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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS GILL ERVING WENDELL

Year 3  
 No. 21

50¢

# The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 10, 2005



## Moving Forward on Dry Hill

JOHN REYNOLDS PHOTO

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**MONTAGUE** -Getting through a public meeting with an attorney throwing up objections at every turn can be more difficult than walking up a disused road to an overgrown cemetery, but the Montague selectboard held their patience and persevered

Monday night, March 7th, in an attempt to gain some ground on the contentious issue of public access to the Dry Hill Cemetery, on town-owned Dry Hill Road in Millers Falls. James Senn, whose land abuts both sides of Dry Hill Road along Wendell Road as far back as the ceme-

tery, told the selectboard his grandfather had blocked off the public road many years ago. Since then, it has been difficult for relatives, genealogists, or curious sightseers to visit the graves in the old cemetery without traveling a long washed out side road called Dry Hill Cross

Road, via East Chestnut Hill Road near the Wendell State Forest. Presently, the demarcation lines and stone wall that used to border Dry Hill Road's intersection with Wendell Road have been obliterated, Senn's excavation business' garage sits hard by the corner of the historic

layout, his cattle graze across the public way, and an electric fence and No Trespassing signs further discourage pedestrian or vehicular traffic to the public cemetery. Under these circumstances, the selectboard's patience, after a series of meet-

see DRY HILL pg 9

## Rosenberg Reports on Laurel Lake Causeway

BY IVAN USSACH

**ERVING** - State Senator Stan Rosenberg made one of his regular visits to the selectboard to discuss issues of local concern. Senator Rosenberg reported on three projects. The Causeway project, involving improvements to a road off of Laurel Lake Road in Erving State Forest, has been completed by the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and "everyone was satisfied" with it, he said. The causeway is the lifeline for 12 summer residents.

The Laurel Lake Road project, referring to efforts by a local group to make "improvements" to the road, which is twisty and bumpy in places - typical in a state forest - "has not been as successful," said the senator. "There's been a lot of back and forth." He referred to the several changes in DCR commissioners since the project was suggested. Rosenberg thought it was best to wait till

see ERVING pg 10

## The Past Colors the Future of Local Cable Access

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

**MONTAGUE** - Ever since a majority of the selectboard voted to give GCTV in Greenfield responsibility for providing Montague residents local cable access programming three years ago, questions have remained in regard to the manner in which the decision was arrived at. The strong feelings and opinions the decision engendered have not gone away. They may soon have an occasion to be aired in public once again.

At the selectboard meeting on Monday, March 14th, the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC), composed of five Montague residents, will present the results of

months of hard work developing an objective process for choosing a local cable provider.

While currently over 3500 Montague subscribers receive their service from Comcast Cable, Channel 15 is run and programmed by a local entity chosen by the board. The CAC has been developing a process for choosing that local entity since July 2004, when the board charged them with developing criteria for doing so.

According to John Reynolds, chair of the committee, the CAC will be "suggesting an RFP format which includes criteria and a sample contract." The criteria will form a basis to determine



which organization is best qualified to offer cable access and will provide the board with a focused and accountable decision-

making process to make that determination.

That would be a new step for Montague. In

see MCTV pg 11

**PET OF THE WEEK****Pick Me!****Abigail**

Abigail is a two-and-a-half-year old female domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. Abigail likes to talk to people and is very loving. She'd stay in your lap all day if you let her! She is grey tiger with white and has lovely green eyes that seem to say "pick me!"

She loves people too much to be without one for long. To learn more about adopting Abigail, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at [info@dakinshelter.org](mailto:info@dakinshelter.org)

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**Montague Center Library News  
Animal Tracking in  
Montague Center**

**BY LINDA HICKMAN**  
**MONTAGUE CENTER** - On Saturday, March 5th, Dawn Ward of Montague conducted a very interesting program on animal tracking for families. We met at the Montague Center Library where Ward set up many display and handling materials. Inside the library, Dawn talked about various signs animals leave, including tracks, nests, and droppings



HICKMAN PHOTO

*Environmental Educator Dawn Ward of Montague points out "snow plops" to animal trackers from Montague, Turners Falls, and Leverett.*

(also known as scat). She discussed and demonstrated how different types of animals walk in various patterns, including bouncers, hoppers, and shufflers such as skunks.

After the introduction, we walked down North Street to the

Montague Center Conservation Land. Along the way, Ward identified various flora, including a large Norway spruce. As soon as we got to the conservation land, the children spotted their first tracks. They guessed they might belong to coyotes or wolves, but Ward explained how to tell the difference between dog tracks and their wild cousins.

Dogs almost never walk in a straight line; they meander, unlike other canines. Dog prints have a deep "X" in the center. Ward quoted a tracking adage she learned: "X marks the spot; Spot marks the X." Dog prints were the predominant animal sign we found on the walk.

The bridge over the Sawmill River is out in the Montague Center Conservation Land, so our walk was limited to the southern fields. The only other type of tracks we saw were a mouse trail that ended in a mouse hole down into the snow. We found an abandoned songbird nest in a bramble lean-

ing over the Sawmill River. Ward said the habitat we were walking through was very suitable for rabbits, but we saw no signs of them. She said she has never seen deer in the conservation land. The very abundant dog visitors may chase away some of the local wildlife.

We enjoyed some signs of the approaching spring. Numerous small insects were crawling over the snow. We heard many birdcalls, including chickadees and crows. We saw crows perched in the tops of trees. We found a pile of small feathers, which probably belonged to a songbird killed by a hawk.

Along the way, Ward identified plants, including majestic sycamore trees, old bedraggled apple trees, and invasives such as barberry. Ward is an environmental educator and a master gardener; she knows her plants.

Three families attended the program, three adults and eight children. It was a beautiful sunny day and we all enjoyed the 90-minute nature walk. The children also relished making their own tracks. They simulat-

**FACES & PLACES****Carley in the Snow**

DETMOLD PHOTO

Carley Sevene

ed otter tracks and made snow angels.

The program was sponsored by the Community Partnerships for Children, who are sponsoring several hands-on science programs for families with preschool age children at the Montague Public Libraries and the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Included in the handouts were pocket-sized cards identifying local tracks. I used my card yesterday to identify a set of tracks that went past my barn and around my chicken coop in Wendell. It was a weasel! Forewarned is forearmed, so I know I need to beef up my fencing.

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES March 14th - March 18th**

**MONTAGUE Senior Center**, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Advanced registration at many of our activities is necessary. We need to know how many people will be joining so we can be prepared. A suggested donation of \$1 per exercise class is appreciated. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip. All Hawthorne trips leave from the parking lot on First Street across from the Police Station.

**Monday, 14th**  
9-11 a.m. Foot Screening, Nail trim and foot soak offered. Donation of \$5 requested. Reservations necessary. Gill & Montague seniors only.  
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics

11 a.m. PACE Aerobics  
**Tuesday, 15th**  
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
1 p.m. Painting Class with Louise Minks. Registration \$10 for Gill and Montague residents. All others \$15.

**Wednesday, 16th**  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 17th**  
1 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 18th**  
9:45 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

**PROTECT YOUR NEST EGG**  
Gill - Montague Triad presents Chris Cloutier, "Protecting Your Nest Egg" on Thursday, March 31st at the Turners Falls High School cafeteria. Roast Pork Dinner, 5 p.m.: \$4 per person (includes \$1 50/50 raffle). Tickets are available at the Gill - Montague senior center, the Gill police department and the Montague police department.

**ERVING Senior Center**, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly

Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

**Monday, 14th**  
9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library  
12:30 p.m. Pitch  
**Tuesday, 15th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
10:15 a.m. Senior Business Meeting  
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting  
**Wednesday, 16th**  
10 a.m. Line Dancing  
11 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic  
12:00 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 17th**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
Noon - St. Patrick's Day Dinner  
**Saturday, 19th**  
8:30 a.m. SHARE Pick Up

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

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# Elks Pinebox Derby: Flea Wins Again! Retires Car #23

BY PAM LESTER -

**TURNERS FALLS** - "Murph" Trophy Races for adults on Saturday, February 26th at its Lodge. Congratulations to John Perrault, "Flea", for winning the adult races.

Flea has won for three consecutive years and has now retired his car, #23.

The children's races were held on Sunday, February 27th with Savannah Emery, car #7, sweeping those races.

Congratulations Savannah! The "Murph" Trophy races began about 10 years ago when Francis C. Togneri, Sr., aka



Center is Francis C. (Murph) Togneri, Sr., surrounded by contestants of the children's races (in no particular order): Savannah Emery, who won, Peyton Emery, who placed second, Scott Brown, who won third place and Reggie Neff, Christa Neff and Josh Dobosz.

"Murph", a life member at the Lodge, suggested that the Lodge have its own Pinewood Derby Races.

The track was built by the membership as a memorial to Brian F. Bogusz, who loved the "Murph" Trophy races.

All proceeds benefit the Elks National Foundation.

Start those plans for next year's races now!

For more information on this annual event please contact the chairperson, Russ Brown, past exalted ruler, at 863-9449.

The first meeting of the Friends of the **Montague Reporter** will take place at The Brickhouse Community Center **Tuesday, March 22nd** at 7 p.m. in the accessible Hot Spot Teen Center room, first floor. Don't wait till then, call Phil at 367-9267 or David at 863-8666 and get involved.

## Vigil for Peace

On the Wendell Common **6 p.m. Sunday, March 20th**

There will be a candlelight vigil for peace in Wendell. We will be joining communities across the United States who are marking the second anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

## An Invitation to Artisans

Submissions sought for Great Falls Art Fest on the grounds of the Discovery Center in Turners Falls from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 30th. Artist submission deadline is April 4th. Glass, fiber art, wood, ceramics, photography, sculpture and other media are all welcome. Contact the Brick House for an application at 413-863-9576 or info@thebrickhouseinc.org.

# Eagle Watch: On the Lookout



BY PAT CARLISLE

**GREAT FALLS** - We have an egg! Our local eagle pair has produced the first egg for 2005. We got a peek at it at 7:45 a.m. on Friday, March 4th, via local access Channel 17, which can be viewed in Montague, Turners Falls, Gill and Erving. Will we see a second or third? They usually arrive from three to four days apart. We hope for chicks to hatch 35 to 37 days after each egg.

GCTV promised taped one-day-later viewing for Greenfield, Bernardston, Northfield, Buckland, and Shelburne. For folks who do not have access to local TV,

we invite viewing at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Avenue A in Turners Falls, open to the public on Friday and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A visit to this museum will amaze you, with life-size dioramas of the Connecticut River valley. Come soon, and watch the eagles on the nest!

Tuesday night turned bitter and chill with harsh winds and driving snow. We worry about the egg we have. Will they lay another? We should watch eagle activity very carefully in the next few days.

## Safety Tips from the Montague Center Volunteer Fire Department

# Burning Brush

BY LARRY PETERS

A reminder to everybody wanting to burn brush this spring: the deadline is the last day in May. To obtain a permit, please contact Shelburne Control at 413-625-8200, or if you live in the village of Turners Falls call 863-4313 to request a permit and to get an explanation of the rules for burning brush.

Burning brush is a privilege, not a right. If conditions are dangerous, like high wind, heat and lack of moisture, then burning brush could get out of hand and start larger fires, so no permits will be issued during those times. Also, it is very important



not to start your brush pile with gasoline or any other highly flammable liquid. Under the right conditions, they could flash back and burn you. We recommend you use a flare or propane torch with newspaper or cardboard.

It's not your local fire department that makes the rules on what you can or cannot burn. The law states that only brush can be burned, not stumps, leaves, tires or trash. You should also start a small burn pile and add to it as it burns down. Some people start a huge pile of brush but then are totally overwhelmed when it all burns at once. Starting small keeps you in control, rather than the fire.

If you have any questions or want your fire department to look at your brush pile to make sure it is an appropriate size and is located in a safe place, then please feel free ask when your calling for your permit.

## Parent/Child Workshops in Greenfield

LET'S MOVE!

Healthy kids need exercise. Parents with young children are invited to a *free* workshop where they will spend a fun hour moving with music, stories and games. Goodie bags with nutritional information and activities will be provided. This Saturday, March 12th from

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Greenfield Public Library. Call Franklin Athol Child Care Services at 376-1151 with questions.

**AREA FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS GROUP**  
Are you a family child care

provider? Come to this meeting and network with other providers, see how to start a group in your area, and get training credits! Tuesday, March 15th from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Franklin Athol Child Care Services in Greenfield. Call 376-1151 for more information.

**SPRING INTO ACTION AT THE YMCA IN GREENFIELD**  
New youth and adult programs starting now. Swimming, gymnastics, fitness, sports & strength classes for the whole family! Plus we have a new golf conditioning program. Join the YMCA & take advantage of all the wellness and recreation programs we offer!  
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# The Montague Reporter

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## Open Dry Hill Road

Lieutenant Ezra Anderson is rolling in his grave. So are his Revolutionary War compatriots, Charles Arnold, Joel Benjamin and his brother Abel. These Montague citizens all, apparently, fought to free the colonies from the unjust tyranny of the British crown. Most would say they deserve the repose of heroes, visited by relatives, historians, and sightseers alike. Instead, they lie with the other denizens of Dry Hill, under cracked and broken stones, in an inaccessible, overgrown cemetery, on a road blocked by barbed wire and electric fences, posted with No Trespassing signs put up by a private landowner. This is not merely a petty boundary dispute; it is a scandal, a grief to families of the dead, and a shame on the honor of our town. It must not be allowed to continue.

We respect the patient approach the selectboard has taken in trying to bring the dispute with James Senn, the landowner in question, to an amicable conclusion. Senn's lawyer, without a legal leg to stand on, has been attempting to coerce the town with the threat of an expensive lawsuit, should the board choose to press its right to reopen the blocked public way to Dry Hill Cemetery. We believe it is unethical for a member of the legal profession to publicly admit his case is without merit, but threaten to pursue it anyway in hopes the sheer expense of the court case will force the town to negotiate

an alternative route to the cemetery. If successful, this approach would leave Senn free to consolidate his property on both sides of Dry Hill Road across the public way his grandfather apparently arrogated to himself 50-odd years ago. The alternate route Senn and his lawyer propose for townsfolk to reach the cemetery would prohibit normal vehicular traffic, and would place an undue burden on seniors and others who would find the three-mile detour over ledge and washed out dirt road a difficult hike. That would set a bad precedent, to put it mildly.

The board's patience bore some fruit this week, as Senn managed to get a few words in edgewise between the interminable outbursts of his lawyer. Senn said he would prefer the road to the cemetery follow the historical route, between his house and his garage, if the town is intent on reopening this short, straight stretch of Dry Hill. He said he would allow pedestrian access along this route, although he would have to wait until spring to move his fencing to protect his cattle pasture. This is a good start. The board, in its turn, took a firm stand to survey and demarcate the road, and to open it up to unimpeded access for its citizens to reach the cemetery.

Dry Hill was one of the earliest commercial thoroughfares in Montague. The stage route from the Center ran east to Wendell and New Salem and on across the drowned villages of the Swift River Valley to Petersham and thence to Boston. Tradespeople and their shops lined the route, along with residences, a school and a cider mill. There's a lot of local history buried up on Dry Hill. It is high time the living residents of Montague be allowed to freely revisit their past and tend the graves of their ancestors, so that they may lie in peace.



## Corkboard the Talk of the Town

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

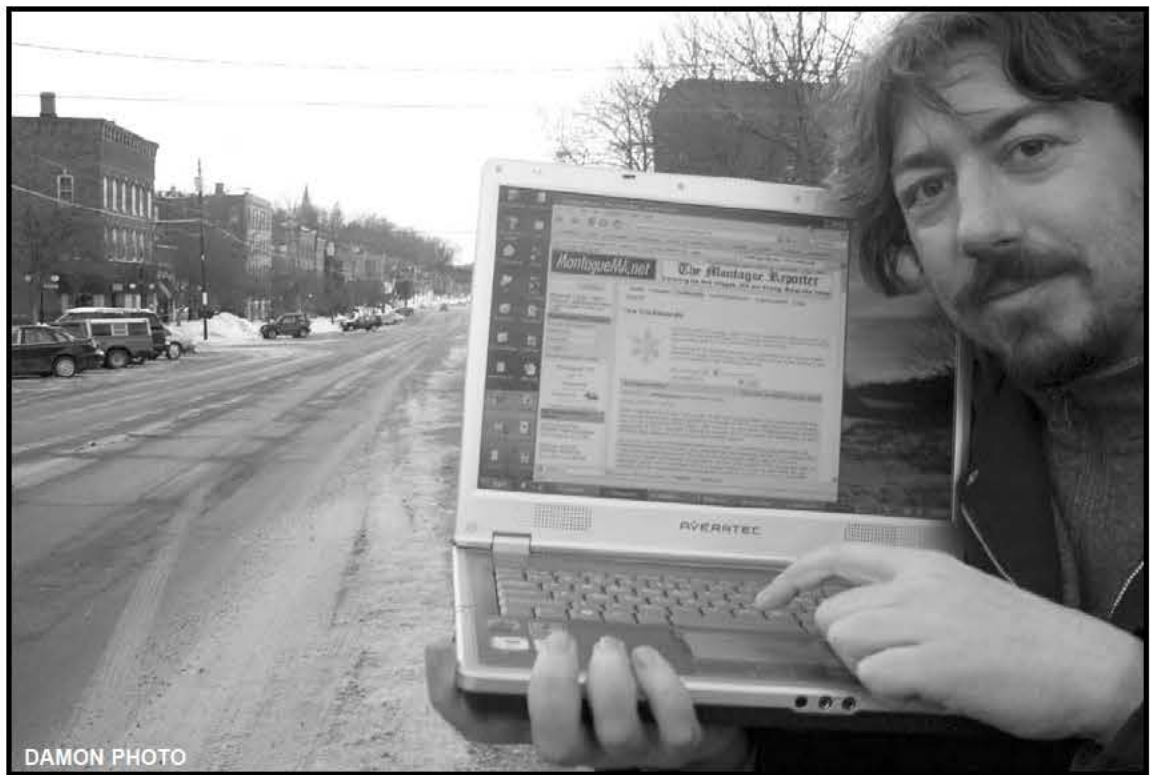
**MONTAGUE** - Like a fine wine, the Montague Corkboard has aged well and continues to refine. On March 16th, it will celebrate its fifth year in operation, providing an important link for local citizens and beyond to the goings on about town.

Since its inception in 1999,

films at the Book Mill and family events at the Grange.

The corkboard is available to anyone who wishes to read what others in the community are thinking or doing. However it is necessary to log on to create an account and provide a verifiable email address before posting a message. According to webmaster Michael Muller, this process

moved to Montague in 1999. One day while driving around he came upon Old Home Day in Montague Center by accident and realized there was no easy forum to find out about local events. Two months later he started [www.MontagueMA.net](http://www.MontagueMA.net) with an online calendar and an email list. In March of 2000, he added the corkboard and it has



DAMON PHOTO

this locally produced and facilitated website has received nearly 7,500 posts and now, about 1,000 visitors a day. Issues of interest to participants have included beaver dams, the rights of walkers and drivers, the Chief O'Brien hearings, the cable access provider uproar and the landfill proposal on Turnpike Road. Old timers may remember Mark2, PaulK, Laura, Gigi and Topltower during this period.

Currently the situation around the Dry Hill Road Cemetery, the potential purchase of the Strathmore mill and that old standby 'national politics' dominate. However there are also posts for real estate, sale items, and local events like

takes only a matter of minutes, is free, and the registration information remains confidential. "It gets people to think before posting," he adds. Today there are 587 subscribers to the corkboard from as far afield as Texas.

Muller takes a laid back approach to the material that is posted. Posts go directly to the corkboards, but if he deems them inappropriate, he may contact the individual before taking action. "I don't delete egregious posts. I hide them," he explains, which allows him to keep a record. Very few people have ever been turned away, Muller said.

Muller came up with the idea for the corkboard when he

since become the talk of the town.

According to Muller, the first message on the board was posted by Tom Adams, who was looking for a lawnmower. He was followed in turn by Jeanne Weintraub, who wanted to get rid of poison ivy, Mark Lattanzi letting people know about a farm products guide, Amanda Mattoon cheering on the arrival of spring and Deborah Huisken offering a Lindy Hop lesson for beginners.

Today the MontagueMA.net website hosts many local organizations, committees and town hall departments at no charge. These include the Montague Grange, the Brick House, the

see **CORKBOARD** pg 5

We welcome your letters.

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**GUEST EDITORIALS**

# School Cancellation Brings Back Memories

BY MARTIN YARMAC

**GILL** - When school was cancelled on Friday, January 16th because it was too cold, it brought back memories. I was born in 1946, a baby boomer. I was raised in the village of Turners Falls. I lived in a building located at the corner of Avenue A and Second Street called the Grand Trunk.

When I was five and a half, I started first grade at Central Street School, located midway down Central Street. The other students and I walked to and from school everyday. For me, the distance was about half a mile each way. We walked to school in rain, snow, sleet and shine regardless of temperature.

Believe it or not, the temperature did reach -20 degrees below zero in those days. Third and fourth grade was at New Eight School, located off of L Street by the Elk's Club. Again we walked to and from school in all types of weather. Fifth and sixth grade was located at the

South End School in the Patch on G Street. Again we walked. Junior and senior high school was located on Crocker Avenue in Turners Falls, a distance for me of exactly one mile each way. We walked.

We were not allowed to wear sweatshirts or blue jeans to school. We were required to look respectable, otherwise we would be sent home to change, or we stayed home until we did look respectable.

In all my years of schooling, school was never cancelled because it was too cold.

When I attended Turners Falls High School from 1960 to 1964, the school was an old school, three stories high with ivy growing on the exterior brick walls. Mr. Bourdeau's homeroom - Room 16 - was located on the third floor. There were 60 or more students in Room 16 my freshman year. Most of my classes averaged 30 to 40 students per teacher. We attended school from 8 a.m. to 1

p.m., including a 20 minute recess.

Our track was constructed by students and teachers. It was located where the present Little League baseball diamond is today on Montague Street. The pits for the high jump, pole vault and broad jump were dug by hand and filled with sawdust, donated by Billings sawmill in Montague.

To say our track and field equipment was sparse is an understatement. I recall an incident that occurred at a Deerfield Academy track meet. When the meet was over and we were on our bus waiting to go home, we had absconded with a discus, a javelin, and a couple of shot puts. An official from Deerfield exclaimed, "This bus is not leaving. We are missing a lot of equipment!" Dr. Boyden, the headmaster, stepped in and said he would handle the situation. He sent the official to the locker room, boarded our bus, thanked us for competing and said we

were fine gentlemen. Then he told the bus driver to be on his way. Deerfield Academy frequently donated items to our sports program, both knowingly and unknowingly.

In those days, the town of Montague operated on a balanced budget. They didn't spend more than they took in. The town operated within its means. We had no swimming pool. We swam in the Connecticut River or in the power canal.

Does a new school, new pool, or a new track funded by deficit spending and pseudo opulence make our children any better? I'd say not.

We should be setting an example by living within our means. We need to instill values: discipline, respect, fortitude, and character. Deficit spending and Proposition 2 1/2 overrides cannot buy values. Values have to be taught and learned.

By the way, I still know how to make change without looking

at the cash register or computer to see how much back from a dollar I owe. That is more than most young adults can do today. Also, some of the track records from the 60s still stand today even though we never had an official track. We attended an old school, our classes were large, and our school hours were shorter than they are today, but we were educated.

I graduated from GCC and North Adams State College with a BA in biology and a minor in education. I did not have a problem competing with students from more affluent schools. My education and values serve me well.

New schools, pools, or a new track do not generate performance. Responsibility, values, discipline, and desire to learn does result in improved performance. Values are taught and learned and cannot be bought by deficit spending or Proposition 2 1/2 overrides.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Chillin' at the Library

**Thursday 3-3**

8:57 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at an Alice Street address. Subject voluntarily transported to hospital.

**Friday 3-4**

12:06 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle burglarized at Barton Cove. Referred to Gill police.

**Saturday 3-5**

1:13 p.m. Carnegie Library reported no heat. DPW notified.

9:00 p.m. Report of a disturbance on 5th Street. Officer unable to locate.

**Sunday 3-6**

12:13 a.m. Report of a loud party at an L Street address. Subject was advised.

12:28 a.m. Report of an intoxicated person on the corner of 7th and K Street.

Officer checked on well-being of individual.

12:49 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance somewhere in Lake Pleasant. Found to be verbal only.

9:51 p.m. Report of vandalism at an L Street address. Tires were slashed. Report taken.

**Monday 3-7**

1:00 a.m. Walk-in to station turned in a cell phone

found at Yesterdays.

10:14 a.m. Report of a larceny at Four Rivers Credit Union. Past employee failed to return key. Key returned.

6:04 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

**Tuesday 3-8**

4:38 p.m. Report of a two-car accident with injuries reported on Turners Falls

Road. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

**Wednesday 3-9**

8:09 a.m. Report of someone shoveling snow into the road on X Street. Officer told subject not to do that.

## CORKBOARD

school committee and the TFHS Boosters. Each has its own news page, calendar and file area. "These groups need a way to get their information out," Muller said. Muller has continually developed the user-friendly corkboard software and plans to market it regionally.

"Orders have already come in," he said. Soon he will be upgrading the website to Version 3.0, which in addition to allowing for complete customization of the website's look and feel, will allow each of the participating organizations to have their own corkboards as well as expanded file area capabilities, photo albums, and threaded message forums. The latter will allow participants to engage in dialogue without

everyone having to read every post. To get involved says Muller, "at least one person in the organization must have online access and be familiar with the web since they'll be managing their pages themselves."

People are able to access the corkboard day or night from any computer with internet access. So join your neighbors online in this active arena.

As for anyone interested in learning more about the software, Muller will be demonstrating it at the Grange in late April. The latest version will be known as 'Web Groups Toolkit' and will be available for licensing in May. Call Muller at 413-320-5336 for more information or email michael@muller-tech.com. Or better yet, find him on the corkboard as "Mik."

**Quilting from Scratch Workshop at GCC**

Six-week workshop with instructor Jan Drechsler, beginning Thursday, March 17th through April 21st, 7 to 9 p.m. at GCC's Downtown Center. Sewing between classes required. Bring your machine, cloth, scissors, notebook and \$3.50 materials fee for instructor to the first class. Please register by Wednesday, March 16th by contacting the GCC Office of Student Services at (413) 775-1803 or access the 24-hour automated registration line by calling: (413) 774-7690 and please know the course code.

**1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

**Saturday, March 26 - 10:00am**  
Peskeomskut Park, Avenue A, Turners Falls

Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to take part in what will be a great community tradition for years to come. Kids will have the challenge of finding well over 2,000 candy and toy-filled eggs that will be placed throughout the park.

Event Co-Sponsors  
**The Montague Elks & Greenfield Savings Bank**

**American Dead in Iraq as of 3/9/05**

## NOTES FROM THE NEW SALEM/WENDELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

# Union 28 Seeks 4.7% Hike for Swift River in '06

BY DOUG TURNER

**NEW SALEM** - A public hearing on the Swift River Elementary School '06 budget on March 3rd couldn't compete with the adult soccer league games that were being played at the same time in the school's gymnasium. But if the past is any indication, the school's budget will generate plenty of interest before the final numbers are decided.

Last year New Salem decisively turned back two Proposition 2 1/2 override measures for Swift River, which resulted in the elimination of a special education teacher and reductions in the music and physical education programs at the school.

In addition, the school's library aide was cut, leaving the

school with a library, but no one to administer to it, four classroom aides were cut, and the art program was reduced.

There were also cuts to specialized instruction lines like the "Celebrate Diversity" program and technology studies.

An overview of this year's budget was presented by Union 28 Superintendent Linda Driscoll.

This year's budget represents an increase of \$68,008, or 4.7% over last year's budget.

Despite that increase, Driscoll said the budget will only maintain a current "bare bones" level of service and avoids further cuts to programs and services.

At the same time the budget has to plan for increased energy costs, equipment has to be

maintained and the technology at hand has to be kept up to date.

According to the overview, increases in energy and insurance costs account for about 1.5% of the budget increase.

What meat there is on the "bones" is constituted by the restoration of two hours to teacher aide schedules and 15 hours for a library aide, along with support for the library software.

The school committee voted to restore the library aide at their last meeting, February 2nd.

The school administration has had to deal with two years of belt tightening, triggered by the state's decrease in Chapter 70 funding from \$744,144 in 2003 to \$595,315 in 2004. The figure was leveled at that position in 2005.

The state mandated minimum contributions for both New Salem and Wendell have gone down this year: New Salem's by \$22,314 and

Wendell's by \$12,003.

However, in order to fund the budget the school will require \$72,313 over New Salem's total contribution for 2005, an additional \$164,570 over the town's minimum contribution.

In contrast, the Wendell figure is \$21,304 less than in 2005.

"Because Wendell gave so much more last year means they can give less this year," Driscoll said. A meeting with the New Salem finance committee is scheduled for March 19th.

The next meeting of the school committee is Thursday, April 7th at 7 p.m. in the library at Swift River School.

There will be a pancake breakfast at Swift River School, Saturday, March 12th from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. to benefit the sixth grade field trip. Pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea and juice will be served. Tickets are \$4.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

Tickets are available from

any Swift River School sixth grader.

A three-week series on "Siblings without Rivalry" will be presented at Erving Elementary School, March 15th, 22nd and 29th from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

The program for all families living in Erving, Leverett, Shutesbury, New Salem, Wendell and surrounding communities will be presented by Laura Lawson Tucker, M.Ed and is funded by the Mass. Department of Education.

Those interested in attending must commit to all three sessions and must register by March 10th. Childcare and supper will be provided.

For more information, call Naz at 413-423-3337 or email mohamed@erving.com.

Swift River School is in need of substitute custodians for days and evenings, in addition to a permanent evening custodian to work two-hour evenings during the 180-day school year. The position includes additional daytime hours during school vacations and after the school year ends in June. Call Swift River School at 978-544-6926 and ask for Keith Fiske to learn more.

Swift River's after school childcare program, the Enchanted Forest, has an opening for a childcare worker on Mondays and Fridays 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mail, fax or bring resume to Christine Heard at the school; 201 Wendell Road in New Salem. Fax number is 978-544-2253.



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**NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD**

# Building Permits for Portable Garages?

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**GILL** - Portable garages took up space on the selectboard agenda on Monday, March 7th, as the board reacted to resident complaints that building inspector Jim Cerone, of the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program had been issuing letters to people in town who had put up the tent-like parking structures, and instructing them to take out building permits for them. The board received this information dubiously.

"There are now four or five (residents of Gill) that Mr. Cerone has been around saying they need permits," said board member Ann Banash. "Why, if their office has told everyone they are temporary structures and they don't need a permit?" Banash, who has one of the

portable garages up at her home, said, "I didn't get a letter. It seems to be somewhat selective. Who gave Mr. Cerone the authority to do this?"

Board member Phil Maddern said he thought the Commonwealth also required a fee and permit for erecting a tent. Board chair Leland Stevens said, "That's getting pretty stinking picky, to me, just to park your car under."

Banash said, "They did write to people who put up decks and porches without permits."

Maddern replied, "That's real estate."

Banash added, "If we were to move, (the temporary garage) would come with us."

Maddern said, "That's personal property."

The board pledged to clarify

the matter with Cerone.

## Wagon Wheel Seeks Outdoor Consumption of Beer and Wine

In other news, the board was notified of an alcohol license variance request from the Wagon Wheel restaurant on Route 2. The owners of the Wagon Wheel, Jon Miller and Carol Ann Zaccara, would like permission to allow their customers to take beer and wine sold inside the store out to the picnic tables with their meals. The board said a public hearing on the request, with prior notification of abutters, would be required.

The board sent a letter to Robert Miller, of 20 Walnut Street, notifying him he was in violation of the town bylaw pro-

hibiting more than one unregistered vehicle on private property.

The board was informed of an environmental problem near the Northfield Mount Hermon water supply. The DEP has found lead leaching from an old water tower - perhaps from the tower's paint - into the soil behind Ford Cottage, near the chapel. NMH is taking responsibility for correcting the problem.

The board accepted the resignation of Maryanne Bauer from the historical commission, "with regret."

Administrative assistant Deb Roussel told the board professor Mitch Mulholland of the UMass archeology department would be meeting with the ad hoc committee advising the

town on how to proceed with developing the so-called Mariamante acreage, now owned by the town, on the corner of West Gill and Main Road. Mulholland, who has been involved in numerous archeological digs in the area, will help the committee address the need for a site survey to determine the land's archeological value.

The board set a date of April 11th as a cut-off for non-monetary articles on the annual town meeting warrant. The town meeting may be divided into two sessions, like last year, with non-monetary items such as planning and zoning changes addressed on the first Monday in May, and budgetary matters handled later, when final figures from the state are (hopefully) known.

## Riverfront Resident Decries Property Tax Hike

*This letter was presented at the Gill selectboard meeting on March 7th.*

"Dear Selectmen,

Yes, I'm upset, very much upset. You have increased my real estate property tax assessment by 585 percent. Yes, five hundred and eighty-five percent, in one year. That equates to a tax of \$5,643.86; up \$2,993.35 from last year (2004) which is a 113 percent increase.

And this taxation is for no town services provided to most of us who live on Vassar Way.

You have allowed a plan of unfair taxation to develop whereby about 40 property owners on the Connecticut River are taxed far higher than the rest of Gill, because of a so called new "neighborhood" or "water view" taxation policy.

You have also further endorsed this plan and presented it favorably to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR).

But, the plan consists of many errors, many omissions, inconsistencies and disproportionate assessment that all point to gross incompetence in the

office of the assessors.

For example, there exist several properties along the river that have no view of the water. Some properties have a view of the water but were not included in the new "neighborhood." One property that has had a building on it for the past 60 or more years and is used as a residence every summer is listed as undeveloped and taxed as such. One residence on the water has a revised assessment of zero dollars! And the residence that has a better "river view" than an adjacent new "neighborhood" property was

omitted from the plan. Other properties in Gill are selling for amounts far in excess of their assessed value and I know of one property that was assessed for less than it sold for. The sale was a few years ago.

It appears that the criteria used in Gill for increased taxation is to select residences that appear to "well afford" huge tax increases and sprinkle in a few adjacent properties so the scheme is not so obvious.

All that being said, I enclose my application for abatement (a copy; of course the original was hand delivered to the

assessors' office on 24 Feb. '05.) Also is a graph of taxation on my property since 1981.

I want each selectman to read my abatement application and supporting documentation so you can be aware of what is happening at the assessors.

I also want this application and supporting pages to be entered in the record as part of the minutes of the next selectmen's meeting.

Thank you. Sincerely,

- Vincent McHugh  
43 Vassar Way  
Gill

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The Millers River Watershed team meeting of March 8th has been rescheduled due to weather to  
**Tuesday, March 15th at 6 p.m.**  
 at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St., Athol.

## MONTAGUE PARKS & RECREATION SPRING PROGRAMS

### Youth Baseball

**Tee-Ball** - Ages 4 - 6  
**Rookie League** - Grades 1 & 2 (1st graders must have played at least one season of t-ball to be eligible.)  
**Farm Travel Team** - Grades 2 - 4 (Players in 2nd grade must be 8 years old as of Sept. 1 of 2004)  
**Youth Travel Team** - Grades 5 - 7 (Players in 7th grade must be 13 years old after Sept. 1st of 2004)

**Girls Softball** - Girls in grades 3 - 6. Registration has started, become part of Montague's proud softball tradition!

### Announcing a New Program ...

**Girls Rookie Softball** for girls K - 2. Saturdays, April 30 - June 11. Montague Residents = \$20, Non-residents = \$25 (Fees include hat and t-shirt). Contact MPRD for more details

**Pepsi Pitch, Hit & Run** - Youths ages 7 - 14. To be held Saturday, April 16

### Tae Kwon Do for Youth -

**Ages 7 & Up.** Saturday mornings April and May.

### Swimming Lessons -

**Session III. Ages 5 & Up**  
**Low-Impact Step Aerobics for Adults** - classes held in April & May.

**1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt** - (Children ages 4 - 12) Saturday, March 26 @ 10:00am, Peskeomskut Park. Co-sponsors: Montague Elks and Greenfield Saving Bank.

**Open Swim has returned!** Contact MPRD for a schedule now! Summer Playground Program

**Registration** begins Monday, April 4 for Montague Residents only. Non-residents may register starting Monday, May 2.

Spring is on its way - register for some of these great programs now!

For more information, or to receive a Spring Programs Brochure contact:  
**Montague Parks & Recreation @ 863-3216.**  
 MPRD - 56 First Street - Unity Park Fieldhouse - Turners Falls, MA 01376

## Candidates for Wendell Election on May 2nd, 2005

Last day for filing nomination papers by 5 p.m. March 14th.

### Selectboard, 3 years:

Daniel W. Keller, 28 Cold Brook Road; candidate for re-election.

### Board of Assessors, 3 years:

Mary Vaughn McBride, 125 West Street; candidate for re-election.

**Board of Assessors, 2 years (to fill vacancy):**

No Candidate

**Town Clerk, 3 years:**

Anna M C B Hartjens, 270 Wendell Depot Road; candidate for re-election.

### Tax Collector, 3 years:

Penny Delorey, 97 Locke Hill Road; candidate for re-election.

### Treasurer, 3 years:

Carolyn U Manley, 131 Locke Hill Road; candidate for re-election.

### Board of Health, 3 years:

Andrew S. Hamilton, 131 Lockes Village Road; candidate for re-election.

Martha A. Senn, 2 Center Street; nomination papers

**Board of Health, 2 years (to fill vacancy):**

Harry S. Williston III, 27 Wendell Depot Road; nomination papers

Gloria Kegeles, 35 Cooleyville Road; nomination papers

### Planning Board, 5 years:

Christine Texiera, 119 Lockes Village Road; candidate for re-election

**Planning Board, 3 years (to fill vacancy):**

Raymond J. DiDonato, 29 West Street; nomination papers

### Moderator, 1 year:

Kathy Ann Becker, 136 Locke Hill Road; candidate for re-election

**Cemetery Commissioner, 3 years:**

No candidate. John Bulger not seeking re-election.

**Cemetery Commissioner, 2 years:**

No candidate.

### Road Commissioner, 3 years:

William G. Clough, 95 Montague Road; candidate for re-election

### School Committee, 3 years:

Vacancy. D. Neil Gomberg not seeking re-election

### Tree Warden, 1 year:

Daniel E. Bacigalupo Sr., 10 Posk Place Road; candidate for re-election

### Library Trustees, 3 years:

Judith Putnam, 1 Bullard Pasture Road, candidate for re-election

Sylvia Wetherby, 31 Morse Village Road, candidate for re-election

## Gill Annual Election on May 16th, 2005

Nomination papers for elective town offices in Gill are available from the town clerk, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, at the Gill town hall. They must be completed with the signatures of 20 registered voters and returned no later than 5 p.m. on March 28th. The candidates named have indicated a willingness to run for re-election.

The following is a list of positions be appearing on the ballot:

**Board of Assessor - Three-year term - Vacant**

**Two year term - Vacant**

**Board of Health - Three-year term**

Position currently held by Edward Galipault, Jr.

**Selectboard / Sewer Commissioner - Three-year term**

Position currently held by Ann H. Banash.

**Constables - Three three-year positions:**

One position held by Fred O. Chase, II and Craig Gaudry and one vacant position.

**Cemetery Commissioner - Three-year term**

Position currently held by Carrie Stevens.

**Library Trustee - Three-year term**

Position currently held by Ann C. Perry.

**Tax Collector - Three-year term**

Position currently held by Veronica LaChance.

### DOG LICENSES

Special notice to all Gill and Mount Hermon residents - dog licenses have arrived at the town clerk's office. Be sure to get your dog licensed before March 31st.

Please make every effort to return census sheets to the Town Clerk for updating the Street List. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

## Candidates for Montague Election on May 16th, 2005

The last day for submitting nomination papers to the town clerk: 5 p.m., Monday, March 28th.

### Selectboard, 3 years:

Incumbent: Patricia Allen, (D) 77 Greenfield Road

### Assessor, 3 years:

Incumbent: Paul J. Emery, (D) 33 Coolidge Avenue

### Board of Health, 3 years:

Open. Two candidates have taken out papers: Matthew McMullin, 127 4th Street, and Michael Nelson, 50 Greenfield

Road.

**Park and Recreation Commission, 3 years:**

Incumbent: Dennis L. Grader (U) 72 Dell Street

**Montague Housing Authority, 5 years:**

Incumbent: Stanley F. Zera, Jr. (D), 5 Quarry Road

**Library Trustees, 3 three-year seats, 2 one-year seats**

Incumbents: 3-years: Alice J. Armen (D), 68 Main Street  
 Sharon Cottrell (D), 191 Greenfield Road

Veronica Phaneuf (U), 547 Turners Falls Road

1-year: Suzanne Kretzenger (U), 422 Federal Street

Karen Schweitzer (D), 162A North Leverett Road

Soldiers Memorial Trustees, 3 years (Veteran):

Incumbent: John J. Fox (D), 246 Federal Street

**Soldiers Memorial Trustees, 3 years (Non-Veteran):**

Chris M. Boutwell (D), 28 Sunset Drive

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**DRY HILL**

continued from pg 1

ings on the subject over the course of the last year, seemed exceptional.

There was a large crowd of Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant residents in attendance on the 7th, along with the DPW superintendent and the chair of the cemetery commission. Senn brought his irrepressible attorney, Michael Pill, along with an engineer from SVE Associates. Senn had retained the services of the engineering firm to survey Dry Hill Road in two sections, one south from the cemetery to the intersection of Dry Hill Cross, which Senn offered to upgrade at his personal expense to a passable condition, and the other north from the cemetery to the intersection of Wendell Road. He made no similar offer about the north stretch of Dry Hill Road running by his pasturage, home and business. Senn had retained the services of attorney Pill, apparently, to offer to take the town to court should they seek to exert their rights to open this portion of the road. Although Pill had publicly stated on a previous occasion that his client's position - blocking off a historic public way - was a weak one, he again challenged the town to take Senn to court to reopen the road, a proceeding he estimated would cost the town tens of thousands of dollars.

The engineer from SVE Associates admitted that even if Senn repaired the road south to the Cross Road, the Cross Road itself was impassable to average vehicles, and too long for easy pedestrian access to the cemetery. "So really our only option is B" (the road north past Senn's property), commented board chair Pat Allen.

Board member Allen Ross said, "There should be no limitations on Montague citizens going up the historic road now. The town has to have access to its cemetery. I move the town mark the historic road and create access on the existing route and declare it open to the residents of this town. Period."

Pill inquired whether Ross was proposing to allow citizens to wander along Senn's pasturage without a clearly laid out road to follow, past electric fences and construction equipment. "It doesn't seem like a great idea," replied Ross, "but that is exactly what I am suggesting."

Pill responded, "Then we're back to where we started. The burden of proof is on you, sir. Where exactly are you saying his fence should come down? As I said last time, we're not asking you to give up the rights to force the issue. What Jim (Senn) is trying to do is create an incentive for the town to forebear the exercise of its rights. There are fiscal responsibilities and fiscal restraints, folks."

Earlier, during the engineer's report on the layout of Dry Hill Road north from the cemetery, Senn spoke up and said, "I'd rather have it, if it goes, go right down the original road, that way I'd still have meadowland on each side." Subsequently, Senn said he did not mind the prospect of pedestrian traffic past his property.

Recalling this statement midway through the hearing, Allen said to Senn, "I thought I heard you say you'd rather have the road go between the house and the barn."

He answered, "If that's the way it's going to go."

She replied, "You may want to start doing your fencing now."

Ross came back to his central point. "First, all Montague citizens must be assured we have immediate access to that road. I would like to leave this meeting tonight with that established."

Allen followed up. "When I run into a barbed wire fence on a public way.... None of us has felt safe that we could actually go up on the old road and not be accosted. There are dogs around. We avoid it. There is no way to get to the cemetery without going three miles around the wrong way."

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio mentioned the town had an aerial photo that showed "exactly where the old road goes."

Senn reiterated there was no problem with pedestrian access past his land to the cemetery. "My dog is chained; my animals are fenced," he said.

Allen replied, "Did you say there's an electric fence? That



The Powers Block building in Millers Falls

DETMOLD PHOTO

might be a problem."

Ross came back to his motion. "I would expect a survey (of the historic road) to be done at the town's expense. Safe passage (needs to be) assured after properly demarcating the road. The town can then look at how it wants to invest to improve the road."

Cemetery commission chair Sue SanSoucie said pedestrian access was not good enough. The commission would need to bring in tools and equipment to clear brush from the overgrown cemetery, and elders should not have to walk a quarter mile to visit the graves. "We are still at a stalemate on that. We are no further along than we were before."

Allen called for an executive session of the board to work out strategy on opening up access to the cemetery. But Ross stuck to his guns, and insisted the board vote on his motion. "We authorize the town to survey and demarcate the historic route at this point to get vehicles up there and to be able to provide a minimum of foot passage."

Board member Patricia Pruitt seconded his motion. "This is a necessary first step," she said. Spring is coming. People need to have access. Mr. Senn could cooperate with us."

Senn said he could not move his fencing until the ground thaws up. He said again, "I don't mind foot passage."

Finance committee chair Jeff Singleton spoke up. "Mr. Senn chose to block off a town road.

We're trying to reopen it. We're being threatened by a lawsuit. That road was arbitrarily closed off."

Senn said, "I didn't block the road. My grandfather did. I'm just in the middle of it."

Allen again called for an executive session. Ross insisted on a vote on his motion. Allen called for a vote. "All those in favor?"

Ross: Aye.

"All those against?"

Allen: Nay.

She turned to Patricia Pruitt, who had remained silent, considering the matter. "You abstain?"

Pruitt: Actually, I vote, 'Aye'.

The motion to survey and mark the historic Dry Hill Road and open it up first to pedestrian traffic, and then to consider how to improve it for vehicular traffic, carried two to one.

**CSO Hearing Set**

In other business, the board set a date for a public hearing on the Combined Sewer Overflow abatement project and water pollution control facility repairs (estimated to cost the town \$5.7 million) for Monday, March 21st. They noted there was unclarity about the likely impact of the work on sewer rates over the next 25 years. The board approved WPCF superintendent Bob Trombley's recommendation to hire Sandy Kawaa as the new lab technician at the treatment plant, to take the post left vacant by Mary Sumner.

**Powers Block Update**

Art Gilmore and members of the Millers Falls Community Group requested an update from the board about progress, or lack thereof, on the renovation of the Powers Block, a central building in the Millers Falls commercial district, owned by Richard Conley. After a lengthy dispute -stretching on for years about the status of repairs to the exterior of the building and the unpermitted fencing of large portions of town sidewalks on Bridge and Main, the town ordered the DPW to take down fencing and repair the sidewalks in 2004, and billed Conley for the work. He contested the bill in court. That bill, for \$3625.34, has not been paid, although Conley did pay \$50 in court costs for the hearing on the matter on January 4th of this year.

Abbondanzio said no further progress in construction work on the Powers Block has been apparent. Conley has taken out no further building permits. The only extant permit is one issued for emergency repairs to the building in 1998. He said the town had limited authority to force further work on the Powers Block, unless it can be determined the building is a threat to public safety or health. Miller Falls resident Mike Naughton called for a more cooperative approach with the building's owner, if possible.



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**ERVING**

continued from pg 1

a confirmed commissioner is installed before bringing the idea back to the state. Selectboard member Burt Dubay said an additional "20 or so" campgrounds have been built on a new forest road off Laurel Lake Road, suggesting further challenges to the natural area immediately surrounding Laurel Lake Road.

The discussion with the senator then turned to a review of the Usher Mill site, located along the Millers River off Arch Street, and the process of determining its fate. Rosenberg said he understood the hazardous materials analysis done at the mill showed the contamination there to be less than originally thought, which is "good news." And he made reference to the charrette dialogue the community had been through regarding possible uses for the Usher Mill. In response to his question about the town's current interest in the site, several board members indicated local interest has "fallen apart." The building itself "has deteriorated a lot," said Linda Downs-Bembury.

Dubay added, "There's an arch (under the railroad) that really limits access."

The abandoned mill is still in private hands, but the town could acquire it cheaply if back taxes were forgiven. However, without the ongoing commitment of a group of citizens to see the redevelopment process forward, Dubay and Downs-Bembury said, the town would have to resort to hiring expensive consultants to do the work of determining how much of the buildings to save and where to obtain funds for their rehabilitation. And there would be no assurances that this expenditure of funds would lead to a positive outcome. So the option of tearing everything down and flattening the site for a similar amount of money is still being given strong consideration.

The senator emphasized his wish to support the town in any way he can, saying "My job is to help you get access to resources; I don't want this thing to fall into limbo, but I have no agenda myself as to what you do." Discussion then turned briefly to the abandoned Erving Paper Mill in Erving. Board

chair Andy Tessier said there had been some private interest in developing the site but "things have died down."

The senator then asked the board about other concerns, and Tessier groaned about the town's loss of funds under the state's Chapter 70 regulations. Of the \$366,000 the town received in state aid for FY '05, it had to "return" over \$55,000 to the state for Charter School sending tuition, and over \$87,000 for School Choice sending tuition.

Downs-Bembury asked whether there are state funds to buy open land. "Yes and no," said Rosenberg. "It depends on where it is, whether it's adjacent to existing state protected land, and other factors." Rosenberg asked the board to send information on specific parcels to his staff, who would research the possibilities.

Senator Rosenberg's district comprises 24 communities in Franklin and Hampshire Counties.

In other business:

The board reviewed figures for Chapter 70 net school spending compliance. In both FY'04 and FY '05, the town

exceeded minimum spending requirements by almost \$1 million. Based on figures from the state Department of Education, in FY '04 the town was required to spend \$1,595,650 and spent \$2,445,969. For the current 2005 fiscal year, the town is required to spend \$1,910,961 and has budgeted \$2,877,370. The figures for town educational spending include both the amount awarded to the school committee for its budget plus direct costs for education paid by the town. In FY '05 the town paid \$568,235 in direct costs outside the school committee budget of \$2,490,481. The "net school spending figure" also includes revenues generated by the school committee and the town, which are expected to total \$181,346 in FY '05.

The board approved police chief Chris Blair's request to hire two part-time patrol officers and appointed one auxiliary officer who will receive training for a future position with the department. The new part-time officers are William Bembury and Angela Flanders of Erving; Shawn Bush of Erving is the auxiliary officer. The appoint-

ments will expire on June 30th, 2005.

The board authorized deficit spending for the highway department's FY '05 snow material account.

Laureen Bertrand has resigned from the recreation commission, of which she was chairperson, effective March 14th. There are now three vacant seats on the commission in the upcoming May town elections. A variety of other town positions are also vacant and interested candidates should contact town hall for details (see below).

A special town meeting will be held Monday, March 14th 7:30 p.m. at town hall for citizens to vote on several warrants. A total of about \$440,000 in spending from the town's free cash account is under consideration for the various warrants, including a request for \$55,256 to purchase a Ford F-550 truck for the highway department, \$100,000 for "continuing closure costs of the Maple Avenue landfill," in Farley and \$55,550 for the Fire Station #2 roof account.



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**Honor Roll - Second Quarter**

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<b>First Honors</b>	<b>First Honors</b>	<b>First Honors</b>	<b>First Honors</b>
Alix Ackerman Aliza Broga Katie Christenson Abbey Daniel-Green Amanda Golembeski Stephanie Joly Corey Leveille Brittany Mazor Molly Perry Kevin Sawicki Alexander Tufano Alice Urban Gina Varuzzo Katlyn Vear Erica Zajac	Katelin Bailey Rachel Banning Dragosh Barancean Rebecca Bonnette-Southar Nicole Couture Michelle Dame Elizabeth Downer Alysia Galbraith Benjamin Garber Elizabeth Giknis Daniel Leveille Julianne Rosewarne William Shattuck Valeriya Shumilova Lauren Tela Haley Trenholm	Kara Banash Christopher Bourbeau Matthew Felton Vera Foley Julie Girard Ian Herzig Jared Johnson Emily Lapean Bryce Mainville Adam Mccarthy Allison Murphy Abigail O'gara Brianna Pecor Anna Perry Nicole Siano Anna Truckey Nathan Underwood	Amber Ackerman Kearstin Bourbeau Jonathan Chan Caitlin Coyle Nathan Greene Kristopher Henry Ryan Herzig Stephanie Kahle Krista Leveille Nikki Lively Marissa Sicley Kelly Terault
<b>Second Honors</b>	<b>Second Honors</b>	<b>Second Honors</b>	<b>Second Honors</b>
Sean Crowell Kayla Pecor Christopher Phillips Nicolas Picariello	Laura Babij Julianna Felton Jenna Lapachinski Holly Phillips Lauren Sena Christopher Seymour Aimee Shattuck Christopher Sicard	Christine Annear Julie Avery Ryenne Beaulieu Allen Cloutier Tyler Deruiter Stacy Leveille Margaret Sikoski Travis St. Peter	Christopher Austin Kellie Brown Andrea Cialek Kandra Cocco Erica Galbraith Mary Horton Katie Kidder John Waynelovich Alayna Zellmann
<b>Third Honors</b>	<b>Third Honors</b>	<b>Third Honors</b>	<b>Third Honors</b>
Brian Campbell Alexis Canniff Krystal Ducharme Kiersten Henry Samuel Johnson Kellie Lastowski Zachary Little Stephanie Ollari Charles Peterson Mercedes St. Marie Jeffrey Tela Kevin Thomas Kristan York	Adam Bastarache Adam Davies Richard Gallagher	Melissa Arial Kimberly Lastowski Paul Marguet Joshua Matusz Kara Mulligan Ashley Parker Kenneth Pleasant Jessica Rewa Jeffrey Rose Michael Tombs	Kyle Bessette Lauren Girard Sara Girard Erin Hanley Jessica Jensen Lynn-Marie Langevin Kari Lemieux Samantha Longo Bethany Mckenna Randy Valliere

**Erving Annual Election on May 2nd, 2005**

The following offices are up for election. If you are interested in becoming a candidate, contact town clerk Richard Newton at (413)422-2800 x 102. To have your name placed on the ballot, you must pick up nomination papers and have 20 valid registered voter signatures turned in by Monday, March 14th.

Assessor - 3 year  
 Board of Health - 3 year  
 Constable - 3 year  
 Constable - 2 year  
 Library Trustee - 3 year  
 Moderator - 1 year  
 Planning Board - (two) 3 year  
 Rec Commission - (three) 3 year  
 Selectboard - 3 year  
 School Committee - (two) 3 year  
 Treasurer - 3 year  
 Tree Warden - 1 year

Incumbent Burt Dubay is not running again for selectboard.

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**GREEN FIELD** Community College  
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## MCTV continued from pg 1

2001, when Greenfield Community Television (GCTV) was tapped by the board to be Montague's cable access provider, there was no process in place to guide their decision. The majority decision, supported by board members Sam Lovejoy and Ed Voudren, was attacked as being unresponsive to public opinion.

"I thought it was inappropriate, not complete, not open," said current selectboard chair Pat Allen of the way in which her colleagues made their choice in 2001. She voted in favor of leaving the cable access assignment with Montague's previous provider, Montague Community Cable, Inc (MCCI/MCTV). "It was just a *fait accompli*," she said. While townspeople made every effort to be heard on the issue, attending board meetings in large numbers and carrying out a petition drive that led to a rarely called special town meeting which supported retaining MCCI as the town's provider, Lovejoy and Voudren voted in favor of GCTV anyway. "The town never had something to work from. The town kind of shrugged it off," said Reynolds, referring to the failure to have a formal process in place at that time.

From 1991 until the fall of 2001, Montague's cable access channel was administered by MCCI. Over those eleven years, the organization had its glory days and struggling times, according to those involved. In the last few years of its administration of the local access assignment, questions had been raised about MCCI's leadership, accounting practices, and ability to provide programming.

Concerns had also been raised about MCCI's perceived insular attitude, which had not gone over well with some residents. "We gave them six months to a year to provide certified statements, to do some real accounting, and they did-

n't," said Voudren. "We didn't have the level of response needed."

When faced with the possibility that the board might vote to give the cable access assignment to GCTV, MCCI supporters turned to the townspeople for support, collecting over a thousand Montague signatures in support of keeping the assignment with MCCI. A special town meeting was called at which a large majority voted to ask the selectboard to reconsider its action and retain MCCI as the access provider. Those present were told there would be another opportunity to be heard. However at the subsequent meeting of the board, the topic was quickly brought to another 2-1 vote for GCTV. At the time, Allen said, "We have been disingenuous, because I believe that our Selectmen's hearings and at our Town Meeting recently, we led the public to understand that there would be another public discussion," she said. "I don't see where that has happened here tonight because most people didn't even know that was on the agenda," she added.

The board of GCTV unanimously accepted the assignment on November 19th, 2001, and began broadcasting on Montague's Channel 15. GCTV continues to provide Montague cable subscribers with local access programming out of its satellite Crocker Studios on Second Street in Turners Falls. "It is stocked with all brand new equipment, almost completely digital, and offers state of the art broadcasting facilities," said Marty McGuane, GCTV's executive director. According to McGuane, the studio is used 15 - 20 hours per week. Residents with training come to sign out the equipment, in particular from the Brick House. (Brick House TV is produced using both the facilities and equipment of MCTV and Crocker Studios.) GCTV also trains members of the community interested in producing shows or in helping to run cameras at

the many events it broadcasts on Channel 15.

"The programming on Channel 15 is not town specific," explained McGuane. "Other than government programming like selectboard and school committee meetings, the programs are of interest to Montague, but not necessarily related to Montague. Ninety-eight percent of programming is generic," McGuane said. At present, GCTV does not have an agreement with other communities to provide their local access, as it has with Montague.

GCTV's budget for providing cable access to Montague comes straight from the bills of 3,500 cable subscribers in Montague, who pay 5% of their bills toward local access. McGuane reported to the selectboard on March 7th the total from this revenue stream for Montague cable access will be close to eighty-nine thousand dollars in 2005.

The current agreement under which GCTV provides cable access to Montague is based on the 2001 resolution by the selectboard as well as a "Letter of Intent" GCTV provided the board at the time it took on the Montague assignment. The letter contains 15 points outlining the services GCTV will provide for Montague. Included are such things as broadcasting local government meetings, maintaining a minimum of two Montague residents on the GCTV board, and providing regular reports on programming and finances. McGuane appears on a quarterly basis before the board to talk about GCTV's projects and to go over the budget.

McGuane's budget reports have been the cause of some friction with the board. Allen has repeatedly asked McGuane for a breakdown of GCTV's expenditures for salaries, but he has refused to provide these figures, citing legal counsel. Montague finance committee chair Jeff Singleton said he has attended GCTV meetings to get a breakdown on how Montague cable fees are being spent on

GCTV staff salaries, but without success. McGuane insists he will answer any question he can without violating privacy laws. Allen and Singleton have both charged McGuane with stonewalling on presenting a routine budget breakdown, common for nonprofits and town departments alike. This back and forth has been going on for some time and was reflected in McGuane's quarterly presentation to the board on Monday when he again provided budgetary information without itemized personnel costs. McGuane stated he would email this information to the board and to members of the CAC.

Following the CAC's presentation on the 14th, the board will have to choose what steps to take, if any, in regards to the local cable access assignment. "I'm interested in a good, professionally run cable channel. I haven't made a study of why it was switched, but there does seem there were good reasons, such as improper accounting and tax filing," said Allen Ross, one of the three board members who will make that decision. "I haven't heard claims of bias or limits on Montague reporting. Most people are satisfied with the way things are going," he added.

Patricia Pruitt, the newest member of the board, believes that the manner in which the assignment was handled in 1991 was "hasty." In a letter to the community in July 2004, Pruitt wrote, "It is the issue of fairness that persuades and obligates me as a Selectman to support to revisit the contract award and to support opening the RFP process. While it is understandable that GCTV may not welcome the RFP process at this time, it is also in the interest of GCTV to participate in it."

Allen said she supports a carefully designed process, whether it is used now or later, and she said she is interested in seeing what the CAC provides for the board's consideration. She added, "GCTV is under the impression that they have a

tenure contract in synch with that of Comcast, because Sam Lovejoy told them this." The Comcast contract expires in 2013.

"I am going by the selectboard agreement that we will provide service to Montague until expiration of franchise in 2013," agreed McGuane. However, he added, "If they take a vote to remove the agreement, they take a vote to remove the agreement. No board of selectmen can be held accountable for the actions of the past board of selectman."

McGuane strongly believes the current agreement in principle makes sense and benefits both communities. "Some say there's a certain amount of money going in and a certain amount of money going out, but MCCI couldn't do it. GCTV can because of the overlap of staffing." He points to the position of office manager being shared by the Greenfield office and Crocker Studios as an example. "We have strengthened access in both communities," he said. "Both communities see what's going on in the other. GCTV can provide service to Montague, and Montague deserves it," he said. However, "GCTV will dust its hands and walk away if the selectboard changes its mind," he added.

This is certainly not what Voudren hopes will happen. "I don't understand why we don't look at the assignment and don't cooperate with GCTV." Voudren is now the vice president of the GCTV board of directors. He is excited by the possibility of growth, in having an educational channel and in developing school hook-ups as satellite facilities. But division remains and the issue has not been put to rest. What frustrates Michael Muller, current president of MCCI, is the lack of an objective process in determining which organization can best provide service to Montague. "GCTV didn't have to bid. It was not an open process," he

see MCTV pg 12

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This **FREE 8 week** women's creative writing group is led by an instructor certified in the Amherst Writers and Artists Method.

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- ⇒ Writers of all skill levels are encouraged.
- ⇒ Free childcare is provided upon pre-registration.
- ⇒ *Starts Tuesday, April 5, 2005, 5:30-7:30 p.m.*



*Starts Thursday, April 7, 2005, 10 AM – noon*

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To register, call Christine at 863-4805.

*The Turners Falls Women's Resource Center is looking for women from The Town of Montague who want to build a stronger community through shared art experiences.*

Programs start soon, so call Christine at 863-4805 to register. All programs are free and free childcare is available upon pre-registration.

CA/CC also offers programs for families at **G-M Family Center** and for children at **The Kids' Place After School**. All programs are held at Montague Catholic Social Ministries, PO Box 792, 148 L St., Turners Falls. For more information, call Christine at (413) 863-4805. CA/CC is made possible through the Town of Montague's Community Development Block Grant award.

## MCTV

continued from pg 11

said. "While the board had legitimate concerns, the way they handled the decision was a sham. We'd like an open process on level ground."

Muller believes GCTV runs its station well, but he believes a Montague board of directors

would pay more attention to the needs of the town. "An important part of community access is outreach, and there's been none of that." Over the last three-years, MCTV has continued to produce cable shows on local history and events like the Chief O'Brien hearings, the TFHS girls softball championship, the Reconciliation Day

ceremony in Turners Falls, and a narrated version of the 250th anniversary parade.

Whatever the outcome, the CAC's goal has been to develop a process for identifying and evaluating the local access provider. While CAC member Sam Guilford argued that no other towns in Western Massachusetts require an RFP

for choosing their local cable access provider and to do so would be highly unusual, Reynolds replied "It helps clarify the relationship between the town and the provider, to establish procedures with guidelines. It's been vague until now. I don't give a hoot if others don't do it."

As Sam Lovejoy said at a meeting of the selectboard in

October, 2001, shortly before handing the cable access assignment to Greenfield over the broad objection of his constituents, "I think its important that the people in the town know we are dealing with the past and the past is critical to the present, and the present is critical to the future." Food for thought.

# OFF THE BEATEN PATH Senior Surfers

BY FLORE

**DEERFIELD** - Let me introduce to you this superb school named Deerfield Academy.

It is so near, practically around the corner, when you turn off at the sign indicating Old Deerfield. You drive down Main Street. Just after the post office, the Inn and that amazing church, you will need to make a right turn and there it is.

You will soon discover how its intricate paths might lead you to register for a sophisticated computer class, as I did. The students working with you are real pros and thoroughly humble about their knowledgeable talents with computers. They'll make you feel at ease. "There is nothing you can do wrong to harm the machine.. Take time to

familiarize yourself with it. It has actually a simple basic way of working." C'est simple a dire!

By the way, the next cool class will be from April 4th to May 26th. Hurry to register for the Surfing Seniors Computer Training Program. Seniors aged 65 and up are welcome. The space is limited. Contact: Mara Whalen, 774-1488 or Rose Couette, 774-1487

Or if you need help, for instance, at 'Heritage Day' the student body proposes if you are 65 or older, to give you a helpful hand with chores outdoors or in your home.

Call to receive a hand cleaning the garden! The students are offering their generous help on Monday, April 25th.

Simply call 774-1486 to be

put on the Service List and help will arrive, like Mary Poppins, to boost your strength from 1 to 3 p.m. that day.

Mara Whalen, who is in charge, explains how these services function. "All is based solely on volunteerism. Our school orientation has always been an exchange between what was first the village and our community." Now Deerfield Academy students continue to work at all levels around Franklin County. Some volunteer to teach Spanish at the local schools, some have introduced a science club, others prefer to learn how to grow vegetables by helping at the Nelson Organic Farm. Some enjoy reading to people at the Franklin Medical Center.

Another program has been



FLORE PHOTO

Taking part in "The Senior Surfers Class" having graduated are: Deen Kimball, Meg Finn, Barb Steiner, Marie Byrnes, Mary Ellen Hansen, Joan Churchill, Dottie Williams, Bette Jones and Flore.

successful: Big Brother / Big Sister. For one year, every Friday night the students visit with their 'adopted' younger brother or sister, as the case may be.

How many times have you passed by or strolled on its well-kept campus, wandering, yes wondering what would have happened if chance had brought you there earlier? The Academy's extended programs work like a magic wand! Outside of its own curriculum, this a school based upon sharing off and on campus activities, and all available human resources.

I am sure the young man, a student barely 22, would beam at the continuous blossoming of his dreams.

Remember the story, so often told? He had just graduated that year, from Amherst College. He had chosen law as his career. But he had also heard the village of Deerfield was looking for a

headmaster. He might have even flipped a coin amused at the possibility of applying for the opening. Perhaps he thought: "how on Earth could I be suited for that job?"

His name is, you guessed right, was Frank Learoyd Boyden.

Perhaps after the students (612 enrolled this year) are in bed, he still wanders the campus to check on progress, as he did during the 63 years he served as headmaster. One can imagine him still conversing with his best partner, his wife Helen: "Not bad," says he. "I was ahead of things wasn't I? I did not know I could do it." Miraculous.

To further the discovery of this outstanding character read:

The Headmaster, a terrific book about this visionary figure, F.L. Boyden by John McPhee. The Sunderland Library has a hardbound copy.

# Temple Israel Hosts NYC Tour & Other Events

**GREENFIELD** - Temple Israel has a few seats left on a bus and walking tour of New York City for Sunday, April 10th. Highlights of the Morgan bus trip will be a visit to the Spanish Portuguese Synagogue, the oldest congregation in the U.S., a walking tour of lower Manhattan to discover our Jewish roots, lunch at a Jewish restaurant, and more. The tour will be led by Oscar

Israelowitz, author of Guide to Jewish New York City. The bus will leave at 7 a.m. from Temple Israel at 27 Pierce Street. The trip is subsidized, on a first come basis, and cost is \$25, payable in advance. If interested, please contact Janice at 772-8689 or Terri at 773-5884 before March 15th.

Greenfield's Temple Israel invites the public to a talk entitled

"Bagels and Blintzes: Jewish Food in America" on Sunday, March 20th at 10:30 a.m. The talk is being presented by Gary Weiss, culinary expert and chef, and will focus on the history of Jewish foods in the U.S. The event is free, donations will be accepted at the door. For more info, please contact Janice at 772-8689.

## Religious Services

- Baptist**  
Faith Baptist Church, 331 Silver Street, Greenfield, 774-6438  
Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.,  
Wednesday Adult Bible Study 7 p.m. Youth Bible Club at 6:45 p.m.
- First Baptist Church of Turners Falls, 10 Prospect, Turners, 863-9083  
Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- Christian Science**  
First Church of Christ Scientist, 110 Federal St., Greenfield, 773-9765  
Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
- Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons)  
25 Bank Row, Greenfield, 772-

- 8514 Sunday at 10 a.m.
- Congregational**  
Gill Congregational Church, Main Rd., 863-8613 Sunday at 10 a.m.
- First Congregational Church, 19 Bridge St., Millers Falls, 659-3430 Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Bible study Wed. at 7 p.m
- Episcopal**  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Seventh and Prospect St., Turners, 863-4602 Sunday at 9 a.m.
- Friends (Quakers)**  
Mount Toby Monthly Meeting of Friends, Rte. 63, Leverett, 548-9188 Sunday at 10 a.m.
- Jewish**  
Temple Israel, 27 Pierce St., Greenfield, 773-5884 Friday at 6 p.m. (first weekend of

- the month) and Saturday at 9:30 a.m.; schedule does vary, it is advisable to call in advance
- Lutheran**  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 23 Long Ave., Greenfield, 773-5242 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
- Nondenominational**  
Grace Church, 41 K St., Turners, 863-2771 Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
- National Spiritual Alliance  
2 Montague Ave., Lake Pleasant, 367-0138 Sunday at 1 p.m.
- Unity in the Pioneer Valley Church  
401 Chapman Street, Guiding Star Grange, 625-2960; Sunday at 10 a.m.
- Roman Catholic**  
Our Lady of Czestochowa, 84 K. St., Turners, 863-4748

- Saturday at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Monday at 8 a.m.; and Tuesday-Friday at 5:30 p.m. (Confession one half hour prior to mass)
- St. Anne's, J St., Turners, 863-4678  
Sunday at 8 a.m. and daily at 7 a.m. through February  
St. John's, 5 Church St., Millers Falls, 659-3435  
Saturday at 4:15 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30 a.m.
- St. Mary's of the Assumption, 80 Seventh St., Turners, 863-2585  
Saturday at 4 p.m. and weekdays at 7 a.m. through October
- Salvation Army**  
72 Chapman St., Greenfield, 773-3154 Sunday at 11 a.m.
- Unitarian Universalist**  
All Souls, 399 Main St.,

- Greenfield, 773-5018 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
- First Parish Unitarian, Main St., Northfield, 498-5566 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
- United Church of Christ**  
Evangelical Congregational Church (UCC), 11 Church St., Erving (978) 544-8658
- First Congregational Church (UCC), 4 North St., Montague Ctr., 367-9467 Sunday at 10 a.m.
- First Congregational Church of Turners Falls (UCC), 148 L St., Turners, 863-9844 Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
- Contact the Reporter to add your service.

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**Help Wanted**

Montague Parks & Recreation Department  
Lifeguards & Swimming Instructors

The Montague Parks & Recreation Department is accepting applications for certified Lifeguards for the public Open Swim sessions held at the Turners Falls High School indoor pool. These positions involve morning, afternoon, evening and weekend hours for winter/spring season. Positions require appropriate certifications, which must be current and valid throughout the employment period. Applications are available at the Montague Parks and Recreation Department, 56 First Street, Turners Falls, MA. For more information, you may call us at 863-3216. The Town of Montague is an EOE and does not discriminate against disabilities.  
Deadline: Closed when filled.

**CONSULTING:** Helping youth investigate business ideas. The Brick House seeks consultants to help youth investigate business possibilities in arts-related skills. Call (413)863-9576 to receive the full request for proposals (RFP).

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**'Finding Treasures at the Gill Store**  
Skeleton 33" tall on Metal base (Smithsonian) \$175.00, Newspaper Bundling Box (Plowhearth) \$45.00, Pair of Porcelain Dolls 10.5" (American Family 1986) \$50.00, Aluminum Roof Snow Rakes, B.O. 863-9006 after 12:00 noon

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**Reporter Classifieds:**  
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**HOME COOKING**

Here is a recipe Woody Brown of Montague City sent in recently. We encourage other readers to mail favorite recipes, with any introductory remarks you may wish to include, to Montague Reporter, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376, or via email to: reporter@montaguema.net.

**Woody Brown's WINTER BLUES CHICKEN**

This easy, flavorful dish warms body and soul. Experiment with the optional ingredients to make it your own, but don't leave out the garlic or curry powder. It's the meld of these two spices with the tomatoes that give this dish its character.

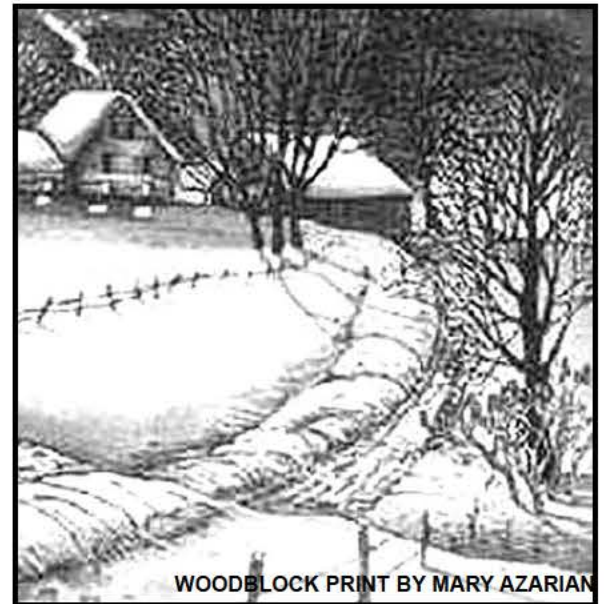
- The Necessary: a heavy pan or covered skillet  
two tablespoons olive oil  
a dozen boneless chicken thighs  
two cans sliced stewed tomatoes  
three to five cloves chopped garlic  
one-half to one cup thinly sliced onions  
one or two teaspoons curry powder  
one cup red wine or chicken broth  
The Optional: eight ounces sliced mushrooms  
small can black olives

one teaspoon hot pepper flakes or ground spice

Heat the oil in an uncovered skillet over medium heat. Leave the chicken thighs rolled as they come out of the package. Brown the chicken on all sides and set aside. Sauté the garlic, onions and spices until fragrant. Return the chicken to the pot and cover with tomatoes and liquid. Add other ingredients of your choice. Cover the pot and turn heat down to low and simmer for

40-60 minutes until chicken is done through. Serve on rice or with crusty bread.

This dish is most beneficial in chasing the winter blues when served with a glass of full-bodied red wine. Bon appetit!



WOODBLOCK PRINT BY MARY AZARIAN

**Calling All Strathmore Mill Hands**

The Brick House Community Resource Center is putting together a video documentary on the Strathmore Paper Mill, including both its history and the present feasibility study process. For the historical part, the Brick House would like to interview anyone who has been employed at the Strathmore or who has knowledge of the history of the mill. Any interested participants can contact Sika at the Brick House Teen Center at 863-9559, or Michael at the Brick House at 863-9576. Thanks!

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

# CALENDAR

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10TH**  
Popular musician Rosemary Caine will perform songs of Ireland and the British Isles at 7 p.m. at the Centennial House Bed and Breakfast in Northfield. She appears as part of a monthly series called "Happy Trails: Songs and Stories for Winter Evenings," taking place at the B&B. Series organizers, Joan and Steve Stoia of Northfield, are featuring new works by local artists and writers as a way of introducing their recently reopened bed and breakfast to area residents, businesses and the traveling public. Each event is based on the travels of the featured artist.

the greedy & powerful in corporations, the media & government. Leverett Town Hall, Leverett Center, 7:30 p.m. \$10. For info or directions email diacrowe@yahoo.com or call (413) 548-9394.

Two acts in one night at Montague Bookmill: Son of Earth and Autonomous Battleship Collective. For info or directions contact the Montague Bookmill at (413) 367-9206 or www.montague-bookmill.com. \$7, 8:30 p.m. 440 Greenfield Road, Montague, 367-9206. Beer, wine and food available downstairs from the Lady Killigrew Cafe.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 11TH**  
Second Friday Contra Dance with David Kaynor & Greenfield Dance Band at Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 p.m. to midnight. (413) 367-9380.

Second Saturday Contra Dance with Tophill Music at Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. (413) 773-1671.

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MARCH 11TH & 12TH**  
This week's film at MEDIA ARTS CAFE is *Oil on Ice*, a vivid, compelling and comprehensive documentary connecting the fate of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to decisions America makes about energy policy, transportation choices, and other seemingly unrelated matters. 7:30 p.m., in the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main St., Northfield. 413-498-2100.

**Jerry's Girls:** eight Broadway shows in one, celebrating the songs of veteran composer Jerry Herman, 8 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Ashfield. Take a trip down a melodic memory lane with three dozen showstoppers, ballads and good-time tunes from *Hello Dolly*, *Mame*, *La Cage Aux Folles* and five more shows. This fun-filled evening is presented by the (former) St. Martha Players, directed by Paula Cortis with musical direction by our own church organist, Amy Crawford. This almost all female cast (well, you'll see) will show off the heritage of Jerry Herman's hit shows and music. It's a perfect show to celebrate the strong women of Herman's legacy, **Jerry's Girls**. Suggested donation: \$10; Refreshments available. All proceeds to benefit the church and its mission.

Mohawk Trail Regional High School presents its 28th annual All-School Musical, *Seussical the Musical*. March 11th and 12th, 8 p.m. March 13th, at 2 p.m. For reservations call (413) 625-8371. *Seussical the Musical* will also be performed at the Shea Theater, 71 Ave. A, Turners Falls on March 19th at 8 p.m., March 20th at 2 p.m. Adults - \$10.00, Under 18 & Over 62 - \$8.00, ticket price includes a beverage. Reservations (413) 863-2281.

**ONGOING EVENTS**  
Now through April 1st Robert Farber Photography exhibit at PureLight Gallery in Turners Falls. Robert has published nine coffee table books, the first, *By The Sea*, was brought into Doubleday publishing by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. His latest books are *American Mood* and the revised soft cover publication *Natural Beauty Farber Nudes*. For more information on Robert, please visit his web site,

**SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH**  
A New Moon Coffee House with Tom Neilson, The Bard Insurgent. Presented by the Leverett Recreation Commission. Tom is one of the most savvy political song-writers in the country. Skilled at parody and satire, his quick wit skewers the outrageous behavior of



Author Jamaica Kincaid's work is featured in *Life and Debt* at the Bookmill on March 7th, 7 p.m.

The Montague Bookmill Friday Night Documentary Series continues with the following two films showing on Friday, March 11th, 7 p.m.: *The Trickle Down Theory of Sorrow*, (2002) - a 15-minute experimental short by Mary Filippo. An autobiographical piece about the filmmaker's mother and the working conditions of jewelry factories in the 1940s and 50s.

Distributed by the wonderful outfit Women Make Movies. Also, *Life and Debt*, (2001) - Stephanie Black's feature-length video on the impact of global trade policies in Jamaica, based on the writings of Jamaica Kincaid (and narrated by Kincaid.) Lots of awards for this documentary, including the Paris 2004 Human Rights Film Festival, Special Jury Prize. As always, films projected onto the specially angled screen for your viewing pleasure! With good sound quality and sofas! Please come! All screenings free. Food and drinks available downstairs at the Lady Killigrew Pub.

www.robertfarber.com. PureLight Gallery, 37 Third St., Turners Falls. For more info or directions call (508) 885-6048, visit www.purelightgallery.com, or email jan@purelightgallery.com. Gallery Hours: Fri. 4 - 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. or by appointment.

connection which they have been able to share with audiences throughout the Northeast in recent years. Tickets for the Montague Grange event will be \$12 at the door. The Montague Grange is located at 34 Main Street in Montague, Massachusetts. For directions, see the Franklin County multi-Grange website at www.mapomona19.org.

Smith College Bulb Show, March 5th - 20th. Bulbs on display at the Lyman Conservatory, Smith College campus in Northampton. Open daily 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Also open Friday (11th & 18th) from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. For more information call (413) 585-2740.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
Swedish fiddle and New England accordion join forces at Montague Grange on Saturday, March 19th. Swedish fiddler and singer Alicia Björnsdotter Abrams and Vermont accordionist Jeremiah McLane have joined forces to create an exciting new duo that plays traditional music from France, Scandinavia and North America. They will be giving a concert at the Montague Grange on Saturday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. In Swedish polskas, drinking and love songs and French Canadian reels and Breton dances, the fiddle, the voice and the accordion find a new common language. Alicia and Jeremiah first met at a festival in 2000, when Alicia was visiting the United States. They had an instant musical

## Hot Spot Teen Center

**Monday** - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 to 5 p.m.  
**Tues & Wed** - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 5 p.m.  
**Thursday** - Technology Drop-in hours, 3 to 5 p.m.  
**Friday, March 11th** - Skate Trip, 3 to 7 p.m.  
**Friday, March 18th** - Field trip to the Groove Cafe Open Mic in North Adams, 4:30 to 9 p.m.  
**Friday, March 25th** - Open Mic, 6 to 9 p.m.

These programs are free (except some skate trips) and open to local teens. Some require permission slips. For more info about any of these events or programs please call Jared at 863-9559.  
Hot Spot Teen Center in The Brick House Community Center, 24 Third St, Turners Falls

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### DEEP FREEZE FILMS

3/11 - "The Trickle Down Theory of Sorrow (2002) -- a 15-minute experimental short by Mary Filippo. Also, "Life and Debt," (2001) feature length, prize winning video about the impact of global economic policies on Jamaica. All are welcome.  
Projected upstairs with refreshments by the Lady Killigrew Cafe  
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MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 2:15 4:30
- BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE** PG in DTS sound  
DAILY 6:00 9:00  
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00
- SIDEWAYS** R  
DAILY 6:15 9:15  
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15
- HITCH** PG13  
DAILY 6:15 9:15  
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15  
CINEMA 6 AND 7 NOW HAVE NEW SEATS
- BE COOL** PG13 in DTS sound  
DAILY 6:30 9:30  
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30
- MILLON DOLLAR BABY** PG13 in DTS sound  
DAILY 6:30 9:30  
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30

## MONTAGUE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT OPEN SWIM SCHEDULE

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**OPEN SWIM SCHEDULE Turners Falls High School Pool REVISED MARCH 7 - MARCH 14**

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Wednesdays	6:00pm - 7:00pm	Wednesdays	7:00pm - 8:00pm
Thursdays	5:00pm - 6:00pm	Thursdays	6:00pm - 7:00pm

**OPEN SWIM FEES: Daily Fees:**

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Non Residents:	*Youth/Senior Citizen - \$2.50	Adults (18+) - \$3.50

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Residents:	*Youth/Senior Citizen - \$16.00	Adults (18+) - \$32.00
Non Residents:	*Youth/Senior Citizen - \$32.00	Adults (18+) - \$45.00

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. \*Youths under 12 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.  
Sessions may be cancelled due to swim meets and other special events.  
If school is cancelled due to inclement weather, there will be no open swim.

Mabel Zobel  
By  
Sandra Facto

"I CAN'T DIVE, BUT I SWIM JUST LIKE BABY SHAMO!"

# Waxwings Flock to Town

BY FRAN HEMOND

**TURNERS FALLS** - Flocks of cedar waxwings and robins add a lively dimension to Turners Falls in late winter. The birds love the ornamental fruit trees wise community planners have placed in the tree belts. At the foot of the Third Street hill sleek cedar waxwings and plump robins enjoy the fruit of the Washington hawthorne that hangs on the tree through the winter. Some years Bohemian waxwings, straying from their wintering grounds in the north central states, appear in town with their more common

local cousins. So far this year, the Bohemians have not appeared, but bird watchers, who know that Turners is attractive to these delightful visitors, do come looking.

Both waxwings are elegant birds. The cedar waxwing - a crested brown bird with a black bill and eye stripe, and a yellow band at the end of his tail - is smaller and sleeker than the robin. He has a small red sealing wax spot on the middle of his lower back, not always easy to see.

The Bohemian waxwing looks

similar to the cedar waxwing, but is a heftier brown bird with white wing patches and reddish undertail markings. The waxwings come in flocks to good feeding sites, at their pleasure... and are not accurately predictable.

Because Montague has tree belts along its village streets that have been well planted and cared for, there is food and shelter for the little creatures. Some of the existing trees were planted near the beginning of the last century. Elm, green ash, and crab apple are among them. It is a common belief that elm trees have been

wiped out by disease, but some remain in Turners. One is at Montague and High Street; another is on Fifth Street.

Today's generation is more familiar with maple trees, which have largely replaced them, and the elms are largely receding into historical fact and elders' memory. The Washington Elm in Cambridge, where George Washington took command of the rebel army from the South and the North that fought to create our free country, and the countless elms that furnished the high branches for swings that put mod-

ern playground equipment to shame are not easily forgotten.

Return for investment is always a happy thing. Our trees are long-term dividends; they increase in value, they offer shade, beauty, charm, shelter and food, and better air quality as they earn their keep. Tree warden Mark Stevens takes good care of our fine heritage and replaces trees when their day is done. The town has cared, and the joyful visits of the waxwings are part of the fruit their foresight bears.

## THE PERSISTENT GARDENER

# What to Grow in the Garden

BY WOODY BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - What shall I grow in the garden this year? If you're new to gardening, you'll be inclined to grow everything. I'm speaking now of vegetables, because, for the most part, that's where a gardener can get into trouble.

Please don't try to grow every vegetable you'll eat this summer and fall. Anyway, you probably don't have the room or the energy to cope with something that extensive. If you grow ten or twelve different vegetables, that will be plenty.

Now, here I will be subjective and tell you a couple of things I don't grow. I don't grow sweet corn. My reason is that I can't grow it as inexpensively as what is offered at a farm stand.

Also, the flavor of commercially grown corn is just fine with me. Potatoes are another vegetable I don't grow. Again, they are inexpensive, and I'm satisfied with the quality and taste of what's available commercially.

I do grow tomatoes, however, and in a big way for a family garden. This is related to my search for the finest tasting tomato. The finest is the one I have yet to discover, but I have come across a few very good ones. For example, I like *Celebrity* and have for the past two years grown the bush variety. In four oak barrels I grow *Patio*. Again I've made the choice after several years because of taste. To me, *Patio*, which is a smaller tomato, may even surpass *Celebrity* in flavor.



Just about any heirloom variety you can mention I have grown. I still grow *Olena Ukraine*, but I've given up on *Brandywine* as too bland. I've abandoned six or eight other heirlooms I've sampled because of bland flavor and susceptibility to disease.

One vegetable I grow that may seem to contradict what I said about corn is onions. The onions from the store are for the most part too strong. You can get the mild *Walla Walla* at many farm stands, but for me it is *too* mild. After years of trying this variety and that, I settled on *Ailsa Craig Exhibition*.

*Ailsa Craig* is mild but not *too* mild. It's great on hamburgers and hot dogs. I even dice it and sprinkle the onion parts over tomatoes and potato salad. My point is, to get this variety I have to grow it myself.

Our family garden will have spinach and lettuce, cucumbers and squash. Varieties as well as the vegetables themselves are selected on the basis of what we like the most.

Now, let me admit to a little foolishness relative to gardening that runs decidedly counter to what I've been suggesting for some other vegetables. I grow cantaloupe. It's an exceptional year when I get a really mature, full-sized, good tasting melon. Still, I keep trying. Those occasional times when I get a good melon are wonderful. I feel I've conquered the Mount Everest of gardening. I'm a champion!

This commentary on what to grow in your garden could go on and on. The core of my advice is, don't try to do it all. Select vegetables you enjoy eating, of course, but leave some of them for others. Happy Gardening!

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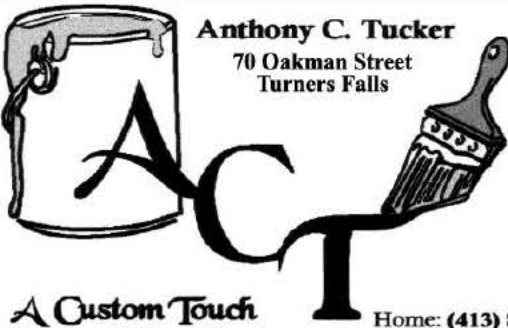
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