1,2,3, Is This For Me?**

The Medicare Prescription Drug Program Subsidy Lorraine York-Edberg, program director for Western Regional SHINE Program and Daniel Moraski, public affairs specialist from Social Security Administration will speak at Montague Senior Center on Monday, June 27th at 12:30 p.m. Lorraine will discuss the current information regarding Medicare prescription drug program and Dan will be reviewing the subsidy guidelines for extra help with the program benefit.

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## POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST The Root Tavern



Montague Center's Joseph Root Tavern on Old Sunderland Road  
COURTESY OF THE MONTAGUE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY LIONEL GIRARD

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - Built about 1730 by Joseph Root, the Tavern stands in colonial splendor, as it overlooks the grouping of buildings along Main Street.

In this building on July 29th, 1751, the first corporate meeting of the New Parish of Hunting-Hills was held. On November 22nd, 1752, with the newly ordained Reverend Judah Nash, the town church was organized in this house, which at the time was a tavern.

This great house, presently, is the oldest house in the township of Montague. Massive and solid in its construction, it has

about twenty rooms built around a large central chimney. Many of its large rooms are panelled with virgin pine 20 to 30 inches wide. It is said that the wide floor boards and H and L hinges and latches have never been replaced.

The building was run as an inn till the time of the American Revolution. Situated on the King's Highway, it offered food, drink and lodging for travellers. It remains today, unchanged in over 200 years, except for the removal of the south wing at about the time of the Civil War. In this wing was the ballroom.

## Gill History: Facts and Figures

BY ALLAN ADIE

**RIVERSIDE** - There's no end to interesting historical tidbits from Gill, and while this is my last installment for now, be assured that Gill will continue to inspire with its small town charm, for generations to come.

Here are a few more facts from a chapter I wrote in the *History of Gill Volume II* (copyrighted by the town of Gill, reprinted by permission.)

**1990** - In an interview with Mrs. Ruth Croutworst for the Historical Commission, she told about the outhouse toilets people used to have years ago. She said one woman that used to visit her mother brought a toilet seat covered with a carpet with her. The woman kept it warm beneath the stove until needed. A roll of toilet paper was tied to a nail by string and

was used only by guests. The normal toilet paper was cut up newspaper, or the common Sears Roebuck catalog.

**1991** - The June A. National Tiddlywinks Tourney, organized by Peter "Ferd" Wulkan, was held in Town Hall. Players came from a dozen states including California and Texas.

**1992** - In summer, the second story for a West Gill Road home, roof and all, was built in the driveway. When completed, the existing roof was removed and the second floor was lifted by crane atop the first floor.

**1992** - In September, the roof of a 40x50 foot shed was lifted off and carried into a pasture during a heavy rainstorm at Frank Zak Farm on Main Road. Luckily, no cows were injured as the roof flew over their heads.

## CONGRATULATIONS, DAWN MINER!

Academic Achievement Award in English 9



Dawn Miner, left, stands with her 9th grade English teacher, Ms. Laurie Devino

We are very proud of you!  
**Love, Mom and Dad**

## FCTS Receives \$2,000 for Football

The Montague Elks Lodge #2521 presented a check in the amount of \$2,000 to the Franklin County Technical School on Tuesday, June 7th. Michael Blanchard, Lodge Leading Knight,



PHOTO: PAM LESTER

From left to right, Donald Traceski, Past Exalted Ruler; Steve Johnson, Tech School Superintendent; Nancy Gifford, Athletic Director; Joe Gamache, Head Football Coach; Cody Pease, football team player; Michael Blanchard, Lodge Leading Knight; Scott Minckler, Assistant Football Coach.

presented the check to Joe Gamache, head football coach, for the purchase of football equipment for the Tech School football team.

Steve Johnson, superintendent of the school, reports that Cody Pease, a freshman in the landscaping pro-

gram performs double duty on the football field because he not only plays on the team but also is responsible for maintaining the field. Cody made the suggestion to his coach to seek funding from the Montague Elks after learning from his family that the Elks is a chartable organization that likes to support area community organizations.

## Friends of Gill Picnic on the Common

The Friends of Gill invite you to join them for their annual Picnic on the Common on Sunday, June 26th from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Again the firemen will be preparing the food including their famous French Fries from Noon to 3 p.m. There will be horse drawn hay rides from 1 to 3 p.m., children's search for coins in a giant pile of sawdust, live animals and fire trucks. The Friends of Gill will sell soda and strawberry shortcake with ice cream. Live music will be provided by *Shaking All Over* from Noon to 2 p.m. and *Norman Schell and Youth Well Spent* will perform from 2 to 4

p.m. The Library lawn will once again play host to their Annual Tie Dye Fest and Used Book sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.! Liz Gardner will lead this fun workshop for all ages, with instruction and demonstrations taking place at 11 a.m. No pre-registration is necessary, but please be sure to bring a white cotton something (t-shirt, tank top, dress, pants, shorts, underwear, etc.) to dye, or purchase an item from the library's own assortment in support of the Summer Reading Program. The Friends of the Library will also host their bi-annual Used Book Sale and a special Ice Cream Sale

that will also benefit the Summer Reading Program. Come over and browse through a great selection of library paraphernalia and flavors!

Call Joseph Elliott at 863-9708 for more information.

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\* Thursday, June 24

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**JOE GRAVELINE**



# The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

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"The Voice of the Villages"

## Founded by

Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold  
August, 2002

## Biodiesel at the Pump

BY KATHY LITCHFIELD

**BRATTLEBORO, VT** - My heart leapt with excitement as I pulled into the Fleming Shell station off Exit 1 in Brattleboro the other day to discover looming directly ahead of me the single reason I had driven over an hour from Petersham to this progressive city. There it was, standing out from all the rest -- the shiny green fuel pump reading "B100" -- the soybean-based fuel I choose to power my '82 diesel Mercedes Benz. And at only \$2.99/gallon - an inexpensive price to pay to lessen our country's dependence on foreign oil in the Middle East, support a U.S. grown agricultural product and lessen toxic emissions into our ever more precious environment.

Since purchasing my Mercedes from LaBelle & Leitner in Greenfield last December, I've acquired biodiesel from friends, from Alliance Energy in Holyoke (most recently it was \$3.40/gallon for B100), regularly settled for B20 (20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent petroleum-based diesel) and of course, purchased diesel fuel when I found myself woefully stranded with nothing but empty plastic containers in my trunk.

Oh glorious Brattleboro, with your B100 at the pump!

Hundreds of folks in Western Massachusetts and beyond are choosing biodiesel to fuel their diesel vehicles, tractors and furnaces. All it requires is a diesel engine; no special conversions are necessary. This fall, the Greenfield-based Northeast Biodiesel Cooperative plans to open a biodiesel manufacturing facility, recycling used restaurant grease into biodiesel -- something I anxiously await.

Meanwhile, Fleming Shell at 429 Canal Street in Brattleboro is the only somewhat local place to get B100 at the pump. Peter Merriott, night manager there, said that Fleming has experienced great success with the

clean-burning alternative fuel.

"We started offering B20 last fall here, and got B100 in the spring. In two days last week, we sold over 1,000 gallons of the B100," he said.

"People come in with containers. I see a lot of farmers. I think it's great. It's definitely better for the environment. I'm glad our company is offering it," he said.

I'm glad too. My car runs more smoothly on biodiesel than it does on its petroleum-based counterpart; the exhaust smells pleasantly like popcorn cooked over a campfire; and the fuel is easy to siphon into the tank (if a gas station pump is not available) using a plastic hose or hand pump.

Biodiesel is less toxic than table salt, biodegradable and can be mixed with any ratio of petroleum-based diesel -- a choice many of us make in wintertime, when plugging in the engine block heater isn't enough to sufficiently liquefy the fuel.

To reach Fleming Shell in Brattleboro, follow I-91 North to Exit 1 and turn right off the ramp. Go straight through one stop light, and you'll see the Shell sign on the left. Pull around the back, unscrew your gas cap and breathe easily.

For more information, register for the NOFA Summer Conference Pre-Conference on August 11th and 12th, where "Appropriate Uses of Biodiesel and Grease in Vehicles and Furnaces" will be practically discussed through intensive workshops.

Visit [www.biodiesel.org](http://www.biodiesel.org), the website of the National Biodiesel Board, for easily accessible facts and figures.

And talk to your neighbors -- if you hear a diesel engine chugging down the street and catch a whiff of that unmistakable aroma of JiffyPop escorting you back to your childhood -- biodiesel may already be burning in your neighborhood. Get yourself a diesel rig and join the non-polluting club.

## Papers for All

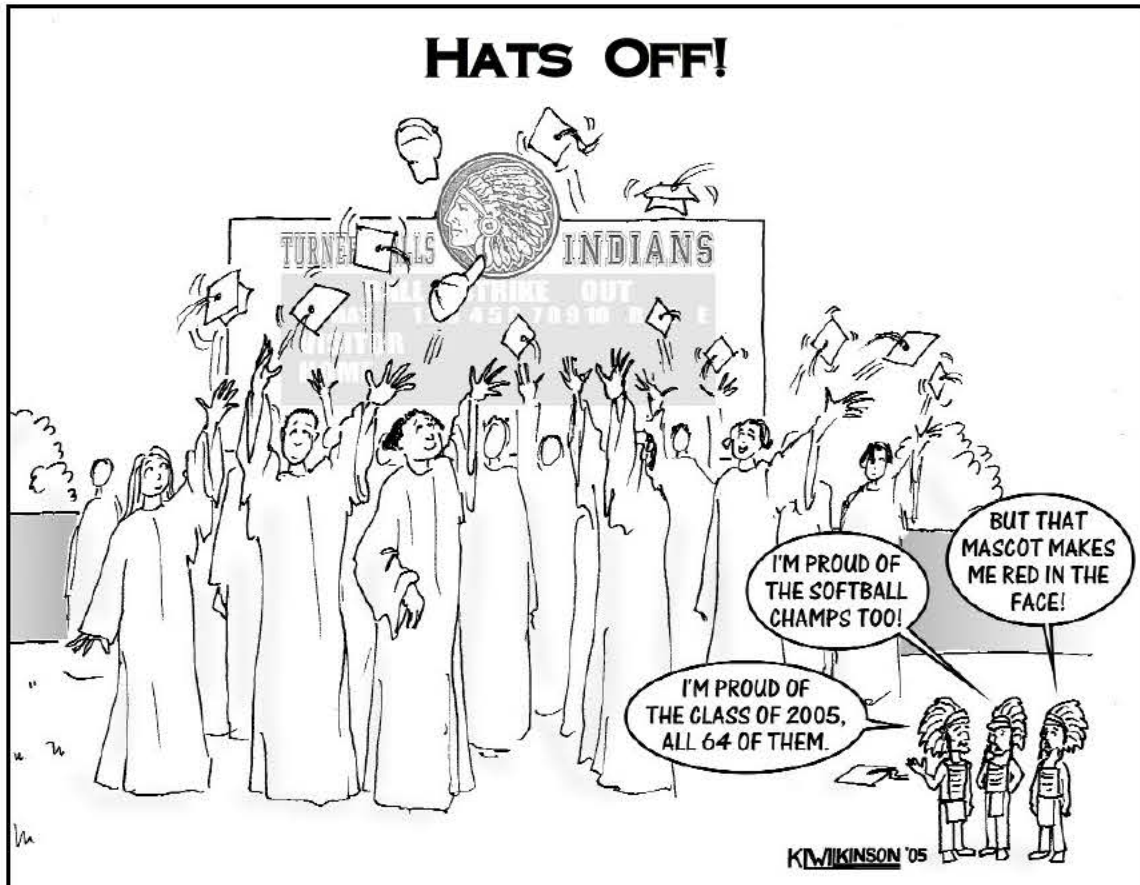
I am writing to express my outrage over recent actions by the manager of the Shady Glen, George Zantoulidas. I am not responding to Chip Ainsworth's article on the turmoil at the Shady Glen that appeared in the last issue of the *Reporter*. Instead, my outrage is over Zantoulidas' attempt to suppress this issue of the paper that also included a wonderful selection of poems by some great young poets in our schools.

A phone call from a proud

grandparent first tipped me off that the newspaper was in scarce supply in Turners Falls. This initially pleased me, as I felt that family members were snapping up the paper because of the "Poetry Page." Little did I know, until I checked with Dee Dee at Food City that, in fact, Zantoulidas was buying up every copy of the *Reporter* from downtown outlets. He even went to Food City twice; the first time he bought the papers;

see LETTERS pg 12

## HATS OFF!



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Home Birth a Valued Option

I was pleased to see the article about home birth in the June 2nd issue of the *Reporter* (Empowering Women to Give Birth Naturally: MR VIII #33). I have had two wonderful home births, the second one attended by Corrie Garnet. Birthing at home was a really positive experience for me; it makes me sad that many pregnant women and their partners don't even know they have this option. And I think that many people who have heard of home birthing don't really understand what that option is all about. So I would like to tell you something about it.

One big difference between a home birth and a hospital birth is that you have one-hour prenatal appointments each month, and each week toward the end, with the same midwife who will attend your birth. So I had spent at least 12 hours with Corrie by the time she came to my house for the birth. In addition, each time that I called to make an appointment I talked to Corrie herself (not a receptionist), and she always checked in with me to see how I was doing. She made me feel like it was OK to call with questions, and I did do that a few times. By the time I was ready to have my baby, I really trusted Corrie and had come to think of her as a friend as well as my midwife. My friends who had hospital births did not know which midwife would be at the hospital at the time of the birth, so they scheduled their prenatal appointments (which were sometimes 10 minutes long) with a different mid-

wife each time, hoping to meet them all before the birth.

Another advantage to home birthing is that you don't have to go anywhere while you are in labor. Most of the people I know who had hospital births labored at home during the gentler first part of labor. I imagine that their experience of the first hours of labor was pretty similar to mine. With my second child I found that I was really happy hanging over a birthing ball while breathing through the contractions. When the contraction was over I would sit back, rest, and wait for the next contraction. During the births of both of my children, this was a period where I figured out what worked - what position, what kind of breathing - to get me through the contraction. And I also got to learn the rhythm of the contractions so that I could anticipate them and get myself into position, take a deep breath, and relax through the contraction. I did not have to think about whether it was time to go to the hospital; I was able to instead focus more and more on what I was doing. When things got really hard, I was pretty much ready for it, as I had spent the previous hours getting comfortable and focusing on what was happening. I did not have to get up just as things were speeding up, get in a car, check in at the hospital, and then adjust to a new place.

Probably the most important advantage of having a home birth is that the midwife will not try to keep the laboring woman on a schedule. There is a lot of

evidence to suggest that doctors in the U.S. perform more cesarean sections than they need to. (The rate is much higher here than in other countries.) It seems like many women end up having surgery because they did not dilate fast enough or did not produce a baby on schedule. I think that anyone considering a hospital birth should research cesarean rates in our country and at the hospital she is considering.

In most cases there is no need to treat pregnancy and birth as illnesses or medical emergencies. Every pregnant woman deserves to have a calm, respectful environment to give birth in. I urge anyone who is pregnant to at least talk to a home birth midwife. I think that after meeting the midwife and talking to her, many people would feel less afraid - would realize that home birth is not more risky than hospital birth. You can interview a home birth midwife and then still decide to go to the hospital, but I think everyone should understand the options they are choosing between.

- Eloise Michael  
Turners Falls

## American Dead in Iraq as of 6/15/05

US FORCES  
Casualties in Iraq  
as of this date  
1,701

Afghanistan 192

Wounded in Action 13,334

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GUEST EDITORIALS

# A Positive View of Turners High

SANDRA AND ROBERT MINER

**ERVING** - Very often we read of the controversial issues regarding our school systems and students. We would like to express some of our positive experiences with the Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School.

As residents of the town of Erving, our youngest daughter Dawn spent her early school years at the Erving Elementary School. The classes were small, the staff and administration very supportive, and the school budget was very generous, which insured the administration, staff and students a very high quality setting as well as

the extras.

Three years ago Dawn had completed the sixth grade and was ready to go on to Great Falls Middle School, where Erving tuitions its students. We had four older children attend the Gill Montague system but that had been a few years prior. During Dawn's last few years at Erving we had heard of many incidents and issues at the Middle School that concerned and worried us. We just knew that when she arrived at the school it was not going to be a good environment, the classes would be so large that the teachers would never know her by name (even at the end of the year), she would simply get

"lost in the shuffle".

Well, Dawn entered the seventh grade in 2002 and has just completed ninth grade at the Turners high school. After a few days (not years) of each semester the teachers knew her name. By the time a few months had passed we felt very confident that most of the "horror stories" we had heard were either exaggerated or simply taken out of context.

Yes, the class size is larger than that of Erving, but each student is given the attention he or she requires. The staff and administration are always available to answer any questions or concerns and have always taken the time to make us, as well as

Dawn, comfortable.

Are there problems at the middle school and high school? Of course there are. They have them at every school around. However, in our opinion, the staff and administration of Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School works extremely hard to provide the best education and environment possible for ALL the students. It is our opinion that the majority of the staff and teachers go "above and beyond" in insuring that each and every student works to their full potential and succeeds not only academically but socially.

No longer is it a generation of being able to put the student

on the school bus and simply send them to school. The parents have to be involved in the school system, ask questions, and be aware of what's going on.

In closing we are proud to say our daughter Dawn has excelled in the Gill - Montague school system. Dawn has made the honor roll almost every semester and last week was awarded the Academic Achievement Award in English 9. These have been a very positive three years and we look forward to another positive three years at Turners Falls High School.

## Who Wants These Meddling Parents? We do!

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB MONTAGUE CENTER

Maybe you've seen one: the mother who marches into the school principal's office, steam escaping from her ears, demanding to know why the new advanced math class includes only boys, and her high-scoring daughter wasn't chosen to be included. Or the dad who wants to know why no specialist has been hired yet to help his son catch up in reading skills.

These are the "meddling" parents, who take up time and leave you with headaches, if you are a harried principal or teacher. But from the standpoint of a school district and community, these are the involved parents, and school districts should not only be listening to them, but trying to attract more of them! Numerous studies have found that students with involved parents, no matter

what their income or background, are more likely to succeed in school - to attend school regularly, earn higher grades, pass their classes, graduate and go on to postsecondary education.

Students with involved parents are also less likely to get in trouble in school and at home. Those meddling parents are the ones who fight for the kinds of improvements in the schools that lead to happier students and better test scores. They're also the same parents who raise money for field trips through the parent-teacher organization, volunteer their time for after school programs, lobby their neighbors to vote for better funding for schools and insist on changes that improve the learning experience for children.

No getting around it: the Gill-Montague School District doesn't have the best MCAS test

scores in the state, it struggles with serious social problems, and to top it off, the school district is losing enrollment. As a "rural, impoverished" school district, it is tempting to chalk it all up to a lack of resources and funding, and to be sure, G-M has suffered greatly from state and federal cutbacks. But could there also be a relationship between low parental involvement in our upper elementary, middle and high schools, and the challenges faced by the district? Plenty of other poorly funded school districts have been successful in creating a vibrant, active community of parents involved with the life of their children's school.

So what does it take to get parents involved? I propose to share with you my very own top ten list of ways we can get more parents interested, involved and committed to supporting the schools their children attend.

1. Support and promote the heck out of those Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs).

PTO parents are the fundraisers and architects behind all the wonderful extras that make the difference in feeling proud of a school, whether it is a spiffy new playground or field trips to the Shea Theatre.

In Gill-Montague, some schools have strong PTOs and some have weakly functioning PTOs. We need to applaud and support the active PTOs, and work hard to establish better PTOs in the other schools, and treat this as a priority instead of accepting this as the "way things have always been."


2. Start at the beginning: woo every parent of a preschooler.

Like it or not, we live in an era of choice. The most involved parents of young children are the most likely to take advantage of options for school

choice, private school and homeschooling, if they remain unconvinced the local school is the best option. Before parents enroll their child in the local elementary school is the time to get them involved by sending them personal invitations to all those pie auctions, Halloween parties, ice cream socials and end-of-school performances that are so much fun for everyone. The district could also take a page from the (private) Greenfield Center School and send out invitations to a "tea" and open house to visit the school, or similar events that welcome moms and dads with babies in slings. Parents need to hear that the local school is active and fun to be a part of, and by the way, is a terrific environment for their children to learn in. If the school district really wants to show they care about parents, I recommend home visits by kinder-

see PARENTS pg 6

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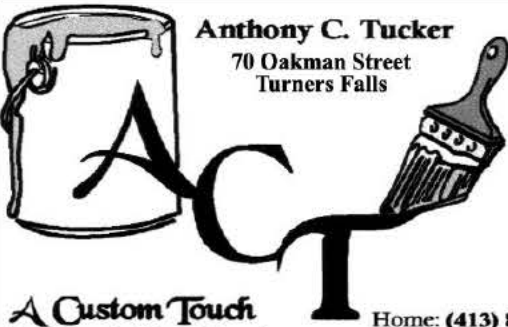
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## PARENTS

continued from pg 5

garten teachers to help ease children and parents into this important first step in becoming a part of the new school.

3. Expect principals to be cheerleaders for their schools.

Similar to "meddling" parents, principals should push hard for the resources and staff needed to improve their school. Principals should not sit on their hands when the school committee asks what their school needs to make improvements. Principals who value parent participation also need to put some real oomph into creating a parent-friendly environment. A popular "cheerleader" principal at a nearby school district invites parents to a breakfast once a month, pairs up veteran parents with new parents entering the school, and orchestrates multicultural festivals that draw on the ethnic food, music and costume contributions of almost every family in the school. His vision of a shared community has created a vibrant, respected and well-loved school.

4. Reduce the number of transitions children have to make between schools.

More school transitions equal less parental involvement. That's because:

a. It is harder for parents with more than one child to be involved in several schools.

b. It is easier to attract parents of young children and keep them involved, than to re-involve parents of older children in a new school. Just like their children, staying in the same school longer means the parents don't have to make all new friends, get to know a whole new set of teachers and administrators and learn another school culture.

c. Parents can stay on the same PTO longer!

In the town of Montague, we have separate elementary schools for lower and upper elementary grades. This separation of grades into different build-

ings may be convenient for teachers and administrators, but it does not foster strong parent involvement.

5. Don't wait for parents to come to you: find them and pester them!

Lots of parents are intimidated by teachers and principals, and busy lives and language barriers can get in the way of involving parents in the life of a school. But schools that value high parent participation aren't afraid to do whatever it takes to persuade and cajole parents into attending events--whether it means phone calls, personalized invitations, sending personal email messages, or finding translators for Russian speaking parents.

6. Roll out the red carpet to visitors, including parents, to the schools and classrooms.

Yes, schools need to protect against menacing intruders, but safety shouldn't stop a school building from feeling people-friendly. Parents and community members shouldn't just feel it is O.K. to visit a school and their child's classroom - they should be encouraged with big welcome signs and personal attention. The lobby should inspire curiosity and pride, not fear that you are about to be frisked!

7. Train teachers and principals to work with parents and to view them as partners in the education of their children.

Too many teachers and principals fear complaints from meddling parents enough to discourage parents from speaking up. Whether it is a request to change the way a teacher assigns homework, change the school lunch menu, or reduce class size, it isn't always easy to listen, let alone act on parents' input. So a little formal staff training might help teachers and principals to send more positive messages and encouragement to parents, improve their listening skills, and to see more of the benefits (remember: higher test scores, reduced violence, higher graduation rates and attendance)

of helping parents become more invested in their children's education.

8. Support neighborhood schools.

Most people understand intuitively that consolidation is bad for parent participation - parents feel more connected to schools near their own neighborhood. Unfortunately, up until now, our town has been steadily consolidating elementary schools, and every other year or so it considers further consolidation. And because of entrenched attitudes relating to class differences among our five villages, the idea of a "neighborhood school" continues to be viewed by some as a way of reinforcing inequities in education. But the temptation to consolidate to save costs and homogenize the education experience needs to be carefully balanced against the need for strong parent par-

ticipation in schools.

9. Consider hiring a home-school or parental involvement coordinator.

This person would serve as a liaison between students, teachers and parents. A home-school coordinator might run weekly clubs for parents, monthly workshops on parenting skills, or organize family oriented events like games night to build parenting skills and trust between families and schools.

A parental involvement coordinator could also run a home visitor program. Personal visits are a good way to draw in hard-to-reach parents and establish the kind of trust schools need to learn about problems at home that the school might be able to help address. Of course home visits would also help busy parents learn more about reading programs, school activities, how to help with homework, and all

sorts of other things parents might not take the time to read about in the school newsletter.

10. Provide a parent center for parents to use while at school.

This would be a welcoming space where parents could meet each other, talk about their concerns, and easily find information about everything from summer camps to important phone numbers and babysitters. The space could also be used for parenting workshops, and by volunteers and the PTO.

The only thing worse than an angry parent is an uncaring parent. So the next time you overhear an upset parent complaining about the schools, don't think "meddling" - think "involved!" And thank that parent for investing his or her energy in working to improve the schools!



## Suggestions for Getting Involved

Courtesy of the Center for School Change website: [www.ncrel.org](http://www.ncrel.org)

- Come to school to assist.
- Share information with a student or class about a hobby.
- Share information with a student or a class about a career.
- Share information with students about a country you visited or lived in.
- Tutor one or a small group of students in reading, math, or other area.
- Help coach an athletic team.
- Help check a student's written work.
- Help put out a school or classroom newsletter (can also be done at home).
- Help sew or paint a display, or build something (a loft in a classroom or new playground).
- Help students work on a final exhibition or project (can also be done at home or workplace).
- Help answer the schools' phone.
- Help plan a theme-based presentation for students.
- Demonstrate cooking from a particular country or culture to students.
- Share a particular expertise with faculty (such as use of computers, dealing with disruptive students).
- Help coach students competing in an academic competition (such as Odyssey of the Mind, Future Problem Solving, Math Masters).

- Help bring senior citizens to school to watch a student production.
- Help arrange learning opportunities in the community, such as an internship or apprenticeship for a student at your business, organization, or agency.
- Host a one-day 'shadow study' for one or a small group of students about your career in business or some other organization.
- Go on a local or extended field trip with a teacher and a group of students.
- Contact a particular local business or organization regarding possible cooperation.\*
- Help to create a natural area outside the building where students can learn.
- Serve on an advisory or decision-making committee, on the site council or in the PTA.
- Help translate at a parent-teacher conference or other event for people who don't speak English well.
- Donate materials to the school.

\*Columns on this and other subjects are available from the Center for School Change, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, 301 19th Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55455; (612) 626-1834. Visit [www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/envrnmnt/fam-comm/pa1lk20.htm](http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/envrnmnt/fam-comm/pa1lk20.htm) for more suggestions. *This list is not copyrighted; readers may reproduce it for their own use.*

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**More student poems next week!**

Poems from the 8-Blue Team, Great Falls Middle School. Teachers: Dave Hoitt, Laura Moore, Amanda Kaczynski and Nancy Champoux.

**Free**

Free...  
I knew the word when I was a child  
When I could run all I wanted  
When I could fall and scrape my knee  
Soon forget the pain and run again

Nights were too long days so short  
At night I felt like a trapped bird in a cage  
At day time I felt like an eagle  
Soaring above the untouchable

Running with wind in my hair  
Sun sparkles on my shoulders

Lunch time unexpectedly  
We pray then I swallow my food fast  
Stuff the rest of mashed potatoes  
In my incredibly small mouth

I was free again  
Playing with friends running jumping  
Flying out of control doing anything  
Everything that came to our tiny minds

Soon night comes and swallows us in  
Darkness covers our little bodies  
We return to our small cages  
And try to fall asleep all over again.

--Nadia Filobokova



**Her Favorite Kind of Meal**

This is her favorite kind of meal  
She's been waiting for it since last year

Food more vibrant in colors than ever,  
At least one shade from every color  
Bright green to deep red in her  
coolaid juice,  
Yellow corn on the cob she can't eat

with her lose tooth

Hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill,  
Who will have more than one?  
She knows she will!

Joyful faces all around,  
The friends and family that surround

Now it's everyone's favorite part,  
Marshmallows that she got from Wal-Mart

They all sit down around the fire,  
Until for the night they retire

Now she lays in bed with  
Only the cat's purr,  
She is sad the day is over.

Looking forward to next year,  
While looking back on the memories made here.

--Julianna Coyle

**Start Again**

Melting snow  
Rain washing problems away  
Rotten stench of sadness  
Blown away  
Replaced by overwhelming happiness  
Bursts of energy  
Tired no more  
The fresh smell of that rain  
All the sounds  
Lull your mind into a trance  
Life breathes again  
Around the bend of an overflowing river  
Buds bursting into stars  
Stars I haven't seen for so long  
Glitter dusting the sky  
Lying in a lush green carpet  
Newly arrived  
Not long ago little daggers  
Piercing flesh  
Fall asleep  
The world's delicate quilt

--Annie Grant

Sitting back in a lawn chair with an oily wet body  
trying to tan  
the scent of the barbecued ribs  
and the freshly mown grass  
children laugh  
Parents go on with adult conversation.  
Lay back and stare into the blue sky  
not a cloud in sight  
Fresh green leaves  
the Red Sox baseball game  
finger biting close in the bottom of the tenth  
blasting on the radio  
My body wet from the pool  
the tar unbearably hot  
The season I love  
A barbecue in spring

--Ben Banash

I was seated there against the one oak tree in that grove of pine trees. I was waiting for you to call back to me. My shotgun rested on	my knee, and again I am waiting. I sit waiting to pull the trigger.
-- Brandon Breault	

The swing of a bat, The snap of a glove	A speeding hit to center field, A diving catch, What a play	This is baseball A type of American life.
A speeding ground ball, A diving stop by the short stop, And a throw to second base from his knees, Back to first... A double play!	Step up to the plate, The pitch... Crack! A home run!	--Joey Rinaldi



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

Spring is going on a ride on a pretty road while  
looking at the gorgeous rays from the sun through the trees,  
smelling the fresh hamburgers and hot dogs off the grill  
and hearing the laughter of young children.  
The light rain drops falling to the earth  
and watering the newly budded trees and flowers.  
Hearing the zooming of cars passing by.

--Olga Samokhina

**Campfire**

Sitting by the fire  
In the dead of night  
All alone,  
Branch in the flame,  
Marshmallow stuck at the end.  
The crickets,  
oh so loud in the darkened woods.  
Kneeling in the dirt  
Oh! No! The marshmallow!  
It's on fire!  
Forever scared...  
Smother the flames and ready the  
supplies  
Cinnamon graham crackers  
Hershey's Milk Chocolate.  
The black marshmallow  
and chocolate blend.  
The inner marshmallow,  
White,  
Goey,  
Warm.  
It melts the chocolate,  
which then melts into the cracker.  
CRUNCH!  
Yummy!  
S'more...  
The hot June night  
makes 'em o' so much better.

--Jessica Westover



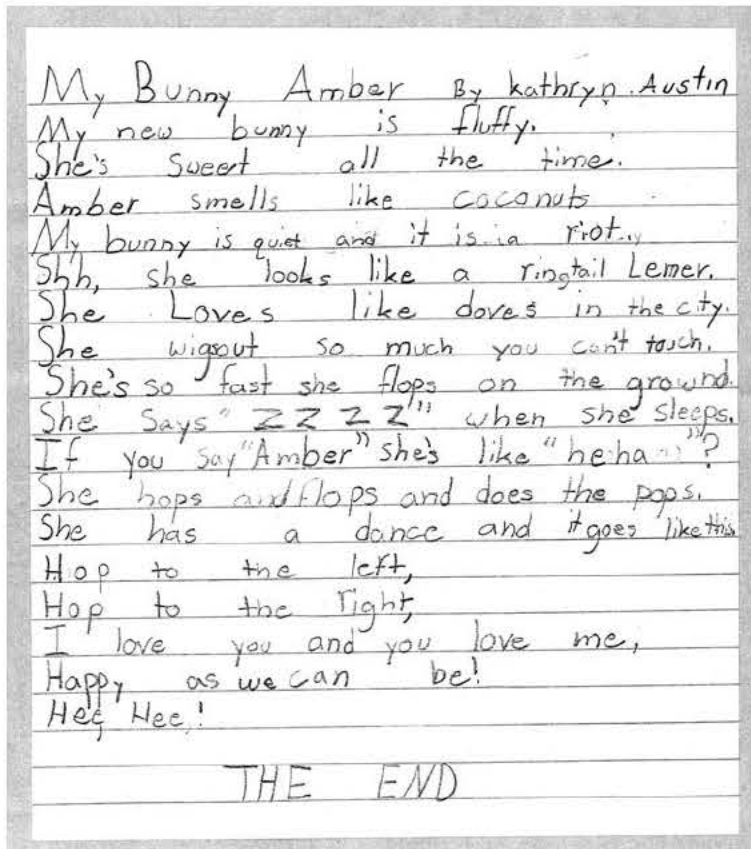
**Homeless Bird**

- Imogene Pruitt-Spence Illustration

**Spring**

Spring time is here  
Time for a ride  
I grab the halter, saddle and bridle  
Telling my horse that it is time  
for a ride  
Open the gate and off we go  
Through muddy fields,  
and bumpy trails  
We canter off on a spring time ride  
As we hit the fields  
We break into a gallop  
With the wind in my hair  
My face is cold  
My heart is beating  
Time for a ride

--Malerie Kidder



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Calls for the Guard to Come Home

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

At the end of the second, three-hour night of town meeting, on Thursday June 9th, Wendell voters approved a resolution asking the governor, the Massachusetts congressional delegation and the general court to restore control of the Massachusetts National Guard to the state from the president and federal government, and to order the immediate return of all Massachusetts National Guard units now serving in Iraq. Debate was limited; soon the question was called and the article passed without a dissent-

ing vote.

Earlier in the evening the town heard Steve Mason, the engineer from Dufresne and Henry describe the preliminary design for a town center septic system. The town passed the three articles authorizing a final design and up to \$250,000 for construction of that system, and up to \$20,000 for demolition of the house on the lot where the system will go. Also the town approved three articles that modified zoning bylaws to encourage Chapter 40B affordable housing and conservation development, to allow owner

builders to occupy a mobile home without a special permit, and to change the process for wireless communication facilities. The town accepted a Mass General law allowing mutual aid between police departments, and voted to authorize the Mahar School district to expand regionalization with Petersham to include grades K-12.

Every article on the warrant passed. There were numerous housekeeping articles, financial, and physical, including money to paint the town hall, and to remove unregistered

vehicles from town owned property.

On Wednesday, 6/8, the first evening of town meeting, Wendell voters gave Swift River School the full amount requested by the school committee, paying not only Wendell's share of the budget, but also part of New Salem's. That vote marked the only time in town meeting that voters went against the advice of the finance committee. People voted unanimously to appropriate money for a new fire department pumper, to accept preliminary plans for a new library

and qualify Wendell for a (roughly) \$900,000 state grant to move that project forward, to advance plans for new town offices, and to authorize a preliminary design for a public water supply to serve town buildings.

Annual town meeting took bold, decisive steps to change the make-up of the town center, and the ability of town government to function. Those steps were anticipated for a number of years by the selectboard and finance committee, and due to prudent planning, may not require an override.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE TOWN MEETING

Town Meeting Approves Landfill RFP

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE - Town meeting members approved an article giving the selectboard the authority to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the DEP-approved 8½-acre landfill site off Turnpike Road on Thursday, June 9th. Most members agreed with Precinct 2's Art Gilmore when he urged passage of the measure. "A ton of work has been done on this by your friends and neighbors (on the landfill committee). At least let the RFP process go forward."

Others listened sympathetically to Precinct 1's Mitch Gaslin when he suggested, "There is a presumption that doing a landfill is a good thing. It will bring us in a lot of money. But why isn't every town in the Commonwealth clamoring to get these millions?"

Although there was general agreement that more public education would be needed before a landfill proposal came back to town meeting for final approval, a number of members spoke in favor of an RFP, to allow the

town to get a look at a solid proposal from an actual vendor rather than engage in a protracted hypothetical debate.

But Precinct 5's Pam Hanold said, "Given the uncertainty over the truck routes - up to 60 trips a day - I have difficulty reconciling that with the kind of conversation we have had about developing the Strathmore for arts based businesses and making Turners a place people would want to visit. Is it possible we are being asked to choose between two visions of

what kind of community we want?"

Brushing aside an amendment from Precinct 2's Mike Naughton to divide the cost of sewer upgrades - pegged at \$5.7 million - 80% to sewer user fees, 20% to general taxation, the meeting approved the selectboard and finance committee recommendation to go with a 60% (sewer user fees), 40% (taxation) division for combined sewer overflow and treatment plant upgrades. The town is under constraint to repair

CSOs to the Connecticut River, or face EPA and DEP fines.

Precinct 1's Les Cromack said, "Those of us on a septic system can't get away from paying for our own waste disposal. No one will help us. I will vote for the 60 - 40 split, but I apologize to all the elderly people I feel I'm letting down."

Town meeting approved, virtually without debate, the Gill-Montague Regional School's assessment request for \$6,662,486 to operate the district schools in Fiscal '06.

Avenue A Planters Adopted

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - A casual stroll down Avenue A turns up a wide disparity these days between weed strewn planters in front of a number of storefronts, and a growing number

of planters that have been adopted and tended by the businesses near them, or by organizations or individuals who simply want to see more flowers blooming, and a neater appearance to the main street

of Turners Falls. At least seven planters are still "orphans" with no one to care for them. To see about adopting and planting one, consult the list below and call Linda Hickman at the Carnegie Library: 863-3214.

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			Alley							Alley					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Planters Adopted by:

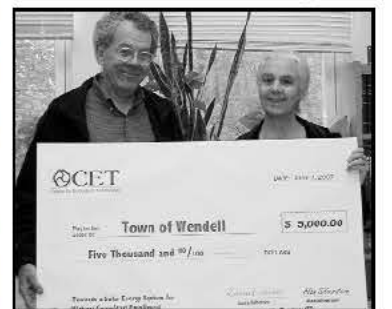
1 & 2: Dolan & Dolan, 3, 4 & 5: volunteers, 6 & 7: HalKeen, 8: Specialty Garden Supplies, 9: Central St. Neighbors, 10: Montague Reporter, 11 & 12: Moultenbrey Apartments Limited Partnership, 13: Jake's Tavern, 14: ???, 15 & 16: Crocker-Cutlery Limited Partnership, 17: Turners Falls Oral Health & Montague Libraries, 18: ???, 19: Rist Ins. and/or Sokolosky Real Estate, 20: A/V House, 21: ???, 22: Equi's, 23: ???, 24: volunteers, 25: ???, 26: Brick House, 27: Hallmark Institute of Photography, 28: ???, 29 & 30: JayK's Liquors, 31: ???, 32: Class of '59, 33 & 34: volunteers, 35: Greenfield Savings Bank, 36: Coutures.

Wendell and Shutesbury Earn Awards for Renewable Energy

Shutesbury and Wendell were among seven towns in Massachusetts set to receive bonuses from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) for a renewable energy project, because more than 3% of households signed up to support clean energy. All seven of the communities in Massachusetts that reached or surpassed MTC's 3% threshold for earning bonus funds are in Western Massachusetts. Nationally, only about 1% of households participate in clean energy choice.

Wendell surpassed the other 349 Massachusetts communities by having almost 10% of households enrolled in New England GreenStart. Shutesbury came in second, with 6.5% of residents choosing clean energy. Because of their outstanding support for renewable energy, the non-profit Center for Ecological Technology (CET) of Northampton and Pittsfield, awarded the towns \$5,000 for a solar electric system, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

According to CET, success in



Wendell selectboard members Dan Keller and Christine Heard accept a \$5,000 check for solar electricity.

Wendell and Shutesbury was the result of the diligent efforts of citizens who spread the word to friends and neighbors. In Wendell, the enthusiastic outreach of residents Pru Smith and Sharon Gensler was responsible for over half of the thirty enrollments in town that earned the \$5,000 award. Though both towns will do more research about ways to spend the funds, Wendell selectboard member Dan Keller thinks the timing is perfect. "We couldn't be more pleased to receive these funds, since the town has been considering a solar energy system for the new library we are planning."

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**NOTES FROM THE GILL MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

# Sound of Music Fills GMRSD Meeting

**BY SARAH PEBWORTH**

In one of the last meetings of the year before the July break, Gill-Montague Regional School District committee members honored staff members and were entertained by the high school chorus before taking care of business.

Members of the award-winning high school chorus, including graduated seniors John Waynelovich and Ryan Herzig, showed committee members their talent and their trophy. They earned first place for a mixed choir during their spring trip competition in Virginia in early May. The competition "is very intimidating but our stu-

dents did very well," director Steve Ciechowski said.

Students had praise for the director as well. He's the "heart and soul of the music program. He works us hard but we always have fun," Lauren Tela said.

A number of staff were recognized by the committee in a process that begins with their being nominated by their peers. Principal Jeff Kenney introduced teacher of the year Amanda Kaczinski as a "truly master teacher at mathematics" and noted that she had been a graduate of district schools.

"It was always my dream to teach in this district," she said. Chair Mary Kociela, parent of

two children who had been taught by Kaczinski, said it was clear she loved her job.

Principal Rob Morrill honored Carol Crofton, the paraprofessional of the year at the secondary level. "She has been an essential part of the program she's involved in," he said, adding she was "a gem to have" in the district.

Carole Brown, a paraprofessional at Sheffield Elementary School, and Joanne Rabideau, a teacher at Gill, were recognized as well.

In other business, Superintendent Sue Gee reported that this year's graduating seniors are making similar plans

to those from last year. Seventy-six percent of students plan to attend a four- or two-year college. While enrollment was lower (64 this year, compared to 73 in the class of 2004), 79% of seniors last year planned to go on to college. Five percent indicated they would be entering the military, the same as last year.

The committee voted unanimously to accept a variety of bids, including awarding the refuse contract for 2006-2007 to Browning Ferris Ind. (BFI), the only vendor who submitted a bid, for \$12,440. GMRSD business manager Lynn Bassett said she was unsure why only one vendor responded, but that BFI

had had the refuse contract in previous years.

Committee member Joyce Phillips urged people to watch the Boston Red Sox game this weekend as the vocalist singing the national anthem will be Elizabeth von Trapp, of the *Sound of Music's* famed Trapp Family. Von Trapp is scheduled to be the entertainment at next year's Gala. Phillips also reported that a total of \$12,000 from this year's Gala will be made available through Gill-Montague Education Fund migrants.

**NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**

# A Reasonable Proposal on Town Septic

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN -**

On June 1st, engineer Bob Leet met with the selectboard and discussed the town meeting warrant article for the town septic system. That article calls for \$250,000; the estimate given by the town's consultant on the project, Dufresne and Henry, was \$238,000 and that estimate was conservative, meaning if a range of prices was understood, the higher prices were used for the estimate and some extra was added for surprises. If bids are requested and the figure voted at town meeting is public information, the bids are likely to be close to that amount, and therefore artificially high. But the warrant had already been posted and it is illegal to change the wording of posted articles.

Leet suggested the town first authorize the final design for the public septic system, for town buildings in the Center, with money from this town meeting article, and authorizing the construction amount at a special town meeting to be held in July. The finance committee, or

someone from the floor of the town meeting could recommend the requested amount be reduced to \$30,000 or \$40,000 to cover only the final engineering report. That report could then be worded as a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), which avoids the bidding process.

Selectboard member Keller reported that the title search on Anne Marie Meltzer's property - where the future home of the town offices is planned - was clean. The house below hers is over the property line and is therefore allowed the land it is sitting on, but that will not interfere with the town's plans for the property, and any other easement would require continuous use. Keller and his son Caleb cultivated some land in the back of the property to make room for the plants that would be damaged when construction starts.

Bill Landry dropped off receipts from letters he had mailed to abutters of Mormon Hollow Auto informing them of his plan to sell the auto salvage

business.

Selectboard member Heard announced that a photo had been taken that morning with the Wendell selectboard and the Shutesbury selectboard receiving giant checks for \$5,000 from the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) as the towns with the highest subscription rate to the Greener Watts program (see page 8 for more on this). Peggy Macleod, of CET, said that townspeople can sign up until September 1st, and for each new account the town will receive \$50 to apply towards sustainable energy projects, including solar panels on the proposed new library.

Administrative assistant Aldrich mentioned a Massachusetts Historic grant that could be applied to restoration of the front of the current town offices as part of the construction of the proposed new library.

There was some discussion about scheduling town meetings; they had been held on Saturdays, but in spring few

people wanted to come and spend a day inside. Attendance dropped. Meetings were changed to weekday nights, but one, two or three late nights of meetings sitting in hard metal chairs is rough on working people, and attendance drops off if

the meetings drag on over several nights. Vermont schedules all town meeting on one day in March, a thought that seemed attractive.

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# Used CD Store Opens in Montague Center

**BY AMANDA GARRISON**  
**MONTAGUE CENTER** - Karen Chapman has owned and operated Room with a Loom for eight years, across the way from the old Montague Machine Company on the corner of Greenfield Road and Main Street, offering local artisanware in addition to her own hand woven pieces. Recently, Chapman has added used CDs to her selection of merchandise, and renamed her store "Mill Music."

Her store is located in a building adjacent to the Montague Bookmill, a location known for beautiful scenery, unique shops and a friendly, casual atmosphere.

People from all parts of town go to the Bookmill to read, sip coffee, sit on the deck, admire

the view of the waterfall and browse through the sale racks. Mill Music shares a building with Louise M i n k s ' M i l l w o r k s Studio and Rick Dodge Antiques.

Since the mill was restored in 1987, the Bookmill has been not only a tourist attraction, but the jewel of Montague.

Chapman has sold crafts made by local artisans for years in this location. She still plans to sell crafts, but extending her merchandise to



Inside Mill Music, Montague Center's new used cd store

include used CDs fits neatly with the neighboring used books at the Bookmill, and has already brought in new cus-

tomers. "I've always felt that [used CDs] would be a great companion to used books. A lot of people coming here looking for books are also looking for music," Chapman said. Her selection is a treasure trove for music lovers and bargain hunters. Chapman has discs from all different genres, including music recorded by local artists. CDs are orga-

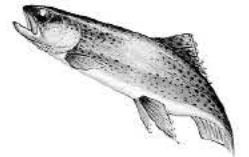
nized by genres throughout the store, sharing space with beautiful handcrafts. A listening station and a good sound system, playing the selection of the moment, create an appealing atmosphere for browsers. "People really welcome the idea of used CDs," said Chapman. "I think there is a good collection... I try to be very selective." Right now, she is working on building an extensive jazz and classical collection.

She is actively looking for music and buys used CDs from people willing to part with them. You can call her at the shop at 367-2062.

Mill Music is open Thursday through Sunday from noon to 5:30 p.m.

## Learning to Fly Fish Part 10

# Recovery



**BY ARIEL JONES**

**MONTAGUE** - My warrantied rod was returned to me in time for me to participate in the One Fly Fishing Event on the Deerfield River the weekend of June 4th and 5th. It was a beautiful weekend (at last) and I'm afraid I was so thrilled to have my rod back and to be fishing again that I neglected to write up the event for last week's paper. It has become clear to me that when I want to photograph rivers or observe events with the object of writing about what I see, I cannot bring my rod along, as I am more anxious to fish than to report.

### Pouting

The road back to this season's fishing has not been exactly smooth. I had only fished briefly once since the trip south.

The previous week Tom and I went to a bridge over the Ware River where he had recently caught a 14½-inch rainbow. Using one of Tom's rods, I was eager to try out (and show off) some of the things I had learned on the North Fork in Arkansas. My line kept tangling and I kept catching it up in weeds and twiggy debris on the bank. My casting was awful; frustration was mounting. Tom tried to

help me by temporarily exchanging rods to show me how to cast the fly to the right spot. Upon doing so he immediately caught a very nice large trout in the very spot, with my cleverly selected nymph. I started to pout until he slipped off the bank and into a deep sink hole with water nearly up to his shoulders.

Once he was safely out my better self re-emerged and we continued to fish. I didn't fish well, but at least I stopped pouting and did the best I could.

### I Didn't Win Any Prizes

The following weekend, the weather for the One Fly Event

on the Deerfield was gorgeous. At 9 a.m. my assigned fishing partner Jonas arrived. Jonas has fly fished since boyhood. Easy going and cheerful, he was the perfect partner to fish with. In his company, I managed a fair showing on Saturday, though not great. But I was more patient with my errors and Jonas showed me why my line was tangling up and I fixed it. We fished until about 1:30 in the afternoon without catching anything and decided to go home and meet again at 5 p.m. when there might be more fish out and about.

We met in Shelburne Falls

and he took me to two spots a little past Shelburne.

Both places are easily accessible and easier to wade than many parts of the Deerfield. This was great, as it gave me another place where I can fish alone in safety.

We caught nothing again, but had a fine time and I had stopped screwing up everything I touched. I went back again on Sunday morning early and fished a more difficult spot. Caught nothing, but thoroughly enjoyed myself and met some great people back at the picnic area used as headquarters.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

### Kids in the Road

#### Thursday 6-9

4:27 p.m. Report of a traffic hazard in the 3rd Street Alley. Kids in the road. Gone on arrival.

#### Friday 6-10

1:08 a.m. Report of a traffic hazard on Montague City Road at Greenfield Road. Rocks in the road. Owner removed them.

11:08 a.m. Report of a robbery at a 4th Street address. After investigation it was determined no crime occurred.

7:39 p.m. Marijuana plants confiscated from a Bridge Street address.

#### Saturday 6-11

4:59 p.m. Report of a larceny at a Faren Avenue address. Air conditioner was taken. Report taken.

8:52 p.m. Report of liquor laws being violated at the corner of Ave A and 3rd Street. Juvenile male summonsed.

#### Sunday 6-12

1:53 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Birchwood Circle address. A house was entered. Report taken.

#### Monday 6-13

12:50 a.m. Report of an assault at an Avenue A address. Spoke with

everyone involved. Peace restored.

1:17 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Turners Falls Road address. After investigation it was determined no crime had been committed.

4:37 p.m. Report of a gas drive off at Exxon on 3rd Street. Subject located and returned to pay.

#### Tuesday 6-14

3:36 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop at 1st Street and Avenue A,

██████████ was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and speeding.

9:41 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on M Street, a 16-year-old male was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and driving to endanger.

#### Wednesday 6-15

1:05 a.m. Report of a gas drive off at Exxon on 3rd Street. Subject got away.

9:08 a.m. Report of a larceny at a Millers Falls Road address.

██████████ was arrested on a straight warrant and also charged with four counts of larceny from a building.

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**

John Zantouliadis, 30, of Easthampton, appeared in Greenfield District Court on Tuesday, June 14th, to answer charges of vandalizing property, assault, threat to commit a crime and disorderly conduct. These charges stemmed from an incident that took place on February 1st in Turners Falls, when, according to the police report Zantouliadis entered the business owned by Denise Edwards, Ed's Barbershop, on Avenue A, asked to use the phone, then picked it up and smashed it against the wall. He then grabbed both sides of the chair Edwards was sitting in and threatened her in loud, abusive language if she did not take down a sign supporting waitresses recently fired at his brother George Zantouliadis' restaurant, the

Shady Glen. Hearing Zantouliadis shouting at Edwards from the business next door, a worker at the Cup O' Joe coffee shop called police.

When the case was heard, Zantouliadis was not present in the courtroom. Judge Jacques LeRoi turned down a request from Zantouliadis' attorney, Joseph Bernard of Springfield, to continue the case until September 15th, and ordered Bernard to produce his client. A quarter of an hour later, Zantouliadis appeared.

In the process of negotiating a plea, Zantouliadis told the judge it was Edwards who had "inflamed the situation" by putting up a "poster-sized sign in her front window." LeRoi lectured Zantouliadis about the meaning of the First Amendment, guaranteeing

freedom of speech, and told him not to transgress against a private business owner's rights in this way again. He gave Zantouliadis a 10-day suspended sentence, one year's probation, and ordered him to pay restitution for the damaged telephone.

"I'm just glad it's over," said barbershop owner Edwards. "I want him to stay away from me."

Assistant district attorney Neil DeRosches said he was disappointed LeRoi did not accept the prosecution's recommendation for jail time. "The judge saw things differently," DeRosches said. In a pretrial hearing on April 20th, LeRoi had recommended a 7-day sentence for Zantouliadis, who had opted to continue the matter to June 14th for a jury of six trial.



# Under the Sea

by Bette Black

**Across**

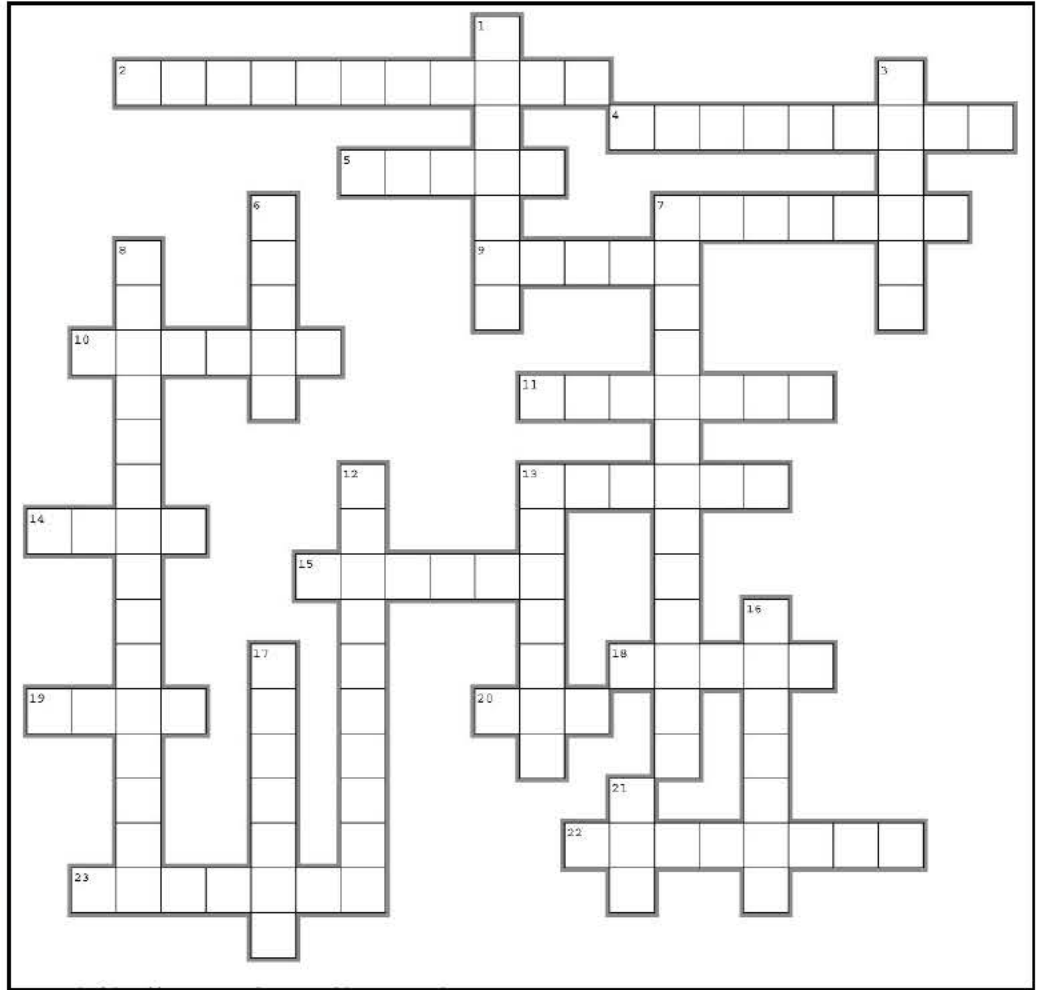
- 2. He circumnavigated the globe twice in his voyages, mapping the world's uncharted waters for the British Navy.
- 4. The largest animal on our planet ever, with a heart the size of a Volkswagen.
- 5. Animal whose name means "whale food" in Norwegian.
- 7. Fantastic half-human, half-fish water beings of mythology.
- 9. Type of diving with compressed air carried underwater in a tank.
- 10. Spiny invertebrate whose vacant external skeleton is known as a sand dollar.
- 11. Japanese word for a seismic sea wave caused by undersea earthquake, volcano or landslide.
- 13. Naval Construction Battalion member.
- 14. The Antarctic species of this animal was nearly driven to extinction during the 18th and 19th centuries by men hunting them for their fur.
- 15. French jellyfish.
- 18. It's architecture and chemistry is so similar to human bone that it is used to repair people who then heal quickly and cleanly.
- 19. Octopi as well as birds and tur-

ples have one.

- 20. Moray or lamprey.
- 22. Famous chambered shell and the name of Captain Nemo's undersea ship.
- 23. A blooming lot of algal organisms called dinoflagellates that sometimes produce toxins causing localized mortality in fish.

**Down**

- 1. Univalves, bivalves and cephalopods are all one of these.
- 3. One of the fastest fish in the ocean, reaching up to 121 kph.
- 6. Sometimes seen on menus as calamari.
- 7. The study of life in the oceans and other saltwater environments such as estuaries and wetlands.
- 8. Region of the Atlantic known for disappearances of ships and planes.
- 12. Kind of shark most famous for eating people.
- 13. The forest of the ocean.
- 16. It's the world's largest water body.
- 17. This mammal schools with tuna and is sometimes trapped in nets set by fishermen.
- 21. Manta or Sting.



## Concerns on Contaminated Snow Dumping in Wetlands Heard

BY AMANDA GARRISON

**GREENFIELD** - The Friends of Wissatinnewag, dedicated to the preservation of Native American sites, brought concerns to the Greenfield conservation commission on June 14th regarding contaminated snow being dumped into the area known as White Ash Swamp, off the French King Highway.

The White Ash Swamp is a 10-acre site located on both sides of the Route 2 bypass, protected under Greenfield bylaws as a wetland. The Friends charged the dumping of snow contaminated with oil and road salt is a violation of the MA Department of Environmental Protection guidelines. The Friends were also distraught that they had made numerous complaints about snow dumping in the past and had not been heard.

A conservation commission meeting was held to evaluate the Friends' complaint on May 24th. However, the representatives of the Friends who were present that day, Ted Wirt and Joe Graveline, were not the individuals listed on the application, and therefore could not legally present their information. The presentation was rescheduled to take place last Tuesday at 7 p.m.

At the conservation commission meeting on June 14th, prior to the presentation, a letter was read stating that Mrs. Mackin (the Mackin family purchased the 10 acres in question in 1963) will not continue to dump snow into the wetland area. However, the Friends told the commission that they still wanted to present, in order to "provide independent information."

The presentation included infor-

mation on the White Ash Swamp and a salt impact study. Friends member Ted Graveline said, "the road salt dumped on this property... poses risks to aquatic ecosystems and disrupts internal growth."

According to the Bureau of Resource Protection - Snow Disposal Guidance, provided by Howard Clark during the presentation, "collected snow that is contaminated with road salt, sand, litter, and automotive pollutants such as oil...threatens public health and the environment."

Photographs were displayed showing the snow that was dumped on the wetland area, which Clark stated were taken on March 20th, when the snow piles shown "were reduced by half their size."

Joel McFadden, chair of the conservation commission said he was

unsure whether he should take these photos as evidence because they were not time stamped, nor did they state who took them and where. "That could be anywhere in New England," he said. Clark argued that he has a picture that shows the derrick in the area, which was acceptable to the commission. Commission member Stephen Walk said he had done an investigation on the internet about salt. "Some states are not even using sodium [in the winter] because of their impact on the environment... In the meantime, we [can't] change the way salt is being put on the highway," he said.

He did, however, agree with the Friends' concerns regarding the dangers of salt on the environment.

McFadden personally apologized to Howard saying, "We were not

aware that this had been brought to the city...everyone has a right to be heard...and get a response ASAP.

"Lets work together...to see it preserved," he said, referring to the wetlands area. The conservation commission assured the Friends they will do what they can to make sure that snow dumping will not continue at the White Ash Swamp.

The Commission gave Friends the option of withdrawing their application or requesting a vote. The information provided in the presentation will stay in the public records in case of another incident. Because of this, the Friends agreed to withdraw their application, and come back to the Commission if snow dumping continues.

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**IP MILL**  
 continued from pg 1

the payroll.

Morris Housen, president of Erving Industries, showed up with an assistant - but without an attorney - to talk with the board about treatment plant operations and related matters. However, board member Andy Tessier adamantly refused to have a discussion, demanding that Housen bring his attorney "when you are serious about working on this." Housen replied he was ready, but Tessier scoffed at that assertion, claiming the board has been trying for three years to get matters resolved. Housen countered pleasantly that he thought the delay had been only a few months, and repeated he would not be using an attorney in discussion with the board. Tessier went on to tell Housen that, regardless, such items must be discussed in executive session, after which the board members returned the contents of envelopes marked "confidential" Housen had given them. "We can't read this," Tessier told Housen. "You can't give us something marked "confidential" for an open meeting - it becomes public record. Housen apologized for what he called the "oversight" and agreed to schedule a formal meeting with the board in executive session.

Dan Healey and his wife Genea Curbow-Healey, the new owners of the former Starlite Diner, came by to drop off their completed business license application and get a letter of support signed by the board. A brief discussion occurred about how to deal with the traffic concerns around the sharp curve on which their new restaurant, named Barbacoa, is located. A blinking light has been suggested, but might be a nuisance to patrons, as the establishment will be open from 4 p.m. to midnight. A road sign is also being considered, but Tessier stressed that maintenance issues could be a concern and so the couple should be clear about it if they plan on spending a bunch of money on a sign. Installation of a guardrail was also mentioned. The new business owners thanked the board members, who were already looking forward to choosing items off the new menu.

Bryant Stewart also stopped by to inform the board the new "Welcome to Erving" sign is done. Stewart hopes to have the sign installed, replacing the old sign by the French King Bridge, within the week, with assistance from the highway department. Until then, he invited board members to his house to see the painting, which is in three panels totaling 12 feet by 8 feet, like the old

sign, which Stewart also painted. Stewart said the old sign has been there since 1984, and though it was made of ship-grade mahogany, the way it was glued in place caused parts of it to decay. The new sign will be bolted into place and should last at least 15 years or more, he said. He also told the board the painting includes numerous local references, like the Quinnectikut II tourist boat that runs under the French King bridge, and former selectman Pete Cavanaugh, an early proponent of replacing the decaying sign. The board thanked Stewart for his labor of love, which he said he has been working on nightly since winter.

**In other business:**  
 The board reviewed a draft letter from POTW #2 chief operator Mike Pierce to the US Environmental Protection Agency regarding "local limits analysis."  
 The board signed a FY '06 agreement with Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA), under which the town's Council on Aging (COA) will receive \$1,200 a month to cover service costs paid through the Senior Center. The COA's budget for FRTA includes an additional \$1,000 to be covered by donations.

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**LETTERS**  
 continued from pg 4

the second time (after they had been replenished) he attempted to walk out of the store with them. When the check-out clerk asked him to pay for them, he barked at her to "bill him." The manager chased Zantouliadas down and retrieved the papers. Pam, at JK Liquors, had a simi-

lar story, as did others at Exxon and Brooks. Needless to say, you won't be able to buy a paper at Shady Glen either; the wooden rack has been taken off the wall.

I can understand that Zantouliadas was perhaps less than pleased with Ainsworth's article, but this behavior is inexcusable. There was more in that issue than just the article on the

Shady Glen. Through his rash actions he has deprived a great many (he bought at least 150 copies of the paper, by my count) from easy access to the fine work of our youngest poets, not to mention other news stories. Buying papers is not a crime; but buying them for this reason is reprehensible.

-Chris Sawyer Laucanno  
 Turners Falls

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## MONTAGUE

continued from pg 1

and suggested the rental income from the facility could only support \$2 million in debt financing.

While selectboard member Pat Allen did inquire about the availability of grants for the town to purchase and mothball the Strathmore until suitable market forces prevailed, Sherman said she did not yet have a specific answer, but would continue her research. On February 3rd, the town signed a purchase and sale agreement with Jones to buy the Strathmore Mill for \$300,000. A clause in the contract allowed for Montague to back out of the deal without penalty if the results of the feasibility study were discouraging.

### Prop 2½ Vote Scheduled for Sewer Repairs

The board scheduled a special town election for a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion to pay a portion of planned sewer system upgrades. The amount to be excluded from the levy limit, \$2,280,000, is the equivalent of 40% of the total cost of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) and wastewater treatment plant repairs, estimated at \$5.7 million. The debt exclusion, which differs from an override

because it is limited in time and scope, would be used to pay back a loan acquired from the state of Massachusetts to fund the initial phase of the project. An average property valued at \$184,000, would expect to see a hike in taxes of approximately \$76 dollars at the high end of the loan period of 8 - 10 years, as a result of the debt exclusion.

Because Montague is near the top of the list to receive money from the state revolving loan fund for CSO abatement, the selectboard would like to schedule the debt exclusion vote as soon as possible. Taking posting requirements into consideration, the board tentatively scheduled the special election for Monday, August 1st.

In the meantime, the board stressed the importance of educating the public about the sewer upgrades. Town clerk John Zywna urged residents to prepare for the vote. "It's best you cast your vote instead of complain about it later. If the community means anything to you, and the issue is big enough, please come out and vote," he said.

### Bridge Work

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio reminded the select-

board of the impending bridge repairs Montague faces. Mass Highway is seeking the board's guidance in prioritizing this work. The Gill-Montague Bridge is currently slated for \$30 million in repairs, due to be completed by 2008, while the General Pierce Bridge, also referred to as the Montague City Bridge, is slated for \$6 million in repairs, to be completed by 2007. The board would like to see work on the bridges at either end of the town's major Avenue A - Montague City Road artery scheduled at different times, to avoid serious disruption to transportation in and out of Turners Falls. After hearing that both structures required extensive repairs, the board decided to prioritize by placing the Gill-Montague Bridge at the top of the list due to its extensive cost, effect on future development, and because of its gateway location off of Route 2.

The selectboard heard from J.J. Ward of the Northeast Foundation for Children, whose non-profit educational organization headquartered at the former Colle Opera House in Turners Falls is purchasing the property at 66½ Second Street in Turners Falls for \$1, under the town's commercial homesteading program. In exchange, NEFC agreed to invest

in remodeling the structure, to be used as a training facility for its educational workshops. Although work cannot begin until a contract is signed, Ward said he hopes to complete the project within six months. He estimated renovation costs at \$300,000. Once completed, Ward said his nonprofit foundation will pay the town a sum equivalent to the building's appraised tax value each year. He also said NEFC will bring hundreds of educators to town to participate in workshops.

### In other business

Abbondanzio informed the board of ongoing concerns about residents selling vehicles on their lawns and holding numerous tag sales in one year. While the sale of a car is not against town bylaws, it may become an issue in regard to the number of vehicles and the frequency of sales. In addition, each household is limited to three tag sales each year. Some residents exceed this in a manner similar to running a business.

"What is beyond normal behavior in a residential area?" asked David Jensen, town building inspector. "Who gets to go out and make a determination?" he added, referring to the various town departments involved with

bylaw enforcement. The challenge, he said, lies in addressing each situation individually while working with coherent policies.

Mark Cannon came before the board for a third time asking what was being done to control noise emanating from the Second Street Sports Bar. Cannon, who lives above the bar, wanted an update in regard to the petition he presented to the board on May 23rd. However, while the board recently voted on new noise regulations that could be used to address the situation, these may not apply to Cannon's premises. "I don't think our ordinance addresses your concern. Living above a bar might make it unreasonable to expect what you are asking for," said Ross. Cannon was complaining about noise between the hours of 8 and 10 p.m. Once again the issue was referred to the police for further research.

Finally, the quarterly report by GCTV's executive director Marty McGuane was rescheduled to a later date. The board had not had the time to study the written quarterly report submitted by McGuane, due to its late delivery. Copies of the report are available from GCTV.

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER

# Out, Damned Liver Spot

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. Do liver spots have anything at all to do with the liver?

A. No. This is a common question and a great starting point for a column about all those doohickies that grow on our skin as we age.

**Liver Spots:** The official name for liver or age spots is "lentigines" from the Latin for "lentil." These are flat, brown with rounded edges and are larger than freckles. They are not dangerous.

**Keratosis:** Sebaceous keratosis are brown or black raised spots, or wart-like growths that appear to be stuck to the skin. They are harmless. Actinic keratosis are thick, warty, rough,

reddish growths. They may be a precursor to skin cancer.

**Cherry Angiomas:** These are small, bright-red raised bumps created by dilated blood vessels. They occur in more than 85 percent of seniors, usually on the trunk. These are also not dangerous.

**Telangiectasia:** These are dilated facial blood vessels.

**Skin Tags:** These are bits of skin that project outward. They may be smooth or irregular, flesh colored or more deeply pigmented. They can either be raised above the surrounding skin or have a stalk so that the tag hangs from the skin. They are benign.

Now we get into the cancers of the skin.

**Squamous Cell Carcinomas:**

These are in the outer layers of the skin. They are closely associated with aging. These are capable of spreading to other organs. They are small, firm, reddened nodules or flat growths. They may also be cone-shaped. Their surfaces may be scaly or crusted.

**Basal Cell Carcinomas:**

These are the most common of the skin cancers. They develop in the basal layer below the surface of the skin. Basal cell carcinomas seldom spread to other parts of the body. They usually appear as small, shiny bumps or pinpoint, red bleeding areas on the head, face, nose, neck or chest.

**Melanomas:** The melanoma

is the deadliest form of skin cancer. Melanomas can spread to other organs and can be fatal. They usually appear as dark brown or black mole-like growths with irregular borders and variable colors. They usually arise in a pre-existing mole or other pigmented lesion.

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States. About half of all Americans who live to 65 will have skin cancer. Although anyone can get skin cancer, the risk is greatest for people who have fair skin.

Ultraviolet radiation from the sun is the main cause of skin cancer. All skin cancers can be cured if they are treated before they spread. The most common

warning sign of skin cancer is a change on

the skin, especially a new growth or a sore that doesn't heal.

Check your skin often. Look for changes in the size, shape, color, or feel of birthmarks, moles, and spots. And don't be reluctant to go to a doctor whenever you see anything on your skin that you suspect might be a problem. Dermatologists recommend that, if you are a fair-skinned senior, you should get a full-body skin exam once a year. This kind of check-up isn't a bad idea for any senior.

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



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# Seymour Holds Out on Patriots Mini Camp

BY LEE CARIGNAN

**TURNERS FALLS**- The New England Patriots held their annual mandatory mini camp last weekend at Gillette Stadium. This will be the last official team workout before training camp starts on July 29th. There were plenty of new faces in camp including rookies and veteran free agents.

One player who wasn't present was Richard Seymour. Belichick admitted his absence was unexcused. The three-time pro bowl defensive end is unhappy with his contract, and decided to hold out from attending. Belichick seemed visibly upset by Seymour's absence. This is something the Patriots haven't been used to in recent years. Head coach Belichick could not even remember the



last time the Patriots had a player under contract hold out. The harmonious Patriots who have adapted the team approach and won three out of the last four Super Bowls have not seen too many players put themselves in front of the team in recent years. Those players that tried are no longer with the team. Under the rules of the collective bargaining agreement, Seymour could be fined up to \$9,310 for each day he missed of camp.

Rookie first-round pick Logan Mankins worked out with the first string at left guard and rotated with veteran Russ Hochstein in place of the departed Joe Andruzzi. Hochstein and Mankins will be competing for the starting left guard spot when training camp starts next month. Mankins, who is considered a very physical offensive lineman,

will be given every opportunity to nail down a starting position on the offensive line in his rookie season. Another interesting battle on the offensive line is taking place at right tackle between Brandon Gorin and Tom Ashworth. Ashworth was the starting right tackle in 2003 but was hampered by injuries last season. Gorin filled in nicely for Ashworth last season. Both players are now healthy and will be fighting to win the starting position.

Newly signed veteran free agent linebackers Monty Beisel and Chad Brown were the inside linebackers on the first string defense. Brown, who signed with the Pats just a few weeks ago, said he is still trying to learn the Patriots defense. Beisel, who has been with the team for a couple months, was calling out plays and looking comfortable. He said he has

been working hard this off-season bringing up his weight to 250 pounds. Beisel will be required to take on blocks from big offensive lineman and needed to add 5 to 10 pounds.

Both linebackers say Teddy Bruschi has been a big help showing them the ropes at middle linebacker in the Patriots system. Bruschi has been present but is not participating in the mini camp. He has been working out and lifting weights but has not been given medical clearance to start practicing or playing football as of yet. Bruschi still has another month to decide whether he will play this year or not. It's possible he could take this year off and return in 2006.

Patriot fans should enjoy seeing local legend Doug Flutie this summer challenging for the backup quarterback job. Flutie and last year's backup quarter-

back Rohan Davey took snaps with the second string. Davey had some problems with his accuracy at times over the weekend mini camp. This is something that has plagued him throughout his young career with the Patriots. Doug Flutie, who just signed with the team last month had problems at times running the offense. His inexperience in the Patriots system showed up, but the 42-year-old veteran quarterback should be ready when the preseason starts.

Bill Belichick says not to make too much of the way he uses personnel at mini camp. He uses mini camp to teach the game and get the new players more familiar with the system. The battle for positions will begin when training camp starts on July 29th.

# Turners Takes Western Mass Trophy

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** - On Saturday, June 11th, the Turners Falls girls softball team (23 - 0) pulled one out of the fire in the bottom of the 14th to beat North Adams Drury High School (20 - 3) and take home another Western Mass Division II championship title.

"How many more can we take like that?" asked longtime Turners fan George Bush. (That's George Bush of 4th Street, not Pennsylvania Avenue.) Last year, Turners beat out Greenfield for the Western Mass trophy in 16 innings, paving the way for the first statewide championship title for the home team since Henic Welcome drove in two with a double off the fence at Fenway to cinch the trophy for the Turners baseball team in 1942. On Saturday, with the heat on in more ways than one, the defending state champion girls softball team played strong defense, and outhit the North Adams squad 14 to 4, with ace Julie Girard going the distance.

On the mound for Drury was Katelyn Malloy, who coolly pitched her way out of one jam after another, starting with a bases loaded, one out threat in the first inning. Unfazed, Malloy struck Shelby Landek and Jaclyn Bastarache out looking to retire the side.

Turners had a runner in scor-

ing position again in the 2nd, when Ashleigh St. Peter tripled to deep center field. Way ahead of the throw, she slid into third, but the throw was wild; had she been on her feet she might have scored. With two away, Girard came to the plate. Calm under pressure, Malloy faced her rival, and forced her to pop up to the catcher; side out.

After a 3 up, 3 down 3rd inning for both teams, Bastarache, playing center for Turners, hauled in a drive from Drury's Catie McDonough in the top of the 4th, on the run, warding off a sure lead off extra base hit. Undeterred, Drury's next up, catcher Kayla Malloy, smacked one straight across 2nd for Drury's first hit of the day. She advanced to 2nd on a wild pitch, but Girard wasn't giving up many of these. The next two Drury batters went down swinging.

And so it went. Shelby Landek dropped one between the pitcher and the second baseman in the bottom of the fourth, stole second, watched Malloy strike out two, and got caught stealing third to end the inning.

Top of the fifth, Drury returned the favor, letting shortstop Ashley Depaoli die on third, after she singled to shallow left, took second on a fielder's choice, and advanced on a wild pitch.

Sara Girard led off with a

single in the bottom of the inning for Turners, stole second, and then took third on a fielder's choice. But with two down, she was left standing when Kellie Brown popped out to end the inning.

Top of the sixth showed Turners' defensive mettle, as Brown made a great play, in maximum stretch mode for the throw from Katie Kidder at third, still keeping her toe on the bag to get Drury's Jackie Mason for the first out. McDonough grounded a 3 and 2 pitch sharply to the right of second, but a hard charging Jillian Sicard nabbed it to make the play to first in time. Kayla Malloy went down swinging.

In the top of the seventh, Allison Murphy distinguished herself in right field, as she did all day, making a fantastic running catch to deprive the Drury pitcher of a lead-off single. But despite their prowess in the field, and a hit an inning, on average, Coach Gary Mullins could not get a runner across the plate. Until it counted, seven innings later.

In the top of the 14th, after a struggle that saw Turners go three up three down in the 7th, leave one on in the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and two on in the 12th and 13th innings, Girard finally gave up a walk to Drury's lead off batter Mason. Mullins, pacing, called Kellie

Brown in, expecting the bunt from McDonough. Next pitch, the runner stole second. Then McDonough laid down the sacrifice bunt, advancing Mason to third, where a single down the middle from Kayla Malloy drove her home. But a perfect throw from Bastarache pegged Malloy trying to stretch it to a double, and then Girard struck the Drury pitcher out to retire the side.

With everything riding on her shoulders, Sara Girard led off for Turners in the bottom of the 14th inning. She hit a slow one hopper to shortstop

first anyway, and Malloy hit her in the helmet with the throw, trying to pick Sara Girard off the bag. Girard took second on that play. Next up, Julie Girard. She went down swinging. But Brown hit a solid line drive up the middle. A great throw from Mason held Sara Girard at third, Brown at second. Kidder, up next, did what she had to do. She hit the ball out of the infield, between the outstretched gloves of the shortstop and third baseman. Game over. How many more like that can we take?

Turners faces Central Mass



Bottom of the 14th, Turners down 1-0. Coach Mullins tells lead off batter Sara Girard, "Just get on base." She did!

Depaoli, whose throw to first was also short, forcing the Drury firstbaseman Jenna Taft to take her foot off the bag to field it. Girard was on. Ashleigh St. Peter bunted foul into the glove of the catcher, but ran to

champions Uxbridge High (20 - 3) at UMass on Thursday, June 16th, at 5:30 p.m. for the right to play in the state championship game on Saturday, June 18th. Go Blue!

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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**Free showing of Karen Werner's documentary film chronicling the history and development of the legendary Critical Mass bicycle movement at 8 p.m. Friday, June 24th Montague Bookmill**

**FRI, SAT AND SUNDAY JUNE 17TH, 18TH & 19TH**  
 Arena Civic Theatre presents the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning drama *Proof* by David Auburn, Friday and Saturday June 17th and 18th, at 8 p.m. and a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. at the Shea Theater on Avenue A in Turners Falls. In *Proof*, directed by Benjamin Ware, love, truth and trust collide. Structured like a conventional mystery unraveled through flashbacks and revelations, this powerful drama explores the many conflicts inherent to our most emotionally charged relationships. How hard is it to convince us that our firmly-held beliefs are wrong? What kind of proof does this require? Tickets are \$12.50 general, \$10 seniors/students. They are available at Jones Library (Amherst), World Eye Bookshop (Greenfield), or reserve by phone at the Shea Theater box office at (413) 863-2281, ext. 3.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH**  
 Open Houses: The public is invited to learn about Rural Development, Inc.'s *Affordable GREEN Homes* in two open houses, one June 18th at 113 Drew Blvd. (Evergreen Acres Lot 10), off of Tully Rd. in North Orange; the other Saturday, July 9th at 589 Barton Rd., Greenfield, both from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. These Energy Star homes feature 1kWh solar electric systems, Viessmann Vitodens high efficiency boilers, indirect hot water tanks, and many other green building features. Visitors will learn about funding from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. Building professionals will be on site to give tours of the houses and to answer questions. This event will be of interest to builders, housing professionals, homebuyers, homeowners and anyone interested in solar energy and energy efficient building practices. For more information contact Cynthia Bleil at cbleil@fcrhra.org or call (413) 863-9781 ext. 149.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 24TH**  
 The Montague Bookmill presents *We Aren't Blocking Traffic. We Are Traffic!* by Karen Werner at 8 p.m., a free documentary film

chronicling the history and development of the legendary "Critical Mass" bicycle movement to be shown free of charge at the Montague Bookmill, with director Ted White, in person. By demonstrating a vibrant alternative in hundreds of car-choked cities around the world, monthly *Critical Mass* rides temporarily transform the streets, filling them with bicyclists. This creates dynamic, pollution-free, social spaces which overflow with camaraderie: a completely different kind of rush hour. *We Are Traffic!* tracks this leaderless, grassroots movement from its beginnings in San Francisco in 1992 to its eventual spread across the globe where *Critical Mass* has now become a monthly ritual of reclaiming the streets in over 300 cities in 14 different countries. Presenting both the successes and failures of this unique movement, the film shows how *Critical Mass* has brought together complete strangers in an exuberant, commercial-free public space filled with creativity and unpredictability. *We Are Traffic!* is a fascinating analysis of a modern political movement that challenges the very notion of what a political movement should look like and how it should function. The film runs 50 minutes, with discussion afterwards. For more info on the film and filmmaker visit: [www.tedwhitegreenlight.com](http://www.tedwhitegreenlight.com)

**FRI, SAT AND SUN JUNE 24TH, 25TH & 26TH**  
 Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts (JCPA), Kimberly Waynelovich and Lisa McCarthy are proud to present the JCPA Showcase *Your Style* on June 24th and 25th at 7 p.m. and June 26th at 2 p.m. This theatrical extravaganza combines the talents of over 130 singers, actors and dancers who will entertain you in Grand Style. The JCPA Showcase will begin with the Ja'Duke Singers performing an original composition by John Waynelovich called *Your Style* and will move into four distinctly entertaining sections which include: Just Like the Old Days, Can You Dance?, Premiering on Broadway and All About Love. Combining the talent of Ja'Duke Productions and showcasing the

joy and exuberance of JCPA will prove to be a musical night to remember. Songs include: *Luck Be A Lady, Pennsylvania 6500, Pennies From Heaven, Dancing In The Street, On Broadway, All That Jazz, Seasons Of Love, The Book of Love*. This evening of drama, song and dance will be a magical way to begin Ja'Duke's Summer Season 2005 which continues with John Waynelovich and

Friends, July 23rd & 24th; Elton John's *AIDA*, July 29th & 30th, August 5th, 6th, 7th; John and Nick Waynelovich's original musical *The Cave of Fish*, August 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, 21st. Ticket prices for all shows are \$12.00 adults, under 12 and over 65 \$10.00. For reservations please call 413-863-2281 ext 2. Tickets are available at the World Eye Bookstore in Greenfield. For more information please visit [www.jaduke.com](http://www.jaduke.com).

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH**  
 Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club annual CLAM BAKE with music by the Mark Snow Band. Chowder at 11 a.m., bake at 2 p.m. Full bake - lobster, chicken, clams and chowder, \$32.50; Chicken and chowder, \$10. For tickets call 863-3748.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House features Mark Erelli, whose music has been described as everything from "jumpin' Memphis rock" to Western swing. Proceeds to partially benefit the Wendell Open Space Committee. For more info and directions go to [www.wendellfullmoon.org](http://www.wendellfullmoon.org).

Open Mic and Game Nite at the Gathering Place, Northfield's finest, funnest coffee house. Drop in for mah-jongg lessons, card and board games for all ages, open mic for readers, storytellers as

well as musicians. Good snacks, coffee, conversation. From 6-10ish at First Parish Unitarian, 72 Main Street, Northfield. Side entrance, tell 'em Mo sent ya. 498-3009.

The Niels will perform a special concert at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls at 7:30 p.m., based on the release of Nerissa Niels' new book, *Plastic Angel*. Travel into the world of Nerissa Niels' imaginary characters as she and sister, Katryna, bring them to life through song and story in the debut of her novel about teenage independence and creativity. The album (and performance) that accompanies the book is a stirring folk-rock affair surging to life in the engaging lyrical explorations and expressive vocal harmonies. This evening is certain to make you laugh, give you food for thought and leave you humming. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, and under 18 are half price. You can buy tickets at Dynamite Records, Boswell's Books, World Eye Bookshop, and on-line at [www.hilltownfolk.com](http://www.hilltownfolk.com). For more information, call (413) 625-6878.

The Vermont Renaissance Festival announces the opening of its fifth season in Guilford, VT to be held at The Guilford Fairgrounds on **June 25-26th, July 2-3rd, 9-10th & 16-17th**. The Festival is a lush and talent-filled re-creation of an English village festival in the 1580s; an exciting, diverse and family-friendly event. July 2-3rd is Kids Free Weekend: for each adult ticket purchased, as many as three children up to 13 years old get in free. July 9-10th & 16-17th VTRF is hosting a Free Coin - Food Drive: Patrons will receive a free replica coin for each non-perishable food item donated to benefit the Brattleboro Women's Crisis Center and The Drop In Center of Brattleboro Food Shelf, up to 5 coins per person. Admission prices: Adults - \$12, Children (5-13) -\$6, babes in arms are free, no pets please.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 26TH**  
 Falltown Players present *America the Beautiful*, a tribute in song and readings to America's finest hours. Bring the family to hum, sing, and reminisce along with the high-spirited Falltown Players, Franklin County's best-loved

home-grown group of toe-tapping minstrels. Performance at 3pm, at First Parish Unitarian, 72 Main Street, Northfield. Admission by free-will donation: \$5 per adult or as able.

**Hot Spot Teen Center**  
**Monday** - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 to 5 p.m.  
**Tues & Weds** - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 5 p.m.  
**Saturday, June 18th** - Create a Garden program, 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
**Thursday, June 23rd** - Technology Drop-in hours, 4 to 6 p.m. and Movie night, 6 to 8 p.m.  
**Friday, June 24th** - Open mic, 6 to 9 p.m.  
**Thursday, June 30th** - Technology Drop-in hours, 4 to 6 p.m. and Movie night, 6 to 8 p.m.  
 These programs are free (except some skate trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info about any of these events or programs please call 863-9576.  
 Hot Spot Teen Center is in  
**The Brick House**  
 Community Resource Center  
 24 Third St, Turners Falls

**Memorial Hall Theater**  
**POTHOLE PICTURES**  
**June 17th & 18th**  
*Bringing Up Baby*  
 Stait-laced paleontologist Cary Grant meets heiress Katherine Hepburn. His life will never be the same. Superb cast effortlessly combines with highly improbable situations, a frenetic pace and impeccable comedic timing. Toss in a missing dinosaur bone, a little dog, some leopards, and you end up with the classic madcap screwball comedy. Directed by Howard Hawks. Film at 7:30 p.m. Music before the movies at 7: Friday - Abdul Baki Family, Saturday - The Illiterati, jazz.  
 51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

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- HIGH TENSION R  
 DAILY 6:00 9:00  
 MATINEE SAT THROUGHTUES 12:00 3:00
- STAR WARS III REVENGE OF THE SITH  
 DAILY 6:00 9:00 PG13 in DTS sound  
 MATINEE SAT THROUGHTUES 12:00 3:00
- CINDERELLAMAN PG13  
 DAILY 6:00 9:00  
 MATINEE SAT THROUGHTUES 12:00 3:00
- THE LONGEST YARD PG13  
 DAILY 6:15 9:15  
 MATINEE SAT THROUGHTUES 12:15 3:15
- MADAGASCAR PG  
 DAILY 6:15 9:15  
 MATINEE SAT THROUGHTUES 12:15 3:15
- MR. & MRS. SMITH PG13 in DTS sound  
 DAILY 6:30 9:30  
 MATINEE SAT THROUGHTUES 12:30 3:30
- STAR WARS III REVENGE OF THE SITH  
 DAILY 6:30 9:30 PG13 in DTS sound  
 MATINEE SAT THROUGHTUES 12:30 3:30

**ROUTE ROADHOUSE 63**  
**Friday and Saturday, June 17th & 18th CATAMOUNT**  
 It's classic rock and Friday is ladies' night, no cover, 9:30 p.m.  
**Sundays in June Bluegrass Blast**  
 1 to 5 p.m. Horseshoe lawn, picnic lunches welcome and we now have an outdoor liquor license.  
 Karaoke T-N-T - 8 to Midnight  
**Wed - Open Mic at 8:30 p.m.**  
**Thurs - Karaoke T-N-T**  
 Promo night, givaways, 8 p.m.  
[www.rt63roadhouse.com](http://www.rt63roadhouse.com)  
 32 Federal St., Millers Falls  
**(413) 659-3384**

**Mabel Zobel**  
 By **Sandra Facto**

**OH God, give me patience, and make it NOW!**

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**POPULAR DEMAND**

Across	Down
1. COSTELLO	1. CYRUS
5. CASH	2. ZAMFIR
6. GRATEFUL	3. DIAMOND
7. BONJOVI	4. GLEN
12. DUSTYSPRINGFIELD	8. JANET
13. BILLIE	9. WRSI
18. TIJUANA	10. VINCENT
22. THEPOLICE	11. IGGY
24. BOWIE	14. BLACKWATCH
26. LADYMARMALADE	15. SADE
27. YMCA	16. YOYOMA
28. SIMON	17. ROTTEN
31. WOODSTOCK	19. ELTONJOHN
32. CARLY	20. METALLICA
33. ZAPPA	21. JONES
35. RHODES	23. RODSTUART
36. LUCINDA	25. JANIS
	26. LENNOX
	29. HOLLY
	30. GRACE
	34. PINK



# Old Hickory

BY FRAN HEMOND

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - Sometimes the answer is in your own backyard. While checking out the spring leaves of the little Common Hoptrees that, now properly named, had wintered on the pond, another sapling claimed attention. Its pendant yellow-green leaf looked normal enough, but the leaf stems seemed to burst from eye-catching rosy red protuberances, something like old lily leaves.

The handy folks to consult were my fairly knowledgeable family. Yes, they had seen the red appendages this spring on a few trees on Talcott Mountain, near Hartford. They did not remember seeing them before, and they didn't try to identify the tree. But this was not a strange new leaf.

When my own tree books and those at the Montague Center

Library gave no clue to the colorful leaf base, librarian Judi Ketchum, using the inter-library loan system (which seems miraculous to those of us who can't believe the speed and capability of electronic data collection) ordered a couple of tree encyclopedias to continue the search. A simply fabulous 12" by 15" book entitled *Hugh Johnson's Encyclopedia of Trees* arrived. In a fact-packed style, quite suited to its subjects, trees are presented in context: their habitats, histories, mentors, contributions, grandeur, considered and properly appreciated. But no mentions of little red "leaf sheafs."

In the meantime, there among the rhododendron, a little bush had ventured forth in the oil delivery path. It sported yellow green pendant leaves and the red left-over at the base of the stem. Here



was a sample that should go to the expert.

The trip to Hunting Hills Garden Center for Memorial Day geraniums was at hand. These experts would know.

Anne Kretzenger did not initially recognize the "rosy-red, bursting like an iris" hallmark that kept the sapling from being properly identified. Her daughter Suzanne did not let the apparent unrecognized aberration distract her from identifying the leaf as that of a nut tree, indeed a shagbark hickory. She reminded me that little trees have big leaves. These, perhaps young and heavy, hung limply. Her book did not mention the red appendages.

The trip was further successful as a loaf of their very fine just-baked oatmeal bread came home with me and showed my holiday visitors of our best in Montague.

Back at the farm, the Shagbark Hickory that towered over the apple trees in the yard came to mind. It had been planted in 1890, in accordance with the tradition of planting a tree to mark the birth of

the first child of every generation. This was my father's tree. It had delighted generations of squirrels; it had accommodated Grandmother, who ran out early on autumn mornings to get some share of the night's fall; its nuts had ripened on attic floors and been brought down to kitchens to be cracked open by hammer and flat iron by family members with the patience and skill. Surely we could match up our little tree with the hickory of all hickories.

Our old hickory was as stalwart as ever, a kind of no-nonsense tree, tough and a little grand. It had leafed out nicely this spring, and *voila!* At the base of each leaf stem, the rosy-red parchment that must have covered the leaf bud was still hanging on. The old hickory was parent to the little ones! The answer was in my own backyard.

## THE PERSISTENT GARDENER

# The Livin' Is Easy

BY WOODY BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - Summer is only beginning at our house and we've already harvested spinach, radishes and some lettuce. We're going to re-sow radishes, but we'll hold off on spinach until later in the summer. Probably by this date in August it will be cool enough to start spinach again. By choosing heat tolerant varieties of lettuce we can keep a supply going right through the summer season.

Vegetables to start right now if you haven't already are beans,

squash and cucumbers. All of those could have been put in a few weeks ago but no matter. You may not have the first cuke on the block but you won't be far behind. You may even get two plantings of beans in. It pains me to see unused garden space in the growing season. If you harvest the first beans and then just leave the area unplanted, it is a waste of space and energy.

Your current garden maintenance plans should include weeding root crops such as carrots, onions, garlic and beets.

These crops are quite intolerant of the competition of weeds and will not develop the final product you desire unless they are regularly tended. I use plastic mulch around my tomatoes. If you do not mulch, I would advise you to keep these gems as weed free as possible.

My wife advises me that the prudent gardener will go easy on weeding peas. They are shallow-rooted and don't mind the few weeds that trap moisture and help to sustain the cooler temperatures. Peas also dislike dis-

turbance.

Fertilizing is another type of selective horticultural practice. Peas don't need any. Their nitrogen-fixing properties make them self-fertilizing. Spinach can use a lot of nitrogen. Tomatoes need considerable fertilizer, but not too much nitrogen. With excessive nitrogen, tomatoes will have lots of vegetative growth but produce small fruit. Peppers exhibit the same behavior. If you insist on growing corn on the cob, you can fertilize away.

When it comes to watering,

the home garden needs about one and a half inches of water per week. However, don't over-water. Your plants get oxygen from the soil and too much water blocks their access to this needed nutriment. Also, it's safe to say that vegetable gardens can tolerate more dryness than most gardeners understand.

It's OK to go on that vacation without worrying about the garden. Rain or shine, you'll be pleased at how much your crops have grown while you were away. Happy gardening!

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