



## POETRY PAGES

Local Verse and Artwork  
Page 10



## LOCAL NATURE NOTES

June Happenings  
Page 8

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 7 - NO. 35

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 4, 2009



ALL PHOTOS BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

National Honor Society award winners. L-R, Amy Baxter, Dave Bennett, Samuel Colton, Theodore Dunbar, Joshua Gammon, Amber Henry, Kimberly Nelson, Sara Pease, Nicholas Skarzynski

## Turners Falls Celebrates Their Graduates

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**TURNERS FALLS** – As the Class of 2009 graduates of Turners Falls High School began entering the packed gymnasium, an enthusiastic cheer went up from friends and relatives. Students came in one at a time while the band played “Pomp and Circumstance,” and each student was received with hoots and loud applause.

Looking elegant in their gowns, blue for men, white for women, the graduates beamed with pride. Once they were seated, Principal Jeffrey Kenney welcomed the graduates, telling them they should be proud of their accomplishments and that as they leave high school, they should not feel as if they were

losing the support they’d had throughout the years.

“You share a bond that will follow you throughout your lives,” he continued, inviting them to join the alumni association to stay connected. Kenney then encouraged the students to



Principal Kenney laughs at Class President Josh Gammon’s speech

“always take the high road” in their choices as they go out in the world. “Reach for your goals and don’t allow yourselves to be discouraged.”

Class President Josh Gammon followed Principal Kenney with a light-hearted address that got everyone laughing. He opened by thanking Kenney for “being the closest look-alike to Santa Claus” he knew, and the audience roared. Gammon then proceeded to review his memories of school beginning with elementary school, relaying many humorous anecdotes, all well received and thoroughly enjoyed.

Then he got serious, encouraging his fellow graduates to be active in civic life, make their

see **GRADUATES** pg 12

## Hiking New Trails in Erving

BY DAVID BRULE

**ERVING** – On May 30th, a small group of hikers met on Old State Road to hike the new trails recently blazed on land purchased by the Town of Erving. The goal of the walk was to introduce the public to the 119-acre tract designated as conservation land, to be managed by the Erving Conservation Commission. Two years ago, acquisition of this tract was skillfully shepherded through the process and vote by selectman Andy Tessier, as well as by selectwoman Linda Downs-Bembury, and selectman Jeff Dubay who made up the board at that time. Mount Grace Land Trust provided logistical support in securing the grants and reimbursements for the purchase, while local heroes Laura Herbert and Rob Fletcher canvassed mightily to nail down support for the vote.

Saturday’s hike was the payoff. Five people headed up the trail at 10 a.m. Up ahead were Harry and Susan Sharbaugh who, as trail blazers for the Appalachian Mountain Club, had provided the expertise in laying out the trails on this tract. Dave Kotker of Mount Grace Land Trust, Walker Korby of the Trustees of Reservations, Celt Grant of



Harry Sharbaugh leads a hike along one of Erving’s new trails.

Royalston, and David Brule of the Erving Conservation Commission rounded out the group. Choosing the western entrance the group moved up the first leg of the loop, which was the steepest. After a 10 minute easy and steady climb following the western boundary, the trail turned east along the base of a steep ridge-face that is typical of Erving topography. After pausing to explain the meanings of the various blaze marks, Harry sent a hiker unfamiliar with the trail on ahead as test to see if the indicators could be easily followed.

We didn’t get lost. Along the

see **HIKE** pg 14

## Wendell Town Meeting Begins

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

**WENDELL** – In three hours of discussion and debate, 100 Wendell residents attending the first night of the annual town meeting on June 3 passed an operating budget of \$1,676,534 and approved 23 articles out of the 30 article warrant.

The longest discussion centered on the difference between the budget requested by Mahar High School, \$351,151, and the figure recommended by the Finance Committee, \$257,406. After an hour, citizens approved the lower amount with one dissenting vote.

Outgoing superintendent Dr Reza Namin and incoming superintendent Mike Baldassarre praised the school and its achievements, and cited Wendell’s high excess levy capacity as justification for the higher figure. (Wendell pays

\$3,500 more than Orange does to send a student to Mahar.)

Finance Committee members said that the lower assessment does not show lack of support for the school, but an effort to equalize payment through an alternative assessment method. They said the excess levy capacity follows from Wendell citizens’ willingness to contribute to a stabilization fund, to pay a tax rate that is 1 ½ times that of Orange, and to put free cash into stabilization and not apply it to the tax rate.

Most Town departments kept their budget requests level, and some reduced their requests from last year. The highway department reduced their budget request by reducing maintenance and repair of equipment. In order to reduce maintenance

see **WENDELL** pg 14

## Biomass - An Ongoing Debate

BY JOSHUA WATSON

**GREENFIELD** – As Greenfield continues to debate whether to proceed with a 47 megawatt biomass-fueled power plant proposed for the I-91 Industrial Park, the Franklin Regional Council on Governments met Thursday, May 28th at the Greenfield Community College building at 270 Main Street to hear presentations from Gordon Boyce, of the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and Dwayne Breger of the state Division of Energy Resources (DER), on the availability of clean, harvestable wood in western Massachusetts.

Boyce, the Marketing and Utilization Forester for the DCR, told the council that Franklin county was the most forested in the state-at 83%-and that the total amount of cubic feet of wood had increased about 400% since the

forest had first been inventoried in 1952.

Breger, the Director of Renewable Energy Resources at the DER, cited studies that show that in the five western counties of Massachusetts alone, 2 million tons of green wood per year could be harvested sustainably from private and state-owned lands. The DER estimates that the wood, used as biomass, and taking into account other uses as well, could fuel about 165 megawatts of electricity per year in the region.

The burning of wood as biomass is considered sustainable because-ideally-only as much wood is burned as is produced each year through natural growth and culling.

As the presentation was opened to public questions, area resident Keith Zaltzberg asked what the state’s operating defini-

tion of “sustainable” was. Boyce said there was none, but that the state was “moving forward to defining” it.

The state expects the wood will come largely from forest thinnings and waste wood, but critics fear that biomass plant fuel needs will eventually exceed supply, and that clean wood could be supplied by over-foresting state lands, or that plants will turn to using treated wood or construction and demolition debris, fuels that are cheaper and more easily available, but which contain chemicals and emit potentially noxious material when burned.

Chris Matera, of Massachusetts Forest Watch, noted that a figure of 900,000 “dry” tons (the studies use varying terms, but “dry” more or less means “seasoned,” and weighs

see **BIOMASS** pg 6

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Sultry Kitty



#### Rosa

My name is Rosa and I'm a female 8-year-old longhair cat in need of a good home. I may be sultry, and just a little aloof, but once you get to know me I can be the best and most affectionate companion you can have. I have FIV, which doesn't affect people at all. Just to be on the safe side though, I should not have close association with other cats.

Unless, of course, they too have FIV. Ask the staff at the shelter, they will tell you all about it. For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: leverett@dphvs.org.

**NANCY L. DOLE**  
BOOKS & EPHEMERA

Buying and selling used books:  
32 BRIDGE STREET, 2ND FLOOR  
SHELburnE FALLS, MA

413-625-9850  
ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

on Avenue A for over 10 years

**Jay K's**  
Liquors

If we don't carry your favorite brand,  
we'll order it for you!

Open Mon-Thurs 10am-10pm  
Fri & Sat 10am-11pm • Sun Noon-7pm

59 Avenue A • Turners Falls  
863-9900

**The Montague Reporter**

Published weekly on Thursday,  
(Every other week in July and  
August. Wednesday paper fourth  
week of November. No paper last  
week of December.)  
PHONE (413) 863-8666  
FAX (413) 863-3050  
reporter@montaguema.net  
Postmaster: Send address  
changes to  
The Montague Reporter  
58 4th Street  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline  
is Tuesday at NOON.

This newspaper shall not be liable  
for errors in advertisements, but  
will print without charge that part  
of the advertisement in which an  
error occurred. The publishers  
reserve the right to refuse adver-  
tising for any reason and to alter  
copy or graphics to conform to  
standards of the newspaper  
Local Subscription Rates:  
\$20 for 6 months

## LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

### Film on Lyme Disease

**BY LINDA WENTWORTH**  
**LEVERETT** – Come to the  
Leverett Library on Thursday,  
June 18, at 7:00 pm for a free  
showing of "Under Our Skin," an  
award-winning documentary by  
Andy Abrahams Wilson.

A dramatic tale of microbes,  
medicine, and money, this eye-  
opening new film investigates the  
untold story of Lyme Disease, an  
emerging epidemic. Each year  
thousands go undiagnosed or  
misdiagnosed, and are often told  
that their symptoms are "all in  
their head." Following stories of  
patients and physicians as they

battle for their lives and liveli-  
hoods, the film brings into focus a  
haunting picture of our health  
care system and its inability to  
cope with the silent terror under  
our skin.

Winner of the Best  
Documentary award at four film  
festivals and a finalist for the  
Audience Choice Award at the  
Tribeca Film Festival.

For more information, please  
contact the Leverett Library at  
413 548 9220 or find directions  
online at [www.leverettlibrary.org](http://www.leverettlibrary.org).  
The library is located at 75  
Montague Rd., Leverett.

### "BOSTON'S JULIE ANDREWS" Ruth Harcovitz to Appear in Montague!

**MONTAGUE** – Ruth Harcovitz  
will present a show of popular  
American songs by Cole Porter,  
George Gershwin, Jerome Kern  
and Irving Berlin on Monday,  
June 8th at 1:30 at the Montague  
Senior Center.

Ms. Harcovitz is known for  
her beautiful voice and warm  
personality. She has traveled the  
country, appearing as a soloist  
with orchestras, in summer  
stock and in resorts. She has  
recently returned to

Massachusetts following a tour of  
Florida.

Tickets for this program and  
refreshments are \$2.00. For fur-  
ther information, call the  
Council on Aging at (413)-863-  
4500 or (413)-863-9357.

This concert is sponsored in  
part by a grant from the  
Montague Cultural Council, a  
local agency of the  
Massachusetts Cultural Council  
and the Montague Council on  
Aging.



Wow! We trust that Skip and Nancy will enjoy all that "stimulus" money!

### SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – June 8th to June 12th

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

**Monday, 8th**  
9 - 11 a.m. Foot screening for  
Gill and Montague residents.  
Advance registration. Fee \$5  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
1:30 p.m. Ruth Harcovitz musi-  
cal program, see above.  
**Tuesday, 9th**

9:00 a.m. Walking Group  
1:00 p.m. Canasta  
**Wednesday, 10th**  
9 - 11 a.m. Foot screening for  
Gill and Montague residents.  
Advance registration. Fee \$5  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 11th**  
10:00 a.m. Coffe and conversa-  
tion  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 12th**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
1:00 p.m. Scrabble

Sign up now for Cholesterol  
screening Wednesday June 24

*Gill/Montague Senior Trips,  
Call 863-9357 or 863-4500 for  
more information.*

**ERVING Senior Center**, 18  
Pleasant St., Erving (Old  
Center School, 1st Floor), is  
open Monday through Friday  
from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANE FENNELLY

Our own favorite editor, David Detmold (he's the little laddie in the sailor suit). Who could have known back then? Was his wordsmith skill, his dedication, his generosity, his integrity already written on those little features? In that innocent, open face? But of course!



Bonnie Eddy, front end manager of the Wagon Wheel Restaurant, first place winner of the coveted HOWDY (Hospitality Excellence Award) given by the Greater Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau. Congratulations, Bonnie!

**MONTAGUE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
Saturday, June 6th,  
9:00 am  
**TURNERS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL**  
Only town meeting  
members may vote, but  
others are welcome.

**Eagle Scout Service Project**  
**FOOD DRIVE**  
To benefit Montague Catholic  
Social Ministries Food Pantry  
**June 6th & June 20th**  
Stop & Shop (Greenfield), Food  
City (Turners Falls), Fosters  
Market (Greenfield),  
Non-perishable items only

ties and congregational meals. For  
info and reservations call Polly  
Kiely, Senior Center director, at  
(413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at  
11:30 a.m. with reservations 24  
hours in advance.  
Transportation can be provided  
for meals, Thursday shopping,  
or medical necessity.

**Monday, 8th**  
9:00 a.m. Exercise  
**Tuesday, 9th**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
12:00 p.m. Painting  
**Wednesday, 10th**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
12 noon Bingo  
**Thursday, 11th**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
**Friday, 12th**  
9:00 a.m. Bowling

**WENDELL Senior Center** is  
located at 2 Lockes Village  
Road. Call Kathy Swaim at  
(978) 544-2020 for hours and  
upcoming programs.

**Meeting to Discuss BIOMASS**  
Monday, June 15th, 7:00 p.m.  
**Greenfield Zoning Board  
of Appeals**  
Greenfield Middle School Cafeteria  
195 Federal Street, Greenfield

**LIVE IN**  
EST. 1754  
**MONTAGUE?**  
[www.MontagueMA.net](http://www.MontagueMA.net)  
local gossip, news & business listings

**Great Falls Middle School  
Students of the Week**  
**Grade 6**  
Alex Fitzpatrick  
**Grade 7**  
Gabe Coira  
Ashley Ploskonka  
**Grade 8**  
Alex Interlande

**Great Falls  
Farmers  
Market**  
**Wednesdays**  
3 - 6 p.m. Rain or Shine  
May thru October  
Avenue A & 2nd Street  
Crafts • Produce in Season •  
Baked Goods • Fresh Eggs  
Annuals, Perennials  
**New Vendors Contact Don**  
[Sealeggsdc@yahoo.com](mailto:Sealeggsdc@yahoo.com)  
Ad sponsored by  
Franklin Community Cooperative

**THE SHADY GLEN**

**BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER**  
Lunch Specials from 11:00 a.m.  
Mon: American Chop Suey • Tues.  
Chicken Fricassie • Wed: Chicken  
Souvlaki, Rice • Thurs: Corned Beef  
& Cabbage • Fri: Fried Scallops •  
Sat: Yankee Pot Roast  
**44 Years on Avenue A  
in Turners Falls  
Open Sundays 7-2  
863-9636**

# Yarn & Vacuums in Abundance at Bacci's

**BY KATHY LITCHFIELD GREENFIELD** - Whether it's yarn for knitting or yarn jamming your vacuum's power head, Henry Brown has help for you at 114 Wells Street. The former car salesman and finance manager sells both yarn and vacuums of all makes and models.

While he can't teach you to crochet, he can help you find the perfect pattern, yarn and

supplies for a baby shower or special gift, or sell you many locally handmade items, including baby sweaters, scarves, hats, booties, bags, slipper socks, afghans and handmade fleece throws.

"We have a lot of local people coming in, and a lot of consignments," says Brown, who is expecting to hire a crochet and knitting teacher for Wednesday or Thursday



New and used vacuums can be found at Bacci's.

evenings when the shop is open late. And that's just the half of it: Bacci's, an authorized dealer of Oreck, Miele and Fuller

Brush vacuums, is also a full-service vacuum sales and repair shop where new and used vacuums, vacuum bags, filters and accessory packs for all makes and models can be purchased. Brown offers free pick-up and delivery, and says he can usually schedule an appointment within the same week.

Bacci's ("grandmother" in Polish/Italian) is warm and

welcoming, with two rooms full of brightly colored name-brand yarns, books of patterns (some with rip-out patterns free for the taking), crochet hooks, knitting needles and other supplies. Yarn brands include Bernat, Caron (including eco-friendly), Red Heart, Berroco and Lion Brand yarns in a wide variety of colors and plys, stacked high on wooden shelves.

"A lot of people were asking for cotton so we also have a full line of 100% cotton

see BACCI'S pg 9

## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

### Biomass, Internet Access and Late Tax Bills

**BY JOSH HEINEMAN WENDELL**-At the Wendell selectboard meeting on May 27th, Jenny Gross from Maple Valley School reserved the town hall for the school's last graduation on Saturday, June 25th. The staff wants to make that day special for the six graduating students, and felt the town hall, which they would decorate, would be smaller and friendlier than any area at the school.

ber Dan Keller said the first step is through the Greenfield Zoning Board of Appeals. Pooser mentioned concerns that follow from the experience with Biomass plants in Maine and Vermont, the possibility that demolition debris might come to the plant as an expedient, and the slippery slope to unsound forestry practices that might follow a strong demand for waste wood. Woody debris is a part of forest regeneration after trees are cut.

Allison Wight reserved the town hall June 13th for a graduation party for herself and guests.

Michael Idoine of the Finance Committee came in briefly and said that the cherry sheet shows a cut in state aid to Wendell of \$138,219, or 33%. He said it was better than the 34.6% cut proposed by the Senate Ways and Means Committee and added that it seems unlikely all the necessary numbers will be available before the annual town meeting.

Town Coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that spring tax bills will be late, and that auditors will be checking town books as required by the USDA for the loans the town took out for the new buildings.

Aldrich said the firm of Morris Root had been selected to inspect the dam that holds back Fiske Pond.

Board member Jeffrey Pooser reported that the Greenfield meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening concerning a proposed Biomass electric generating plant had been postponed. Advocates will speak first, then opponents and he was curious what the permitting process was. Board mem-

School Committee members Dick Baldwin and Ray Didonato met the selectboard

in their third information session. The subcommittee that is looking for ways to address pressure on Union 28 from the state has found that their job is large and slippery. Possibilities range from a Governor's bill to abolish split regions, to a willingness to allow a region, like Union 28, that is working well, is financially sound and shows good MCAS scores to stay in place.

A Franklin County School Committee caucus is planned to discuss a range of cost-cutting measures. Didonato said the plan for Union 28 was to continue working with Hampshire Educational Collaborative, strengthen the union, and look at regionalization options. The pay for Union 28 superintendent needs to come up to the area median. Swift River School requested budget is flat.

Baldwin said that Mahar is hiring a new Special Education director, and is now looking at the process by which a superintendent is chosen. In response to Pooser's question about Maple Valley School, Baldwin said the owner of the grounds is open to almost any use that

would keep the buildings occupied.

Pooser said he went to the meeting in New Salem with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, governor Patrick and others. He said Patrick views internet access as a utility, no longer a luxury, and that the state's goal is to expand some service to all of Massachusetts by the end of 2011 using whatever variety of technologies is necessary.

Pooser also reported that the town website committee had interviewed 5 website designers, one from India, and others from Wendell. The committee plans to discuss their findings with the selectboard. Keller said he should make sure the Fin Com is also at that meeting. Pooser said that before the new website is in place he could correct some information on the current website and make it more useful.

Heard reported that the Emergency planning group had divided the town into neighborhoods in which one or two people could walk door to door

just to make sure residents are well in case of another situation like last year's ice storm that isolated parts of the town by putting trees across the road and cutting electric supply. She hopes to have maps to distribute at the town meeting.

**REMINDER**

**STUDENT ART SHOW**

**June 4, 2009**

**6 to 8 PM**

**TURNERS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL**

**EXCAVATING**

Fencing - Patios - Walks - Walls Installed - Tree Work

Loam - Compost - Mulch

**DEMERS LANDSCAPING**

**413-863-3652**

## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

### Senior Center Plans Discussed

**BY DAVID BRULE ERVING** - On Monday, June 1st, the Erving selectmen held a somewhat abbreviated meeting.

Center. The Selectmen developed a draft warrant for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for June 22, 2009. The main article for that meeting will concern a funding package to put the Senior Center back on track. As of this printing, the working draft of Article One will involve borrowing one million dollars from an outside

One member, Andrew Goodwin, was absent. The meeting focused primarily on regrouping after the town meeting negative vote complicated the effort to proceed with plans for the new Erving Senior

lending agency, a transfer of \$900,000 from free cash, and a vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$445,364 to round out the financial package to meet the cost of the new Senior Center. The total of the project will be \$2,345,364.

After reviewing and drafting 5 other related articles, the meeting adjourned at 8:15.

**PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU, INC.**

*Insurance*

**THE MASSACHUSETTS REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES NO LONGER SENDS OUT DRIVER LICENSE RENEWAL NOTICES.**

**Check the expiration date on your license.**

For more information, visit our website [www.pzinc.com](http://www.pzinc.com)



**25 MILLERS FALLS ROAD**  
**TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376**



**PHONE: (413) 863-4331**  
**FAX: (413) 863-9426**

**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666**

**Negus & Taylor, Inc. Monuments**

People often come to see us because their parents and their grandparents did. We're proud to have that kind of loyalty, and we work hard to keep it.

- Gary and Nancy Melen

*We engrave memories that last forever*

**MAIN OFFICE 773-9552**  
10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA

**"The perfect remembrance"**

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient

**IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE**

UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

**774-7775**

Easy in-town location  
Secure 24-hour access

**VARIETY OF SIZES THE BEST PRICES**

OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA

Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire

Ann Forslund  
REALTOR®

 **Prudential**

Prime Properties

3.5 East Main Street, Orange, MA 01364  
Bus: 978-544-9000 Fax: 978-544-9099  
Cell: 413-522-8542 [www.annforslundrealty.com](http://www.annforslundrealty.com)

serving Franklin County & North Quabbin areas  
Offering A Fresh Start for Home and Life

# The Montague Reporter

**Editor**  
David Detmold

**Layout & Design**  
Claudia Wells  
Boysen Hodgson  
Katrien Hoyden  
Karen Wilkinson  
Suzette Snow Cobb

**Photography**  
Joe Parzych  
Shawn Woolsey  
Claudia Wells

**Editorial Assistants**  
Hugh Corr  
David Brule  
Michael Jackson

"The Voice of the Villages"

**Circulation**  
Suzette Snow Cobb  
Don Clegg

**Founded by**  
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold  
August, 2002

**Technical Administrators**  
Michael Muller  
Michael Farrick

## Who is the Montague Reporter?

This week, while the editor takes a much-deserved vacation, we've had many reasons to appreciate the community effort that goes into producing this newspaper. Now in its eighth year, *The Montague Reporter* continues these days not only because of its subscribers' and advertisers' crucial support, or the nearly superhuman efforts of one dedicated editor—it also hinges on the contributions of a small legion of other folks who pitch in week after week in less obvious ways. We'd like to draw your attention to their work today.

Each week, residents, readers, and others who care about Montague, Gill, Erving, and Wendell help us stay informed about what's going on in our towns, villages, and neighborhoods. The dozens of phone and email messages waiting each time we stopped by the office showed us how much this community values its newspaper.

Then, as Tuesday's noon deadline drew near, articles from the dedicated cadre of citizen reporters who cover meetings and events, write features and columns, take photographs, and contribute editorial cartoons started coming in. Most of this paper's contributors fit their work for *The Reporter* into lives already brimming with other obligations, and they do it for minimal (and in some cases no) compensation. We are truly indebted to them.

Soon after the issue's content began coming together, the production crew assembled to begin laying out the pages. These staffers often work late into the night on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, as they, too, juggle their work for *The Reporter* with other jobs and responsibilities. Their good humor, perseverance, and artistry are a priceless gift.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, various souls help in many other ways: proofreading

and editing, providing tech support for our aged fleet of donated computers, sending out renewal notices to subscribers, managing ad accounts, keeping the books, and so on. Past and present board members and other dear friends contribute time and talents, too—some regularly and some on special occasions (for instance, during the week when the editor finally gets his vacation.)

The files traveled electronically to the printer on Wednesday night, when they were transformed into the very newspaper you hold now in your hand. It got there thanks to the effort of yet another team...the folks who prepare each week's issue for mailing, and for delivery to driving and walking routes. Many of them moonlight as reporters, too—on their rounds they collect tips and news that may well end up in future editions.

It's a lot of work. Why do it? Here are a few reasons:

- This small newspaper covers local issues in a way that no one else matches. Dailies don't have time to dig in as we do, and weeklies and monthlies can't afford to focus their attention on the small towns in our coverage area.

- *The Reporter* has become an important part of a local economy that's based on exchange of goods, services, and information. We provide a unique communications vehicle for local agencies, businesses, and advertisers, as well as a few hours of work each week for many people.

- The community-based journalism model that *The Reporter* relies on gives residents of all ages and educational backgrounds a chance to hone their communication skills while engaging with civic issues that matter to them.

In a time when it seems to be a commonly-held belief that print editions of newspapers are on their way out, we see our



KAREN WILKERSON ILLUSTRATION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Valley Idol: One Off-Note

While I enjoyed the Valley Idol competition over the past few weeks, there was one off-note that I can't help hearing. That is the firing of the emcee, Jamie Berger. In an event with built-in drama, it seemed unnecessary to add more. Jamie is a great emcee, in this case providing a friendly greeting for the nervous contestants and balancing nicely with the other personalities in the event,

bringing humor to a somewhat grueling event.

I won't hide the fact that I am a friend of his, and as such, I would have hoped he would be treated with respect. It seems unnecessary that he should be told the day of the third round that he would not be allowed to continue, rather than (as with most jobs) communicating specific improvements that should be made.

Finally, as someone who enjoys both attending and participating in performances, I see the Shea as a incredibly valuable part of our community, but this occurrence has me worried: Will I be treated with disrespect and lack of professionalism if I should become involved in Shea events?

Rachel Teumim  
Montague Center

## GUEST EDITORIAL

### Leave Those Weeds Alone

BY NAN RIEBSCHLAEGER  
**WENDELL** – We got our backyard certified as an official Wildlife Habitat. Here's what was involved, and how you can do it, too.

The National Wildlife Federation has a program that will certify property as a Wildlife Habitat if it meets certain criteria. There are five areas to be met: food, water, cover, places to raise young, and environmentally-friendly gardening. We were certified last year after the final piece, which for us was water, was finished. We now have justification for our tendency to leave things natural.

Certification requires three types of plants or feeders. We have planted trees that provide berries; the Washington hawthorn we received from the Arbor Day Foundation is a big hit. We leave any natural plants that we see the birds and butterflies and bees appreciate. The Monarch Butterfly is called the Milkweed Butterfly and you'll see why if you let those milkweed plants mature in your yard. We are fortunate to have blueberries and gladly share with the birds, although I have to admit to shooing away the Blue Jays.

required for certification. Our property is mainly wooded and as we harvest we leave the branches stacked to provide shelter for animals. These piles of brush may seem untidy to some but they provide necessary shelter and over time become part of the forest floor. Dead trees that appear to provide habitat are left alone. Stone walls provide shelter for chipmunks, as anyone who walks a dog past a stone wall knows.

The property needs to provide two places where wildlife can shelter and breed. Live trees, stone walls, thickets, brush piles and built structures provide places for wildlife to raise their young. Some places are unexpected. One of our birdhouses became home for a family of squirrels and when disturbed by our cat the mother moved her babies to a large pine tree. Bat houses are an option that provides a welcome return on investment as the bats keep the mosquito population down.

Environment friendly gardening begins by not using chemicals as fertilizer or bug and weed control; we want the weeds and bugs to attract and feed our wildlife! Reducing lawn areas, landscaping with

Two types of shelter are

see WEEDS pg 5

small paper growing into a more sustainable enterprise. We are proud to support this endeavor and delighted to have played a more hands-on role than usual in bringing this week's issue to you.

### The Montague Reporter Board of Directors

- Jen Audley
- Wesley Blixt
- Leslie Brown
- David Brule
- Lyn Clark
- Emily Monosson
- Nan Riebschlaeger

### We Welcome Your Letters!

**Montague Reporter**  
58 4th St Turners Falls, MA 01376  
FAX (413) 863-3050  
reporter@montaguema.net

### American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 6/3/09



## Sign Me Up!

\$20 for 26 issues (local)

\$25 out-of-area subscribers

## The Montague Reporter

58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST EDITORIALS**

**Looking to the Future**

BY MIKE NAUGHTON

**MONTAGUE** – At Montague’s annual town meeting this Saturday, the selectboard and finance committee will present a balanced budget proposal. While a few aspects are likely to spark debate – notably, the GMRSD assessment, and also reductions in the hours of the Council on Aging director and in police overtime-for the most part, this budget will promise to retain the town services that the residents have come to expect.

This was an accomplishment, given that state aid is expected to drop by close to \$350,000, or almost 20%. In addition, the finance committee, concerned about the recent trend of balancing the budget using one-time reserves, pledged to reduce reliance on those reserves by 50% for the operating budget from FY 2009. This removed an additional \$65,000 from avail-

able funds.

We benefited from a combination of luck and one-time savings. It was lucky that the FCTS assessment went down, and energy prices are now considerably lower than the projections for the FY 2009 budget. One-time savings include the fact that the town’s contribution for employee health insurance will drop from 85% to 80% this year, and various other costs have been removed from the budget. Town employees, aware of the financial difficulties the town is facing, have worked hard to find whatever cost reductions they can.

The good news, then, is that this year we have balanced the budget without too much pain. The bad news is that it is extremely unlikely that we will be able to do so again next year. We are still using roughly \$160,000 of one-time reserves to

balance the operating budget (including the GMRSD assessment), plus another \$130,000 for special articles (which is low by historical standards). Our hope for next year is to reduce that \$160,000 to zero, but we are unlikely to see either a significant revenue increase or a recurrence of the luck that helped us out this year.

Then there is the GMRSD assessment. This year, the finance committee decided to use a formula to determine the recommended assessment for the district. We started with the FY 2009 assessment (not counting excluded debt), added one half of Montague’s expected revenue increase (or decrease), and subtracted one half of the one-time reserves used to fund the FY 2009 assessment. (The same formula was also used for the town’s operating budget.)

The result was a recommended assessment approximately \$35,000 lower than FY 2009

(when excluded debt, which went down, is factored in, the actual recommendation is closer to \$65,000 less). This is lower than GMRSD’s requested assessment, by almost \$270,000. Repeated attempts by town officials to discuss this disparity with the district have not yet led to constructive dialog.

Recently, though, the school committee voted to ask the towns to reject their assessment requests. This is like asking the sun to rise in the east on Saturday morning (did they actually think their requests would pass?). Their reason was that all the facts aren’t in, but I’ll be very surprised if the budget situation is much better once everything is clear, so this may be another example of the ostrich syndrome.

All this means that the DESE will almost certainly impose a temporary budget, and the newly-constituted school committee will have a chance to try to find its way out of the box that

it’s been in for the past few years. Happily, some members are now saying out loud that the district’s budget is unsustainable, which is a hopeful sign, but it’s only a first step.

Next year is coming up fast, and FY 2011 will call for some new thinking by town officials as well as the district. It’s anybody’s guess how things will turn out. As the proverb says, the one certainty is change, and arguably we (town and district) have resisted it longer than we should have.

*Mike Naughton has lived in Montague since 1974, and been a town meeting member from Precinct 2 for over a decade. He rejoined the Finance Committee in July, 2008. He can be reached at [mjnaught@crocker.com](mailto:mjnaught@crocker.com) or by looking in the telephone book. The opinions expressed here are his own and are not necessarily shared by anyone else in town government or elsewhere.*

**WEEDS** from page 4  
native plants and composting are other ways to meet this criteria.

Water was the final piece for us and it involved digging a small pond in the yard. We now have a pond full of tadpoles and more frogs every day! The pond construction yielded top soil for the garden as well as clay and rocks which were used to create paths in the yard. Ponds fulfill several wildlife needs. They provide shelter, a place to raise young, and food.

After completing the pond we filled out the application at the National Wildlife Federation web site (<http://www.nwf.org>) and received our certification. We now have a sign by our wall that announces our wildlife habitat to the world. The certificate and sign were secondary to the approval we felt from the frogs who chose our pond for a home and a place to raise their young!



**A Proposal for the GMSRD FY10 Budget**

BY JEFF SINGLETON  
MONTAGUE CENTER

*Editor’s Note: Singleton, who resigned from the Montague Finance Committee earlier this month before being sworn in as a newly elected Gill-Montague School Committee member, presented this proposal at the school committee meeting on Monday, June 1, 2009. (See article page 6 for more about this meeting.)*

**Assumptions:**

1. The current GMRSD FY10 assessments are unaffordable to the member towns by approximately \$250,000 (estimate). The GMRSD should cut its budget by this amount to bring assessments closer to affordability.

2. Even affordable assessments for FY10 will not have a

significant impact on long-term sustainability for the GMRSD and member towns. There exists a “structural” (long-term) deficit of at least \$600,000. Only a long-term fiscal plan involving the state will solve this problem.

3. Although GMRSD needs to reduce its budget this year, town and district meetings should reject any budget that does not include a long-term plan for fiscal sustainability involving the state.

4. Budget cuts should avoid destabilizing the district with massive layoffs and cuts to core services. The way to accomplish this is through re-evaluating “state-mandated” programs and an across-the-board “ramping down” of costs through furloughs.

5. Budget cuts should be

accompanied by high profile, innovative programs that draw on the voluntarism of the local community. We should use the recession to encourage new ideas and experimentation (see the New Deal of the 1930s).

**Preliminary proposal:**

1. Reduce the current FY10 GMRSD budget by \$250,000 via cuts in “state-mandated” programs and furloughs.

2. Reduce the school week by 1/2 day. Entertain proposals from the community for course offerings to backfill the curriculum gap. Encourage organizations such as MCTV, the Montague Reporter, the Discovery Center, local government, the Elks, and the Grange to submit proposals. We should also consider collaborations with local colleges. Small stipends (financed by

stimulus money, reserves, fundraising?) should be considered to finance these course offerings.

3. As individuals, school committee members should urge Gill and Montague town/district meetings to reject all assessments and budgets not accompanied by a long-term plan involving the state. Work with state officials, including our representatives in the legislature, to develop a venue for creating such a plan by FY2011.

4. The school committee and towns should aggressively pursue all options for regional collaboration and consolidation that can be shown to save money, improve education and create the political capital for reform of state education funding policy. (See Franklin County Regional Study.)

**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666**

**YARN VACS**  
**BACCI'S**  
SALES AND SERVICE  
*All Makes & Models*  
114 Wells Street  
Greenfield 773-1805

Office Hours By Appointment

**DANIEL COHEN, D.M.D.**

4 Dell St.  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
Telephone: (413) 863-9656

**NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS**

**Carol's Beauty Nook**  
29 G Street, Turners Falls  
Open Tue, Thurs, Fri  
Ann Bagnell & Carol Demers  
**413-863-2888**

Gift Certificates Available

**COUNTRY OIL**  
SINCE 1986  
HEATING-COOLING-PLUMBING

Annual Heating System Cleaning  
Plumbing Repairs  
LICENSED TECHNICIANS  
#M10588 (MA)

540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992  
www.countryoil.com 413-648-9912

**Rau's Auto**  
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR  
**(413) 367-2475**  
531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague  
24 hour emergency towing  
Best service licensed Mechanics

**UPINNGIL**

411 Main Road  
Gill, MA 01354  
**413-863-2297**

Farm store open daily, 8 - 7.  
Fresh milk, farmstead cheeses, eggs, and butter.  
Also selling Gill trash stickers and the Montague Reporter.  
Pick-your-own fruit and farm stand vegetables seasonally.

**GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING****Budget Chaos Returns**

**BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE**  
Following months of lengthy evaluation and discussion by the previous school committee, the newly elected Gill-Montague school committee has urged Montague to vote its budget down.

While the new committee considered other options, Jeff Singleton said he would prefer to bring the current budget to the

Montague Town Meeting on Saturday, June 6. He added that he hoped that it would be defeated — a sentiment that Joyce Phillips echoed in a formal motion.

The article to appear on the Warrant at town meeting for Saturday asks that Montague approve \$7,363,135 for its share of operating the schools in the Gill-Montague Regional School

District. Even without the recommendation of the school committee, the town will have the option of passing or rejecting this assessment.

Interim Superintendent Kenneth Rocke said that the budget passed in May by the previous school committee represents the needs of the school district and is a good budget on the expenditure side. He added, however, that there is no certainty regarding revenues given the state fiscal crisis and the fact that a fiscal 2010 state budget is still pending. Without a state budget, he said, it would be dangerous to both the towns and school district to adopt the budget approved on May 6. That budget would require much higher assessments

to the towns, he said.

A draft budget prepared by Lynn Bassett for the meeting showed that if the \$16,854,053 budget were approved, it would require assessments of \$9,696,406 for Montague and \$1,875,796 for Gill.

Karl Dziura, co-president of the Gill-Montague Education Association, reminded committee members that when the school committee voted for deep cuts in the 2002-2003, the result was a serious loss of programs and an adverse affect on school choice. The loss of revenue to the district from students deciding to choice-out of the district more than wiped out any savings realized by program elimination. To start down this road again, he warned, could be devastating to the district.

The school committee's decision to present a budget that it

does not support could mean having to put the budget to a district-wide vote. If the budget is rejected at two town meetings, the Gill-Montague Regional School District is required to present the budget to a district meeting. If the budget were to be rejected at the district meeting, the state would most likely step in and set a budget and town assessments.

The district is required to present a budget by July 1. If there is no budget approved by then, monthly payments would be required to continue school operations until a budget is passed.

If a final state budget, based on a reconciliation of the house and senate budgets is approved in the near future, the committee is expected to find it easier to present a firm budget with some confidence with assessments that reflect the actual needs of the district.

**BIOMASS** from pg 1

about half as much as "green" for the same amount of power) included in the estimate of annually available wood by the DER and the DCR was an "upper limit" from a January 2008 UMass study of state and private forest harvestability. The study describes an annual amount of only 500,000 dry tons as "more likely." Matera also noted that, including Greenfield, biomass plants currently proposed for the state would generate 202 megawatts per year, which would require 2.6 million tons of green wood annually, much more than the state's estimates of supply.

After Breger and Boyce's presentation, Matthew Wolfe, principal of Pioneer Renewable Energy LLC, who seeks to build the Greenfield facility, presented information to the council on his

proposed plant. Wolfe described an "advanced stoker boiler" with modern emission controls that would filter out most particulate matter, but not carbon dioxide.

The state is expecting an increase in the number of biomass-fueled plants, as it seeks to shift the burden of its electricity generation away from traditional carbon-emitting fuels such as coal and natural gas, toward fuels the state has deemed cleaner and "carbon neutral." Biomass is considered a carbon neutral fuel because although it emits carbon dioxide as it's burned, the carbon is reabsorbed again by new trees as they grow. The process of reabsorbing the carbon occurs over the life of the new trees, some 70-100 years.

Wolfe, asked about the plant's effective carbon-neutrality, said some people consider the technology "no carbon, some consid-

er it low carbon, some say the science is garbage." He said he considered it "low carbon," and that his position aligned with the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Reached by phone, John Rogers, a Senior Energy Analyst of the Union of Concerned Scientists, said that a wood-fueled biomass plant "can be low carbon" technology, but that it "has to be done right, taking into account full implications from a climate perspective" including "what fuel is grown and how it's re-grown." Rogers also said that biomass energy "can be and should be" part of the state's energy policy going forward.

A second FRCOG meeting to hear presentations from opponents of the biomass plant is scheduled for Thursday, June 25th at 7 p.m. at 278 Main St. in Greenfield.



**WE HAVE IT ALL FOR YOU**  
**TRACTORS FOR FARM, HOME & CONSTRUCTION**

We carry John Deere and Kubota Tractors, Stihl Chain Saws, Blowers, Tractor Mowers

Also:

- Fire Proof Safes
- Wood Chippers
- Log Splitters
- Winches
- Materials Handling Equipment

**Sales • Service • Parts**  
**SERVING THE AREA FOR OVER 48 YEARS**

**SIRUM EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC.**  
310 FEDERAL STREET • RTE. 63 • MONTAGUE  
413-367-2481

Patrick Smith  
CSSL # 100236  
Insured

Montague, MA 01351

**EASTERN WEATHERIZATION**  
Specializing in Cellulose Insulation and Vinyl Replacement Windows:

Toll Free 866-262-5361  
413-367-2228  
FAX 413-367-2212

**The Gill Tavern**

Open Wed.-Sun. at 4 p.m.  
**Specials Daily**  
Seafood - Vegetarian - Local Beef  
**Individual Grilled Pizzas and More!**

Full Bar with People's Pint Beer on Tap  
Bottled Beers, Complete Wine List,  
Daily Drink Specials

Main Road Gill Center  
413-863-9006

**United Siding & Window**  
REPLACEMENT WINDOWS • SIDING • ROOFING

Since 1970

FREE ESTIMATES  
Liscenced & Insured  
MA Reg # 105027  
MA Construction  
Supervisor's Liscence # 7543

Bob Edwards  
603.239.8389  
413.834.3902

**CRUISE & TRAVEL COMPANY**

30 Montague St.  
TURNERS FALLS

413-863-3143 • 888-763-3443  
www.cruiseandtravelcompany.com

**CHEVROLET** MARK OF EXCELLENCE  
AWARD WINNER

**RON SICARD**  
Sales Professional

DILLON CHEVROLET INC.  
54 MAIN ST  
P O BOX 729  
GREENFIELD, MA 01301

Phone (413) 773-3678  
Fax (413) 774-5746  
DILLON@CROCKER.COM  
Toll Free 1-800-698-3678

Totally Free Checking

Free Gift!

**Love it!**

**GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK**  
Linda Ackerman  
195 Avenue A, Turners Falls  
413-863-4316  
www.greenfieldsavings.com  
Member FDIC • Member DIF

Since 1895

On the Common  
Greenfield, Massachusetts  
Turners Falls, Massachusetts

**McCarthy**  
FUNERAL HOME  
www.mccarthyfuneralhomes.com

(413) 774-4808  
John C. Davis  
Director

**ED L** Dealer in used  
Home Furnishings  
SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTIBLES • DECORATIVES

374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield

featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets  
Cookery Figurines End Tables

I Make Lamps Lite!  
Open 7 Days a Week

**GOOD USED USABLES**

**A Custom Touch**  
Interior / Exterior Painting & Home Repairs

Anthony C. Tucker: 863-4833  
70 Oakman Street, Turners Falls

**300th Series**



*300th Combat Engineer Battalion repairing the under piling of a bridge destroyed by enemy fire along the Carentan - Cherbourg Road in France - June 30, 1944.*

**Dispatches from France, June, 1944**

The Normandy Invasion began on 6 June 1944 with the 300th in England waiting to take part in the greatest military action in history. On 15 June about 200 men of the 300th with their vehicles and equipment left England under the cover of

and it was not long before we heard the rifle and machine guns. The men of the 101st Airborne Division were all around us. We knew we were at or very near the front. The five medics, including myself, had a very scary incident the first full night after arriving in Normandy. The unit bivouacked in a field surrounded by hedgerows and we set up our medic operations a few yards away from the unit. Trucks were in and out of the field quite often and we paid little attention to what they were doing. About 2300 hours, we noticed there was no movement of vehicles - just the noise of artillery fire.



*300th Engineer Medic Warren Chancellor in WWII*

darkness at 2130 hours for the shores of Normandy, France. They disembarked from the LST (Landing Ship Tank) at 0145 hours on 17 June.

Warren Chancellor, a medic with the 300th, tells about his first hours in battle. "There was quite a bit of mortar and artillery fire but none close to us. We moved inland at a snail's pace

"We discovered that we were the only ones of the 300th left in the field. Scared and concerned would be putting it mildly. The unit had left us stranded. We quickly threw all our gear into the truck and proceeded to exit the field but we had no idea which direction the unit had gone. We decided to go left and proceeded slowly with only the "cat eye" headlights. The farther



*300th building bridge in Normandy with Commanding Officer Col. Riel Crandall observing at the left*

we went the louder the machine gun and rifle fire got. When the driver hit the brakes to turn around, they made the loudest screeeeech I had ever heard in my life. I just knew we were gone at that point. I could see all of us as German prisoners.

"We turned around and slowly went about two miles when we got a glimpse of a small light in the distance. We had no idea if it was American or German. We got lucky! It was one of our MPs directing traffic. We inquired if a convoy had passed by and he said that it had. This was one time we were extremely happy to see an MP. After going another mile or two we reached the 300th convoy. I have often wondered how we would have ever been reunited with the unit if we had not located them that night."

300th Engineer Hubert Reinke recalls being in a fox-hole in Normandy. "When we

were laying the mine field, the 101st Airborne had fox holes. I was looking for a place to hide because we were under fire. One ole boy said, "Get in the hole with me." So I ran and jumped in the hole with him. Everything got quiet and we heard the command car come in. He was a Colonel all dressed up all in creases and shirt, walked around and looked in our foxhole. He saw that the 101st Airborne guy had a German Luger stuck in his belt. The Colonel looked down and said, 'Soldier, I want you to give me that Luger.' This 101st guy said, 'Look Pal, I killed one son-of-a-bitch to get it and I'd kill another son-of-a-bitch to keep it.' We never heard anything more about it."

*Note: The web site of the 300th Combat Engineer Battalion can be found at: www.300thcombatengineersin-wvii.com*

**BY BRAD PETERS AND JAN ROSS**

**ERVING** - In recognition of the 65th anniversary of the Normandy Invasion and the U.S. campaign in Europe, the Montague Reporter will follow the men of the 300th Combat Engineer Battalion as they moved through France, Belgium and Germany from their landing in Normandy in June 1944 to VE Day on 8 May, 1945. Donald Ross, father of Jan Ross of Erving served with the 300th.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**  
**Hit and Run on Griswold Street**

**Thursday, 5/28**

5:56 a.m. Assist other police at French King Bridge area.

**Friday, 5/29**

1:05 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a High Street address. Investigated.

3:21 p.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted]

Charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and no inspection sticker.

8:26 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at an Avenue A address. Peace restored.

8:48 p.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted]

Charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, driving as to endanger and resisting arrest.

8:53 p.m. Report of vandalism at a Turners Falls Road address.

**Saturday, 5/30**

12:20 a.m. Assist Erving police at a Pratt Street address.

3:34 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Federal Street address. Investigated.

6:08 p.m. Report of trespassing at a West Main Street address. Investigated.

10:15 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a G Street address. Investigated.

**Sunday, 5/31**

12:56 p.m. Report of a hit and run accident on Griswold Street.

4:32 p.m. Assist Erving police with traffic stop on Route 2 near Smokin Hippo restaurant.

10:56 p.m. Report of an assault at a Fourth Street address. Arrested [redacted]

Charged with assault and battery, domestic.

**Monday, 6/1**

11:07 a.m. Report of an unwanted person at a Millers Falls Road address. Services rendered.

4:30 p.m. Report of larceny at Our Lady of Czestochowa cemetery.

7:50 p.m. Report of loud noise disturbance at Railroad Salvage building, Power Street. Dispersed Gathering.

**Tuesday, 6/2**

4:47 p.m. Following a traffic stop arrested [redacted]

Charged with operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license. 5:19 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on a straight warrant.

**WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY**

- System 2000 (Energy Kinetics)
- Thermo Pride
- Weil-McLain
- Other Major Brands
- Expert Burner Service

**MACKIN FUEL TRUCKING SAND & GRAVEL**

**(413) 773-3622**

**Your Clear Choice for QUALITY VINYL REPLACEMENT WINDOWS**

**SUNRISE**

(413)498-4318

Fully Insured  
Free Estimates  
Honest Work  
Honest Prices!

Mass. Contractor Reg. #107141  
Mass. License #059565

**JOE GRAVELINE**

**GARRY L. EARLES, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W.**

EDUCATIONAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTANT  
NEURO-BIOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

FRANKLIN COUNTY, MA  
PHONE: 413.863.4128  
EMAIL: GLE@EFURNACE.NET  
WWW.GARRYEARLES.COM

SINCE 1888

**A.H. Rist**

INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

159 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

email: tracey@ahrist.com  
web: www.ahrist.com

**Tracey Kuklewicz 863-4373**  
Vice President

**Barlow Landscaping, Excavating & Paving, Inc.**

Bryan Barlow, CEO

Demolition  
Seal Coating  
Tree work  
Construction Services  
Septic Systems  
Paving  
Power Sweeping

P.O. Box 386 Turners Falls  
413-772-2155  
Cell Phones:  
413-775-3376  
325-5596

**EDWARDS TREE SERVICE**

- Storm Damage Restoration
- Cabling & Bracing
- Shade Tree Maintenance
- Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding

**Matthew Edwards Certified Arborist**

- Owner
- Climber
- Insured

**Wendell • 978-544-7452**  
www.mattedwardtree.com

RATES SO LOW YOU'RE WITNESSING HISTORY

**IT'S TIME TO BUY**

- DON'T MISS OUT ON BUYING YOUR DREAM HOUSE  
- CALL NOW AND GET PREAPPROVED!

**- TIM PREVOST 413-773-8984**  
TIM.PREVOST@NCMC.COM

**National City Mortgage**

Programs eligible for change without penalty

**Tognarelli H/C**

HEATING & COOLING

123 Avenue A • Turners Falls MA 01376

Specializing in oil heating alternatives  
Pellet Stoves • Gas Conversion Burners  
Financing Available

**YORK 413-863-2295** **SPACE PAK**  
Central Air - Anywhere

## Strawberry Rhubarb Pie

(recipe adapted from Fannie Farmer)

3 cups fresh rhubarb, cut into 1/2 inch-sized pieces  
1 cup sliced fresh strawberries  
Mix together: 3/4 cup sugar  
2 T. flour  
1 beaten egg

Blend the egg mixture with the fruit and fill a nine inch pie crust. Make a lattice top and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Bake at 425 degrees for about 40 minutes. Enjoy!

BY LESLIE BROWN MONTAGUE CITY

At the tail end of the winter, California asparagus began to arrive in the stores. While I prefer to buy local produce, I couldn't resist a bunch of this green taste of spring.

On the reverse of the

California company's label was a recipe for "Beer Batter Fried Asparagus." I'm not kidding! You make a batter of beer, flour and salt; coat the asparagus spears with it and then deep-fat fry. You have concocted another delicacy to please the American palate for fat and salt. Right up there with the new rage for deep-fat fried Twinkies!

Fresh spring asparagus has a fine, strong flavor which needs only the embellishment of a little butter, if anything. It also requires just a brief moment in the pan or the vegetable steamer. You want to serve it still firm so there is some bite to it.

Enjoy now our local asparagus picked and sold

## THE GARDEN GOURMET Spring Delicacies

the same day. Cook enough to eat as a stand-alone green vegetable and then enjoy how its bright flavor can embellish eggs in omelets or quiche.

The other traditional spring tonic of the season is rhubarb. This astringent fruit can be sliced and stewed with sugar or served in a pie crust. Try an

extremely palate-pleasing combination of rhubarb and fresh strawberries for a sweet-tart flavor.

Be sure not to miss indulging in these seasonal treats. Asparagus, rhubarb and strawberries are no-fat, low-calorie natural foods. Strawberries provide fiber and are high in Vitamin C and flavonoids which act as antioxidants. Asparagus is a low calorie source of dietary fiber and is high in folic acid and potassium. Rhubarb is a natural laxative and is high in calcium, potassium, Vitamin A and lutein. (Do note that rhubarb leaves can be highly toxic and should not be eaten.)

These foods have been



Strawberry Rhubarb Pie

## Fresh Asparagus Omelet

1/2 cup lightly cooked or steamed asparagus  
3 eggs, beaten

Grease a large frying pan lightly with butter or oil. Put over medium heat and add the eggs. Cook the eggs until they are set (firm, yet not dry.) Put the asparagus on one half of the omelet. Using a spatula, lift the other half of the eggs onto the top of the asparagus. Allow the bottom to brown lightly. Serve immediately. If desired, once the eggs are set, sprinkle a light layer of cheese before adding the asparagus.

around for a long time growing as wild plants. Both rhubarb and asparagus are considered to have medicinal value. Small wonder that these early spring treats have been enjoyed for centuries.

## Local Nature Notes

### June: Things to Hear, See and Do

BY JEN AUDLEY

**DEERFIELD** – The full moon rising just before 9 p.m. on June 7, and the new moon on June 22.

**Baby birds in nests.** Listen for the sound of baby birds begging - a continuous, shrill squeaking that you may be able to follow to the nest. Stand quietly a safe distance away, and you may see the nestlings' harried parents delivering high-protein tidbits (insects, grubs, caterpillars, worms) to their demanding offspring. If you watch for a while and the adults don't return, back up! Nervous parents may refuse to visit the nest if you are standing too close.

**Birds learning to fly.** Young birds take a while to get the hang of flying. Look for birds taking short flights, making wobbly landings, and delaying take-off until the last possible moment. You might also hear

newly fledged birds making begging sounds, and see their parents feeding them.

**Lightning bugs, also called fireflies,** flashing at dusk in grassy areas. The insects you see in the summer (actually a kind of beetle) have only recently gained their flashy, winged adult form. They spent their youth as ground-dwelling larvae, eating earthworms and slugs! This summer's fireflies will live for only a few more months. The fertilized eggs they leave behind will become the next generation.

**The frogs of summer.** The sounds of spring peepers and wood frogs have mostly given way to the trill of gray tree frogs, the "uh-oh" twang of green frogs, and the insistent croaking of bullfrogs. Keep an eye out also for toads - adults in window wells and gardens, and tiny juveniles emerging from

ponds around the end of the month. (Look for them on dirt roads near water.)

**Strawberries.** In our area, most strawberry plants' flowers transform into fruit in June. Buy these seasonal delicacies while they last at farm stands, farmer's markets, and grocery stores near you!



Juvenile Bullfrog On Lily Pads

The sunset, right now at about 8:20 p.m., and by the end of the month around 8:30. Sunrise comes close to 5:15 throughout the month, as we approach and then pass the summer solstice on June 21. After this date, the amount of daylight we experience begins to decrease a bit each day.

### LEARN MORE

**Morning Nature Walks  
Wednesdays and Fridays,  
7:30-9:30 a.m.**

Start the day observing nature in Turners Falls! Join staff from the Great Falls Discovery Center in an amble over paved bike trails and village sidewalks. Walks are designed to last about 90 minutes, never covering more than about 2 miles over level pavement. Meet at the bird bath outside the main entrance to the Discovery Center. For more information, call 413.863.3221 or visit [www.greatfallsma.org](http://www.greatfallsma.org).

**Second Saturday Hike:  
Wendell State Forest  
Saturday, June 13,  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Northfield Mountain sponsors this hike to Farley along Ruggles Pond, through a forest hit by the wind storm of 2006, and then up to a beautiful overlook for lunch, before returning via Mormon Hollow Brook ravine. This gorgeous 6.3 mile stretch of trail includes lots

more change in elevation than last month's walk, and hikers will be rewarded with a quick dip in a swimming hole near the end of the trek. Bring a bathing suit, lots of water, lunch and hearty trail snacks. Hike requires carpooling. Ages 12 and older; Free; Pre-register by calling 800-859-2960.

**Summer Solstice Shad  
Paddle; Reach 19  
Sunday, June 21,  
4 - 9:30 p.m.**

Northfield Mountain invites you to celebrate the Summer Solstice, enjoy an evening sunset, and search for spawning shad as we take a leisurely paddle down the Connecticut River from Montague to Sunderland. Bring your own boat, plus dinner or snacks to eat as we float downriver, a flashlight with a spare set of batteries, and a spirit of adventure. Carpooling will be required at the beginning and end of the program. Ages 12 and older; Free; Pre-register by calling 800-859-2960.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

**Renaissance Excavating, Inc.**



COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill  
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462

**Jack Nelson**

- Clay/Stone Sculpture
- Pottery
- Fine Art Drawings and Paintings

BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.

TELEPHONE 413.863.9299  
email: [carriagehouse@signedinstone.com](mailto:carriagehouse@signedinstone.com)

65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

**MONTAGUE THE BOOKMILL**  
413-367-0309

**KEENE**  
89 1/2 MAIN ST  
603-355-6633

**MUSIC & MORE**  
BRATTLEBORO  
2 ELLIOT ST  
802-251-6015

**TURN IT UP!**  
ALWAYS BUYING  
CDs LPs & DVDs

**NORTHAMPTON**  
5 PLEASANT ST  
413-582-1885

**EASTHAMPTON**  
116 PLEASANT ST  
413-392-0072

website: [TURNITUP.COM](http://TURNITUP.COM)

**F.M. KUZMESKUS INC.**

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

MOTORCOACH TOURS & CHARTERS



413-863-2595 • WWW.TRAVELKUZ.COM

**SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO. INC.**

SCSC

"Rock solid service with level advice"

Complete Masonry Supply

Offering a complete line of pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block and much more.

413-863-4322

298 Avenue A, Turners Falls [www.shanahansupply.com](http://www.shanahansupply.com)

**Mary Lou Emond**  
Certified Residential Specialist

**COHN & COMPANY**  
Real Estate Agency

117 Main Street • PO Box 638  
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638

413-773-1149 x142 • HOME: 413-863-4568  
EMAIL: [MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM](mailto:MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM)



BACCI'S from page 3



Name brand yarns can be found in abundance at Bacci's.

yarns," explains Brown, who purchased Bacci's with his fiancée Tory (Middleton) Groth in February.

Groth grew up in Greenfield and graduated from Greenfield High School. Brown grew up in Tampa, Fla. but has lived most of his life in Connecticut and Vermont. For 17 years he was in the auto industry, in both sales and finance.

Simultaneously, he sold Electrolux vacuums door-to-door on Federal Street in Greenfield, and then ran full service vacuum and repair stores in Nashua, N.H. and Fitchburg, Mass. before settling in Northfield with Groth.

"Repairing vacuum sticks with you. It's like riding a bicycle," says Brown, who says he enjoys the challenge he faces with each machine brought into his shop.

Brown and Groth will soon begin wedding planning, but want

to get the shop on steady financial footing first, he explains. Each has three children - Hunter, 8, Ryan, 4 and Christopher, 3; Henry Jr., 20, Chelsea, 19 and Katelyn, 13.

"There's not another yarn shop around here-you have to go to Northampton," says Brown. "We want to support the local area. It's the big guys who put the little guys out of business."

Bacci's is open Monday from 9:30-5:30, Tuesday from 10-6:30, Wednesday and Thursday from 10-8, Friday from 10-5:30 and Saturday from 10-4.



Postcard from Brittany ~ June 09 - TWO CHURCHES

BY DAVID BRULE

FRANCE- Jour de Fête à St. Maurice.

Preparations had been underway since Friday, everything had to be ready for the feast day of St. Maurice on Sunday, May 24. The church, a rather small country chapel had been built under the Reign of Jean IV, Duke of Brittany in the 15th century. It's situated just a short walk from our house, and is closed almost all year round, except for this feast day. To get there, we walk along a small tree-lined path, next to a hand dug channel of water called the Rigole d'Hilvern. An engineering marvel, about 6 feet wide and five feet deep, it was calculated to drop just enough over the distance to allow for a natural flow to the main canal, 30 miles away. Stone walls, now covered with flowers, form the banks, a clay bottom was placed down to prevent leaks. It was developed in the early 19th century to provide a source of water for the Nantes-Brest canal. The Rigole is lined with columns of stately ash and chestnut trees, their branches echo with the songs of cheeky little robins, mistle thrushes and chaffinches. The banks overflow

with the bright yellows of buttercup, the deep blues of hundreds of clochettes. We reach the ancient chapel by leaving the stream and following a dark path between fields, a tunnel created by overarching trees, to step out into the sunny space around the humble church.

The day before the feast day, I visited the site. A cavernous tent was set up in the field, as well as a rectangular bar next to the church, ready to serve wines and cider for the celebrants. The area behind the chapel was groomed for the competition of boules (the French version of bocce) guaranteed to draw neighborhood specialists and artists of the sport. For now the grounds were quiet, but by early next morning, churchgoers and celebrants of all inclinations would begin showing up early, when both the sacred and the profane would naturally find themselves side by side for this typical Breton pardon in memory of a martyred Roman saint from the distant 5th century.

Sunday, of course, began with a mass. About 150 of us gathered for the short procession around the outside of the church and then we filed into the ancient

building. Over the door, cherubs from the 15th century were chiseled into the granite, looking strangely like naïve Celtic mischief-makers with a wry medieval smile. Inside, statues of obscure Breton saints looked down upon us. Part of the fieldstone walls were covered with ancient plaster, streaked with water stains from centuries of rain, other walls are bare, their ancient stones needing no cover. Every seat was filled in the chapel. From the back of the church where I stood, a sea of gray-haired faithful watched the mass; others, younger, followed the ceremony too with curiosity. Standing in the back, both out of duty since I towered over most of the shorter, older congregation and partly because old habits are hard to break! So whether I wound up standing near the doors of St. Mary's back home, or in the back of humble St. Maurice, there I was among the guys who liked to be in the back. Easier to sneak away from time to time, I suppose. In fact, we did slip away after the sermon, to check out the other less religious preparations. At one point one of the faithful attending the mass appeared at the

see CHURCH pg 16



makesmokinghistory.org

BEFORE YOU LIGHT UP, LOOK DOWN.

Children exposed to secondhand smoke are more likely to suffer from ear infections and asthma. Secondhand smoke hurts.



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

TC2431

Busy Bee Painting Interior and Exterior Brian Bodell Paint Contractor • Remodeling • Drywall • Masonry • Decks • Additions 26 Main Road Gill, MA (413) 863-4343 BusyBeePainting@peoplepc.com



NAWCC No. 0101315 (781) 438-8489 (508) 633-2552 ANTIQUE CLOCKS Bought and Sold BOB PACY WILL TRAVEL STONEHAM, MA 02180

EL GRECO Cafe it's Feta-otic! 233 Main Street Greenfield, MA 413.774.2844 Hours: Mon. - Wed., 11am - 8pm Thurs. - Sat., 11am - 9pm Sunday, Noon - 8pm WiFi Always! 10% OFF with this Ad (not including specials)

# the poetry page

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

- William Carlos Williams

The editors would like to thank the following for their generous financial underwriting of The Poetry Page:

**Klondike Sound, Carlin Barton, Montague Dental Arts, Dr. Robert Koolkin, Michael Farrick, Green Fields Market, and Michael Muller**

Poetry Page edited by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, Janel Nockleby and Jamie Berger

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

design by Boysen Hodgson

### Genesis

No sound is made now, no hollow scream of rage in the church of despair. I bask in the silence, its pure light my life. After death I understand everything, know nothing, see all. At once denied and accepted, grand contortionist in the wind whose love is boundless, magnificent, terrible; whose strength is weakness, and form, a shapelessness out of which I reconstruct the eyes of a child.

--Kevin Smith  
Turners Falls

### Heavensent

The trickery of light

We marveled at the sight, The trickery of light, Split by a floating prism Born aloft by fickle breezes, Carried from some neighbors Engaged in summer play with their children.

Lighter than the air Drifting from the blue sky, Half a dozen bubbles Coming from somewhere Beyond our rural homestead, Unknown and unexpected So pleasing to the eye.

Slowly descending through Branches of maples spread About the stonewall border That composed our backyard. They came through without a loss, And mingled in the garden. Among lilacs, tulips and iris.

Though I felt no breeze, No zephyr, or puff of wind The fragile visitors Migrated to within my reach And leigh giggled her response. We too, sue and I laughed At such serendipity.

The lightness of being Enveloped our little family. As these effervescent spirits Danced about or circled our heads. Momentarily I felt intoxicated, And heard sue exclaim "oh dear!" she reached out for a steady hand.

These half a dozen small moons Translucent and transcendent Seemed to have a dizzying effect As they spun around us without Moving elsewhere I wondered At such behavior of these Stray spheres created of air.

-- Doug Turner  
New Salem

### 100

A poem

Once I had a microwave that had 100 watts and once I had a friend that had 100 shiny pots.

Once I saw a ladybug that had 100 eyes and once I saw a bakery that had 100 tasty pies.

Last week I met a lady who had 100 fussy cats and yesterday a man who had 100 little hats.

Last year I met a chickadee that had 100 seeds, then I saw a garden that had 100 weeds.

Last spring I saw a maple tree that had 100 birds and if you read this poem it has 100 words.

--Ayana Sofia

see the images >>

### CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:

Doug Turner is a housepainter/poet grandfather writer, and a trustee of the New Salem library.

Ayana Sofia, age 9, is home schooled, and she wrote this poem with 10 illustrations. She won the Reading Rainbow Writing Contest for Western Mass in her age group, and she may also be invited to read the poem on the local PBS channel. In addition, she qualifies to go on and compete on the international level.

Kevin Smith is 52 years old, a Turners falls resident, tubist and therapist as well as poet.

Kathryn Flagg is a member of Circle of Voices, a poetry group facilitated by the library in Allendale, NJ.

Patrick Cavanaugh lives in Turners Falls.

Eddie Graveline lives in Gill, MA.

LOGOS & BRANDING  
GRAPHIC DESIGN  
ILLUSTRATION  
WEB SITES  
COPY WRITING  
BUSINESS STRATEGY  
INTERNET MARKETING  
MISSION & VISION

**H<sub>2</sub>O**  
BOYSEN HODGSON

413 303 9193  
www.h2-om.com

**AJ's CYCLE**  
274 Rt. 2, Gill

• gloves  
• boots  
• accessories  
• gift certificates

**MOTO GUZZI**  
**BMW**

**(413) 863-9543**  
Allan • David  
email: AJCYC@CROCKER.COM  
WWW.AJCYCLE.COM

**BASICALLY BICYCLES**  
Sales • Service • Rentals  
BIKES FOR EVERYBODY

RECUMBENT SPECIALIST

◆ Rans ◆ Catrikes  
◆ KHS ◆ Sun

Expert Repair on all types of bikes

On the web at: [www.BasicallyBicycles.com](http://www.BasicallyBicycles.com)  
88 3rd Street, Turners Falls • 413-863-3556



**Tornado Allie**

The earth trembles with fear  
 As the winds howl like a thousand souls  
 Windows crack while baby cries  
 Cumulonimbus bring forth thy lightning  
 Whilst cracks of thunder shatter the calm of night.  
 Fallen are the timbers of the willow  
 Fear the howls of forgotten fury  
 This tyrant put before you  
 Wind speaks of a thousand fears  
 Whilst foundations crumble  
 In the presence of pure force  
 The end is near

--Patrick Cavanaugh  
 Turners Falls



**Weeds - Worthy and Otherwise**

free tasty tonics  
 dandelion and milkweed  
 reaped at tender age

nettles and thistles  
 ready with their stings and stabs  
 shock the human touch

lush mountain laurel  
 adorns spring festivities  
 so dependably

hardhack pasture weed  
 but cow paths are elegant  
 edged with steeplebush

trailing greens for wreaths  
 and partridge berry beauty bowls  
 basic Christmas cheer.

--Kathryn Flagg  
 Allendale, NJ



**Fire Men**

I know a little about firemen,  
 Because I am the wife,  
 Of a brave and selfless firefighter,  
 Have been over half my life.

It is a special calling,  
 Takes a certain kind of man,  
 That can put others before himself,  
 To do all he can.

Takes a lot of backbone,  
 To put your fears on hold,  
 And hurry in a burning building,  
 You have to be real bold.

You fight the flames with courage,  
 Water and a prayer,  
 Bring out everybody,  
 Out into the fresh air.

You breathe the smoke, you hack the soot,  
 You take the heat again,  
 To fight the fire and the flame,  
 And help your fellow man.

A little child like rubber,  
 Feels dead as dead can be,  
 But your rescue and your CPR,  
 Brings back life for all to see.

Your fellow firefighter's your brother,  
 You have a common tie,  
 To look out for each other,  
 In that your strength does lie.

There is a strength of character,  
 A moral code that's high,  
 One you bring to work with you,  
 And live by till you die.

You choose to dedicate yourself,  
 To your fellow man,  
 To help him in his time of need,  
 Is the main part of the plan.

You walk a straight and narrow path,  
 You hold your head up high,  
 You make others all around you,  
 Feel on you they can rely.

You never disappointed,  
 You never didn't care,  
 Fire, flames or time of need,  
 You'd always be right there.

You've helped out so many others,  
 When your time comes I am sure,  
 Someone will be there for you,  
 For your reward and more.

Heaven will sound its trumpets,  
 The gates will open wide,  
 Another firefighter has come home,  
 To Heaven to reside.

There won't be any fires,  
 No strife or any stress,  
 Your job has been well done,  
 Now you'll only have to rest.

Others have gone before you,  
 And others will come it's true,  
 But you have surely made your mark,  
 There is one and only you.

You have fought the battle,  
 You did so all your life,  
 To make a safe and happy home,  
 And I am one proud wife!

--Edie Graveline  
 Gill, MA

**[5] from blepharism**

(half of everything half asleep)  
 convulsion of universe  
 into spasm  
 called  
 my body  
 out of sand and watching sleep recede  
 the thing  
 that is continually delivered  
 to itself,  
 I am it:  
 a thing to contemplate stars I  
 guess  
 even now  
 I watch me  
 watch me continually coming to  
 (originally published in Forklift, Ohio)

--Christopher Janke  
 Greenfield

**SKIP'S ROADSIDE DINER**  
**POLISH, ITALIAN & AMERICAN FARE**  
 Open 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM Daily · Closed Sundays  
**Best Polish Food this side of Krakow!**  
 24 French King Hwy @ TF Bridge  
 863-9991

**COUTURE BROS.**  
 Since 1910  
**Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor - Retailer**  
 CALIFORNIA BRAND PAINTS - INDUSTRIAL COATINGS  
 PAINTS - STAINS - SUNDRIES - WALLPAPER - BRUSHES & ROLLERS  
 COMPUTER COLOR MATCHING - SANDBLASTING MEDIA - GLASS  
 ARTIST SUPPLIES - CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING/MATting & MORE  
 187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346  
 99 Years on the Ave!

**Gerri Johnson**  
 CRB, CRS, GRI  
 Seniors Real Estate Support  
**Gerri Johnson & Associates REALTORS**  
 66 French King Highway  
 Gill, MA 01376  
 (413) 863-9736  
 Fax (413) 863-9739  



**BAKER Office Supply**  
**New and Used Off-Lease Copiers**  
 We Service Everything We Sell  
 All Inclusive Maintenance Agreements  
 774-2345  


Locally owned since 1941  
  
 Full service market  
 Fresh Local Produce  
 Beer & Wine  
 70 Allen Street Greenfield, MA 413-773-1100  
 FAX 413-773-1105

**COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE**  
**KUSTOM AUTOBODY**  
 MA Reg #RS2066  
 48 Randall Road  
 Montague  
 Phone/413-863-3780  
 Mike Fuller, Owner

# Stewart's



**Nursery and Garden Center**  
135 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls

**48 Years Growing Experience**

200 Acres of Nursery Plants  
Garden Center & Gifts  
Container Plants  
Residential Plants  
Trees & Shrubs  
Annuals & Perennials



**Beautiful Annuals & Perennials**  
**Vegetables, Geraniums, Azaleas in Bloom**

**Lilacs 4'-5'**

Regularly \$60  
On sale for \$19.99

**Lilacs 5'-6'**

Regularly \$100  
On sale for \$24.99

- Landscape Design
- Mulch
- Deliveries Available
- Nursery Stock arriving Daily

Open Seven Days  
Mon to Sat 7am to 5:30pm  
Sunday 9am to 5pm

Tel: (413) 863-2510  
Fax: (413) 863-3079

Please shop locally  
Support  
Montague Reporter  
advertisers

## June at the Great Falls Discovery Center

BY DON CLEGG

**TURNERS FALLS-** The Great Falls Discovery Center has many activities and events planned for June. Every Wednesday and Friday morning there will be nature walks from 7:30 to 9:30 am. Topics will include fern and other plant identification, beginning birding and much more. Early morning risers will meet by the front entrance.

Weekly on Sunday mornings from 10:00 to noon there will be "Refuge Rambles" which will include interpretive talks on a variety of refuge topics such as geology, mammals of the north woods and many more environmental topics. If you are not all worn out from all this walking, on Saturday, June 6th and 13th at 10:00 am and again at 1:00 pm there will be Saturday hikes with a DCR interpreter. Each hike will be an exploration into the nature or cultural history of the Village of Turners Falls.

On display in the Great Hall



The Great Falls Discovery Center

for the entire month is nature photography by John Kudukey. Come meet John and view his black and white river photographs at an open reception on June 6th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.

The Great Falls Coffeehouse Series will present on June 12th a performance by Celtic Harp performer Rosemary Caine. Doors open at 6:30. Refreshments and baked goods will be on sale and the museum and the museum store will be open during intermission.

Come visit your Great Falls Discovery Center on June 25th as we celebrate our local community members for "Community Celebration Day." There will activities throughout the day for children of all ages. In the evening, starting at 5:30 p.m. the Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center and the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge will present a special presentation by Tom Ricardi, bird rehabilitator. Come view his birds of prey and learn about their interesting behaviors

and characteristics - you just might see a bald eagle up close. Later in the evening the Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center will host their annual meeting, and the lucky raffle ticket for the kayak will be drawn.

On June 27 from 10:00 to noon there will be a presentation on why the Connecticut River is important to our lives in so many ways. Learn about the natural history of the river and recreational opportunities offered throughout the entire National Wildlife Refuge. This event is geared towards teenager and young adults from 12 to 19 years of age, but all are certainly welcome.

The Discovery Center is now on summer hours, open daily from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. For more information on any of these events or if you wish to get involved with this wonderful local resource then contact the Center at 413-863-3221 or check out [greatfallsma.org](http://greatfallsma.org)

from GRADUATES pg 1

opinions known, assuring them "when you stand up, they listen." He said it's important to participate, not just sit silent and let others decide. "Have a voice, speak up and vote."

Sam Colton, the salutatorian, in his address quoted his grandfather, Francesco Modesto Battaglini, an Italian immigrant, who said, "Get a good education, because nobody can take it away from you." He followed his speech and charmed his audience



Sam Colton

with a rendition of the Ink Spots "I'll Get By," which was met with smiles and applause.

Class Valedictorian Nicholas Skarzynski's talk addressed the future. He offered advice on some guiding principles as he and his classmates faced their new freedom and the many choices ahead. Saying that while most students would either be going on to college, the military or work, he noted that for the first time in their lives, no one would be telling them what to do.

"It's easier to follow the path laid down by others than to follow our own path," he said. "We all wanted to work towards something worthwhile." He encouraged graduates to follow their own path. "We can live to fulfill our dreams." Skarzynski closed by saying, "Good luck, Turners Falls High School. Remember to love and never give up!" As with all that went before, the room full of joyous admirers erupted in applause and cheers.

Ken Rocke, interim superintendent, then addressed the graduates, saying he was sorry he'd

not had more time to meet with them during his tenure, but whenever he'd had a chance to sit in a classroom and talk to stu-



Leah Booker accepting an award.


dents he'd always been very impressed by them. He said they should be proud of themselves and all their years of hard work.

Congratulating them on their graduation, he said the most important thing he hoped they'd take away were a love of learn-

ing and moral courage, which "any one of us can demonstrate at any time."

He told a story of his grandparents, who were both immigrants. His grandmother who came from Russia in the Ukraine, was his example of a lifelong learner. She never had an opportunity to go to school, but she spoke three languages: Russian, Yiddish and English. When she was 70 years old she finally had a chance to learn to write and proudly showed them how she could write her name for the first time in her life.

Until then she'd had to sign her name with an X.

Rocke encouraged graduates to make a plan for the future for five years ahead. In closing he said, "I have great faith in you, that you can achieve what you aspire to be." 

**GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE**  
Locally Owned Since 1918

**Local Farmer-Owned**

Shop with your neighbors  
Support local agriculture

Products for your animals, home, farm, garden & yard

269 High St. Greenfield (413)773-9639

**LAPINE MULTIMEDIA**

MOVIES, SLIDES, VIDEOS & MORE!  
CONVERTED TO DVD, VHS & OTHER FORMATS!

**Bill & Kathy White**  
**413-773-7747**

**Great Rates, Fully Insured!**

**Greenfield Co-operative Bank**  
A Great Financial Partner

**BestLocalBank.com**  
Reach All Locations 772-0293  
Greenfield • Northfield • Sunderland

MEMBER FDIC  
MEMBER SIF

**GREENFIELD IMPORTED CAR SALES**  
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner

AUDI • VW • VOLVO • BMW

Announces the Hiring of Mike Baldwin, Master Toyota Technician since 1982. Bring in your Toyotas, Hondas and Asian Cars

Locally owned since 1972

**413-774-5517**  
**335 High St., Greenfield**  
**LAautosales.com**

**Four Winds School**

*Cogito ergo periculosus sum.*

[www.fourwindsschool.info](http://www.fourwindsschool.info) 863-8055

**MontagueWebWorks.com**

build | manage | create | 413.522.4808



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ – Q: *What are the most common food allergies?*

Foods that produce most allergic reactions in adults include fish, shrimp, lobster, crab, peanuts, eggs and tree nuts such as walnuts and pecans. Common children's allergic reactions are caused by eggs, milk, wheat and peanuts.

A true food allergy is an abnormal response by your immune system to certain foods. All reactions to foods are not allergies. When you have a reac-

tion that doesn't involve the immune system, this reaction is called food intolerance.

For example, if you don't have enough of the enzyme lactase, it is difficult for you to digest lactose, the main sugar in milk products. Lactose intolerance can cause bloating, cramping, diarrhea and excess gas.

If you have a food intolerance, you may be able to eat a little bit of problem foods safely. However, if you have a true food allergy, even a tiny amount of food may set off an allergic reaction.

Food allergy symptoms can strike within minutes of digestion. Some allergy reactions are troublesome but not threatening. However some allergies can be lethal.

Common symptoms for food

allergies are: a tingling in the oral cavity, itching, hives, eczema, facial and oral swelling, difficulty breathing, wheezing, nasal congestion, abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, and fainting.

If you have a severe reaction known as anaphylaxis, the dangerous symptoms are: narrowing of your breathing airways, shock, dramatic drop in blood pressure, rapid pulse and becoming unconscious. If you have any of these symptoms, get immediate medical attention.

If you have anaphylaxis, you may need an adrenaline injection. If you have a severe allergy, your doctor may prescribe an injectable that you can carry around.

Exercise can trigger an allergic reaction to a food. In severe

cases, it can cause anaphylaxis. This allergy can be prevented by avoiding food for two hours before exercise.

There is an oral allergy syndrome caused by some fresh fruits and vegetables. The reaction is usually mild and makes the mouth itch or tingle.

If allergies such as hay fever are common in your family background, you are more likely to have food allergies. A child who has one parent with an allergy has about a 50 percent chance of developing an allergy. If both parents suffer from allergies, the child has about a 70 percent chance of developing an allergy.

The only surefire way to avoid food allergies is to stay away from foods that bother you. For mild allergies, you can take antihistamines to control your reaction and help relieve discomfort.

If you have a food allergy, here is some advice:

- Study all food labels.
- Watch everything you eat and drink carefully to insure that the foods that trouble you are not hidden somewhere in your meals. This is especially important in restaurants.

If you have a severe allergy, you should wear a medical alert bracelet or necklace with information about your condition to help emergency medical technicians if you can't speak. Also, talk to your doctor about carry injectable adrenaline.

If you have asthma, be on guard against sulfites. In restaurants, ask if sulfites have been added to foods. In the supermarket, check labels for the terms sodium bisulfite, potassium bisulfite, sodium sulfite, sulfur dioxide and potassium metabisulfite.

*If you have a questions write to fred@healthygeezer.com*

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG**

**Trespassings and Uttering**

Wednesday, 5/27

9:17 p.m. Report of prowler at West Gill Road residence. Checked area, all OK.

9:59 p.m. Trespassers removed from Barton Cove Road.

10:22 p.m. Report of intoxicated subject at a Main Road business, assisted same with transport to Greenfield.

Thursday, 5/28

6:02 a.m. Report of possible suicidal subject enroute to French King Bridge. Responded to area to stand by.

1:01 p.m. Assisted resident at station regarding trespassing issues on West Gill Road.

Friday, 5/29

10:00 a.m. Report received from Walnut Street resident regarding suspicious behavior.

5:15 p.m. Motor vehicle accident at Main Road and French King Highway. Report taken.

10:01 p.m. Report of barking dogs on Center Road, checked area.

Saturday, 5/30

12:30 p.m. Community policing at elementary school for carnival.

Sunday, 5/31

8:10 p.m. Report of larceny from a French King Highway residence.

Monday, 6/1

1:11 p.m. Report of past disturbing the peace at a French King Highway residence.

3:59 p.m. Report of Internet fraud and uttering taken at station.

Tuesday, 6/2

3:55 p.m. Larceny of mail from a Main Road residence, under investigation.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG**

**Dumping From Rental Truck**

Tuesday, 5/26

9:40 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license, subsequent offense, speeding and defective headlight.

Wednesday, 5/27

10:05 a.m. Report of a loose dog on North Street. Located same, returned to owner.

5:30 p.m. Officer to Lillian's Way regarding a property dispute. No criminal laws broken, civil matter.

10:15 p.m. Assisted Gill police at Barton Cove with two suspicious subjects near the ranger station. Area checked for possible damage, subjects moved along.

Thursday, 5/28

6:05 a.m. Report of someone threatening to jump off of the French King Bridge. Patrolled area, subject not in the area.

2:10 p.m. Report of a white Budget rental

box truck dumping large amounts of debris, glass and metal, near International Paper Mill. Truck eastbound on Route 2, unable to locate.

5:45 p.m. Report of a domestic dispute on Pratt Street. Located subjects involved. Subjects advised to keep it down.

Friday, 5/29

4:40 p.m. Officer to a Ridge Road address for a barking dog. No one home at residence.

10:45 p.m. 911 hang-up call from Camp Road, Laurel Lake camp ground. Checked area, spoke with workers. No problem found.

Saturday, 5/31

1:05 a.m. Report of a disturbance at a Pratt Street residence, possible firearm involved. Arrested [redacted] for

disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and for

being a minor in possession of alcohol. 2:05 p.m. Report of property damage and vandalism at a Semb Drive address.

Sunday, 5/31

4:04 p.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after revocation of license and without insurance.

9:00 p.m. Report of two male subjects shooting something off in the Weatherhead's Apartments parking lot and then fleeing on foot. Patrolled the area, subjects gone on arrival. Observed vehicle with fresh damage to tail light.

Monday, 6/1

7:55 p.m. Report of a disturbance at a Prospect Heights Lane address. Arrested [redacted] for assault and battery, domestic, and intimidation of a witness.

11:30 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicles at Weatherhead's Apartments. Subject just picking up daughter, all OK.

**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666**

**Simply Computing**  
computer set-up  
training  
QuickBooks

**Debbe Dugan**  
774-5451  
Your Pace at Your Place

**Pine Nook Daylilies**  
Open May 9th - August 15th  
Rain or Shine  
Weekends 10:00-5:00 Weekdays by Chance  
Field Dug Plants, Over 130 Varieties

- 5 & 10 South 1st left onto River Road After the Cheapside Bridge in Deerfield, 6 Miles South
- Or Rt. 116 South last left onto River Rd. before Sunderland Bridge, 3 Miles North

413-665-7137  
307 River Rd, So. Deerfield, MA

**DOLAN & DOLAN**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A  
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS  
01376  
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

**CopyCat PRINT SHOP**

- full color offset printing
- digital copies
- oversize copies
- files accepted via email

We Specialize in Impossible Deadlines!

23 Years of Making Copies and Still the Original!

up-to-the-minute technology • old-fashioned personal service

180 Main Street, Greenfield • 413-774-3500 • greenfield@copycatprintshop.com

**Renaissance Builders**

Quality, Craftsmanship, Original Thought

390 Main Road, Gill MA 01354  
413.863.8316  
www.renbuild.net

**RIVERSIDE RADIATOR**

General Auto Repair  
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS  
and HEAVY EQUIPMENT  
Foreign and Domestic

Propane Filling Station  
Route 2, Gill  
863-4049 1-800-439-4049  
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

A sumptuous array of silk, heirloom whites, velveteen, rayon, wool & Japanese printed cottons. Vintage-inspired buttons, jewelry & scarves.

**Delectable Mountain Cloth**  
125 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301  
www.delectablemountain.com  
please visit our website or the store for even more  
(802) 257-4456

**Pam Veith Real Estate**

75 Main Street  
Northfield, MA 01360

Office: 413-498-0207  
Ofc. Fax: 413-498-0208  
Home Phone: 413-863-9166  
Home Fax: 413-863-0218  
Email: bedson1@comcast.net

Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald  
ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR  
REALTOR

"My Office is Always Open to You!"

"Sandwiches like mom used to make" -Kharma Salon

- Pierce Brothers Coffee  
Locally Roasted in Greenfield  
Organic Fair Trade Espresso, Cocoa & Tea
- Fresh Baked Goods
- Diamond Farm Eggs
- Adams Donuts
- Soup made from scratch
- We Roast our own Meats
- Daily Specials
- Wifi

111 Avenue A Turners Falls MA  
call in for fast pick up! 413-863-2800  
Mon - Fri 6:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Reliable Hours & Friendly Service

# JEP'S PLACE: Part CXXV

## Almost a Perfect Day



**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL** – I was savoring the liberty of being on vacation for the summer, out in the fresh air raking hay with our homemade tractor and a one-horse dump rake. It was a rake Pa bought at auction, after having sawed the trip rod off the old rake to keep me from

using it, saying I was too lazy. He saw the error of his ways and bought a replacement rake when Mr. Lambert hired me to rake hay with his tractor. Pa saw me using a rope hooked up to the trip lever on Lambert's rake and decided using a rope to trip the rake was not such a bad idea. I loved driving and raking the hay into piles. The warm sun and gentle breeze felt good. First I raked the hay into windrows, letting up on the gas as I yanked on the trip rope. Then I straddled the windrows to gather them into piles. I aligned the haycocks in rows, leaving room for the hay wagon to pass.

Seeing the haycocks in neat alignment filled me with pride. I loved the aroma of new mown hay and the feeling of freedom, away from stuffy classrooms, out in the open air under sunny skies doing something useful. Life couldn't get any better than this, I thought, humming a little tune. The noise of the engine seemed to harmonize with my happy melody. I thought about times past when the whole family took part in the haying ritual. It usually began the first part of June, and I always looked forward to the hustle and bustle that went with it. I loved the excitement and noise - the clatter of the mowing machine, its pitman arm and cutter bar knives flying to and fro in a blur of moving parts.

There was always a sense of urgency. Pa would scan the sky for signs of rain as the family hurried to get the hay raked, piled into haycocks, loaded on the wagon and hauled into the barn before a sudden summer rain storm could spoil it. But now the kids were gone. They'd all left home except for Louis and me. But I didn't dwell on it. I knew we could still get the hay in, even if it took a bit more time, as long as the weather held. And nothing could ruin this perfect day. Pa came trudging out to the field, and I wondered why. There was no need for him to be out here. His last heart attack had slowed him, and he really looked his years. He held out a letter and

I shut off the engine so we could talk. "This came in the mail for you," he said, and watched as I opened it. The letter was from Mount Hermon informing me that they felt I'd be happier going to school elsewhere. "What's it say?" my father asked. "It's from Mount Hermon School. They don't want me to come back." "What you gonna' do?" he asked. "I don't know, Pa," I said, starting up the engine to resume raking hay.

- Continued Next Week

**The Town of Wendell**  
The Town of Wendell seeks qualified applicants for a full-time Highway Department Employee to work under the direction of the Highway Superintendent. Responsible for all duties involved in road maintenance, construction, and repair, including snow plowing, sanding and physical labor. Applicant must have a valid Class A or B CDL license with an air brake endorsement and get a Hoister's License within two months of hiring. Also have a clean driving record, must pass a town provided physical and drug test prior to hiring, and must agree to random drug tests during employment. Ability to work with public is essential. Salary starts at \$13.66 per hour. Benefits provided. Application and/or resume and cover letter due by June 16th, 2009.  
Highway Superintendent  
P.O. Box 187  
Wendell, MA 01379

**Part-Time Library Assistant**  
The Town of Erving is seeking applicants for a P/T Library Assistant. 12 hours/week. Performs routine public library service duties at a small friendly C/W MARS library. Works independently. May assist with library programs and events. High school diploma or equivalent. Bachelor's degree and library experience preferred. Requires exceptional customer service skills, computer skills and the ability to put the library user first. Please submit resume and cover letter via email by June 15th, 2009.  
ervinglibrary@netscape.net  
Barbara Friedman, Director  
Erving Public Library  
17 Moore Street  
Erving, MA 01344

**CALL TO ARTISTS: Artful Bike Rack Proposals**  
The Turners Falls RiverCulture Project invites artists to submit proposals for design and construction of a bike rack to be placed on Avenue A near the Shea Theater in downtown Turners Falls. The rack will provide safe and creative bike parking, which is currently not available in the center of town. Design themes are open to creative contemporary interpretations of Turners Falls' sense of place and should reference the character, history, and fabric of the local community. Deadline for proposals is July 30, 2009 and total project budget is \$3,000. An official RFP must be obtained before submitting a proposal.  
*Details and RFP available on the RiverCulture website: www.turnersfallsriverculture.org or by contacting Lisa Davol at 413-230-9910 or riverculture@montague-ma.gov.*


**MCTV Channel 17 Afternoon/Evening Schedule 6/5 - 6/11**  
Visit [www.montaguema.net](http://www.montaguema.net) for complete schedule

<b>Friday, June 5</b> 3:00 p.m. The Well Being - HIV 4:00 p.m. Over The Falls: SFBA 5:00 p.m. Chemtrails the Movie 7:00 p.m. GMRSD 6/1/09 8:56 p.m. GMRSD 5/26/09	<b>Monday, June 8</b> 2:30 p.m. Underground Railway Concert 07 4:00 p.m. TWB Snoring and Sleep Apnea 5:00 p.m. Tiny Tim 6:00 p.m. Thomas Jefferson 6:30 p.m. The Western Mass Democrat Lt. Gov Tim Murray 7:00 p.m. Select Board (Live) 9:30 p.m. Turners Falls vs New Leadership
<b>Saturday, June 6</b> 9:00 a.m. Annual Town Meeting 2009 (Live) 6:00 p.m. Zero 8:00 p.m. Women Girls & HIV: African American Women 8:30 p.m. Wisdom Way Solar Village Documentary 9:30 p.m. White House Chronicle #1017-1018 10:30 p.m. Full Circle Adoptions 11:30 p.m. Carlos W. Anderson: "Get a Clue"	<b>Tuesday, June 9</b> 1:00 p.m. BioMass Q&A 6/4/09 4:30 p.m. The Revolution will not be Televised 6:00 p.m. The epics at the Voo 7:00 p.m. GMRSD (Live) <b>Wednesday, June 10</b> 3:00 p.m. Block Party 08 4:30 p.m. Both Sides of the Bridge 5:30 p.m. Exploring New Worlds in New England 6:00 p.m. Annual Town Meeting 2009
<b>Sunday, June 7</b> 1:30 p.m. Carlos Anderson Gospel Choir Celebration 3:00 p.m. Discovery Center: Northern Bats 4:00 p.m. TBA 4:30 p.m. Over The Falls: SFBA 5:30 p.m. On The Ridge: The Great Outdoors 6:00 p.m. Naturalist Laurie Sanders 7:00 p.m. 2009 District Wide Spelling Bee 8:30 p.m. Coffee House: Acapella 10:00 p.m. An Inside Look into Iran	<b>Thursday, June 11</b> 1:30 p.m. Into the Way of Peace 2:30 p.m. Inside The Artists Studio: Ted Graveline 3:00 p.m. Memorial Day 2009 4:00 p.m. Living Along The River 6:00 p.m. Memorial Day 2009 7:00 p.m. Select Board 6/8/09 9:00 p.m. Biomass Q&A 6/4/09

**HIKE from pg 1**  
way, Walker Korby provided the naturalist's interpretation of wildlife signs: bear spoor full of sunflower seeds, some of which were already sprouting, indicating that the bear had passed by a good while before. So much the better. He also pointed out groves of witch hazel with stripped bark due to the grazing of deer and the rubbing of antlers to remove their velvet. Various birds called from the diverse habitats found on the tract: redstarts and red-eyed vireos called from the boundaries of pine and deciduous growth, scarlet tanagers, black and white warblers, even a blue-headed vireo moved through the leafy canopy, and

an ovenbird sang near the brook with its small waterfall. All the hikers were specialists to some degree, either in conservation or mountaineering, so the pauses and pleasant recounting of stories and anecdotes were frequent, as was the methodical checking for ticks. The group learned to recognize at least two new (to them) species of trees: the pignut hickory and the witch hazel. The hike took an hour and a half with the frequent stops and ended back on Old State Road. While saying good-bye, the group spent time removing and counting ticks. Walker Korby won that competition, finding just about six!

**WENDELL from pg 1**  
expenses they requested a new sanding truck and a new used backhoe, to be paid for from stabilization. The meeting recessed after approving a resolution from the school committee supporting the committee's efforts to maintain local control of schools; the meeting will continue on Monday, June 8th at 7:00 p.m.



AYANA SOFIA ILLUSTRATION

**T.L.C. TURNS LAWN CARE**  
Specializing in all aspects of Lawn and Property Maintenance.  
Located in the Heart of Montague Center.  
"Spring Clean Up and Season-Long Property Maintenance"  
Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured  
45 Main Street, PO Box 926, Montague, MA 01351  
Gary Turn, Owner Phone: 367-0230 Cell: 522-2563

**GREAT FALLS COFFEE COMPANY**  
4 Main Road, Gill



**RISTORANTE Di Paolo**  
FINE ITALIAN DINING  
WEDNESDAY WINE NIGHT  
Glass \$5, Bottle \$20  
Appetizers \$10  
THURSDAY NIGHT JAZZ  
6:30 to 9:30  
Open 5 to 9 Wed, Thurs & Sun, 5 to 10 Fri and Sat  
Closed Mon & Tues - Available for Private Parties  
413-863-4441  
166 Avenue A, Turners Falls  
WWW.RISTORANTEDIPAULO.COM

**ALL GRADE PLUMBING & HEATING**  
Brian Bowden-Smith  
Lic: PL31465-J  
413-863-5218  
413-834-2576



**The WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT**  
BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER  
Giddy Up  
Route 2 · Gill  
413-863-8210  
BERKSHIRE BREWING BEER NOW AVAILABLE



**PETER WATERS**  
HOUSE PAINTING  
Interior Exterior 978-544-6534  
Wendell MA



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## FRIDAY, JUNE 5th

At The Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *River Discoveries*, story and craft activity for 3- to 5-year-olds and their parents. Come learn about what makes rivers so vital to animals' survival. 11 a.m. to noon.

*Together on the Land: Options for Sustainable, Affordable & Ecological Living in Community*, panel discussion, 7 to 8:30 p.m. held at 2nd Congregational Church, Greenfield. More info at [www.vclt.org](http://www.vclt.org) This discussion focuses on concrete examples of sustainable community living right here in Franklin County. The goal of this discussion is to connect people with organizations and individuals working towards sustainable community living, offer real-world examples of community models, and explain basic information about how they work.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *The Insitgators*, classic Rock & Roll great sounds, 9:30 p.m.

At the Bookmill, Montague Center: *Alina Simone*. "Simone, an overtly passionate songwriter, is equally comfortable performing the anthemic Russian songs of Yanka Dyagileva, a Siberian punk icon, as she is singing her own, more haunting, material." — the New Yorker. Also a reading by local writer Sara Majka, as well as a special guest TBA. \$10, 8 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke* welcomes you and Valley Idol Contestants! 8 p.m. free.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 5th & 6th** Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Yojimbo*, classic Kurosawa-Mifune samurai epic, 7:30 p.m. Japanese with English subtitles. Music before the movie, 7 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 6th

The Town of Montague Annual Meeting, 9 a.m. Turners Falls High School. Also live broadcast on Montague Community

Television, MCTV, channel 17.

Boghaunters & Other Dragonflies, join ABNC president Dave Small and naturalist Lula Field at the Millers River Nature Center for an introduction to these fascinating creatures and then carpool to the field. Children welcome. 8:30 a.m. Info: Dave Small, (978) 413-1772 or [Dave@dhsml.net](mailto:Dave@dhsml.net).

Saturday Nature Hike: Join Department of Conservation and Recreation Interpreter Steve Winters as we hit the trails—on the Montague Sand Plains or in Cabot Woods to observe rare flora and fauna, or on the Canalside bike path and sidewalks of Turners Falls to look at the industrial history and the geology of the village. Meet at The Discovery Center, Turners Falls, 10 a.m. Info: (413) 863.3221 / [www.greatfallsma.org](http://www.greatfallsma.org).

At the Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Artist's Reception* for John Kudukey, view his excellent black and white river photographs on display in the Great Hall. Refreshments served! 1 to 3 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Mary Kate Trio with Dan Margolis and Dan Gotin*. Blues/Jazz/Rock Dinner show at 7 p.m. *Turn it Loose*, rock & roll, their only area show at 9:30 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Equalites*, reggae, \$5 cover, 9:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 7th

Museum of Our Industrial Heritage reopening celebration, 10 to 4 p.m. Historic Franklin County made cutlery, tools and machinery exhibited and demonstrated. Special exhibits include museum's collection of art with an industrial theme by local artists, the industrial contribution Franklin County made during WWII, and a blacksmithing demonstration. Housed in the Newell Snow Factory, 2 Mead St., Greenfield. Children welcome, free. [www.industrialhistory.org](http://www.industrialhistory.org)

## MONDAY, JUNE 8th

Singing star: *Ruth Harcovitz*, "Boston's Julie Andrews" performs at the Montague Senior Center at 1:30 p.m. Tickets \$2.

Evening Sing-Along, 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. At the Montague Center Library with Children's Librarian, Linda Hickman. Guitar and banjo with a variety of children's music. For more information, call

the Carnegie Library 863-3214 during the week, or the Montague Center Library, 367-2852, on Monday evenings.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 9th

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

Accessible Birding with

JACK DOUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

*Mile Line*. [www.coopconcerts.org](http://www.coopconcerts.org).

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

## FRIDAY, JUNE 12th

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



Harpist *Rosemary Caine* joined by *Robin Pfoutz* on cello, *Jim Ferry* on bass, *Michael Morgan* on guitar & *Rob Terreden* on percussion. Together they will present an evening of music best described as "Eclectic Celtic." Performances take place in the acoustically rich historic Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls, Friday, June 12th, 7 p.m.

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

Open rehearsal for The Amandla Chorus, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Temple Israel, 27 Pierce Street, Greenfield. Amandla is looking for new members. The open rehearsals are intended to give interested singers the experience of working with current members of Amandla, which performs songs of justice, hope, and celebration in a variety of languages from around the world. Also on June 23. Singers are welcome to attend one or both sessions. Contact: Eveline MacDougall, (413) 773-8655, [www.amandlachorus.org](http://www.amandlachorus.org)

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10th

Social Ballroom Lessons every Wednesday 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dance till 9 p.m. \$8 per person. Come solo or bring a partner. At the Montague Elks, Turners Falls. June classes: Fox Trot! Info: call Frances (413) 885-8888.

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

Super Fun Bowling Club, non-competitive bowling club for all ages and abilities! 7:30 at the French King Entertainment Center. This week's theme: The Future is now! Get ready for some futuristic fun!

*Elmer and the Elder Tree*, the Piti Theatre Company's interactive nature fable for family audiences: At Greenfield Community Television, 393 Main St., Greenfield, 4 pm. No ticket fee but donations are accepted. All audience members will have to sign an image release form. Audience space in the studio is very limited, reservations required. Call (413) 625-6569 or email [info@ptco.org](mailto:info@ptco.org).

## THURSDAY, JUNE 11th

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

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

The Bookmill, Montague Center: *Don't Tell Darlings*. Their repertoire weaves threads of the old-time, Western Swing, early country and blues, bluegrass, and jug band traditions. Imagine a Depression-era mix tape. With Megan on guitar and Millie on the banjo, their sound is characterized by tight female harmonies and a penchant for songs that let everybody know: these girls will fix your wagon, and that's a promise. Also *The Feel*, 8 p.m. \$10 cover.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 13th

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

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

## MONDAY, JUNE 13th

*Acting Like a Leader*, the Piti Theatre's Creative Leadership Workshop held at Green Fields Market, Greenfield. Acting techniques can have all kinds of fun (and useful) applications in life, work and leadership. Participants will practice them in a supportive context and generate new insights to take home. Advance registration recommended: (413) 625-6569, [jonathan@ptco.org](mailto:jonathan@ptco.org). \$15/free for co-op members. (FCC) [www.ptco.org/next](http://www.ptco.org/next)

## ONGOING

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

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

## HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER

MONDAYS – Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m.

TUES & WEDS – Ongoing

Music Project, 3 to 6 p.m.

THURS– Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m.

& Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.

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

Info: Jared at 863-9559.

Hot Spot Teen Center is in

The Brick House

24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376

**THE LADY KILLIGREW:**  
still proudly serving  
**BROWN RICE SALAD**

440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA  
7 Days / 8am - 11pm (at least)  
(413)367-9666

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

**B. RUBIN & SONS INC.**

**COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS**  
Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters  
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236  
10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES  
MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

**Pipione's**  
SPORT SHOP

- Fishing supplies; Live bait
- Baseball & Softball Supplies
- Fishing & Hunting Licences
- Paintball & CO<sub>2</sub> Refills

Open 7 am 7 days a week  
101 Ave A, Turners Falls 414.863.4246

**RENAISSANCE PAINTING**

LICENSED, INSURED  
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING, ALL PHASES • POWER WASHING

**BRIAN McCUE, PRESIDENT**  
240 GREENFIELD ROAD • MONTAGUE, MA  
PHONE & FAX: 413-367-9896

Memorial Hall Theater  
**POTHOLE PICTURES**

**Friday & Saturday**  
**June 5th & 6th at 7:30 p.m.**  
**YOJIMBO**  
Classic samurai epic. Darkly comic and visually entertaining, set the standard for the "Spaghetti Western" genre, as well as countless American action films. Directed by Akira Kurosawa. 1961. NR. B & W. 110 min. Japanese w/English subtitles.

Music before the movie 7 p.m.  
51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

**GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS**  
Main St. Greenfield, MA  
413-774-4881

[www.gardencinemas.net](http://www.gardencinemas.net)  
Showtimes for Friday, June 5th to Thurs., June 11th

1. UP PG in DTS sound  
DAILY 6:30 9 FRI, SAT, SUN 12 3

2. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SMITHSONION  
DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG in DTS sound  
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00

3. ANGELS AND DEMONS PG13  
DAILY 6:30 9:00  
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00

4. DRAG ME TO HELL PG13  
DAILY 6:45 9:15  
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15

5. STAR TREK PG13  
DAILY 6:45 9:15  
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15

6. LAND OF THE LOST PG13  
DAILY 7:00 9:30 in DTS sound  
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

7. THE HANGOVER R in DTS sound  
DAILY 7:00 9:30  
FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

**Dona Med**  
Cafe & Pub

**Draft Beer Fine Wine Great Food**

Thursday, 6/4 8 to 10 p.m.  
Kalliana

Friday, 6/5 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.  
Mass Production:  
Special Reggae night with Obadiah Sun, Simon White, Joe Cunningham, Jay Stanley and Christian Marano

Saturday, 6/6, 9 to 11 p.m.  
A Ghost Quartet  
Jazzy Blues with a taste of Swing  
Sunday 6/7 Jay Stanley and his Kalimba

**978-544-BREW**  
57A Lockes Village Road  
Next to the Wendell Country Store

**The Rendezvous**

ALL HANDS ON OUR DECK!

THURS: 6/04 | 8PM | FREE  
The Raised 5th (jazz)

FRI: 6/05 | 8PM | FREE  
TNT Karaoke welcomes YOU & VALLEY IDOL CONTESTANTS

SAT: 6/06 | 9:30PM | \$5  
The Equalites (reggae)

FOOD SPECIALS THIS WEEK:  
The Recession Special has grown up!  
Ham/Turkey Sandwich w. mayo/mustard, side of roasted potatoes and a PBR! 6.99

LUNCH? BRUNCH? LATE? GREAT!  
FREE WIFI - Always!

78 THIRD STREET  
TURNERS FALLS, MA  
RENDEZVOUSTFMA.COM  
TEL: 413-863-2866



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

**BY LESLIE BROWN**  
**MONTAGUE CITY** - Memorial Day weekend and the true Memorial Day have come and gone. Traditionally, gardeners wait for the end of May before putting in cold-sensitive plants such as tomatoes and peppers since night time temperatures in May can often go quite low and there is still danger of frost.

Seduced by several days of unseasonable heat, I put my first six tomato plants in on the third weekend of May. When the heat was followed by gusty winds and cold nights, these tender plants paid the price. The bottom leaves paled and spotted. I held off planting any more tomatoes until the end of the Memorial Day weekend. Fortunately, the tops of the first-planted tomatoes are thriving now and I have removed the lower leaves so that the plants can put their full energy into the healthy growth.

**CHURCH** from page 9  
 back door of the chapel, asking the five or six drinkers at the bar tent a few feet away to lower their idle chatter and laughter, since it was disturbing the services!

After mass, we headed for the tent where the food would be served. 15 tables, seating 36 people each had been set up, while the grilling of sausages and pork cutlets had begun. As the meal progressed, a number of acquaintances filed by, visiting, exchanging jokes and news with the older members of our family. Many hadn't seen each other in ages, or at least since the feast day of last year. Stories of the St. Maurice feast from before the war circulated again, some remembering exploits of men and boys in road races, greased pole climbing, vaulting over the canal, and famous games of *boules*. Old

The further good news is that these early planted tomatoes are already flowering, and I have hopes of a somewhat earlier crop. It's always a long wait from the seeds to edible fruit, especially since I've been studying the catalog pictures of full sized ripe tomatoes since late winter.

I have also been putting in my sweet peppers. In the thirty years I've been gardening here by the Connecticut, the latest frost date was May 21. Of course, it could still happen, but we are usually protected by fog on those chilly nights after a warm day. Since the weather will soon turn hot for good, it's worth the gamble to get the crops in and growing. That said, I will still wait for the first weekend of June or so to put in the fragile squash plants.

It's not too late to plant beans either. This year I've planted an old fashioned green bean called Kentucky Wonder. These will be prolific on vines trained up a teepee of bamboo poles. While I've had crops of bush beans decimated by bean beetles, I've never had a problem with pole beans, and the teepee adds some interest to the row plantings in the garden space. One year I planted

neighborhood stories of course, and considering this has been celebrated every year since the 1490s, there's a lot to remember!

After the meal and the talk, we headed back home, five minutes away. The 80 year olds in the family had had enough partying for one day, so back home we found ourselves, enjoying coffee in the sunny late afternoon, listening to the birds and the sounds of the revelers that went on long into the evening, just a few fields away.

#### Return to St. Sulpice

The massive form of the church of St. Sulpice rises above the hustle and bustle of the busy square down a side street in an ancient neighborhood in Paris. The city noise of cars, buses and jackhammer fall away as you penetrate the silence of the church. The interior is awesome, and quiet.

## THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

# The Pleasure of Aching Muscles

Scarlet Runner beans. These produced beautiful red flowers before the beans set, although the beans were not as tasty as some.

I've also planted lemon cucumber seed and a mix of colorful nasturtiums to brighten the garden green. The lemon cukes are sweet and crunchy raw and make a nice pickle later when they are a bit overripe for raw eating.

That hot spell we had earlier in the month shortened the season for some of my favorite flowers. The lilacs, lily of the valley and iris are short-lived anyway, as are most spring blooms which prefer the cooler weather, but I only enjoyed these beauties for a few days this year before they browned off from the heat.

Now the peonies are opening and the Beauty Bush is in full bloom. The resident hummingbird has been enjoying it as have the yellow swallowtail butterflies. The Rugosa roses are in bloom, pink and white, reminding me of the oceanside beach they came from.

I am fortunate to have a pink rose grown from the seeds of one which grew at the cottage where Woody and I honeymooned.

What a charming place that was: built at the edge of the river marsh leading to the ocean. It had been owned by an elderly woman who was increasingly struggling with memory loss. There were notes and memos all over the place, identifying things, giving reminders of things which needed doing.

We went there for several years, so I began to feel that I knew her. One year when the full tide and the full moon were in confluence, the water came up to the stone wall and the air was filled with birds feeding on the marsh all night. It was truly magical. It is a great pleasure to have a rose whose ancestor belonged there.

My new David Austin English roses look healthy and hearty. I found vole tunnels at the base of another favorite, Sweet Juliet. This prompted me to set up the mole and vole chaser, which is basically a battery-operated metal post in the ground that sets off intermittent vibrations which are supposed to be irritating to tunneling rodents. I will need to invest in a couple more of these as one will impact a circle of fifty feet or so only.

Then there's the woodchuck. My neighbor tells me we have two this year. I haven't seen either, but usually by the time you've seen one, it's too late. I have set a circle of chicken wire around my thriving pea plants, which should deter a woodchuck, while at the same time making it more difficult for me to harvest peas later.

I am going to plant the squash plants inside the square of wire cages which support the growing tomatoes and pepper plants. All of these measures will only visually deter a critter which may be fearful of entrapment, but will not stop a determined twenty-pounder happy to climb a fence or squeeze through a narrow opening for a taste of fresh summer green. Of course, it would be one thing if they took just a nibble here and there. A mid-sized or full-grown woodchuck can demolish a whole plant or row in no time flat.

All this talk might lead some to think gardening is a fool's venture and a lot of work given the lack of assurance of reward. It is a bit like gambling, but the rewards are the freshest, most tasty food you'll ever eat and share in your life. Plus the work is a pleasure of aching muscles and enormous stress relief.



Tower of St. Sulpice

photo from www.sacred-destinations.com

Occasionally a chair scrapes the stone floor, and echoes in the cavernous, muffled silence. Light streams through the towering stained glass windows. Visitors shuffle counter-clockwise around the outer aisle, hundreds of cane-woven chairs fill the center facing the main altar. Like all huge baroque churches, this one is also laid out in the form of a cross.

One unusual feature of this church is a bronze double line across the floor running east to west. This is the infamous "gnomon median" laid down in the 1700s with the permission of Rome, as a scientific experiment intended to establish a permanent way of measuring the earth's seasonal movement in relation to the sun. It has however become infamous because it's featured in the

*Da Vinci Code* as one more clue in the novel of the mysterious secret brotherhood that protects the mysteries of the Holy Grail. The Church of course insists the material in the book is pure fiction. There are numerous disclaimers to this effect on the wall near the obelisk where the bronze line ends, and where the sun, entering from a distant window in the opposite wall, makes its seasonal climb up and down the column.

Respectful visitors file past the various altars around the church, but many are looking for the median. As for me, I stop at one of the side altars, and all the church-upbringing in my past gives me to pause in front of the sanctuary of St. Anne, patron saint of Brittany and Quebec. I light a candle for the ancestors. For indeed, recent research into the genealogy of our family, has placed one of our early forebears in this very spot in the 1600s. Working painstakingly through long hours of research from her home on Crocker Avenue, Barbara Ripingill, as historian of our extended family, was able to pinpoint the ancestral parish of my 7th great grandfather as this very same St. Sulpice! His name was Michel Aubert, and he was born in

this parish in 1610, and later married his wife Jeanne here in 1635. Their daughter Elizabeth also born here, emigrated to Quebec where she married in 1670, and began a new life and family in New France. In their day, this place was a simple parish church in the fields and woods surrounding Paris. Of course, the city grew up around the parish, and as the congregation grew, the need for a bigger place of worship grew with it until the earlier more humble building was replaced in the 1650s by the massive edifice standing here now, five times bigger than the original. I feel like somehow, once again, life has come full circle. A branch of the family came from this very parish more than 400 years ago. I've frequented this neighborhood, and passed by this church off and on for the past forty years without realizing my ancient connections to this place. And now I wonder, with this revelation of the ancestral ties to this parish putting some perspective to the story, could it explain in some strange way how some of us with a certain amount of imagination, are attracted to certain places, and that some of us sense we've been here before?

**HOMESPUN By Andy's**  
 329 Deerfield St., Greenfield 413-773-3911 www.andyssoak.com

Braided Rugs Home Accessories Curtains

Come In To See Our Everyday Specials  
 And Ask Us About "Try Before You Buy"

**MATTIE'S PLACE OF ERVING**  
 Grinders, Pizzas & A Whole Lot More  
 Full menu available ~ Dine In, Take Out, Free Delivery

French King Entertainment Center  
 55 French King Highway  
 (413) 423-3032 Soft Serve Ice Cream

Sun - Thurs: 10 am - 10 pm ~ Fri and Sat: 10 am - Midnight

**Sokolosky Realty**  
 56 4TH STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MASS. 01376

Craig Dalrymple  
 Sales Associate

OFFICE (413) 863-4393  
 HOME (413) 367-9970  
 FAX (413) 863-4949

**HOPE & OLIVE**

LUNCH TUES - FRI, 11:30 - 2:30 | DINNER TUES - SAT, 5-9 | SUN BRUNCH 10-2, DINNER 5-8

"We serve  
 homegrown, farm-inspired food and drink.  
 Presented simply, using the best ingredients  
 from our neighborhood."

Phone 413-774-3150 | 44 Hope Street, Greenfield | WWW.HOPEANDOLIVE.COM