



## SURPRISE WINNER

Ice off Lake Pleasant Contast

Page 8

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 8 - NO. 25

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 25, 2010

## Planned Retirement for Town Official

BY P.H. CROSBY

**TURNERS FALLS** - Montague Select Board meeting was short and bittersweet Monday night, with two Board members present with a full but relatively straightforward agenda. Top of the list was discussion of the planned retirement of the Montague Police Department's faithful "K-9" Kyra. Ten years old now, Kyra is beginning to show her age, slowing down a little and not easily making the jumps she used to, reports Officer John Dempsey, her trainer.

Chief Ray Zukowski asked Board members to authorize the department to begin the search for a replacement, with a plan to bring on a new dog who meets with Kyra's as well as their own approval, and train the animal over the next six months at which point Kyra will step down.

Cost for a new dog is substantial, as much as \$6500, as there is over 240 hours in training. However, Zukowski noted that thanks to fundraisers such as the annual Golf Tournament (this year's scheduled for June 18th) and the donations of private citizens and businesses,

see MONTAGUE pg 5

## Governor Patrick Builds Bridges in Montague

BY DAVID DETMOLD

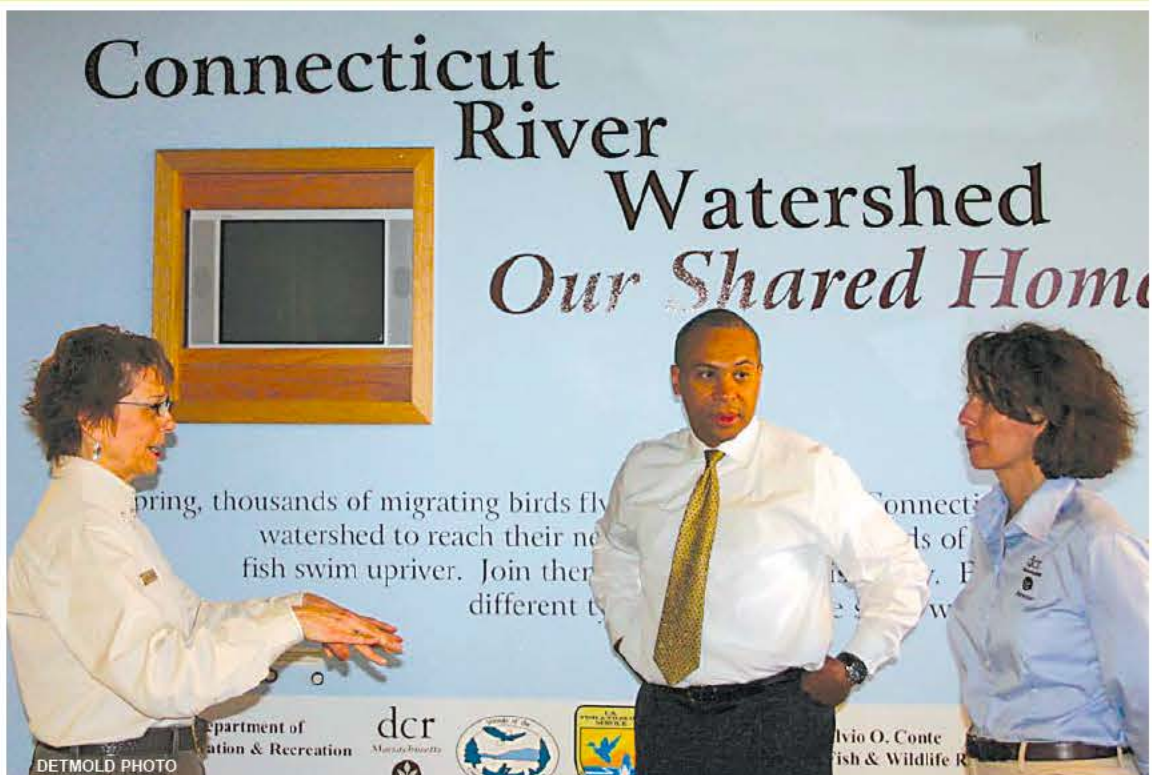
**GREAT FALLS** - Governor Deval Patrick came to town on Friday to tout his administration's travel and tourism initiatives, and got detoured by a one lane bridge.

The round table discussion at the Great Falls Discovery Center's sun-splashed patio was intended to give an opportunity for a dozen Franklin County tourism industry leaders to hear from Betsy Wall, executive director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, about her department's efforts to make Massachusetts a four-season destination for regional and international travel and commerce.

But as he shook hands and made the rounds, Patrick heard from Montague officials and residents about their fears that decades of state investment in the revitalization of downtown Turners Falls are on the line as the pending four year reconstruction of the Gill-Montague bridge - - and its resulting traffic detours - - gets underway.

"I'm fixated on this bridge and the traffic pattern," said Patrick, as he sat down to introduce Wall, seated beside him. "I don't want to hear we have maybe done something that takes years to recover from."

Lisa Davol, RiverCulture coordinator, told the governor



Sarah Bevilacqua Fish & Wildlife, Governor Duval Patrick and Mass Director Park & Rec Priscilla Geiges

her project had worked with Mass Cultural Council support for five years to boost tourism in downtown Turners , and to support the growth of artist studios and small businesses like the 2nd Street Bakery, where someone from the governor's entourage purchased fresh baked dog biscuits to distract the governor's well-behaved black lab, Toby, during the governor's roundtable discussion.

It was Davol who first mentioned, "We have a bridge that's about to be closed to one

lane of traffic," which caused Franklin County Chamber of Commerce director Ann Hamilton to interrupt and complain to Patrick that two way traffic flow had been ruled out during the course of reconstruction work on the 1700 foot bridge.

"Couldn't you have a light in the middle of the bridge?" to regulate two-way traffic, mused the governor.

Others in the crowd explained it would be difficult to regulate traffic two ways without backing up cars on

both sides of the bridge, and causing tie-ups on Route 2.

In response to a reporter asking whether he would support spending mitigation money to ease disruption to downtown businesses and employers, similar to the billions spent to ease the disruption caused by the Big Dig in Boston, Patrick responded, "The Big Dig! Man, that was before me."

"Yes, but this bridge is yours!" rejoined Hamilton.

see PATRICK pg 6

## The Miracle Worker at the Shea: A Miraculous Performance

BY SUDI NIMMS

**TURNERS FALLS** - This is the must-see true story of Anne Sullivan and her student, Helen Keller, who loses her sight and hearing to a childhood disease. This play by William Gibson is also a tale of growth for each of the real-life characters whose lives are forever changed as the wonders of the drama play out.

Director Rick Mauran describes "The Miracle Worker" as a play about Anne Sullivan, the woman who indeed works miracles with the deaf-blind Helen Keller. Filled with pathos as well as humorous notes, a spare, well-designed set, exceptional costumes,



Emma Henderson

effective lighting and effects, and marvelous acting, "The Miracle Worker" is indeed a wondrous experience.

Anne Sullivan (Emily Eaton), feisty, fiery, and determined, is hired into a southern household with a diverse cast of characters: Wild, six-

year-old Helen (Emma Henderson), her blowhard father (Nick de Ruiter), a gentle and caring mother (Jodie Brunelle), and a passive-aggressive half-brother (Dave Grout). During the action Anne comes into her own as the 20-year-old Irish teacher who "battles for independence" and for the sake of her charge, despite the initial doubts and misgivings of the Kellers.

Sullivan traveled to Alabama from Massachusetts where she attended Boston's Perkins School for the Blind. The differences between the Yankee upstart and the southern

see SHEA pg 12

## Green Communities

BY NAN RIEBSCHLAEGER

**WENDELL** - Sixteen area towns have started the process of seeking Green Community designation from the state. Green Communities is a program within the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) with the goal of placing the Commonwealth at the forefront of the 21st century clean energy economy. It does this by enabling cities and towns to maximize opportunities to save energy, generate some of their energy needs from renewable resources, and to make other decisions to reduce their environmental impact. Grants and loans of up to \$10 million (statewide) will be available to communities that achieve Green

Communities designation.

One or more municipalities may join together to submit an application to qualify as a regional Green Community. Each municipality in a regional application must meet each of the requirements with one exception: the 20% reduction from the energy baseline can be applied in the aggregate across all of the municipalities. When grant awards are made to those communities that have qualified as Green Communities, special consideration will be given to regional applications. Eight local towns are pursuing the designation as a region. They are Orange, Athol, Erving, Shutesbury, Wendell, New Salem, Phillipston, and Royalston. Towns working individually are Rowe,

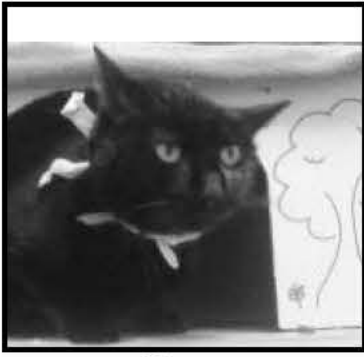
Montague, Greenfield, Gill, Sunderland, Deerfield, Buckland and Bernardston.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is providing free technical assistance to these towns helping them to develop action plans and time lines for meeting the requirements for designation. To qualify for free consulting services, communities were required to submit a letter from their chief local official committing to meet all five Green Communities benchmarks within one year of receiving the technical assistance award, and to have an established energy committee or partnership with a community energy organization. The towns are responsible for carrying out the steps to meet the criteria.

see GREEN pg 14

### PET OF THE WEEK

#### Let's Fall in Love



Coco

Hi, I'm Coco and I'm a five-year-old female domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. Unfortunately I have been here since November 24th of 2009! I have nerve paralysis in one eye. Since I can't blink that eye I need to have a kind human apply artificial tears. You see, I don't have opposable thumbs so I can't do this myself! We can't know if my condition is permanent or temporary, or if it will cause any problems in the future, but right now everything seems fine. Please come visit me and I'm sure we'll fall in love. For more information on adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

**WENDELL COUNTRY STORE**

"It's just a stone's throw from reality."

Groceries - Videos - Home Baked Goods  
Beer - Wine - Liquor

MON - SAT 7-9, SUNDAY 8-8  
978-544-8646

Lockes Village Rd.  
1/2 mile south of Wendell Center

**EXCAVATING**

Fencing - Patios - Walks -  
Walls Installed - Tree Work  
Loam - Compost - Mulch

**DEMERS  
LANDSCAPING**

413-863-3652

**The Montague Reporter**

Published weekly on Thursday,  
(Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.)

PHONE (413) 863-8666  
FAX (413) 863-3050  
reporter@montaguema.net  
Postmaster: Send address changes to  
The Montague Reporter  
58 4th Street  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

Local Subscription Rates:  
\$20 for 6 months

### WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

#### Spring Playgroup and Service Dog Program

Teen and Tweens Program on Sunday, March 28th, at 3:00 p.m. is a Service Dog Demo. Play with and help train local three-month-old puppy named Barnum, a future service dog. We will watch videos of service dogs in action, watch a demonstration, and try our hands at

teaching a young dog new tricks.

Learn how service dogs are trained, what they do for their disabled owners, and how to act when you meet one in public. Please do not wear any scented products to this event. Sharon Wachsler is the program leader.

### NEW SALEM LIBRARY NEWS

#### If there is room

The Friends of The New Salem Public Library will be holding a Story Hour on Tuesday, March 30th at 3:00pm.

Refreshments Served

The New Salem Public Library is introducing the el Taller Workshop run by Laura Rojo MacLeod; featuring readings, conversations, activities

and storytime in Spanish and English for all ages and families on Tuesdays in April at 4:00pm.

Sponsored by The Friends of the Library.

The New Salem Public Library will be showing the film: THE COVE: man is their biggest threat and their only hope. April 10th at 7:00 pm.

#### Farm, Land Trust to Host Maple Sugaring Tour

Johnson's Farm and Sugarhouse, Orange-Maple sugaring has been part of each year at Johnson's Farm for over a century. This spring, Steve and DeeDee Johnson invite people to come down to the sugarhouse on Saturday, March 27 for a tour of their sugaring operation. The event, which will be held from 9:30-11:30, is co-sponsored by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, which

worked together with the Johnsons to permanently protect 80 acres of the farm in 2002.

The tour is free, and open to all ages. Or come early and join Mount Grace Executive Director Leigh Youngblood for a pancake breakfast at the restaurant beginning at 8:30.

To register or for directions please call or email David Kotker at (978) 248-2055 x19 or kotker@mountgrace.org

#### 6TH Haitian Emergency Relief Drive

Collecting tents, tarps, infant formula, crutches, walkers, gas generators, soccer balls, and rain gear. All supplies collected will be added to a container leaving for the St. Claire Orphanage in Tiplas Kazo, Port Au Prince. Financial donations are also

needed to make shipment possible. Drop-off sites: Sat., 11:00-1:00 in the Food City parking lot, Turners Falls, and Saturday, 12:00 to 3:00 at the Wendell Country Store. More information: mgarcia@jonesrealtors.com and AFYAfoundation.org.

#### Interested in gardening with a community of other gardeners, both new and experienced?

The Wendell Community Garden has good sun and fertile soil and it's right in the center of town, near the Town Offices. Plots are available for selection until April 15. Plots will be allocated on a first-come first-serve basis, with a maximum of two plot reservations allowed until assignments are made.

After that, any remaining plots will be distributed to those who request them. Gardeners who want to keep last season's plot(s) should contact the Community Garden Committee. Contact Katie at 978-544-2306 or email: wendellcomgardeners@hughes.net .

### SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – March 29th to April 2nd

GILL/MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Friday at Noon. Meal reservations must be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Meal site manager is Becky Cobb. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For information or to make meal reservations, call (413) 863-9357. Thursday Morning Tai Chi is free and open to the public. Call the senior center for information on any programs.

**Monday, March 29th**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
1:00 p.m. Kitting Circle  
**Tuesday, March 30th**  
Tax Prep by Appointment  
9:00 a.m. Walking Group  
10:30 a.m. Yoga

1:00 p.m. Canasta  
1:00 p.m. Painting  
**Wednesday, March 31st**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
1:00 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursay, April 1st**  
10:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, April 2nd**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
1:00 p.m. Scrabble  
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For info and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.



LYN CLARK PHOTO

**Successful Warm Up Franklin County Drive!**  
*Thanks to more than 50 new Montague Reporter subscribers, and to Patrick Pezzati of Turn It Up! CDs and Movies at the Montague Bookmill who matched our gift, two checks totaling \$575 were presented to Father Stan Aksamit (center) of Our Lady of Peace Church on Tuesday by David Detmold (left) and Pezzati (right) for the homelessness prevention programs of the Interfaith Council of Franklin County.*

### Correction

The photo of the jazz ensemble Kwajmal appearing at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Friday, March 12th was credited incorrectly in our last issue. Linda Hickman took the photo.

#### Wendell Annual Litter Pickup

Because of a schedule conflict the date of Wendell's annual litter pickup has been changed from April 24th to May 8th. Meet at the highway garage, Fire Station at 9:00 to organize and collect trash until 11:00. If you want to help, but that time is not good for you, collect trash and leave it in a bag safely off the road. Call Anne Diemand at 544-6111, or Ted Lewis at 544-3329 to arrange pick up of the bag, or if you have any questions.

### CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

#### No Story Hour 31st

BY LINDA HICKMAN  
TURNERS FALLS – There will be no Story Hour on Wednesday, March 31st at the Carnegie Library. All other children's programs will be held on their usual days and times the rest of the week. For more information, call 863-3214.

**Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week**

**Grade 6**  
Alison Ovalle

**Grade 7**  
Brandon Camara  
Alex Morin

**Grade 8**  
Lauren Grimard

on Avenue A for over 10 years

**Jay K's Liquors**

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

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

59 Avenue A • Turners Falls  
863-9900

NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA

32 Bridge Street,  
2nd Floor  
Shelburne Falls

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

LIVE IN  
EST. 1754  
**MONTAGUE?**

www.MontagueMA.net  
local gossip, news & business listings

**THE SHADY GLEN**

Elias

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER  
DAILY SPECIALS  
SEAFOOD  
HOMEMADE COOKING  
SOUPS & PIES  
SUNDAY BREAKFAST 7 - 2  
7 AVENUE A | 863-9636



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

# Local Briefs

COMPILED BY  
**DON CLEGG**

— Laurel Carpenter, visitor services specialist at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls, will get you “up close and personal with worms” on Saturday, March 27th from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Carpenter explains about different types of worms, special things about their anatomy, how they help the environment, that many of the worms we see are not native, and she describes the effect some of these have on our local environment. She will have some live worms with which to illustrate her points and show how they move through the soil.

This program is oriented towards elementary age students, but it will be interesting and fun information for all. No pre-registration is required.

The Friends of Gill are sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast at the Gill Congregational Church, Gill Town Common on Main Road, on Saturday, March 27th, from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Join friends and neighbors while treating yourself to the best pancakes in the valley complete with local maple syrup, sausage, orange juice and hot beverages. This is all you can eat. Adults are \$6.00, seniors \$5.00 and children under ten years old just \$3.00.

Join in for a free, family ori-

ented and fun community meal at the Montague Farm Zen House, Montague Center, on Saturday, April 10, starting at noon. In addition to this hot meal there will be guided hikes, gardening, puppet making and puppet shows, scavenger hunt, music, and - of course - dancing. This is the first in a series of monthly Saturday meals that will be held at the Zen House. RSVP by April 7th so there will be enough food for all. Free transportation is being arranged from areas in Greenfield and Montague. Contact Karen at 413-367-5275 or Karen@zenpeacemakers.com

The Brick House Community Resource Center at 34 Third Street in Turners Falls is having a showing of the film, “In Transition, from oil dependence to local resilience”. Tina Clarke, a trainer with Transition Initiatives in the United States, and a Montague resident will be presenting the film on Monday, April 7th, at 7:00 p.m. Come and

meet with local community members who have been working to help our community and others become more resilient and sustainable. For more information refer to [www.brickhousecommunity.org](http://www.brickhousecommunity.org)

Spring cleaning time is here so check your attic, basement, garage or barn. If you find good, useable items that you have no need for, then consider donating them to the United Church of Bernardston. Their annual auc-

tion is the kick-off event of the Gas Engine Show/Flea Market held May 28-May 30, 2010. Donations are already being accepted. This annual auction needs your good items, but please no appliances, clothes or items treated with lead paint. Please contact Tom at 863-8145 with questions or to arrange for delivery and/or pick-up.

Send items for local briefs to [reporter-local@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter-local@montaguema.net)

## WENDELL NOMINATION PAPERS

Town of Wendell, Election May 3rd, 2010. Polling hours are 12 noon to 8:00 p.m. The following nomination papers have been filed with the election officials for certification of names. After certification they must be filed with the Town Clerk before Monday, March 29th at 5:00 p.m. Final Day to withdraw name from Ballot is March 31st by 5:00 p.m. Final day to register to vote is April 13th, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk Office.

For questions or further information, call (978) 544-6052 or email [ahartjens@isp.com](mailto:ahartjens@isp.com).

Additions and deletions to printing on March 11th:

BOARD OF ASSESSORS 2 yrs (fill vacancy)

Removed: Raymond J. DiDonato CEMETERY COMMISSIONER 1 yr

Added: Richard A Wilder Sr., Nomination Papers.

TREE WARDEN 1 yr.

Added: Richard A Wilder Sr., Nomination Papers

## L.A.P.P.S. is a Success

**KATHERINE KUKLEWICZ TURNERS FALLS** - The Local Aquatic Program for Personal Safety, better known as L.A.P.P.S., was a great success! This year L.A.P.P.S. had the most participants and volunteers to date. L.A.P.P.S. is a free five-day swim safety program coordinated and run by Katherine Kuklewicz. Katherine is a Junior at Turners Falls High School. The program taught 22 children different water safety skills in the Turners Falls High School pool. The youths bettered their water skills and learned new water

safety techniques. Along with the youths, the 20 volunteers had a great time playing and teaching the kids. Each day we focused on



BARBARA KUKLEWICZ PHOTO

L.A.P.P.S. program volunteer Natasha Vaughn (Middle) teaches Lily DeVarney (Left) and Sierra Williams (Right) water safety skills while having a fantastic time.

a new skill and then practiced it in the pool. This method is not only fun and successful, but reinforces the skill with practice. This program is especially important in our community with so many rivers and lakes in close proximity.

L.A.P.P.S. would like to thank Our Lady of Peace Church, St. Stanislaus Society, Tognarelli Heating & Cooling, Greenfield Savings bank, St. Kaziemerz, and all the volunteers without whose generous contributions L.A.P.P.S. would not be here today.

## PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU, INC. Insurance

Don't forget to renew your driver license!

- The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles no longer sends out driver license renewal notices.
- Check the expiration date on your driver license.
- Read more at [www.pzinc.com](http://www.pzinc.com)



**ARBELLA**  
INSURANCE GROUP

25 MILLERS FALLS ROAD  
TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

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

**RIVERSIDE RADIATOR**  
General Auto Repair  
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS and HEAVY EQUIPMENT  
Foreign and Domestic  
Propane Filling Station  
Route 2, Gill  
863-4049 1-800-439-4049  
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

**THE TEXTILE CO. INC.**  
Retail Fabric Store  
Cotton • Silks • Polyesters • Vinyls • Upholstery Material  
Quilting Supplies • Patterns • Calicos • Notions  
CASH & CHECKS ONLY  
Mon.-Sat. 9-5:20, Fri. til 8:20  
Power Square Greenfield  
(413) 773-7516

**MARINI BUILDERS**  
Since 1976  
Garages Decks/Porches Home Improvements Excavating  
Additions Structural Repairs Sump Pumps Concrete  
Gill, MA  
Licensed - Insured - References  
[Marini19@comcast.net](mailto:Marini19@comcast.net) 413-863-5099

Since 1895  
On the Common Greenfield, Massachusetts  
Turners Falls, Massachusetts  
**McCarthy FUNERAL HOME**  
www.mccarthyfuneralhomes.com  
(413) 774-4808  
John C. Davis  
Director

SINCE 1888  
**A.H. Rist INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.**  
159 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA 01376  
email: [tracey@ahrist.com](mailto:tracey@ahrist.com)  
web: [www.ahrist.com](http://www.ahrist.com)  
**Tracey Kuklewicz 863-4373**  
Vice President

**Negus & Taylor, Inc. Monuments**  
NEGUS & TAYLOR, INC.  
fine memorials since 1893  
We engrave memories that last forever  
People often come to see us because their parents and their grandparents did. We're proud to have that kind of loyalty, and we work hard to keep it.  
- Gary and Nancy Melen  
MAIN OFFICE 773-9552  
10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA  
"The perfect remembrance"

**LAPINE MULTIMEDIA**  
MOVIES, SLIDES, VIDEOS & MORE!  
CONVERTED TO DVD, VHS & OTHER FORMATS!  
**Bill & Kathy White 413-773-7747**

**Geri Johnson**  
CBB, CRS, GRI  
Geri Johnson & Associates REALTORS  
66 French King Highway  
Gill, MA 01376  
(413) 863-9736  
Fax (413) 863-9739  
Equal Housing Opportunity  
REALTOR  
MLS

**Great Rates, Fully Insured!**  
**Greenfield Co-operative Bank**  
A Great Financial Partner  
BestLocalBank.com  
Reach All Locations 772-0293  
Greenfield • Northfield • Sunderland  
MEMBER FDIC  
MEMBER SIF

# The Montague Reporter

**Editor**  
David Detmold

**EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS**  
Hugh Corr  
David Brule  
Michael Jackson

**Circulation**  
Suzette Snow-Cobb  
Janel Nockleby

**Layout & Design**

Claudia Wells  
Boysen Hodgson  
Karen Hoyden  
Karen Wilkinson  
Suzette Snow-Cobb

"The Voice of the Villages"

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

**Photography**

Joe Parzych  
Shawn Woolsey  
Claudia Wells

**Distribution Manager**  
Don Clegg

**Technical Administrators**  
Michael Muller  
Michael Ferrick

## LIBRARY USERS, UNITE!

**KAREN STINCHFIELD, DIRECTOR CUSHMAN LIBRARY BERNARDSTON**

The other day, one of our patrons came into the library and asked, "Can you tell me who to write to in order to complain about the cuts that have been proposed for the library system?" And so it has been for the past few weeks, as word of what Governor Patrick's proposed 29% cut to State Aid for Regional Libraries would mean for the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System (WMRLS) and all of the libraries that benefit from the presence of this vital organization. It has become clear to me that what most patrons associate with WMRLS is the ability to borrow all types of library materials through the Inter-Library Loan support program (ILL), the free-to-libraries Delivery Service that moves books and audiovisuals from one library to another across four counties, and the now defunct Bookmobile, which fell victim to budget cuts in December 2009. Most patrons, however, are probably unaware of the multitude of services that WMRLS offers local libraries. As Director of Cushman Library in Bernardston, I am keenly aware of how WMRLS supports our library and improves the services that we offer our patrons. I am also keenly aware of what the loss of WMRLS would mean not only to our patrons but to our staff, and to the services that we offer.

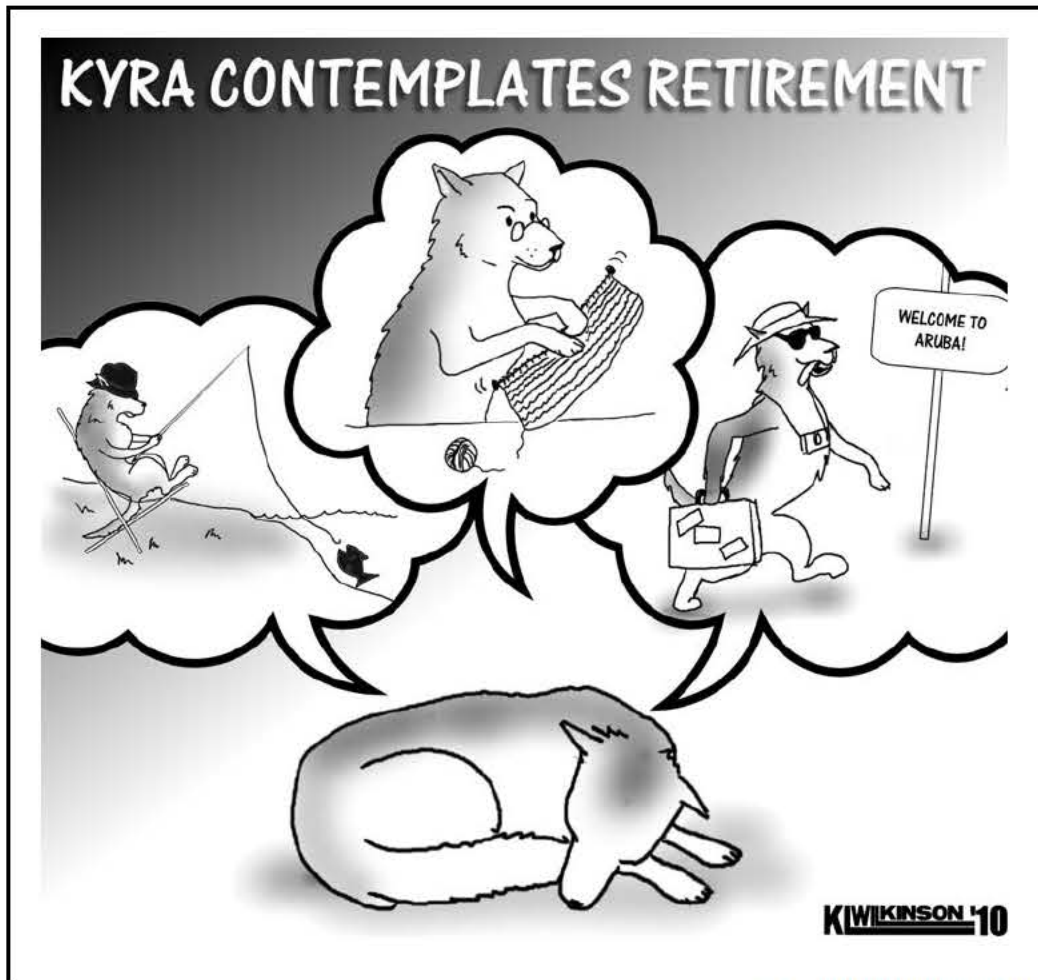
The impending merger of the MA Regional Library Systems, which falls under the auspices of the MA Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), will consolidate the six present library regions into one statewide organization with one "hub" that will be located in Waltham, and later in another eastern city. Losing the Bookmobile was difficult enough, but losing WMRLS local headquarters would be devastating to Western MA libraries. At this point, the plan is to decrease WMRLS presence to a minimal existence throughout Fiscal Year 2011 (7/10 to 6/11), with the delivery drivers and a few other staff members working out of the Whately headquarters, but beyond that there are no guarantees that the regional office will

survive in any form. The hope of many Western MA library users is that their impassioned pleas and volume of e-mails, letters, and phone calls will convince the MBLC that the Western region needs and deserves a constant and well-staffed headquarters in Western MA.

Beyond the negative impact on ILL, the absence of or decreased presence of WMRLS will mean that member libraries will not have immediate efficient access to the extremely knowledgeable WMRLS librarians and support staff; continuing education offerings that satisfy both State requirements and the enrichment of library programming and staff; facilitation of the statewide Summer Reading Program, including materials and training in support of that program; assistance in locating materials that cannot be found through basic catalog searches, which require WMRLS personnel to exhaust all possible options worldwide; assistance with the orientation of new Library Directors and support for library staff throughout their employment; assistance with collection development, including recommendations for new acquisitions and weeding procedures for items to be discarded; onsite visits from WMRLS staff in support of efficient and comfortable library organization, management, and physical lay-out; and more.

These changes are being presented as money-saving measures, which some of them are, but by dismantling the regions and placing the one hub in Eastern MA, the cost to Western MA libraries will be felt both financially and through diminished services. NOW is the time to raise your voices in support of Western MA libraries! Legislators will be debating and voting on the budget during this week and next, so it's not too late to tell your representatives, the Governor, and the MBLC that Western MA should continue to have a local library support system located in Western MA.

For more information about this issue, visit <http://friends.wmrls.org>, or go to Facebook and join "We Love Western MA Libraries" and "Friends of WMRLS".



KIWILKINSON '10

KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Standing Up for Good Health

On Feb. 24, many individuals and organizations including Massachusetts Medical Society, American Lung Association of New England, Massachusetts Sierra Club, Stop Spewing Carbon Campaign gave powerful testimony before the Legislature urging a new law to limit biomass and the harmful effects of biomass combustion power plants. The Legislature heard testimony on House Bill 4458, the ballot question that garnered over 100,000 signatures from Massachusetts voters last fall, that many of you signed.

If you want good health, a clean environment and to give tax incentives to truly clean energies (solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, tidal), call your state Representative and Senator, and ask them to sup-

port House Bill 4458. Phone numbers available: [www.mass.gov/legis/city\\_town.htm](http://www.mass.gov/legis/city_town.htm). We have until May 3 to get favorable action on House Bill 4458, "An Act to Limit Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Renewable and Alternative Energy Sources" which applies to biomass and garbage burning power plants. The Bill is in a powerful Committee that holds the key to changing the law on biomass and garbage burning power plants. It's critical that we get something done in the Legislature!

I'm asking Sen. Rosenburg (617-722-1532) and Rep. Donelan (617-772-2230) to support House Bill 4458 to end incentives for biomass and garbage burning power plants that emit

pollutants that cause cancer, asthma, heart attacks and other diseases. I want them to submit recommendation to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications and Utilities to support House Bill 4458, as Representative Kocot has done. I also want to hear back from them to know if they support House Bill 4458, and if they made supporting recommendation to the Committee.

Please make phone calls before May 3! Ask friends and neighbors to call! Thanks for standing up for good health, a clean environment and giving tax incentives to clean energies, which don't pollute!

- Charles Kosterman  
Greenfield

## Lucky Number 850!

Gail Lagoy of Millers Falls subscribed to The Montague Reporter when she realized she couldn't always count on it still being at her local store when she was shopping. Sometimes it sells out! For being our lucky 850th subscriber Gail wins a \$50 gift certificate to any advertiser of her choice in The Montague Reporter.

Gail and her husband Michael and daughter Sarah bought a new house in Millers Falls a year and a half ago because their dear friends live close-by in Orange and Warwick, and they fell in love with the area. Gail, a software development business analyst for an insurance company, got hooked on The Montague Reporter when the paper was running Joseph A. Parzych's Jep's Place: Hope, Faith and Other Disasters, a serial memoir that finished last year in the paper and that is also available

in book form at The Great Falls Discovery Center gift shop. Gail loves all the little tidbits of local news about her favorite villages that she finds in the paper, and after living here for a bit she is getting her feet wet with local activities at The Great Falls Discovery Center, with lots of hiking near her home, and her husband Michael is considering taking up fishing.

The Lagoys have chosen to get their \$50 gift certificate at the Greenfield Farmers Cooperative Exchange. "We do a lot of gardening at this time of year and we love that store," she said.

Gail's subscription order form arrived at The Montague Reporter office during our late winter subscription drive to benefit the Interfaith Council of Franklin County, to support their homelessness prevention programs. Thank you Gail and all of our 42 new subscribers!

**American Dead in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 3/18/10**



**We Welcome Your Letters!**

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

### Sign Me Up!

- \$20 for 26 issues (local)
- \$25 out-of-area subscribers

**The Montague Reporter**  
58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

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

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

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

**NOTES FROM LEVERETT SELECTBOARD**

# Leverett Prepares Balanced Budget

**BY DAVID DETMOLD** - Leverett waited to hear news of the successful passage of a \$1.68 million override in Amherst on Tuesday night before the selectboard and finance committee proposed adjustments to the town's \$5.05 million budget.

Passage of the Amherst override means the town of Leverett expects to pay \$72,703 more for its share of regional upper school services for FY '11. With this extra cost, Leverett will be able to offer proposed spending to town meeting on April 24th to pay for a level funded \$1.69 million elementary school budget, which includes 1.5% cost of living raises for teachers, while holding town departments to level funded (or five percent

decreased) budgets, with no cost of living raises for town employees.

"We are hanging on by our fingernails," said selectboard member Peter d'Errico.

The proposed spending includes no extra money for the town's stabilization account. The failure to appropriate funds to stabilization for a second year in a row is a source of concern, since a number of departments will soon need to replace major pieces of equipment, with a new \$350,000 fire truck topping the list. For now, fire chief John Moruzzi will try to make repairs to a 22-year old pumper that has been leaking water and losing electric power to the headlights, causing him to drive to mutual aid calls at night by relying on spotlights

to illuminate the road. A \$6,000 warrant article would allow repairs to the truck.

Amherst-Pelham regional school committee chair Farshid Hajir called the selectboard shortly after 9:00 p.m. to report the Amherst override had passed by a vote of 3058 to 2189. Afterwards, Hajir said, "Leverett has for years voted to contribute financially to maintaining a strong regional school system. As a homeowner and taxpayer, I'm really happy the voters of Amherst have overwhelmingly voted to maintain services and support the regional schools."

Hajir said the regional school committee expected to revote the Amherst-Pelham school budget this week, in light of the override's passage.

Hajir said the regional schools still planned to cut about \$800,000 from the FY '11 budget, after eliminating 27 positions last year. Even with these cuts, Hajir said, the regional schools would be able to "maintain the same quality of services, with reasonable class sizes in core academic classes."

The Leverett selectboard and finance committee will seek small adjustments to their FY '11 budget proposal in order to restore cuts to town departments, including an \$1175 cut to the library budget which would trigger the loss of \$900 in state library aid, a combined loss finance committee member Tom Powers called unjustifiable. The town also hopes to find enough money to provide 1% cost of living increases for town employees.

"I think if the school people are getting a raise, then our people should get one," said

finance committee chair Don Gibavic.

But the boards will avoid resorting to a town override, for now, to add money to the stabilization account.

According to figures presented by George Drake, chair of the capital planning committee, the stabilization account is already more than \$200,000 shy of where it should be to meet scheduled replacement costs for departmental vehicles. Leverett has about \$496,817 in uncommitted funds in stabilization, and about \$137,000 in free cash. "It doesn't make sense to push stuff off to the point where the repair costs are greater than the annualized replacement cost," for vehicles and equipment, Drake said.

The selectboard said an override could be called in the fall if the older of the town's fire trucks cannot be kept in service at a reasonable cost.

**MONTAGUE from pg 1**

the cost to the town is zero.

Select Board members Patricia Pruitt and Mark Fairbrother approved continuation of the K-9 program, "with grateful appreciation to everyone who generously donates to it." When Kyra is eventually retired, procedures will be followed in terms of disbursement of town property, and trainer John Dempsey has expressed an interest in adopting her.

In other Police Department business, Zukowski requested that the Select Board ask for the new Civil Service list since Zukowski is ready to begin looking for five new reserve officers to replace ones who have left. He also asked for authority to promote Juvenile Officer Bill Doyle to Detective status, with an increase of five cents an hour.

"He has completed a lot of training and taken on a lot of extra responsibilities," noted Zukowski. "Advancing his position will give the department more flexibility in assignments and coverage."

After approving a list of sewer abatement requests presented by Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Bob Trombley, board members heard from Town Administrator Frank Abbondazio, and subsequently approved authorizing the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to procure fuel oil, gasoline, and diesel for FY'11. They also signed off on an Energy Efficiency and Conservation block grant proposal to replace the boiler, and supported a FRCOG application to study 911 dispatch services for the region and possible alternatives. The Responsive Classroom

program that leases office space in the Colle building is interested in negotiating a new three-year lease, noted Abbondazio, and board members authorized the town administrator to start that process.

Discussion ensued on the topic of the change in weight limits of the Power Canal Bridge at 5th St. After the recent MA Department of Transportation (DOT) inspection, the maximum weight was lowered to 15 tons. The Fire Department was hoping to receive a waiver from DOT which would allow fire trucks to cross in emergencies, but it appears only the smallest - Engine #1 at 33,280 lbs. - will be allowed to use the bridge.

Town officials are setting up a working meeting with MA DOT to discuss ways of coping with some of the disruptions being caused by the new weight limit,

and to plan for the heavy increase in traffic which will occur when work begins on the Gill-Montague bridge. One possibility may be a traffic light that will afford some extra time for large trucks backing into and out of Southworth to maneuver safely.

Board members postponed till their next meeting responding to a letter from the Montague Center Fire Department because one Board member had not had time to review it yet.



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG**

**Tuesday, 3/16**  
9:30 a.m. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration and uninsured, possession of a forged registry document and speeding on Mountain Road.  
5:05 p.m. Smoke reported in the area of the Erving Department of Public Works. Investigated and it was coming from a burn pile in the rear. All set, no problem.  
6:17 p.m. Wires downed by a tree near Laurel Lake. National Grid advised.  
8:30 p.m. Assisted Gill [redacted] for operat-

ing a vehicle with a revoked license on Route 2.  
**Sunday, 3/21**  
9:40 a.m. Report of larceny on Forest Street. Under investigation.  
12:53 p.m. Shots fired in area of French King Highway. Subjects found to be on private property. Asked to leave. All set.  
11:05 p.m. Report of moose laying beside Route 2. Unable to locate.

Police with a hit and run accident at the Wagon Wheel restaurant on route 2.  
**Thursday, 3/18**  
5:15 p.m. Orange fire department reported a small camp fire near the gate of the Erving State Forest near Route 2 and Route 2A. Nothing found.  
**Saturday, 3/20**  
12:40 p.m. Arrested [redacted]

Montague Parks & Recreation Department presents  
*The Annual Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza*  
Saturday, April 3  
1:00pm  
Unity Park, First Street, Turners Falls  
Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to take part in this great community tradition, featuring:  
..... face painting (\$1 per face),  
..... egg decorating,  
..... pictures with Peter Cottontail (\$1 per picture),  
..... bake sale  
..... Bobby C I  
.....and our Annual Egg Hunt where kids will have the challenge of finding well over 5,000 candy and toy-filled eggs placed throughout Unity Park.  
Participants must bring their own basket/bag for the eggs.  
**THIS EVENT IS RAIN OR SHINE.**  
*We thank the generosity of the event Co-Sponsors:*  
Hillside Plastics, The Montague Elks,  
Franklin County Rotary Club,  
Greenfield Savings Bank, Sirum Equipment Co.,  
Equi's Candy Store, and Boy Scout Troop #6.  
*Proceeds benefit MPRD programs and services.*

**The Gill Tavern**  
Come for a drink, stay for a meal  
The Tavern serves fare made from fresh ingredients (mostly locally produced) in an atmosphere that fosters friendship, community, and respect for our environment.  
Full bar ♦ Great wine list ♦ The People's Pint beer on tap!  
Open Wed-Sun at 5pm 326 Main Rd, Gill, MA  
www.thegilltavern.com 413.863.9006

**Jonathan Abbott**  
SSI / Disability Attorney  
If you can't work, let me work for you.  
tel: (413) 253-0052 Amherst, MA  
In Home Appointments  
jabbottesq@verizon.net

**STOREWIDE SALE!**  
Unique Gifts from Tibet, Nepal & India  
PLUS Local Artisan Gallery  
**HIMALAYAN VIEWS**  
South of Magic Wings on 5&10 • Th-Sa 12-6 • tibetanplaza.com

**About Face Computer Solutions**  
413.367.0025  
Computer Repair Custom PCs  
IT Support & Consulting  
Network Installation/ Maintenance  
info@about\_facecomputers.com

**LIEBENOW AUTO BODY**  
"WE DO THE COMPLETE JOB"  
Insurance Collision Repairs  
We Accept All Insurance Companies  
Auto Glass Replacements  
Shop Rental Car  
Frame & Unibody Straightening  
LOCAL PICK-UP & DELIVERY  
Mass Repair Shop #1839  
774-4420  
163 WELLS STREET GREENFIELD  
Quality Work on All Makes & Models  
Towing & Rental Cars Arranged

**Leaf Busters**  
Gutter Cleaning and Repairs,  
Snow Removal, Ice Dam Removal,  
Roof Raking, Lawn Maintenance  
and Odd Jobs  
Call for a FREE Estimate  
**Justin Hanecak**  
413-512-1553

**PATRICK** from pg 1

"I will take that on," vowed the governor. "Not the mitigation money, but the light."

Ristorante DiPaolo owner Denise DiPaolo told the governor her new business on Avenue A, just celebrating its fourth anniversary on Saturday, was weathering the recession well, but, "I'm concerned about signage," to direct her customers during the bridge reconstruction, "more than anything else."

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio told Patrick that the Montague Business Association will be meeting with District 2 Highway Director Al Stegeman, or his representatives, on Wednesday, March 31st, to discuss the problem of signage to direct people in and out of downtown during the four years of bridge construction. "It would be good to work out a plan," said Abbondanzio. "We've got a lot of momentum here."

Abbondanzio also told Patrick about a proposal to establish a Native American cultural tourism center in Turners Falls, working with Northeastern tribes like the Wampanoags and the Narragansetts to highlight the historical significance of the area, rich in 10,000 years of indigenous occupation, archeology and battle sites from the colonial era.

But Patrick brushed past the

Native America history to focus on the bridge again." These infrastructure projects are more expensive because they have been left so long. I'm glad we're able to get to this one."

Facing the group as a whole, Patrick said, "So, you want signs?"

"We want solid gold signs," said DiPaolo, impishly.

"To match your business cards?" laughed Patrick. "That can be arranged."

DiPaolo had handed him her black and gold business card minutes earlier, and the governor took note and promised to be back for dinner soon. He also promised Davol he would return when his schedule allowed more time to tour the entire downtown and see the progress being made on cultural tourism and small business development.

Before turning the discussion over to Wall to talk about which European countries had seen the biggest uptick in tourists heading to Massachusetts (Germany and Italy, up 40%; France up 27%), Patrick made the briefest of opening remarks.

"As in every area of governing today, as at the local level, we are focused on how to do what needs to be done smarter and cheaper." He said he had taken note of the local concerns: "Signs, bridge, impact of health care on small business, regional tourism."

"And funding for the Mass

Cultural Council," interjected Davol.

"Got it," said Patrick. But he added his hands were tied by a \$3 billion state budget deficit. At that, he turned the roundtable discussion over to the director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, saying wryly, "We all know how much I love the Office of Travel and Tourism." Mass OTT has not warmed up to Patrick's plan to introduce casino gambling in Massachusetts as a means of economic development.

Earlier in the day, Patrick traveled to Springfield to meet with the grassroots Alliance to Develop Power and discuss the impact of spending \$4.3 billion in federal stimulus funds in Massachusetts, which the Patrick administration claims has saved or created 13,500 jobs.

At a subsequent regional economic summit in Amherst, where he met with leaders from the building trades, Patrick met with business, political and educational leaders, including featured speaker Barry Bluestone, dean of the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University.

Bluestone said Massachusetts job growth is likely to be centered in health care, education, and manufacturing. The first two sectors created 25,000 jobs during the current recession, while the employment in manufacturing has added jobs over the

last three months, after suffering reversals earlier in the economic downturn.

"Manufacturing is very important to this region, not just the region but the state," Bluestone said, according to Kristin Palpini, reporting in the Hampshire Gazette. "While Massachusetts lost a lot of its manufacturers, what we have now is both powerful and the fourth largest sector in the state."

At that economic summit, Pioneer Valley Planning Council director Tim Brennan

contrasted a picture of a jeep crushed by a falling tree (which he used to illustrate the impact of the recession on Western Massachusetts) with a sunny image of a bridge over the Connecticut River, to show the hopeful signs of economic recovery now taking hold.

Before he left Turners, the image of that hopeful bridge over the Connecticut may have taken on a different shade of meaning for the governor.



## Word on the Ave

*What would you tell the governor if you had his ear?*

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**

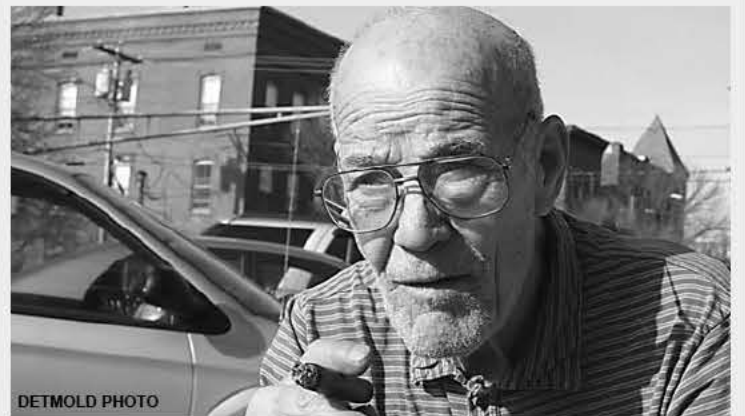
**TURNERS FALLS** - "When is he going to lower the beer tax?" That's what Anna Howard said would be her first question to Deval Patrick, if he'd come far enough downstreet to stop in at Equi's Candy Store, where she clerks in the afternoons. "Our customers are going to New Hampshire to save money; we're losing business."

Howard would tell him a thing or two about legalizing casino gambling in the state. "I think gambling's a bad idea. We already struggle with the lottery. People don't want to spend their money. Now it's even worse, with people not having jobs. They can't spend."

Walter Carlisle, retired mechanic, said he'd tell the governor, "Fix the Bridge. They've been looking at it long enough. They said they'd do it in 2007. Here it is 2010."

Carlisle will get his wish in June, if all goes as planned. That's when the Gill-Montague bridge is scheduled to begin a four year renovation project, at a cost of \$40.7 million. Traffic across the bridge will be one-way into town for the first three years, until deck work is completed. At that point, repairs to the superstructure and masonry will last for another year.

A young man seated in front of his stoop near Spinner Park said



*Walter Carlisle*

he would tell the governor, "Fix the infrastructure. It needs to be rebuilt."

But he wasn't talking about the bridge to Gill. He was talking about the crumbling concrete raised planters in front of his apartment.

see WORD pg 7

**BRING YOUR BIKE IN FOR SPRING TUNE-UP**



**ROCKY MTN FUSION BIKE WAS \$1,000 NOW \$600**

FULL SUSPENSION MOUNTAIN BIKES ON SALE 20% - 40% OFF

BAGGY MOUNTAIN BIKE SHORTS 20% OFF

BRING IN YOUR SKIS IN FOR SPRING TUNE UP AND SUMMER STORAGE CARE

BLOW OUT SALE! ALL SKI CLOTHING 40% OFF

TENNIS STRINGING AND RACKET SALES


**413-772-2700**

**322 HIGH STREET, GREENFIELD**

[WWW.BIKES-UNLIMITED.COM](http://WWW.BIKES-UNLIMITED.COM)

**WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY**

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



**(413) 773-3622**

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

**UPINNGIL**



**Potato Sale**  
40 lbs. for \$20.00

Certified Organic

Farm store open daily, 8-7

411 Main Road, Gill | 413-863-2297

**COUTURE BROS.**

Since 1910

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor - Retailer

Celebrating Our 100th Anniversary 1910 - 2010

One Century, One Family

187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346



**ALL GRADE PLUMBING & HEATING**

Brian Bowden-Smith  
Lic: PL31465-J  
413-863-5218  
413-834-2576

**T.L.C.**



**URNS LAWN CARE**

Specializing in all aspects of Lawn and Property Maintenance.


Located in the Heart of Montague Center. Now accepting calls for new clients for snow removal within 12 miles of Montague Center

Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured

45 Main Street, PO Box 926, Montague, MA 01351  
Gary Turn, Owner Phone: 367-0230 Cell: 522-2563

Sound Health Bodyworks

Massage Therapist  
Sound Therapist  
Birth Doula



Kerry Alisa Young LMT

413-658-5782  
kayoungsoundhealing@wildblue.net



**PETER WATERS**

**HOUSE PAINTING**

Interior Exterior 978-544-6534 Wendell MA

NOTES FROM THE IRVING SELECTBOARD

Articles and Budgets

BY DAVID BRULE - The Erving selectboard met jointly with the finance committee. Chairman Andrew Tessier moved the board swiftly through articles for the Special Town Meeting slated for April 5. On the 15-article warrant, the first four will concern land issues, relating to such proposals as a vote to abandon a section of the old Route 2 near the Erving Paper Mill, to accept a sewer easement over the same section and to accept a layout of Prospect Street Extension. Article 5 will request a vote to authorize the selectboard to request special legislation to establish a post employment benefits trust fund to meet cur-

rent and future costs payable by the Town. Other articles on the warrant address the usual conducting of business by the Town, but include Article 10: a request for a vote to authorize the selectboard to accept a gift of land (.64 of an acre) from Anne M. Zilenski.

Following the above review and finalization of the Special Town Meeting articles, the selectboard and finance committee heard a report by Senior Center director Polly Kiely who requested selectboard approval of the Senior Center funding proposal. Kiely pointed out that bids for the construction could be expected to come in under predictions. Also, by deciding

to finance the project without borrowing, thereby avoiding the cost of financing a loan and the time delay involved, the total cost could come in well under the projected \$2.4 million. Kiely also indicated that without borrowing, the center could also be used by other community organizations. She suggested that adjacent senior housing may follow, with perhaps as many as 20 units subsidized, thereby allowing Erving seniors to remain in town, close to families and services with which they are familiar, without having to leave town to seek affordable accommodations. A brief discussion of current green initiatives ensued, raised by finance committee member Winniphred Stone, who urged those present to keep in mind the types of energy-saving technologies that could be incorpo-

rated into such projects to reduce costs and promote conservation. The Senior Center project will seek Town Meeting approval on May 5.

The Erving elementary and secondary school budget was next on the agenda. School committee members Jarod Boissonault and Scott Bastarache were present to seek approval of their latest budget proposal. In fact, the school budget is still \$118,455 over last year, after a number of cuts in the effort to adhere to the zero-increase guideline required. Chairman Tessier stressed the fact that other town departments had had to cut their requests to meet the guidelines. Nevertheless, a compromise on the above increase on the part of the selectboard and the school committee led to an acceptance by the finance com-

mittee of the schools' budget in spite of that increase. However, with recent newspaper clippings in hand showing potential new non-funded mandates coming from the state, Stanley Gradowski of the FinCom felt compelled to remind the school committee that in future years, the situation could be even worse, and that the schools should begin now looking realistically at what was in store and investigate ways to do the same or more, with even less financial support.

By 8:00, the combined meeting adjourned, and the selectboard began its routine task list of old and new business which included signing Abandonment and Easement Plans, the Stretch Code forum, cemetery markers, and a fire department resignation.

WORD from pg 6



Nayana Glazier

about animal shelters? More and more people are homeless, and animals are losing their homes too."

Pelland had an economic development proposal for the Governor, too, as she stood in sight of the smokestack of the former Strathmore Paper Mill, which employed hundreds of workers up until the 1980s, and is now vacant, and fallen under town ownership for back taxes owed.

She said the government should buy up failing or distressed manufacturing companies and recapitalize them, with the stipulation that in five or ten years they would be sold to their employees at favorable terms, saving jobs and promoting worker ownership at the same time.

Larry Stroman, one of two young men hanging on the park benches by the Spinner Statue in the afternoon wanted to ask Governor Patrick when he was planning to "bring some kind of money to Turners Falls."

His buddy, Joe Potts of Greenfield, wanted Patrick to "fix the school system. The Greenfield school system is really bad. Something needs to be done. The low budget has affected the teachers. Their attitude sucks. They can't afford any school trips."

Office worker Elizabeth Nash said, "My biggest concern is

that they do not cut social services to the neediest people." She admitted Patrick may not have many options with the budget deficit as large as it is, "but there needs to be more discussion about how to handle it. The needs are just so great now.

She added, "I wish he could somehow keep us in the loop about plans for the bridge repair. I don't know why the state is so adamant about not allowing it to stay open both ways."



Anna Howard

www.franklincommunity.coop

**Real Food, Real People, Real Investment**

Local, Organic Produce,  
Deli, eat in or take out,  
Bakery Specialities,  
Meat & Cheese, Natural Groceries,  
Supplements & Body Care Items,  
Monthly Specials

**FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CO-OPERATIVE**  
Green Fields Market | McCusker's Market

Green Fields Market  
144 Main St., Greenfield  
Mon-Fri 8-8  
Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5  
(413) 773-9567

McCusker's Market  
3 State Street, Shelburne Falls  
Open Daily  
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
(413) 625-9411

www.franklincommunity.coop

**Renaissance Excavating, Inc.**

COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill  
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462

**DOLAN & DOLAN**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient

**IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE**  
UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

774-7775

Easy in-town location  
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF SIZES THE BEST PRICES

OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA

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

**Greenfield Imported Car Sales**  
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner

SALES • SERVICE • PARTS  
AUDI — VW — VOLVO — BMW  
Now Specializing in Toyota and other Asian Cars

413-774-5517  
335 High Street, Greenfield  
greenfieldimportedcars.com (sales)  
GICP.com (parts: 774-2819)

LAURALYN J. BROWN, DVM  
NOW ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS

Compassionate and Professional Care for Your Small Animal

EXPANDED HOURS WITH DR. AMY RUBIN, DVM  
194 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls 413-863-0025

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

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

Annual Heating System Cleaning  
**\$10 Off with this Coupon**  
Expires April 30



David James handing Goose his Prize

## Surprise Winner of Ice off the Lake Contest will Donate to Dog Licensing Campaign

Names joked around with Cote, retired postmistress of the Village, offering to elope while his wife wasn't looking. Spring was in the air.

Lynn Cote, Joyce's daughter, played chaperone, and Dottie Zellman held her breath as James and the others leaned over the parapet and peered across the surface of the Lake, seeking any sign that ice still lingered on its placid surface. Time stood still.

Thirty seven years ago, wise woman of the Lake Alfreda Casey inaugurated the annual rite of watching for the ice to melt off the Lake that gives Montague's smallest village its name. Not much happens to pass the time in Lake Pleasant in the winter. Casey, who ran the post office before Cote took over for her, set up a raffle for villagers to guess the date when the last ice melted. The contest has gotten so lively in recent years it had to be divided in two, because all the likeliest dates would get picked before the pool of village gamblers was exhausted.

According to the carefully preserved records of raffles past, the earliest date on which all ice melted from the Lake was March 6th, in 2002. The latest date was

April 19th, in 1979, a very cold year. Ed Dodge was on the money that time.

From perusing the ancient scrolls, it seems even the judges came up winners in some years, and no one begrudged their luck. But without a doubt, the Bordeaux family has the greatest gift for foretelling the future in Lake Pleasant, and picking the winning date. Lionel Bordeaux started the family winning streak in 1979, and various members of the Bordeaux clan have followed suit on no less than six occasions since.

For years, Cote ran the raffle, with Pat keeping an eye on her (when his wife Kay wasn't looking), but when Cote turned the keys of the post office over to James a few years back, she turned responsibility for maintaining the raffle, and judging the winning day, over to him as well.

"Pat and I come down to make sure he does it right," said Cote, as she took a turn with the binoculars.

A few ducks splashed across the middle of the kettle hole lake. Pine trees line its curving banks, and in one secluded cove to the east, some observers suggested a rim of ice might still linger. But

only the view from the exact center of the Bridge of Names (marked by a single picket whose name shall not be revealed) counts toward determining the winning date.

"Yesterday we still saw ice," said Cote doubtfully, as she scanned the lake again. "It was a thin sheet, very dark. It looked like it was ready to melt."

The little terrier turned in excited circles, waiting for the three judges to decide.

"It's gone," declared James. The Ice Is Off the Lake!

Goose, Levenson's terrier, was the big winner (Levenson said the dog picked the date himself, by placing his paw on the calendar on March 19th. Goose won \$49 in the pot. Levenson said her dog planned to donate the prize money to a promotional campaign to encourage all dogs in Montague to get rabies shots and licenses.

But Dottie Zellman did not go home empty handed. She was the second prize winner, and collected \$37.

She planned to spend it treating Cote to breakfast some day soon.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**LAKE PLEASANT** - With the sun shining brightly and the temperature hovering above 70 degrees on a Friday afternoon that spelled a perfect farewell to winter, Joyce Cote, Pat Otto, David James and two hopeful raffle winners - one walking on two legs, one on four - approached the center of the wooden footbridge that spans the crystal spillway of Lake Pleasant. They were there to see if the last day of winter would also prove to be the day when ice finally melted off the Lake.

In a ritual that recalled

Arthurian legend or the water divination rituals of the ancient Greeks, the Oracles of the Lake advance with stately tread, or in the case of Goose, Marje Levenson's little Dandy Dinmont terrier, excited scampering, mixed with joyous yelps of anticipation.

James, keeper of the mystic lore of the National Spiritual Alliance, carried a modern pair of binoculars and a couple of dog-eared manila envelopes stuffed with one dollar bills. Otto, the man responsible for upkeep of the graven runes on the worn wooden pickets of the Bridge of

### NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## School Committee Accepts Grant

**BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - A \$200,000 grant has been awarded to the Gill-Montague Regional School District to promote better math and science skills in high school students; the goal is to encourage students to enroll in Advance Placement (AP) so they will be college-ready upon graduation. To this end, additional AP courses in math, science and English would be offered. John Smolenski of the Mass Insight Education & Research Institute in Boston gave a presentation Tuesday night to the school committee outlining the program and expectations of the district should they accept the grant. School committee members were enthusiastic in their

response and agreed unanimously to accept. Unlike other grants, the Massachusetts Math and Science Initiative (MMSI) grant will not come directly to the district in the form of cash, although the majority of expenses for this program will be covered by the grant. The necessary teacher training, including opportunities for teachers to network with other AP math and science teachers from outside the district, materials and equipment for the classroom, and additional educational opportunities for enrolled students, will all paid for directly through the grant.

Although the main focus of this grant is to build skills in math and science it also will provide outreach to build stu-

dent participation in AP courses. Smolenski said the first thing he will do is set up AP Parent Nights during which he will reach out to parents to encourage their children to take AP classes and explain the program expectations to them. According to Smolenski, the program has a strong track record demonstrating not only increased student participation in AP classes but also increased academic success during freshman year in college for participating students.

While the district is expected to match the cost of some materials with equivalent investment, it was agreed that this would most likely not be more than they are already spending for classroom materi-



Turners Falls High School

als. Additionally, costs associated with transporting students to optional class time provided by teachers affiliated with MMSI (for example, a gathering of participating students from other regional schools at the University of Massachusetts campus) would be paid in part by the grant and

in part by the district.

Carl Ladd, Gill-Montague superintendent, said that he was very enthusiastic about this program. He said it gives the district three extra AP classes, and works towards the district goal of building a culture of excellence. Ladd said,

see **SCHOOL** page 13

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

**BAKER Office Supply**  
1/2 Price Cards  
**Great Selection of Seasonal Gifts**  
310 Main Street, Greenfield • 413-774-2345

**Jack Nelson**  
• Clay/Stone Sculpture  
• Pottery  
• Fine Art Drawings and Paintings  
BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.  
TELEPHONE 413.863.9299  
email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com  
65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

**Diemand Farm**  
• Farm Fresh Eggs  
• Whole Roasting Chicken  
• Pot Pies  
• HomeMade Soups  
• Desserts  
Products Vary Weekly  
Farm Store Hours: Monday - Saturday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed Sundays  
Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell • 978-544-3806

**HOPE & OLIVE**  
LUNCH TUES - FRI, 11:30 - 2:30 \* DINNER TUES - SAT, 5 - 9  
SUNDAY BRUNCH 10 - 2, DINNER 5 - 8  
homegrown, farm-inspired food and drink  
PHONE 413-774-3150 • 44 HOPE STREET, GREENFIELD  
WWW.HOPEANDOLIVE.COM

**SOLAR STORE**  
SOLAR ELECTRIC  
SOLAR HOT WATER  
SOLAR HOT AIR  
Solar PV/Thermal System **REBATES** and **TAX CREDITS**  
R-3 Inserts for Single Pane Windows • 13w Pellet Stoves  
Lighting • Heating • Books • Gifts • Education  
**Solar Store of Greenfield**  
2 Fiske Ave, Greenfield • 413-772-3122  
Email: info@greenfieldsolarstore.com • Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5

Dennis L. Booska  
Dennis L. Booska, Jr.  
Phone & Fax  
**413-863-3690**  
**Booska's Flooring**  
169 Avenue A, Turners Falls  
Member  
The Flooring Network.  
**Tile Lino Carpet**



# Neighbors

## A Work in Progress

LYN CLARK

**TURNERS FALLS** - Ayana Sofia, daughter of Andrea Nasca and Damien Schwartz, doesn't enjoy sitting still in school all day. So she doesn't. Instead her mother homeschools her - although I suppose there may be some sitting-still regardless that can't be avoided. "Besides, I like being with my mom," says Ayana.

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



If the name sounds familiar, you may remember her poem, "100" that we printed in the June 4th, 2009 issue, and that last year won the regional first prize in the prestigious PBS Reading Rainbow Contest, 3rd grade level. Ayana likes color, as evidenced by her artistic illustrations. "My favorites are orange and purple." Last time we printed her poem in black and white. Today we reprint 100 again in color.

To be homeschooled, it seems, is not to be homebound, and it certainly doesn't mean being separated from other children, either. Ayana,

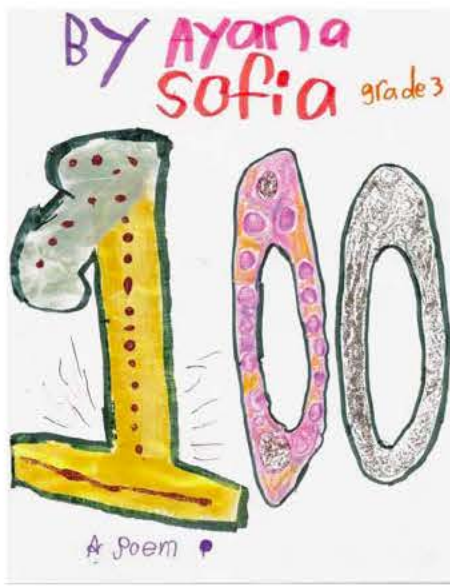
10 years old next month, has been attending the Children's Learning Cooperative in Hadley in the company of about fifteen other homeschoolers at least two days a week, with her mother as one of the teacher volunteers. The Cooperative stresses "arts, nature, sustainability, community, and core values as important building blocks," and borrows teaching/learning approaches from Waldorf Education (as developed by Rudolf Steiner), the Sudbury model, Montessori, and Farm-based Education.

Last summer Ayana attended the Creative Writing Workshop at Four Winds School in Gill. There she spent her mornings outdoors, weath-

er permitting, with other participants, writing and sharing from her



er permitting, with other participants, writing and sharing from her



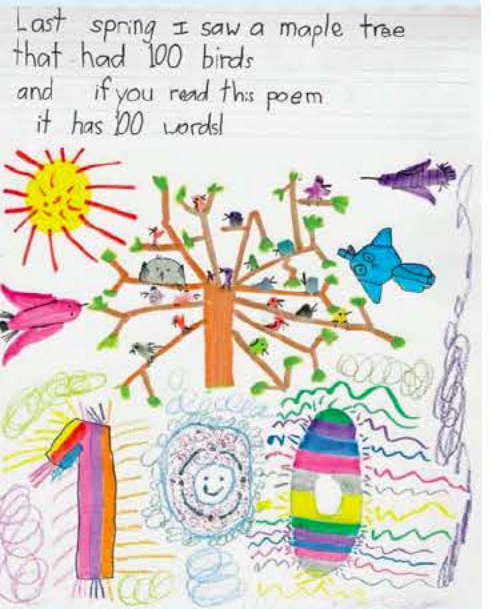
journal with her fellow authors, followed by afternoon games, hikes and Ayana's favorite physical activity: swimming. (Ayana swims whenever she gets the chance. She tells me that she has tested the waters at the Y, the lake in Ashfield center, near the covered bridge in Greenfield, on Cape Cod, in Buckland - in fact, if it's wet, she'll find it!) She would like to participate in the workshop again this summer.

And then there's the Earthworks Program at the Hitchcock Center in Amherst where Ayana learns about such things as edible plants. The program offers an "approach that creates opportunities for children to see their own inner wealth," sometimes referred to as



she was privileged and thrilled to observe the birth of a goat.

Ayana's favorite indoor activity is reading at which she spends at least two hours a day (Percy Jackson and the Olympians, recently). Among the subjects she is studying at present are Math, Greek mythology, astronomy and artists (Georgia O'Keefe and



Van Gogh, as an example). And she loves to sing - no, not in formal groups such as choirs or choruses, but all around the house, all the time.

What does Ayana want to be when she grows up? "A singer and a lion tamer."

That's a pretty large cat, but perhaps she can tame it by singing to it. With all the exciting and stimulating things to which this delightful homeschooler is being exposed, there are sure to be many paths open to her in the years to come.

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



the Nurtured Heart Approach, with outdoor activities that "foster relationships between people and nature"; it is a program that supports the Leave No Child Inside campaign.

It's probably a given, therefore, that Ayana would have an affinity - eclectic in nature - for animals. She especially likes cats, but is also very fond of pigs. And at the Laughing Dog Farm in Gill,

Estimates vary widely as to how many children are homeschooled in the United States today, but it is in the millions, and has been growing steadily for several decades.

In Massachusetts, local school districts set their own policies on home education. These policies, which are not laws, are simply tools for the administrative convenience of school officials. There is considerable flexibility, but General Laws and the Court's decisions indicate what school officials may and may not require. Two laws in Massachusetts - Charles (Care and Protection of Charles, 1987) and Brunelle, 1998 - provide considerable latitude to parents in both curriculum choice and numbers of hours taught.

School officials may not require home visits, dictate a manner in which subjects will be taught, or apply institutional standards to the non-institutional setting. There is no MCAS test - a requirement restricted to public schools. Parents may use a variety of options for evaluation, including a simply narrative progress report. A grading system is not required.

Depending on the district, some homeschoolers may participate in athletics and extracurricular activities at the public school.

There are presently 36 homeschoolers within the Gill-Montague School District.

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

**F.M. KUZMESKUS INC.**  
**SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION**      **MOTORCOACH TOURS & CHARTERS**  
  
 413-863-2595 • WWW.TRAVELKUZ.COM

**It Figures!**  
 Kate McGrath, MBA  
 413-768-9095  
  
**Income Tax and Accounting**  
 Specializing in QuickBooks

**Ristorante DiPaolo**  
 Wednesday Wine Specials Glass \$5, Bottle \$20, Appetizers \$10  
 Thursday Night Jazz 6:30 to 9:30  
**GREAT ITALIAN FOOD**  
 Open Daily at 5:00 | Closed Monday & Tuesday  
 413-863-4441

**the poetry page**

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

- William Carlos Williams

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

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

Poetry Page edited by Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno and Janel Nockleby

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

design by Boysen Hodgson

**Brooklyn**

Wires cross & re-cross: one bruise covers another. Pigeons & sky washed-out grey. The weight of a minute creases the back of the neck. The movement towards zero tucked into the center. Fog on the window expecting a new day, expecting warm breath & the pressure of a fingertip drawing a circle. Or the movement away. Repeating to repeat. The arc of a hand-gentle wave, slight turn. Leaves twist in the wind, brush across sidewalk. Edges unfold, smudge out with the brush of a thumb.

--Gina Myers  
Saginaw, MI

**Each Spring**

Looking for my name in every pawn shop I'm not fit to be a politician's wife Laughing along Lake Shore Drive Pointing to all the places we'll never live Our plans for Mexico forgotten at the end of a novel 4am post-bar text message The camera's 3rd eye wrapped inside a flag Each spring brings the promise of a new baseball season Outside Wrigley boys stand along N. Waveland Avenue with gloves on their hands Too young to have yet learned baseball is only good for heartache

--Gina Myers  
Saginaw, MI

**"The automatic garage-door opener"**

The automatic garage-door opener lifts on a prospect of Poughkeepsie: row of parked cars along curb, man leaf-blowing each falling leaf, sumac growing beneath the overpass: if you're not part of the problem, you're part of the lengthening tragedy: we see all the others slipped into the bright shapes of endeavor, imprints snow slowly fills, but the stray detours and workarounds of the secret city inside the more obvious one elude our plundered adornments and church-bell quarter hours: on the outskirts of the absurd attention to the material life, of course the factories are empty and the train line overgrown, and the everyday fills the ravine beside the highway: the passive voice speaks on our winds and in the humming of our truck tires, the delicacy of Saturday-night videophoning and bonfires across the valley in woods past their peak

--Joshua Harmon  
Poughkeepsie, NY

**Brazen Youth**

Four years advantage in the race across the street. Half the pressure, twice the speed. The hard-learned lesson not every pigeon can be trusted. Kicking through leaves November crisp & sneaky sneaks passing notes. Who wants to pay for a soda anyway? Misused coffee cups & the imagined lives of co-workers a thousand times better than this ten to six day in day out. The imagined lives of forties on rooftops & fingernails flecked with silver spray paint. As if a photograph could catch it all or catch anything at all. Carrying the weight of our costumes through this downward spiral circle pit. The frenzied youth smashing up against one another. Now: counter-clockwise. Goodbye lovers & haters. Goodbye New York.

--Gina Myers  
Saginaw, MI

**Yours Truly**

The memory of summer unapologetic. After my mother died, you wrote the nicest letter & I never wrote you back. The road home paved with stones & bird skeletons. This window makes more sense than last. Emptiness replaced by insight. Crooked nook, corner stool. There are many things I will never own. This dream, for example, is not mine. I take back everything I told you.

--Gina Myers  
Saginaw, MI

**"The absent tenant's electricity . . ."**

The absent tenant's electricity is shut off for nonpayment, and for two July weeks the twelve-pound turkey in the freezer thaws. Fluttering curtains, half-turned head, window lit with a single bulb: anyone can tell this story, but what can you say to the relentless demented music of an ice cream truck? To a cardboard box cabin in the woods behind the dumpsters where deer forage, or a coatamundi caged by chicken wire in a basement? The men, encircled, will not lay down their chainsaws, so the boys and girls sharing a bed are sent away. The Mayor of Spoor Avenue turns down his hearing aid, but behind polarized bifocals scowls at the inviolate discipline of a summer school bus, or the board of trade negotiating a key drop at the yellow house. A memoir of disintegration: "We only drink the bible water." So many garages for rent, but a tarp stretched over the bed of the pickup truck will hold off the rain a while longer. From a nest inside the illuminated O on a strip mall's façade, a starling watches too.

--Joshua Harmon  
Poughkeepsie, NY

Lyric	of what I am not.	We all are,
What I am	To not be	& how.
is not the difference	just so-	--Luke Henshaw Northampton

**CONTRIBUTOR'S NOTES:**

Elizabeth Freeman is a Montague Center native. The motto of her business is "Everybody needs an ELF."

(<http://newpages.com>) and *H\_NGM\_N* (<http://h-ngm-n.com>). When time permits, she makes books for Lame House Press (<http://lamehouse.blogspot.com>).

Greying Ghost Press later this year. He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

Carl D. Martin, retired, recently moved from Brattleboro to Turners Falls.

Gina Myers is the author of the full length collection *A Model Year* (Coconut Books 2009) and several poetry chapbooks, including *Behind the R* (ypolita press 2008). She lives in Saginaw, MI where she works as the Associate Editor for *360 Main Street* (<http://360MainStreet.com>) and as the Book Review Editor for *NewPages*

Joshua Harmon is the author of *Scape*, a collection of poems, and *Quinnehtukqut*, a novel. His recent work appears or is forthcoming in *Absent*, *Agni*, *Colorado Review*, *Massachusetts Review*, *New England Review*, *Sentence*, and *Typo*, and his chapbook *The Poughkeepsiad* is due from The


Janine Roberts is the author of *The Body Alters* available at the Book Mill and at [www.slateroofpress.com](http://www.slateroofpress.com). Professor Emerita at the University of Massachusetts, she has lived, worked, and traveled in over sixty different countries, beginning with Kuwait in 1963.

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

Luke Henshaw, will be reading at The Rendezvous in Turners Falls on April 12 at 7 p.m. as part of the Slope Editions Reading Series. He lives in Northampton.

**Our Lady of Czestochowa**  
Roman Catholic Church  
84 K Street, Turners Falls, Mass.

<b>Confessions</b> Every day including Sunday 1/2 hour before Mass	<b>Novenas</b> St. Jude Wednesday - 5:30 p.m.
<b>Masses</b> Sat. Vigil - 4:00 p.m. Sun. - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Monday - 8:00 a.m. Tuesday through Friday - 5:30 p.m. Saturday - 8:00 a.m.	<b>Pro Life</b> Saturday - 8:00 a.m. St. John Neumann Monday - 8:00 a.m.



"He who died on the cross now risen dwells within"

"The Gem of Franklin County"

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

**Local Farmer-Owned**

Shop with your neighbors  
Support local agriculture

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

269 High St. Greenfield (413)773-9639

**CRUISE & TRAVEL COMPANY**



30 Montague St.  
TURNERS FALLS



413-863-3143 | 888-763-3143  
[www.cruiseandtravelcompany.com](http://www.cruiseandtravelcompany.com)

**For/After Creeley's  
"The Rain"**

Clamoring,  
this snow,  
yet

were old  
friends &  
new. Too

soon, how-  
ever, the  
night.

Now a  
longing &  
loneliness

lie next to me.

O, the  
weather  
does to us.

--*Luke Henshaw*  
Northampton

**En el santuario en Michoacán  
In the Sanctuary in Michoacán**

We hear the susurrus  
of thousands of butterfly wings  
beating, like the shush  
of our daughter's heart  
when she was in my womb.

And watch the spell-caught faces  
of hundreds of silent people  
sitting around us, most  
in families of three  
or even four generations.

Old women who had trekked  
up to the oyamele trees  
leaning on sticks -  
young children carried  
by their parents to these forests

where the Monarchs winter  
in huge clusters that dress  
the dark green branches  
in orange like the marigolds  
everywhere on the Day of the Dead.

My body takes in your wonder -  
renders it wings of protection -  
like those of the male mariposas  
who will enfold the females  
tonight against our evening chill.

--*Janine Roberts*  
Leverett, MA

**High Hopes**

Here we sit as the days go by,  
We're shocked at how fast they fly,  
In November we waited for winter,  
Now the New Year has come to pass,  
We wonder if winter leaves at last.

Sun and springtime is in the air,  
As we sit here without a care,  
Somewhere is a hibernating bear,  
Sleeping and snoring in his lair,  
We are sure he is unaware.

The snows are melting away,  
Green grass will be sprouting,  
Fresh leaves most any day,  
If old man winter takes a hike,  
We will even loan him a bike,  
To get him out of our way.  
We welcome the sun,  
And warm fishing time,  
That is what is on my mind,  
I'll bait my hook down by the brook,  
Ruby sits by reading a book,  
As she sits in her chair without a care.

--*Carl D. Martin*  
Turners Falls

**I shall not come**

I shall not come this way again.  
We will have today and tomorrow.  
Yesterday is for the past to work out.  
I shall walk with purpose and direction.  
But I will not come this way again.

--*Elizabeth L. Freeman*  
Montague Center

**Edgewise**

I was asleep and dreaming  
That I was  
Asleep and dreaming  
A dream of being  
Asleep and dreaming  
Of someone over me  
Telling me,  
Urging me  
To "Wake up,  
Wake up  
It's coming."

I wanted to ask  
"What?  
What is coming?"  
But I could  
Not wake. I could  
Not open my eyes  
I could not speak, and I heard  
Someone saying  
Plaintively praying  
"Please wake up,  
Please  
Wake up,  
It's coming."

A familiar, fearful  
Voice of  
Someone close, someone near  
Someone precious,  
Is all that I could  
Hear,  
"Please,  
Please Wake up,  
Wake up  
Dear,  
Wake up, Wake up  
It's coming."

I was dreaming that  
I was dreaming  
That I was  
Dreaming.  
"Shh! Shh!" Said the  
Shaking voice,  
The trembling  
Voice,  
Whispering in  
My ear.  
"Shh! Shh!  
It's here."

--*Doug Turner*  
New Salem, MA

**Excerpt of a Letter from Adam  
to Eve, 2009**

...I've stood outside the factory gates  
of empires, & I've stood within. I've  
idled at highway exits & street corners.  
I've made use of black rags, cell  
phones & windows. I've known the  
woman at dawn-the invention of time.  
I've hollowed avocados & hopes alike.  
I've amassed troves of tricks & faults.  
I too leaned against the side rails of  
the ferry...

...The names I have given to things-  
they seem no longer immaculate. But  
still in the mornings sometimes every-  
thing appears out of nowhere...

--*Luke Henshaw*  
Northampton

**What wind may come?**

What a windy day blowing leaves around.  
The dance they make brings hope of spring  
on a cold winter day.

What wind may come while we wait?  
For spring to blow through with summer on its knee

--*Elizabeth L. Freeman*  
Montague Center

**ALL SMALL CAPS**

A night of spoken word

Gina Myers



Joshua Harmon



**MONDAY MARCH 29th \* 7-10 p.m.**

Open mike 7:30-8:30 \* Sliding scale admission \$1- \$5  
All comers are invited to read from their own work or the works of others, poetry or prose

DEJA BREW PUB & CAFÉ \* 57 Lockes Village Road, Wendell, MA E: allsmallcaps@gmail.com  
Ph: 978.544.2739 \* http://dejabrewpub.com W: http://allsmallcaps.blogspot.com

This program is supported, in part, by the Wendell Cultural Council, a local agency, The Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

**The WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT**  
Spring Specials  
SIT INSIDE  
or  
OUTSIDE  
BREAKFAST,  
LUNCH & DINNER  
7 days a week  
Route 2, Gill • 413-863-8210

**The Whole Tree**  
The Art and Science of Tree Care  
 #RM-2363A  
• Removals  
• Structure pruning  
• Shrub pruning/rejuvenation  
• Planting/transplanting  
• Insect/disease treatment  
Andrew Young (413) 387-8678  
notreeleftbehind23@yahoo.com

**CARSENSE AUTOMOTIVE**  
Your Automotive Answer  
CHECK ENGINE LIGHT EXPERTS  
TELE: (413) 772-8862 **U-HAUL**  
409 DEERFIELD STREET • GREENFIELD

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

No Agreement on Assessment Method

JOSH HEINEMANN - The Wendell Selectboard's March 17th meeting featured a visit by Superintendent of the Mahar Regional School District, Michael Baldassarre, to discuss Wendell's contribution to the Mahar High School budget. Also attending were Wendell's Finance Committee Chair Michael Idoine and members Jim Slavas and Garrett Sawyer, and Wendell's

representative to the Mahar School Committee, Dick Baldwin. Baldassarre requested that the town appropriate money for the Mahar High School budget according to the statutory method of assessment, established by the Education Reform Act of 1995, by which Wendell pays approximately \$8,600 per

see WENDELL pg 16

MIRACLE from pg 1

Kellers cause friction, but everyone has Helen's best interest at heart.

Young Emma Henderson's Helen is a tour de force. In her first dramatic role, she gives an astonishing performance. Rarely is there seen such talent in one so young on a community theater stage. Henderson hits just the right note with each emotion, which runs the gamut: she is the needy daughter, the willful tyrant, the happy child, the sly devil. Never does Henderson overplay her hand, but lends Helen dignity by keeping her real and not making her into a caricature

Emily Eaton's Anne Sullivan keeps right in step with the unruly child. One may remember the famous dinner table scene from the 1962 film where Anne attempts to get Helen to sit and eat. The intensity of this scene is played on stage here as well, complete with wrestling on the floor, flying spoons, and flinging food. Eaton and Henderson's incredible display of well-choreographed bedlam is compelling. It is so realistic one soon forgets they are actors and the audience is completely caught up in their battle of wills. The scene is word-free, but their physical conversation is profound.

Eaton projects Anne's wit as well as her stubborn Irish character's bite. The ease of Eaton's

humor, her frustration with Helen, her resolve to find a way to communicate with her, and her poignant connection with the girl display Eaton's gift for wide emotional range.

Nick de Ruiter, as Helen's father Captain Keller, gives a forceful performance as the blustery, ex-Confederate soldier. More used to giving orders to the ranks, Keller is rattled only once when he's forced into firing Anne by his own decree, only to push the job onto Mrs. Keller who gently pushes it back.

Mrs. Keller is portrayed by Jodie Brunelle. Her character's concern for her children is real, her dignity and grace flow, her self-assurance never wavers, and she glides effortlessly in her stunning gowns. We are drawn into her inner turmoil where she wrestles with how best to deal with her daughter's disabilities during a time when so often in those days the answer was institutionalization.

Dave Grout's depiction of the Captain's son by another marriage is solid. Grout was chosen in the role for good reason: he's another actor who can play a wide range of emotions without a hiccup; obnoxious jealous brother, wisecracking trickster who finally wins the audience's sympathy by telling his parents the truth and standing up to his father.

Director Rick Mauran makes the drama move and flow cleverly around the set with its varied

vantage points which make good use of the different aspects of the stage, producing a feeling of closeness between audience and story.

The show never lags. It's a remarkable feat that The Country Players have brought together in record time and with smashing results.

The play runs again this weekend, on Friday, March 26, and Saturday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m. The historic Shea Theater is located at 71 Avenue A in Turners Falls. For ticket reservations and information on this and other upcoming Shea events, log on to www.theshea.org, or call the Shea Theater box office at 413-863-2281. For more information about The Country Players, log on to www.country-players.org.



MYSTERY THEATRE

GRANGE FUNDRAISER

Support goal to raise \$75,000 for improvements to the Montague Grange: Mystery Theatre and Dessert Night with the Comical Mystery Tour performing Popped Star at the Montague Grange, Friday, April 2nd at 7:00. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. For advance tickets mail a check to FMG, 181 Meadow Road, Montague MA 01551 with "POPPED" and your names in the memo, or call 367-2184.

Advertisement for John Deere equipment. Includes text: 'Make the date. Make a deal.', 'Way to John Deere Day', 'It's the "CAN'T MISS" event of the year!', and contact info for SIRUM EQUIPMENT CO., INC. at 310 FEDERAL STREET, ROUTE 63, MONTAGUE, MA 01351, (413) 367-2481.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Following To Closely

Tuesday, 3/2 Issued citation to [redacted] in the area of the Craig Equestrian Center. Permitted [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration. Vehicle towed. [redacted] to be summonsed to court. Saturday, 3/13 1:24 p.m. Report of smoke

advised to seek private contractor to remove tree as Camp Road is a private way. Monday, 3/15 8:45 p.m. Responded to Sunderland to assist on a disturbance call. On arrival subjects had cleared the area, no disturbance found. Friday, 3/19 3:08 p.m. Minor motor vehicle accident at Depot Road and Route 63.

[redacted] operating a 1997 Toyota Corolla was struck in the rear of the vehicle by a 1995 Volkswagon Jetta operated by [redacted]. [redacted] was issued a written warning for following too close, impeding operation, and speeding. Both vehicles were able to drive away.

Advertisement for Daniel Cohen, D.M.D., a dentist. Office Hours By Appointment. 4 Dell St. Turners Falls, MA 01376. Telephone: (413) 863-9656. NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS.

Advertisement for Good Dirt Pottery Studio. 38 Main Street, Montague. 413-367-0155. www.gooddirtpottery.com

Advertisement for Montague Web Works.com. build | manage | create | 413.522.4808

Advertisement for Fretted Instrument Workshop. 413-256-6217. fine instruments bought and sold repaired and restored. 49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

Advertisement for AJ's Cycle. 274 Rt. 2, Gill. heated clothing • used bikes • boots • gloves • accessories • gift certificates. (413) 863-9543. Allan • David. email: AJCYC@CROCKER.COM. WWW.AJCYCLE.COM

Advertisement for CopyCat Print Shop. full color offset printing • digital copies • oversized copies • files accepted via email. 20 Years of Making Copies and Still the Original! 180 Main Street, Greenfield • 413-774-3500 • greenfield@copycatprintshop.com

Advertisement for Edwards Tree Service. Matthew Edwards Certified Arborist. Tree Climbing Specialist • Pruning And Removals • Stump Grinding • Practicing Fine Arboriculture. Residential / Commercial / Municipal. 60 Ft. Aerial Lift • Brush Chipping. Fully Insured With Workers Comp. • Insurance and Liability. WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM. Wendell, MA. Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties. 413-325-7823 or 978-544-7452

Advertisement for H2O BOYSEN HODGSON. LOGOS & BRANDING • GRAPHIC DESIGN • ILLUSTRATION • WEB SITES • COPY WRITING • BUSINESS STRATEGY • INTERNET MARKETING • MISSION & VISION. 413 303 9193. www.h2-om.com

Advertisement for United Siding & Window. REPLACEMENT WINDOWS • SIDING • ROOFING. Since 1970. FREE ESTIMATES. Licenced & Insured. MA Reg # 105027. MA Construction. Supervisor's Liscence # 7543. Bob Edwards 603.239.8389. 413.834.3902



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI
LEONIA, NJ - Q. All I ever hear about the sun is how dangerous it is. But when I was a kid, my mother used to tell me to get out in the sun and play. Did my mother give me bad advice? (Part 2 on the benefits of sunlight)

Most public health messages have focused on the hazards of too much sun exposure. But there is some sunny news about the sun.

Sunlight increases the body's vitamin D supply. In seniors, vitamin D protects against osteoporosis, a disorder in which the bones become increasingly brittle. Vitamin D also protects against cancer, heart disease, and other maladies.

But there are other benefits

of a daily dose of sunlight.

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a form of depression that affects people when they don't get enough sunlight. Remember the John Denver lyrics: "Sunshine on my shoulders makes me happy...Sunshine almost always makes me high." Psychiatrists often recommend that, if you are depressed, you should spend a half-hour a day in the sun.

Melatonin is a hormone produced at night that makes you sleepy. Sunlight cuts off the production of melatonin in your body and helps you to feel tired when you should be - at bedtime. Getting about 15 minutes of sunlight every morning tells your body it's no longer night. So sunlight is a sleep aid.

Exposure to sun appears to suppress an overactive immune system. This might explain why sunlight may help with autoimmune diseases such as psoriasis and lupus. One study also suggests it might help alleviate asthma.

A study published in the Journal of the American

Medical Association showed that Alzheimer's patients exposed to sunlight got better scores on a mental exam and had fewer symptoms of depression than patients exposed to dim light.

Some scientists are concerned that there is too much emphasis on preventing skin cancers and not enough on the danger of more life-threatening cancers such as lung, colon, and breast cancers affected by insufficient sunlight.

Many studies have shown that cancer-related death rates decline as you move toward lower latitudes.

"As you head from north to south, you may find perhaps two or three extra deaths [per hundred thousand people] from skin cancer," says Reinhold Vieth, a nutrition professor at the University of Toronto. "At the same time, though, you'll find thirty or forty fewer deaths for the other major cancers. So when you estimate the number of deaths likely to be attributable to UV light or vitamin D, it does not appear to be the best policy to advise people to simply keep out of the sun

just to prevent skin cancer."

A recent study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine showed that those with the lowest vitamin D levels have more than double the risk of dying from heart disease and other causes over an eight-year period compared with those with the highest vitamin D levels.

How much sun do you need?

The government's dietary recommendations are 200 International Units (IUs) a day

up to age 50, 400 IUs to age 70, and 600 IUs over 70. But many experts believe that these recommendations are far too low to maintain healthful vitamin D levels; they recommend consuming 4,000 IUs of vitamin D3 without sun exposure or 2,000 IUs plus 12-15 minutes of midday sun.

If you have a question, please write to fred@healthygeezer.com

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Assistance to Neighboring Departments

Tuesday, 3/16 7:55 p.m. Call from a 6:05 p.m. Assisted French King Highway business reporting a hit and run accident in parking lot. Church Street with an unwanted subject. Wednesday, 3/17

3:14 p.m. Assisted Montague police with a possible suicidal subject. 9:37 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with two arrests on Church Street. Friday, 3/19 3:38 p.m. Report of past suspicious activity on Oak Street. 7:19 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with a reported disturbance. 9:45 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with an arrest.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Arrest For Multiple Charges

Tuesday, 3/16 9:19 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for possession of two class B drugs, possession of a class B drug with intent to distribute, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license, resisting arrest, operating a vehicle without license in possession, failure to wear seatbelt, and possessing an open container of alcohol in the vehicle. After a traffic stop near the White Bridge on Canal Road, the subject fled up Canada Hill

in Greenfield, failing to stop for commands. Montague and Greenfield police then learned that [redacted] had a warrant out for his arrest in the Eastern / Hampshire District County Court for multiple counts of larceny by check under \$250. Officers John Dempsey and K-9 Kyra located the subject 150 yards up steep terrain lying on the ground behind a tree. Nine individually wrapped rocks of cocaine were located where [redacted] had been resting, and an additional bag of

Percocet was found on his person. Close coordination between Montague and Greenfield police departments was required for the successful arrest. Wednesday, 3/17 2:39 p.m. Successful search of Connecticut River shore area near Franklin County Tech School for distraught juvenile female subject. Subject transported to Franklin Medical Center for evaluation. 8:03 p.m. In front of the Shea Theater, arrest of [redacted], of Main Road in Gill, for open and gross lewdness, disorderly conduct, and indecent exposure. Friday, 3/19 9:12 a.m. Arrest of [redacted], on default warrant. 5:20 p.m. Arrest of [redacted], for domestic assault and battery, threat to commit a crime, malicious destruction of property under \$250. 10:55 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery and malicious destruction of property over \$250

SCHOOL from pg 8

"What a great way to brand our schools."

Funding for this grant comes from many sources, including Exxon Mobil, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Liberty Mutual and Mass Mutual. Corporate sponsorship started this initiative in Dallas, Texas in response to their need for more employees who are well educated in math and science. That effort is the template for the program now being developed in Massachusetts.

The school committee is moving towards finalizing their FY11 budget. They appear to be in agreement and ready to go to the public budget hearing on March 30 to present a level-funded budget. After the budget hearing, where the public will have an opportunity to comment and ask questions, the school committee will meet

to vote on the budget. Ladd told the school committee there would be no reduction in services to students or increases in class size due to the reduction of teaching staff. The administration was also very clear from the start that no cuts would be made to art or music programs and that promise has been kept. Ladd said there will be some teacher retirements that may help the process and that adjustments in the overall program and priorities will be made to accommodate the loss of teachers and paraprofessionals.

The Gill-Montague Regional School District budget hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at Turners Falls High School at 6:30 p.m. followed by a regular school committee meeting at 7:30 p.m.



Advertisement for Joe Graveline's window replacement business. Text includes: 'Your clear choice for QUALITY VINYL REPLACEMENT WINDOWS SUNRISE (413)498-4318 Fully Insured Free Estimates Honest Work Honest Prices! Mass. Contractor Reg.#107141 Mass. License #059565 JOE GRAVELINE'

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

Advertisement for Eastern Weatherization. Text includes: 'Patrick Smith CSSL # 100236 Insured EASTERN WEATHERIZATION Specializing in Cellulose Insulation and Vinyl Replacement Windows: Toll Free 866-262-5361 413-367-2228 FAX 413-367-2212 Montague, MA 01351'

Advertisement for Carol's Beauty Nook. Text includes: 'Carol's Beauty Nook 29 G Street, Turners Falls Open Tue, Thurs, Fri Ann Bagnell & Carol Demers Gift Certificates Available 413-863-2888'

Advertisement for Animal Crackers. Text includes: 'Animal Crackers Fun stuff for pets and their people. Saturday Fish Special Aquarium Plants Saltwater Fish & Lots of Critters Open 7 Days Animal Crackers Aquarium & Pet Supplies 44 Deerfield St. (Rte 5 & 10) Greenfield, MA 413-774-7346'

Advertisement for B. Rubin & Sons Inc. Text includes: 'B. RUBIN & SONS INC. COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change 194 MILLERS FALLS RD. ♦ 413-863-2236 10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051'

Advertisement for Greenfield Veterinary Clinic. Text includes: 'GREENFIELD Veterinary Clinic Robert J. Sagor, D.V.M. 18 French King Highway Greenfield Office Hours by Appointment (413) 774-9919'

Advertisement for Living Room Yoga. Text includes: 'LIVING ROOM YOGA Programs now in Turners Falls, Montague & Leverett CLASSES ~ WORKSHOPS ~ PEACE LISA ENZER, M.ED., RYT WWW.LIVINGROOMYOGA.NET 413-367-2658'



# GO GREEN FAMILY

## Episode 4: Baby's Gotta Go

In this continuing saga, three fictional families – the Bartletts, the Tinkers, and the Robbins-Levines – compete in a year-long contest to reduce their environmental impact. Read each weekly installment to learn what the families are up to as they try to outdo each other and win the prize for the most ecologically sustainable household.

BY JEANNE WEINTRAUB-MASON  
MONTAGUE CENTER –

Jane Robbins-Levine strolled dramatically over to the blue Lincoln Continental and smiled deviously at the Go Green Family cameras as her hand playfully brushed snow off the car roof. The car was a gift from her aunt, who had dropped it off

after Jane's previous car was destroyed in an ice storm.

"I'm gonna sell this baby!" Jane announced. "It gets 17 miles per gallon. I've paid for two transmission repairs, a head gasket replacement, new front and back struts, an overhaul of the electrical system...Oh sweet car, I must bid you adieu!" Jane concluded with a little curtsy to the car, and aimed another smile at the camera.

Jane's partner Nell peered thoughtfully out the bay window of the Robbins-Levine's old green Victorian house, observing the film crew. For the past two weeks, Jane had argued that going down to one car was their best strategy for winning the transportation challenge-explaining passionately that it

would save "money, gas, insurance, excise taxes, repair costs, everything!" When they looked at the cost savings for ditching the Continental, Nell finally conceded that it made financial sense:

And how could she argue when Jane offered to take the Five College bus to work at the college, and leave the Toyota available to her at home? Still, Nell couldn't help fretting about the "What if's": "What if you need to get to a meeting one evening, and I have to run to the drug store for diaper rash cream for Betty? What if we both have to get somewhere on a day when the buses aren't running?"

But Jane had an answer all ready: "We'll sign up for Zipcar! I looked it up on the

### Robbins-Levine Family



Jane, 34  
Biology Professor



Nell, 32  
Fiber Artist

### Expenses for Jane's Lincoln Continental

	Monthly	Yearly
Depreciation	\$58	\$700
Insurance	\$50	\$600
Gas	\$225	\$2700
Maintenance	\$205	\$2460
Taxes	\$5	\$60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$543</b>	<b>\$6520</b>

Internet and would you believe that it only costs \$35 a year to join? Then we can rent one of their cars for \$56 a day if one of us needs another car. Plus, I'll use the bike to get around town once the snow melts-I just need

to get a basket for carrying my gear."

*Continued next issue.*

Visit [www.montaguema.net](http://www.montaguema.net) to read about all three families and to discuss the story so far.

### GREEN from pg 1

There are five criteria to becoming recognized as a Green Community:

Criterion (1) is to adopt as-of-right siting for renewable and/or alternative energy generation, research and development, or manufacturing. This may be done by creating a zoning district where these activities are allowed as-a-right, which means without any special permit requirements. The planning boards may retain site plan

review.

Criterion (2) requires an expedited (12 month) application/process for building under Criterion (1). All involved town boards - board of health, conservation commission, planning board - must complete their review within 12 months or the permits are considered granted. It is possible to adopt Chapter 43D, expedited permitting process (180 days), and designate a priority development site that meets the as-of-right requirements of criterion (1).

Criterion (3) involves establishing a baseline inventory of municipal energy use and developing a program to reduce the baseline by 20% in 5 years. Towns working in the regional group may team up to meet this requirement.

Criterion (4) requires the purchase of only fuel-efficient vehicles. There is an exemption for public works trucks, police cruisers, fire trucks, and school buses which includes pretty much all of the vehicles in our small towns. Towns that don't have non-exempt vehicles must propose an alternative means for meeting this requirement. Some options are carpooling incentives for municipal employees, bike racks

at municipal buildings, and preferred parking for hybrid vehicles.

Criterion (5) is to require all new residential construction over 3,000 square feet and all new commercial and industrial real estate construction to minimize, to the extent feasible, the life-cycle cost of the facility by utilizing energy efficiency, water con-

servation and other renewable or alternative energy technologies. The only way known to meet this requirement is to adopt the new Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) Stretch Code (see sidebar). FRCOG describes the stretch code on their website at <http://www.frcog.org/>. Examples show that the energy savings off-

set the original cost which itself is reduced by rebates. Lenders are beginning to include the savings when they consider income in qualifying applications for a mortgage.

Criteria (1) and (2), require zoning bylaws, public hearings, and approval by town meeting. Criterion (5) will involve a town bylaw and requires town meeting approval.

More information can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/doer>.



**PUBLIC HEARING ON STRETCH ENERGY CODE TOWN OF LEVERETT**  
Leverett Energy Committee  
The Leverett Energy Committee will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 5th, 2010 at 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to review whether the Town should adopt a new General By-law mandating enhanced energy efficiency in buildings as authorized by the Green Communities Act, Appendix 120.AA of the Massachusetts Building Code (780 CMR) and known as the "Stretch Energy Code", a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk.

### Stretch Code

The stretch code is an appendix to the Massachusetts building code. It requires greater conservation of energy than the normal building code. This is measured by the Home Energy Rating System (HERS). It is a performance based rating that looks at the results of tests of the completed construction. In addition, all new construction shall demonstrate compliance with the Energy Star Qualified Homes Thermal Bypass Inspection Checklist.

The testing process usually includes a blower door test (to test the leakiness of the house), a duct blaster test (to test the leakiness of the duct system), and completion of a thermal bypass checklist (a visual inspection of common construction areas where air can flow through or around insulation).

- "Typical" Existing Homes range from 110-150
- "Typical" Newly Constructed Homes 90-110
- Energy Star Homes - 85 and lower
- Stretch Code Homes will require:
  - 85 for renovations < 2,000 sf
  - 80 for renovations = 2,000 sf
  - 70 for new homes < 3,000 sf
  - 65 for new homes = 3,000 sf

Current Massachusetts building code requires compliance with International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2009. A typical home meeting that requirement has a HERS of 82.

The Country Players present  
**the miracle worker**  
by William Gibson  
The Miracle Worker will be showing on Friday and Saturday evenings, March 19th, 20th, 26th and 27th, with an additional special school production on the 25th at the Shea Theater, Avenue A in Turners Falls. For more info visit [www.countryplayers.org](http://www.countryplayers.org). Call the Shea Theater for reservations at (413) 863-2281, ext. 1.

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

Locally owned since 1941  
**FOSTER'S SUPER MARKET**  
Full service market  
Fresh Fish from the Boston market  
70 Allen Street Greenfield, MA Beer & Wine 413-773-1100 FAX 413-773-1105

**Pam Veith Real Estate**  
75 Main Street Northfield, MA 01360  
Office: 413-498-0207  
Ofc. Fax: 413-498-0208  
Home Phone: 413-863-9166  
Home Fax: 413-863-0218  
Email: [bedson1@comcast.net](mailto:bedson1@comcast.net)  
Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald  
ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR  
REALTOR®  
"My Office is Always Open to You!"

**Renaissance Builders**  
Quality, Craftsmanship, Original Thought  
[www.rebuild.net](http://www.rebuild.net)  
863-8316

**BARLOW**  
• Paving • Power Sweeping  
• Excavating • Landscaping  
• Demolition • Seal Coating  
• Septic  
Turners Falls  
413.772.2155  
cell: 325.5596  
[www.barlowpavingexcavating.com](http://www.barlowpavingexcavating.com)

**Beijing Station**  
Chinese Restaurant Eat In, Carry Out & Catering  
**Tuesday Special**  
Buy One Meal, Get Second Meal 50% OFF!  
**FREE DELIVERY**  
51 Avenue A, Turners Falls  
413-863-8988 | 413-863-2666

**Chevrolet**  
MARK OF EXCELLENCE  
AWARD WINNER  
**Charlene Martin**  
Sales Professional  
DILLON CHEVROLET INC.  
54 MAIN ST  
P O BOX 729  
GREENFIELD, MA 01301  
Phone (413) 773-3678  
Fax (413) 774-5746  
DILLON@CROCKER.COM  
Toll Free 1-800-698-3678

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**THURSDAY, MARCH 25th**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Larry Kopp, Country & City Blues* guitar with vocals, 8 to 10 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Crazy Folk*, folk/pop, 8 p.m. no cover.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 26th**  
Film showing at the Wendell Free Library: *A Sweet Tradition* and a DVD on making maple candy and cream by local filmmaker Steve Alves. Meet a local sugarmaker and discuss the fine points of making quality maple syrup. Refreshments. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blame it on Tina*, Jen Spingla, Bob Rosser & of course Tina Horn, will keep you happy with their amazing sound. 9 to 11 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ameri-MF-cana*, Janet Ryan & Ray Chaput, 9:30 p.m. \$4 cover.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH & 27th**  
*The Miracle Worker* at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. The Country Players present William Gibson's story of Helen Keller and her teacher Annie Sullivan. 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 27th**  
Easter Bazaar at Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church, South Deerfield. 8:30 to 3 p.m. Ukrainian Food and Art.

The Diemand Farm Easter Egg Hunt! 10 a.m. to noon. All kinds of activities, children should bring a basket to carry their loot home.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Worms Up Close and Personal!* Kids can see live worms and learn all about worms and their role in nature from

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

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



*Follow the thread - America's Jewish Immigrants and the Birth of the Garment Industry. Print exhibit on display at Greenfield Community College, North-358 Gallery through March 31st.*

head to tail ... tail to head? This program is oriented towards elementary age students, but it's good information for all. 1 to 2 p.m.

Johnson's Farm and Sugarhouse, Orange—Maple Sugaring Tour, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Co-sponsored by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, which worked together with the Johnsons to permanently protect 80 acres of the farm in 2002. The tour is free, and open to all ages. Info: David Kotker, (978) 248-2055 x19/ kotker@mount-grace.org.

At Our Lady of Peace Church, Turners Falls: The Assumption College Chapel Choir, under the direction of Lei "Ray" Yu, will sing the Lenten Choral Meditation and Stations of the Cross at 2 p.m.

Coop Concerts presents: *All Cooped Up* winter concert. In the Community Room downstairs at All Souls Unitarian Church, Greenfield. Performers include: Brooke Brown Saracino, Michael Pattavina, Roland LaPierre, Julia Burrough, Pat and Tex LaMountain, Jennie McAvoy, Michael Nix, Michael Orlen, Joe Graveline, Barry Higgins, and The Box Cart Lilies. Tickets at door, sliding fee \$5 to \$15. Doors open at 6:30, concert at 7 p.m.

Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Reprobate Blues Band*, blues, rock, roots music, 8 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse: *Thin Ice Theater*, Suzy Polucci and Paul Richmond team up again performing with a brand new show. *The intrepid confused couple delve*

into politics and just how hard it is to be human. Laughter guaranteed. George-Moonlight Davis joins in on piano for this evening of comedy and music. The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, located in Old Town Hall, Wendell center. Open Mic begins at 7:30 p.m. Benefit: Wendell Town Hall.

Christina's Pizzeria & Tavern, Erving: *Art Steele*, jazz. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Kristen Ford Band*, Indie Rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Infinite August* and *The Fine and Dandy Trio*, 9:30 p.m. \$3 cover.

PowerTown Music invites the community to a special event at The Brick House Community Resource Center, Turners Falls. An informational meeting about PowerTown's efforts in helping to build a thriving sustainable music industry in Franklin County and creating jobs and educational opportunities for teens and young adults. Featuring Program Director, Monte Belmonte, from WRSI 93.9 The River, speaking about his experiences working in radio and the state of the music industry. Performances by DeAngelo Nieves and Dakota Roberts. Free, 6 p.m.

**THROUGH SATURDAY, MARCH 27th**

In the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls. *From Hornbooks and Samplers to facebook and SMART Boards: Living and Learning in the Connecticut River Valley*. Celebrate the *Big Read* with this interactive exhibit!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28th**  
Family Dance at the Montague Grange, Montague Center, 3:30 to 5:50 p.m. Simple, happy dances paced for little feet. \$4 per person, or families \$7 - \$12 sliding scale, and include a light snack.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Rik Rolski*, acoustic guitar, 8 to 10 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Women's Tea Dance* with dj Lori B, 3 to 7 p.m. \$4.

**MONDAY, MARCH 29th**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps: A Night of Spoken Word*. Open Mic at 7 p.m and guest readers, Gina Myers and Joshua Harmon, 8 to 10 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Night!* 8 p.m. free, sign up begins at 7:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31st**  
*Follow The Thread - America's Jewish Immigrants and the Birth of the*

*Garment Industry*. A cultural history print exhibit & fashion show by Jacqueline Cooper. The exhibit reveals a timeless and universal theme, adapting to a changing world, portrayed by the journey of America's Jewish immigrants with the garment industry as vehicle. On display at Greenfield Community College, North-358 Gallery. Fashion Show: Noon - 1 p.m. and Discussion from 1 to 2 p.m.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 2nd**  
Burrito Rojo, Turners Falls: *Michael Orlen and Small Change*, Folk, Country, Jazz, 7 p.m.

Mystery Theater & Dessert at the Montague Grange, Montague Center: *Popped Star* a fundraiser event by the Friends of the Montague Grange. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. The evening includes the performance, and white-glove table side service of decadent dessert and coffees/teas, 7 p.m. [www.MontagueGrange.org/367-2184](http://www.MontagueGrange.org/367-2184).

**MONDAY, APRIL 5th**  
Film Showing of *In-Transition* at The Brick House, Turners Falls. 7 p.m. Tina Clarke, a trainer with the Transition Initiatives in the US and a Montague resident presents. Meet with folks from Montague and surrounding communities who have been working to help our communities become more resilient and sustainable. Donation suggested - but no-one will be turned away. [www.transitionus.org](http://www.transitionus.org) or [www.brickhousecommunity.org](http://www.brickhousecommunity.org).



*Get down with the Reprobate Blues Band at Burrito Rojo on Saturday, March 27th, 8 p.m.*

**THURSDAY, APRIL 8th**  
Jay Ungar & Molly Mason Family Band at the Montague Grange. There's a chance that this concert will sell out, so if you'd like to secure admission, make your check out to David Kaynor, PO Box 30, Montague, MA 01351. General admission is \$15; Grange members, senior citizens, kids, and folks of limited means: \$10.

**ONGOING**  
Gallery at Hallmark, Avenue A, Turners Falls. William Wegman photographs, *Out of the Box*. On display through May 2nd. Gallery open Friday thru Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

*Christina's*  
A Taste of Italy

**Bon Jovi Raffle tickets!**  
Drawing Thursday March 25th 10 pm  
Concert March 26th at Mohegan Sun  
**(Order a Party size pizza or two entrees to qualify)**

Fri 26th 6 - 9 pm Relics 70's, 80's & 90's Blues  
Sat 2nd 6 - 9 pm Art Steele Blues Specialist

**Daily Specials**  
Hours: Tues-Sun 11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.  
Fridays and Saturdays til 10:00 p.m.

**413-423-3100**  
20 French King Highway (Route 2) Erving  
Full Liquor License

**HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER**  
MONDAYS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m.  
TUES & WEDS - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 6 p.m.  
THURS - Drop-in, 3 to 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.  
Info: Jared at 863-9559.  
Hot Spot Teen Center is in The Brick House  
24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376

**GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS**  
Main St. Greenfield, MA 413-774-4881  
[www.gardencinemas.net](http://www.gardencinemas.net)  
Showtimes for Fri., March 26th to Thurs., April 1st

1. ALICE IN WONDERLAND 2D in DTS sound PG DAILY 7:00 9:30 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
2. HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON in DTS sound PG FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00 DAILY 7:00 9:30
3. SHUTTER ISLAND R DAILY 6:30 9:30 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
4. SHE'S OUT OF MY LEAGUE DAILY 6:40 9:20 R FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
5. GREEN ZONE R DAILY 6:40 9:20 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
6. DIARY OF A WIMPY KID DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
7. THE BOUNTY HUNTER PG13 DAILY 6:30 9:00 in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

**Dora Bed Cafe & Pub**

Draft Beer Fine Wine Great Food

Friday, 3/26 9 to 11 p.m.  
*Blame it on Tina* Jen Spingla, Bob Rosser and Tina Horn

Saturday, 3/27 9 to 11 p.m.  
*Kristen Ford Band* Indie Rock

Sunday, 3/28 8 to 10 p.m.  
*Rik Rolski* Acoustic Guitar

Monday, 3/29 7 to 10 p.m.  
*All Small Caps Poetry*

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

**The Rendezvous**

THURS. 3/25 8pm FREE  
*Crazy Folk* (folk/pop/crazy)

FRI. 3/26 9:30 \$4  
*Ameri-MF-cana*  
Janet Ryan & Ray Chaput

SAT. 3/27 9:30 \$3  
*Infinite August*  
*The Fine and Dandy Trio* \$3 (old-timey, folky, rocky, good-y)

SUN 3/28 3-7pm \$4  
*Women's Tea Dance* with dj Lori B.

MON 3/29 8pm (7:30 sign up) FREE  
**OPEN MIC COME DO YOUR THANG!!**

**SUNDAY BRUNCH! 10AM-4PM!**

78 THIRD STREET  
TURNERS FALLS  
THEV00.NET 413-863-2866

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

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

**A Custom Touch**  
Interior / Exterior Painting & Home Repairs  
Anthony C. Tucker: 863-4833  
70 Oakman Street, Turners Falls

**Simply Computing**  
computer set-up  
training  
QuickBooks  
**Debbe Dugan**  
863-5030  
Your Pace at Your Place

# Master Gardner Grilling in Season



**BY LELSIE BROWN**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - The recent spell of warm, mild weather has encouraged me to remove the cover from my gas grill, scrape the cooking surface and clear the gas pipes of any spider webs or other debris. As one not thrilled about cleaning cooking pots and pans, I'm thrilled to be grilling again.

Of course, many of my friends have been grilling right

through the cold of winter. Before we enclosed our front porch, we used to put the grill out there at the end of the fall. Then it was simple in the winter to turn on the porch light, start the grill and just nip out briefly into the cold to collect the cooked food.

Then we put glass panes and screens around the porch to create a multi-season space and moved the grill out to its permanent location in the yard,

the base of a former brick fireplace. Once that happened, I was no longer eager to tog out in layers and boots and stand in the snow and wind to cook. Now however, it's a pleasure. Not only do I dislike messing up the kitchen (especially in the summer) with heat and a pile of greasy pans, I truly enjoy food cooked quickly and then served up right off

**Grilled Steak of Fish, Tuna, Swordfish, Salmon**  
Spray the grill surface lightly with grilling or olive oil. Treat the fish lightly with lime juice and/or a little vinegar and oil dressing. Grill the first side for 3-5 minutes and turn. Press the fish lightly with your fingers after 3 minutes on the second side. The steak should feel firm yet moist. At all costs, avoid over-cooking. If the fish steaks are especially thick and some diners feel it is underdone, return to the grill briefly. You can always cook food a little longer, but there is no remedy for overdone, dried out fish.

the grill. Short of pan-searing, this is the simplest and most pleasing way to cook many foods quickly and briefly, retaining the natural juices and preserving

**Grilled Chicken Breast**  
Select boneless breasts, planning on one per person with a few extras. Marinate briefly in soy, teriyaki or other light sauce (about 1/2 hour). Grill the first side for 6-8 minutes, and then turn for 3-5 minutes more. You want prettily browned meat, but not overcooked. If you are not sure, press the chicken lightly with a utensil. The juice should run pink, not red.

fresh flavors. To start I scrape the grill with a wire brush and then spray lightly with cooking oil. Next, I set the dials to hot and light the fire. Once the thermostat indicates the surface is hot, return the heat to medium before starting to cook. The key is to close the surfaces of the food quickly with heat, turn

**Quick Vegetables on the Grill**  
Precook dense vegetables like potatoes or winter squash for a few minutes in the microwave or steamer until barely tender. Half peppers, zucchini or onion. Leave carrots whole. Spray with olive oil and place on a hot greased grill until brown. Enjoy!

and then leave on the fire only long enough to cook through. Try the following recipes with your own variations to create quick and tasty restaurant quality meals. First rule of thumb: Prepare vegetables in large pieces, e.g.: half a potato, zucchini, sweet pepper or onion. Select meat or fish at least a half inch thick. Second rule of thumb: Do not over-marinate or sauce. The goal is to taste the original flavors which will be enhanced by grilling. Rule three: Cook enough for leftovers or the unexpected guest.

**WENDELL** from pg 12  
student sent to Mahar High School. Despite similar aggregate wealth to Wendell, Orange pays close to \$5,600 per student. The contract made when Wendell joined the Mahar District had specified that each town pay the same amount per student. Wendell Finance Committee member Slavas created an alternative method of assessment that gives more equitable assessments, and a second alternative method that holds Orange harmless (does not increase its assessment), but increases New Salem's and Petersham's assessment. The Mahar School Committee, with eight members who represent Orange, and four members for the three smaller towns, has declined to adopt alternative methods of assessment. Wendell voters first authorized payments of the amount computed by Slavas' alternative method at the 2008 annual town meeting, and again at the June 2009 annual town meeting, which made Wendell the lowest contributor. Orange authorized the second lowest total, which set the budget for this school year at 5% below the amount that the School Committee requested. As a result, late buses, a guidance counselor position, and other services were eliminated. Baldassarre spoke for 25 minutes, stressing the needy population the school serves, the servic-

es he had to cut with the reduced budget, and the difficulties created by a budget of the same dollar amount as this school year's. He asked what he could do to build social capital with Wendell. Selectboard Chair Christine Heard responded by asking, "Did we not vote the full amount at the next (special) town meeting?" The warrant for that special town meeting authorized Wendell's share of the full request, but because Orange had reduced its contribution, Wendell was allowed a corresponding reduction. Slavas said that over the last three years the Wendell annual town meeting has authorized a Mahar assessment based on the full budget request and an alternative method of assessment, and while the town does not expect immediate action (towards changing the assessment method), it does want some movement. He said to Baldassarre, "It is not you, it is the School Committee that has to build social capital. Pelham and Amherst, two unequal size towns in a regional school district, set an alternative method of assessment every year." Finance Committee Chair Idoine said that Baldassarre was "rightly concerned" about facing a level funded budget, but recommended that his concerns be aired before the whole School Committee in addition to the Selectboard. Baldassarre said that if

Wendell had voted the full amount requested, Orange's vote would have been of no concern and New Salem's vote would have set the budget for the current school year. He suggested that the Mahar School Committee set up a sub committee to study finance. Slavas mentioned the regionalization study committee's suggestion that Wendell, New Salem and Petersham each have two members on the School Committee, while providing Orange, as the largest town of the four, with 5 members, to potentially distribute members and votes more equally. Idoine said that the Money Management Subcommittee has been meeting every Monday and will continue to meet until they make their recommendations at annual town meeting. The rest of the meeting addressed the following issues: Dog Officer Maggie Houghton spoke on behalf of Michael Anderson and Larissa Barnes, who have an ongoing complaint about trespassing dogs belonging to Claude Masson. Masson was advised to buy working hardware to properly secure the dogs to their leashes, or to find a fenced yard, to save the dogs from being ordered out of town. Baldassarre sent a request for a town meeting warrant article to authorize Wendell's share of an estimated \$200,000 capital expense to remove the dam that is

on Mahar High School property. Science classes use the pond behind the dam for study, and students skate on it in winter, but a dam inspection ordered by the state concluded that the dam was a threat to homes and yards downstream, and needed \$500,000 to be repaired, or \$200,000 to be taken down. The school budget is already stretched thin, and the School Committee felt that there is really no choice. The office of Senator Rosenberg sent the town a preliminary estimate for local aid of \$147,409. Following a sternly worded letter from architect Margo Jones, Royal Steam Heat of Gardner will replace the bearing assemblies and circulating motors, if necessary, for the heating systems of both the library and the town office building. FRCOG sent the Selectboard a letter expressing concern that budget cuts have left the emergency dispatch office in Shelburne short of enough staff to keep a safe redundancy. Selectboard members signed that letter to be forwarded on to the state. FRCOG also sent the town its annual offer to conduct a traffic count in town. Board members agreed that the police should be consulted. Town Coordinator Nancy Aldrich e-mailed State Representative Steve Kulik, as he requested, reminding him that Wendell has not yet received a

check for cleanup expenses following the 2006 tornado. Kulik responded that he will get the money to the town. If funds are not received this fiscal year they will have to be reauthorized by the state next fiscal year. The United States Postal Service answered Wendell's complaint about delivery of payments made to vendors, some of which arrived months after they were due and were mailed. The Postal Inspection Service (the law enforcement of the Postal Service) has been notified and is conducting a thorough investigation. The Selectboard re-appointed Maggie Houghton as Dog Officer, and Linda Hickman as Animal Inspector. Wendell still has \$117,000 available in its Community Development Block Grant, which can be used for no-interest loans to bring a house up to code, for dry hydrants, culverts, septic system repairs, and for other improvements in low income neighborhoods. Loans do not have to be repaid until property is transferred. To qualify for the next round of grants, Wendell must update its Community Development Plan, and town departments have been notified to bring their concerns to the Selectboard. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said he will try to make the CDBG documents available on the town website.

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

**Mary Lou Emond**  
Certified Residential Specialist



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

413-773-1149 x142 • HOME: 413-863-4568  
EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM

daily soups and lunch specials!



dynamic caffeination  
warm friendly service  
brown bag catering

Mon - Fri 6 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sat & Sun 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

4 Main Road, Gill 413-863-0033

**MUSIC & MOVIES**



BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

