



## THE BRICK HOUSE

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## WEST ALONG THE RIVER

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

Year 3  
No. 20

50¢

# The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 3, 2005

## Downtown Tension

BY RUDY RENAUD

**THIRD STREET** - Downtown Turners Falls has a noise problem. On one side of the issue are some bar owners who say they are doing what they can to keep the sound down in their establishments, on the other are residents who say they aren't doing enough. Can each side hear what the others are saying?

Sitting in the center of this controversy is Yesterdays Bar on Third Street, owned and operated by Linda Morrow since January 1st, 2004. Morrow, a Northfield resident, thinks Turners Falls needs a place where people can dance and listen to live music. "When I was looking at Yesterdays (before buying it) I realized that it could be a great place again by just giving it a different style and offering the customers live band entertainment." Morrow continues, "Myself, I like to dance, like a lot of other folks. It's exercise, and a stress reliever from a week of work. I wanted to provide the customers with a place to go to relax, forget their problems, and have some fun."

For Ross Cappetta, a resident of Turners Falls for 19 years, any problems he had living on Fourth Street behind the bar began when Morrow took ownership. Since Yesterdays opened, Cappetta claims to literally lose sleep at least three nights a week, or every night they have live see **TENSION** pg. 10

## BRING DA NOISE

Neighbors Take Complaints to the Selectboard



DETMOLD PHOTO

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** - Years ago, when there were 28 places to get a drink downtown, brawling and street fighting in front of the bars was a not uncommon occurrence in Turners Falls. Competing motorcycle gangs made Avenue A look like the backdrop to an old Marlon Brando movie. Chief Zukowski reminisced at the noise policy

hearing before the selectboard, on Monday February 28th, about the days the Renaissance Community brought in a private security detail from Boston to maintain a semblance of order downtown, and the selectboard ordered the most troublesome bars to hire detail officers to keep unruly patrons in line. Times have changed, but still the mixed use neighborhood of bars

and residences in the blocks around Avenue A and 3rd Street is the scene of loud bands, revving Harley Davidsons, and some carousing on the sidewalks and parking lots as the bars let out. The recent statewide ban on smoking in bars has created an added dimension to the street scene, as patrons gather on the walks and patios out-see **NOISE** pg. 10

## HEALTH BOARD APPOINTMENT PROVOKES CONTROVERSY

### Deja Brew Pub Hearing Held

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

**WENDELL** - Before the February 23rd Wendell selectboard meeting, emails were passing fast over the recent appointment of Harry Williston to the board of health. The situation started in May when Kanin Graton was elected to the board of health; in the summer he moved out of town with his family. Through fall and early winter he said he was still a Wendell resident, and he did not resign from the board. But he did not attend every meeting, leaving the board with two effective members, Andy Hamilton, and Don Richardson. The selectboard tried to get a formal letter of

resignation from Graton, so a new member could be appointed, and on February 6th he sent a formal resignation to town clerk, Annie Hartjens, as required by law. Hartjens informed Richardson, the board of health chair, of Graton's resignation, but Richardson did not forward the information to Hamilton, and at the February 9th selectboard meeting he nominated Williston to fill the newly vacant seat. Williston is on the highway commission, and was a selectman years ago, when the selectboard was the only board in town. The selectboard confirmed Williston's appointment, with selectboard chair Ted

Lewis abstaining. Williston is Lewis' brother-in-law.

Hamilton felt the process had deliberately excluded him; he had other candidates in mind, including Arieh Kurinsky and Gloria Kegeles, who lost her board of health seat to Graton in the May election.

Emails accused Lewis of trying to establish a dynasty in Wendell, with the tax collector, assistant tax collector and now a board of health member all related to him. Others implied the new board, with Williston and Richardson, might form a majority in favor of development and work to see **WENDELL** pg. 9

## War Colored Glasses

BY ANNIE DIEMAND

**WENDELL** - My son Jake was in Iraq for one year, serving as a Black Hawk pilot. These are some of my thoughts on what it's like to be the mother of a boy at war. Trying to explain what it is like to have a son serving in Iraq, the expression "rose colored glasses" comes to mind, but it is "war colored glasses" I see through. Sometimes with every breath I take, he is in my mind. Behind most of my thoughts are, "I wonder if he

is OK, I hope he makes it back alive. I wonder if this experience will change the heart of who he is." I think that only those of us that have someone so dear to our lives over there can truly understand.

Sometimes I wonder how does anyone make it through the tough things in life. I guess it is with the help of friends and family. I know that I have it so much better than many others. I have a computer and get emails from him, and on very lucky

days have been able to instant message him. I think about the wars that have been fought before, when families would not hear from loved ones for months. I just don't know how they made it through.

My son, Jake, is now en route to his home base in Germany, after being in Iraq since last February. I realize I have not been able to put my thoughts down on paper before now because of the

see **WAR** pg. 8



**PET OF THE WEEK****Blue Niles**

Niles is a nine-year-old terrier mix in need of a good home. He was adopted from the Dakin Animal Shelter nine years ago, and has been very happy in his home. Sadly, his person is now very ill and the family is spending most of their time in medical centers in Boston, so he has come back to us - much to his family's dismay. Cute little Niles is fully housetrained and has lived with both dogs and cats. He would be good in a family with kids 10 and up. If you're a fan of that wiry terrier look, take a good look at Niles! To learn more about adopting Niles, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at [info@dakinshelter.org](mailto:info@dakinshelter.org).

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## Montague Library News

### Animal Tracking For Families

BY LINDA HICKMAN

An animal tracking program for families will meet at the Montague Center Library on Saturday, March 5th, at 10 a.m. Children of all ages and their families are invited to look for animal signs and explore the Montague Center Conservation Land with environmental educa-

tor Dawn Ward. In case of unpleasant weather, a fun hands-on tracking program will be held inside the Montague Center Library. The event is cosponsored by the Community Partnerships for Children. For more information, please call 863-3214.

## Erving Library News

### Library Visited by a Friend of Washington

On Tuesday afternoon, February 22nd, the Erving Public Library welcomed *A Friend of George Washington* (a.k.a. Erving resident Kim Gregory) in commemoration of Presidents' Day. Gregory shared a wealth of information about George Washington,



put to rest some myths (he didn't have wooden teeth!) and dressed the part of a gentleman from Washington's era.



PHOTOS BY KIM GREGORY

Our participants even had the opportunity to try on hats and wigs that were typical of the time period, before enjoying cookies and hot chocolate. (What, no cherry pie?)

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES March 7th - March 11th

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

### Monday, 7th

9:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10:00 a.m. Brown Bag. Bags must be picked up before 1 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. COA Meeting

### Tuesday, 8th

9:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:00 a.m. Writing classes at St. Anne's Community Room  
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics  
1:00 p.m. Painting Class with Louise Minks. Registration \$10 for Gill and Montague residents. All others \$15.

### Wednesday, 9th

9:00 a.m. Foot Screening  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11:15 a.m. Mealsite Meeting  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

### Thursday, 10th

11:00 a.m. Elder Fire Safety. Staff from Franklin County Home Care will speak on kitchen safety and escape planning. Free smoke alarms and emergency lights will be distributed.

### Friday, 11th

9:45 a.m. Aerobics  
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Strengthening Memory, Fred Curtis from Clinical Support Options will speak on how to do this.

**ERVING Senior Center**, 18 Pleasant St., Erving, is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2

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

### Monday, 7th

9:30 a.m. Exercise

9:45 a.m. Library

12:30 p.m. Pitch

### Tuesday, 8th

9:00 a.m. Aerobics

9:30 a.m. COA Meeting

12:30 p.m. Oil Painting

### Wednesday, 9th

10:00 Line Dancing

12:00 p.m. Bingo

### Thursday, 10th

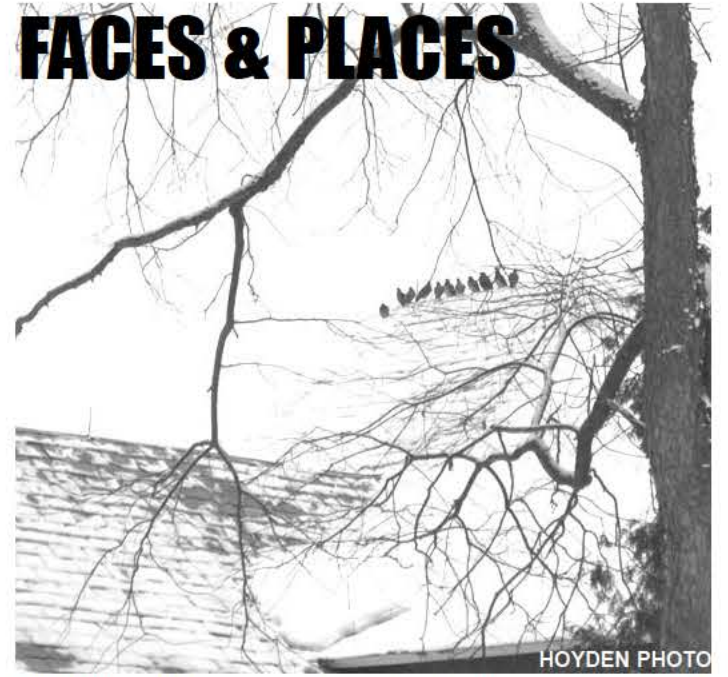
9:00 a.m. Aerobics

**St. Patrick's Day Dinner** tickets are on sale now at the Erving Senior Center. Seating is limited to the first 48 who sign up. Menu will feature the traditional corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, turnips and onions with dessert and

coffee. Price is \$5 for family-style dinner. Reservations: call Polly at 423-3308.

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

## FACES & PLACES



HOYDEN PHOTO

While the noble robin is often credited with being the universal harbinger of spring in New England, the courting behavior of these sunbathing rock doves is music to winter-weary ears.

## Girls' Softball Registration

**Monday, February 28th to April 9th**

For girls in grades 3 thru 6

The Montague Parks and Recreation office is open Saturday, March 5th from 9 a.m. to noon for early registrations. Games are held in May and June.

Fees: Montague Residents, \$35; non-residents, \$40. (Fees include the cost of hat, shirt and pants). Parents are encouraged to help coach and umpire - no experience necessary, training provided. For more information, call MPRD at 863-3216.

## I said, BOOK FOR HARD OF HEARING at Senior Center

**GILL/MONTAGUE** - "A Guide for People Who Become Deaf or Severely Hard of Hearing" is a 133-page book by Karen Rockow, Ph.D. and developed under a contract from the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Copies of this book are available free by calling the Gill/Montague Senior Center at 863-9357 or 863-4500. If you know someone that could benefit from the book, you could pick up a copy for them as well. Call the Senior Center for more information.

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# In Search of Dry Hill

**Brick House TV, Show 14 First Anniversary Show!**  
Local Access Channel 15  
Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.,  
Sundays at 10 p.m.

Beginning on Wednesday, March 2nd, Brick House TV takes a trip back in time up Dry Hill Road, along with a contemporary trip to the new bellybowl restaurant in Turners Falls. The viewing public is invited along for the ride! The show will be repeated on Sundays (at 10 p.m.) and Wednesdays (at 7:30 p.m.) in March.

During the first half of the 19th Century, the upper reaches of Dry Hill Road in Montague had its own small village, complete with its own schoolhouse. Dry Hill was a main East - West road. Most of the area where the old village stood is now wooded and overgrown. Intrepid explor-

ers Sam and Ben Letcher, Jeff Singleton and Mik Muller tromped through these woods last fall to seek out old foundations, cellar holes, wells and the famous Dry Hill Cemetery.

A great added bonus for the Dry Hill trip is the accompanying piano playing by Margie Katz and fiddle work of Dave Kaynor.

In early January, the Brick House finally got around to celebrating its holiday luncheon with a trip to the new bellybowl restaurant at the corner of Fourth and L Streets in Turners Falls. There is footage of Brick House staff having a fun time during this lunch, but more importantly the segment serves as a tour inside the restaurant, even to the far reaches of the kitchen. Co-owners Michele and Elaine, as always, were gracious hosts, even with the camera and mic in

their faces.

Mik Muller was the main man behind the camera for the Dry Hill Segment, while Brick House AmeriCorps member Sika Sedzro and staffer Robin Chaia Mide shot the footage at the bellybowl. Brick House TV Youth Support Team members Kit Henry and Nate Greene applied their growing expertise to the editing work.

This show also serves as the first anniversary of Brick House TV. The March 3rd, 2004 edition was the very first, and covered a teen open mic, the Sawmill River Run and an interview with the Brick House director. Since then the show has covered such diverse subjects as a Lake Pleasant historical tour, the Community Health Center of Franklin County, businesses in Millers Falls, the reconciliation ceremony with the Native

Americans and Book Mill businesses.

Co-host Nina Bander returns for this show, joining Mike Langknecht in the easy chairs to introduce the segments. Brick House staffer Robin Chaia Mide and local youth Mike Morris ably personed the cameras for this.

Brick House TV is produced through the facilities of both Greenfield Community Television and Montague Community Television. Jared Libby, the Brick House's Youth Program Coordinator, assembled the parts into the whole.

Brick House TV continues to be underwritten compliments of the Shady Glen and its former owner John Carey. The show reaches the five villages of Montague as well as parts of Gill and Erving.

# Brick House Lock-In

BY JUSTIN SMITH

**TURNERS FALLS** - On February 26th, the Hot Spot Teen Center at the Brick House hosted a "lock-in" for local teens. This was the second "lock-in" the Teen Center has hosted for local youth, the first in its new building at 24 Third Street. At 10 p.m., the doors were locked, and no one was allowed to leave and return. Seventeen Montague area kids participated, including a group from FCAC Youth Programs in Greenfield who learned about the Hot Spot Teen Center

through its monthly open mics. The "lock-in" provided a chance for teens - many with similar interests - to meet and hang out with other teens they otherwise might not get the chance to know. The event was supervised by Brick House youth programs coordinator Jared Libby as well as AmeriCorps member Amewusika (Sika) Sedzro.

The kids made creative use of the time. One person brought in a PlayStation with *Dance Dance Revolution* for others to use. The group chipped-in to order some pizzas to share. There were youths using the Teen Center's recording studio until as late as 2 a.m., recording music for fun as well as for the newest edition of the Avenue A Music

Project CD, due to hit the racks at the end of the Music Project's current session in June. The teens did other things, such as watch movies (projected on the wall to 4 feet by 6 feet), and play computer games and board games.

Around 2 a.m., a valiant attempt was made to encourage the participants to go to sleep, or at least to be quiet enough so that those who wished to sleep would be able to - though most remained awake for quite some time. Libby turned the lights on around 8 a.m. and slowly turned up *Nirvana Unplugged* until most of the slumbering teens had regained consciousness. Everyone had breakfast together in the morning, provided "on the (Brick) House," prepared by Libby. There were waffles with syrup, juices, and different kinds of fruit breakfast bars. The "lock-in" was a blast; we can't wait for the next one.

# Public Invited to Suggest Photo Documentation Sites

**ATHOL** - The Millers River Watershed Council and the Athol Bird and Nature Club are conducting a long-term photo documentation (P-D) survey of the Millers River watershed. The purpose of the P-D survey is to create a lasting visual record of current conditions and future changes at key sites throughout the watershed. Watershed residents are now being invited to suggest survey sites.

need to stake and set up a tripod to photograph a 360-degree view of the area. Large obstructions or steep topography may limit the quality of photographs. Each site should include a relatively flat area with good visibility of the features to be recorded for sites of special importance. (Some exceptions may be made for important sites that do not have a suitable flat area.)

The P-D survey method uses digital photography to take literal "snap shots" in time. Each site is photographed at the same exact spot four times every year. Sites may be disturbed or undisturbed, water or land-based.

For a list of necessary criteria in order to suggest a site, please send suggested site submissions by March 31st to Ivan Ussach, watershed coordinator, at 100 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331 or email [ivan@millersriver.net](mailto:ivan@millersriver.net). For more information, call (978) 248-9491.

At each site, volunteers will

# Watershed Meeting Continues Solid Waste Focus

**ATHOL** - The next meeting of the Millers River Watershed team will take place on Tuesday, March 8th, at 6 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

funding for ongoing projects to restore Atlantic Salmon and other anadromous fish to the Connecticut River.

The meeting will also include a discussion concerning efforts by the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC) to obtain sufficient

Watershed Team meetings are monthly and open to the public. For more information contact Ivan Ussach at (978) 724-0108, email [ivan@millersriver.net](mailto:ivan@millersriver.net); or the Millers River Environmental Center at (978) 248-9491.

**GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE**  
Saturday, March 5th  
9 a.m. to Noon  
**Food City in Turners Falls**  
For more information call Pam Grimard at 863-2436.

**SPRING INTO ACTION AT THE YMCA IN GREENFIELD**  
New youth and adult programs starting now. Swimming, gymnastics, fitness, sports & strength classes for the whole family! Plus we have a new golf conditioning program. Join the YMCA & take advantage of all the wellness and recreation programs we offer!  
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**The Erving Special Town Meeting**  
of Monday, February 28th was cancelled due to snow and has been rescheduled for **Monday, March 14th** at Erving's Town Hall, 12 E. Main Street at 7:30 p.m.  
For further info email [ervin-gadmin@comcast.net](mailto:ervin-gadmin@comcast.net) or call (413) 422-2800.

Donate your deer, elk, bear, or other hides for use in a  
**NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL EDUCATIONAL PROJECT**  
Contact Joe Graveline at 413-498-4318

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

**Montague Sewer Bills Due**  
A reminder to Montague residents that the second half of the Fiscal 2005 sewer use bill is due on Friday, March 11th. Payments received after this date are subject to a 14 percent interest penalty. To obtain a receipted copy of your bill, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and both copies of the bill with your payment. The tax office is open Monday - Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**MABEL ZOBLE BY SANDRA FACTO**



**LOOK DEE, I WILL CALL YOU BACK IN A LITTLE WHILE... I HAVE A PREVIOUS COMMITMENT I WANT TO BREAK.**



# The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

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"The Voice of the Villages"

## Founded by

Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold  
August, 2002

## More than a Store

Almost two years ago, one of our roving reporters, Barbara Stewart, wrote a wonderful encomium on Carroll's Supermarket, that wonderful emporium on East Main Street in Millers Falls. After spending part of a warm spring day closeted in the market's well-worn office, (through the back room, up the wooden stairs and past the bookkeeper's knee-hole desk) listening to Martin Luippold Sr. spin tales of the early days of his greengrocer's trade, starting in a tiny two-foot by four-foot stall next to Equi's Spanish Garden in the 40s, and graduating to the Powers Block before remodeling the former A&P and bowling alley into the store's present quarters - while Millers thrived in the post-war flush of industry - Stewart sat down and penned these words:

Carroll's "fits the requirements of an old-time general store, one that has managed against all odds to persevere, modernize, and provide a full assortment of what a regular person needs to survive in this day and age. Besides four or five aisles of grocery items, Carroll's stands out for its "homemade" products - fresh rice pudding, tapioca, and homestyle baked beans, German-style potato salad, fresh and spicy ground horseradish, and of course Carroll's *piece de resistance* - boneless chicken wings, bathed in hot and spicy or honey barbecue sauce - a melt in your mouth confection that can bring forth tears of joy

or desperation, depending how fast someone realizes they are temporarily residing in your fridge."

And these: "Standing at the meat counter at Carroll's Supermarket is (for some of us) like standing at a counter at Tiffany's." Famous for meat bundles, whether it was Pete Kavanagh wielding the cleaver or Martin Luippold III, who succeeded as owner and manager of the store when his father passed on September 7th, 2003, Carroll's has always maintained the pride Martin senior expressed in the eloquent phrase, "We will sacrifice nothing when it comes to meat."

Times change, commerce ebbs and flows, but through it all - the closing of the tool company, the paper mill, the post office, and the stirrings of new growth and new enterprise along Main Street - Carroll's has been the central gathering spot, the place where neighbors meet and greet morning, noon, and night, the lynchpin holding the community of Millers Falls together. Now, as the sale of that institution nears, and the prospective owners make a public pledge "to keep everything the same, even the name," we take a moment to wish them well in that endeavor. The community depends on their success, and their success depends on the community. The hard work, dedication, and family pride of the Luippolds deserves to be carried on at the "home of the meat bundles."



Hang in there . . . Spring's almost here!

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### A Frightening Incident

On February 26th, at approximately 4 p.m., my companion and I were nearly killed by a dog living on G Street, in the neighborhood of Montague commonly referred to as "The Patch." Here's what happened. After walking over by the power canal, we were returning home on the path behind G Street. Out of nowhere a pit bull mix came charging at us with the hair on his back up and his mouth salivating. Had we not been dog owners ourselves and known

how to react, there is no doubt in my mind one of us would be dead or severely injured right now.

The owner had no control over this dog. While she tried to grab his collar, which took a frightening 10 minutes, not once did she apologize or offer up an explanation.

After reporting this to the Montague police, we were told this wasn't the first complaint they have gotten about this dog. Though we know their hands

are tied by the law, do we wait until a child gets killed until something gets done?

And being a dog owner and knowing that dogs behave according to how they're treated and trained by humans, I don't blame the dog one bit for his behavior. It's the owners that should be ashamed of themselves.

- Karen Renaud  
Turners Falls

## Elks Raffle Winner



Shirley Kennedy (left), chair of the house committee, Dorothy Underwood (center), travel certificate winner and Teresa Miner (right).

The Montague Elks Lodge #2521 in Turners Falls drew the raffle winner of a travel certificate valued at \$1800 at its Caribbean Night on January 22nd. Dorothy Underwood of Gill is the winner! Dorothy has plans to use the certificate for a couple of trips. First she plans to fly to Florida to be with her younger sister, Honey (Irene), on their shared birthday. Both

sisters were born on March 31st, one year apart, how about that for beginners' luck? Dorothy is still working out the details of her other trips. All proceeds from the raffle benefit Montague Elks charities. Congratulations Dorothy and happy trails!

- Teresa Miner  
Exalted Ruler

The Montague Reporter is a nonprofit, independent newspaper; a project of Montague Community Cable, Inc. We welcome and encourage letters, editorials, and articles from all residents of Montague, Gill, Erving, Wendell, and surrounding communities, for publication on a space available basis. We reserve the right to edit submissions for spelling, grammar, and clarity.

All members of the community are welcome to use the pages of the Montague Reporter to print opinion, news, or commentary on any issue of public or personal concern, subject to the above requirements. The Montague Reporter attempts to be a community access newspaper, in every sense of the term. If we fail in that attempt in any way, we are happy to print criticism of our performance.

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## The Montague Reporter

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## The Montague Reporter

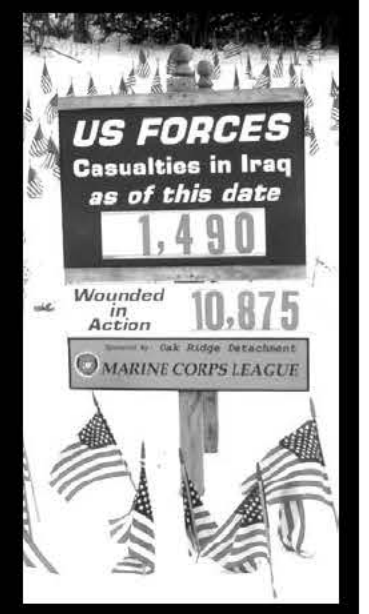
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as of 3/2/05





GUEST EDITORIALS

# Snow on Snow

BY LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** - It's a strange thing how short memory of winter is. Once clear of the season, we look back making legend of the length, the cold, the snow of last month, of last year. The current winter often takes the prize as the longest, the coldest, the most prodigious of snow. Maybe this is part and parcel of what it means to be a New Englander, a traveler in a climate of extremes from winter chill to summer heat.

Today, March 1st, looking out at snow falling on snow, it feels like a long, cold and snow-blanketed season. Yet there were only four days when the temperature fell below zero in January. Last January there were eight such days. On January 16th, local schools were closed because the projected

wind chill was -25 to -35 degrees. That month included three other days with wind chills of at least -20. On the day of the Blizzard of 2005, January 22nd, the wind chill factor was forecast to be between -25 and 35 degrees. As it happened we had very little wind that day. Hardly a blizzard if you don't get blowing and drifting snow. Perhaps the significant blizzard factor was not how deep or how cold but where you were. Nestled next to the protective curve of the Connecticut River, we are both warmer and less buffeted by prevailing winds. On January 3rd, 1998, we ate lunch out at the picnic table accompanied by the balmy zephyrs of a 57-degree day. Of course, things returned to normal in a hurry. The temperature on the eleventh was a poetic

eleven degrees; on the fifteenth the high was fifteen. January 16th, 1998 brought a six-inch snowstorm. Maybe there's something to the old adage about New England weather: If you don't like it, wait a minute. On the 23rd we received another six inches of white stuff.

Then there was the Nor'easter on February 5th, 2001. Was that a blizzard? We sent the kids home early from school that day, and I drove to Brattleboro because my mom was panicked about being snowbound and wanted to get out to the store. I got on Route 91 around 1 p.m. The skies were leaden but there was no snow. Out of nowhere, flakes appeared. By the time I reached the Bernardston line, the air was thick with snow. I drove around Brattleboro in over an inch of

slippery stuff. Later, errands accomplished, several inches of snow lay on the roadway. I was afraid to tackle the long hill out of town on 91 South so I drove home on Route 5. It took me over two hours. When the storm was over the next day, the snow count was twenty inches.

Now in March, we're looking towards spring. It's not always looking our way. Sitting near a yard still buried under eight inches of snow, I read about March 1st, 1998; it was 40 degrees and the tips of daffodil and crocus bulbs showed green throughout the yard. On March 2nd, 2001, the red winged blackbirds, true harbingers of spring, had returned. In 1998 they flew in on March 7th; in 2002 on March 9th. The year of 2003 they waited until March 15th.

Whatever the weather, the vernal equinox falls on March 20th every year. Sometime around then the redwings will have returned along with the robins. While it often snows again, the sights and sounds of spring continue, and the snow doesn't last. There will be sap buckets decorating the maples anytime now, and crocus and daffodil will push up from the chilly ground. The first leaves will unfurl on the honeysuckle bushes and the peepers will wake up in the marsh. Right about then we'll be talking about the past season and how rugged and long lasting it was. And we'll be calling that last snow-fall Poor Man's Fertilizer.



# Discussion Closed

BY JEFF SINGLETON

Is the Gill-Montague Regional School District ignoring the research on school size and grade span? I think, unfortunately, the answer is yes.

The school district has established a committee to research the current elementary school configuration, a source of constant conflict and frustration in the district. Early on, Sheffield principal Chip Wood gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the research on school size and grade span. One would think a committee appointed to discuss configuration issues would be interested. But, no. Those who, like myself, tend to support small K through 6 schools smiled and were happy. Those who want to close Montague Center school became irritable and looked at their watches. That was about it.

In fact, it is not clear the committee will consider the research in its evaluation of different options or in its final report, if it issues one.

The general public may be surprised to know there is a very large body of research which shows that traditional, small, neighborhood-based schools work better than larger consolidated schools. Perhaps more importantly, this literature, and the movement it is associated with, has provided a compelling critique of school consolidation - the policy of centralization that destroyed so many good, neighborhood-based schools over the last half century.

The literature on school size is linked to a large and exciting small school movement that is seeking to undo the results of school consolidation. In Chicago, New York and Boston,

school officials are jumping through hoops attempting to undo the effects of school consolidation, creating new small schools and "schools within schools." Meanwhile in some rural states like West Virginia and Arkansas, the literature has been used to energize communities that resist consolidation.

The small-school literature would also seem to be supported by the choices parents make. Most of the newer private schools and charter schools tend to be very small in scale! Many are located in small, neighborhood schools abandoned by the public system.

And yet some in the Gill-Montague school district seem to be ignoring this research and the movement it supports. They tend to be highly dismissive of the literature. We are not talking here about engaging the research, carrying on a dialogue about it, and arguing whether it is valid or applies to our community. No, we are talking about becoming rather irritable when the research is even men-

tioned.

I wrote a series of four articles on the pros of small schools and the cons of school consolidation for the *Montague Reporter* last spring. Now we have an elementary configuration committee. Everyone agrees this is an issue the district needs to resolve. Does anyone engage the debate publicly, or write a response in the *Reporter*, perhaps disagreeing with my position? No.

This is weird and it follows a pattern. In 1991 the GMRSD established a committee to look at the elementary school configuration, currently an extremely odd set-up that seems to satisfy no one. The committee, which appears to have been dominated by school officials, decided to completely ignore the research because "you can get a study to prove anything you want." One would expect this attitude from one of the curmudgeons on the finance committee. But an institution charged with educating our children?

The most recent justification

for ignoring the research is the argument that if you consolidated the schools by closing Montague Center School, the result would still be relatively small elementary schools. Now I could give you quite a few reasons why this argument - although statistically accurate - is undermined by most of the research and the choices parents make.

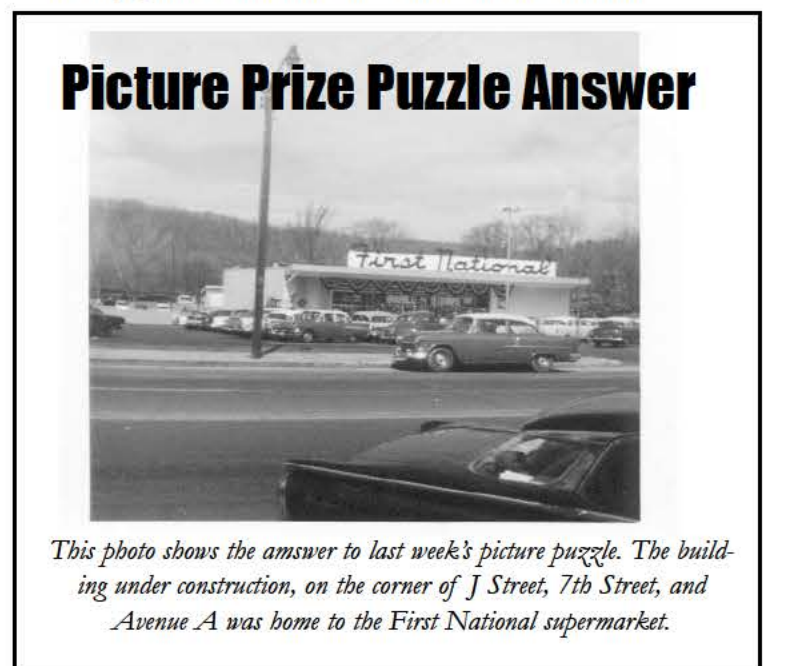
For example, the notion that a 300-pupil elementary school is still a small school is a statistical artifact created by fifty years of consolidation. Furthermore, there is a world of difference between a 140-pupil school with a strong neighborhood base and a history of success and a consolidated 300-pupil school, even if the latter is statistically below the national average. I would also point out that the literature on small schools does not in fact offer a clear definition of "small school" and many of the new schools being created are under 200 students.

But my point is not that the

"300-kid-school-is-still-small" argument is a bad one. It's actually worth discussing. My point is that the argument has become an excuse for no discussion at all.

I am not suggesting that the research is the only factor that should drive the decision about the elementary schools. We must consider the costs and the realistic options presented by our existing buildings. It would probably be healthy for the committee to have an open and frank discussion of the perceived social conflicts that have clouded this issue. Has there even been an attempt to put this on the table?

Shouldn't these issues be evaluated in the context of a vision for elementary education? And shouldn't this vision be influenced by the exciting new research and small school experiments taking place all over the country? Otherwise we are left with constant bickering, with Montague Center School hovering in the background. That's a sad situation.





## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE LANDFILL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## RFP for Landfill Prepared

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**MONTAGUE** - Members of the selectboard met with the landfill advisory committee on Wednesday, March 2nd, under the facilitation of Bob Weimar and Lawrence Murphy of Camp Dresser and McKee, consulting engineers assisting the town to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) for development of the town-owned DEP assigned landfill site off Turnpike Road. The purpose of the meeting was to refine criteria for the RFP on a range of topics including expected revenue, avoided costs, neighborhood impact and other concerns associated with the proposed 34-acre landfill development.

CDM's Weimar said, "One of the biggest concerns we have in the end is that this RFP is not challenged. Any ambivalence will come back to haunt us. We need to be specific. We need to



Trial balloons at the Turnpike Road landfill site, May 2004

be sure the criteria represents the will of the town."

With that the committee and the board plunged into the details. On the topic of revenue, and revenue stream, the benefit of seeking a large up front payment upon assignment of the site, which might play to the strengths of larger firms, as opposed to larger annual payments and tipping fees, which might level the playing field for smaller firms, hungry for the

opportunity to bid on one of the few DEP site-assigned landfills in the state. Weimar warned that "solid waste vendors are notorious for holding payments as long as they can," and suggested adding a criterion providing for interest penalties for late payments.

On the subject of avoided costs, the committee seemed to favor an arrangement where the town could negotiate to dump sludge from the water pollution

control facility at the landfill, saving Montague approximately \$300,000 in annual sludge hauling fees. But building inspector David Jensen said the town would do better to "maximize the revenue of the landfill operation, then pay the rate for whatever services the town needs" in the way of sludge handling or disposal of bulky items. Residents of Gill and Montague currently use the transfer facility adjacent to the proposed

landfill to dispose of bulky items, for a fee. Jensen favored continuing this approach, but Weimar suggested waste vendors hauling in trucks of ash, for example, might welcome an arrangement where they could fill those empty trucks with other disposables on the return trip for a negotiated fee. The costs to residents and to the town were weighed on all these points.

The town would certainly seek to have the RFP require a developer to cap the existing burn dump, prior to receiving approval to develop the adjoining landfill. This would save the town hundreds of thousands of dollars Montague would otherwise be required to spend on capping the burn dump.

The meeting showed signs of running on for hours, and deadline pressure prevented further reporting this week.

## Proposals Reviewed for Strathmore Mill Feasibility Study

BY DAVID DETMOLD

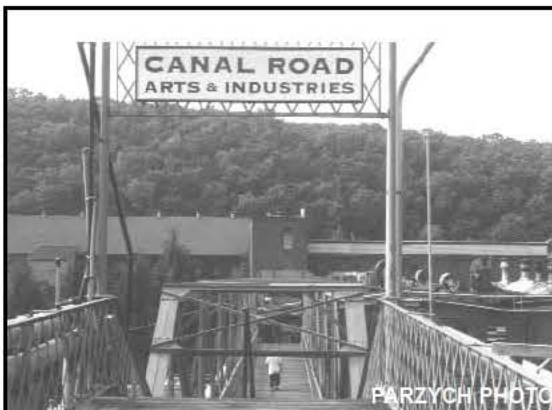
**TURNERS FALLS** - The Strathmore Mill committee will meet this Friday, March 4th to review five proposals from clients interested in performing the feasibility study for the mill's potential redevelopment. The town of Montague has signed a purchase and sale agreement for the Strathmore, allowing the town 120 days to conduct a study prior to final purchase. The feasibility study will focus on the potential for marketing the 134-year-old mill, on architectural, structural, and mechanical issues, parking and access, and will also analyze the cost of partial and complete demolition of the 250,000-square-foot complex. The committee will present their top pick to perform the feasibility study at the selectboard meeting on

March 15th.

The introduction to the RFP reads as follows:

*The Town of Montague (population 8,489), located in Franklin County, Massachusetts, is considering acquisition of the Strathmore Mill for redevelopment purposes. The mill is located on an island between the Connecticut River and an active power canal in the Turners Falls National Register Historic District. It was built in the late 19th century and operated continuously as a paper mill until 1994, when it shut down permanently. The 2.85-acre parcel comprising the mill encompasses 11 contiguous*

*buildings that range in height from four to six stories, totaling approximately 244,500 square feet in area. The footprint of the*



*mill is 55,000 square feet. The mill encompasses a 1.0 megawatt hydroelectric facility that is separately owned and not part of the proposed acquisition.*

*The Strathmore mill is con-*

*tiguous with the Esleek Manufacturing Company, an active paper mill employing approximately 100 workers. The Strathmore also adjoins a coal-fired cogeneration facility that was constructed in the late 1980s, and has been inactive since 1996. Vehicular access to the mill is across a narrow right-of-way owned in part by Northeast Generation Services Company and in part by the mill owners. The Strathmore is also served by a pedestrian bridge owned by Northeast Generation Services. There is virtually no on-site parking for the facility. A Phase II Environmental Site Assessment performed by Tighe & Bond, Inc., found no need for remedia-*

*tion under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan. The assessment did not include analysis of possible hazardous materials inside the mill, such as lead paint and asbestos, both of which are known to be present.*

*Redevelopment of the Strathmore Mill is one of the Town's top economic development priorities. The Town has negotiated an agreement to acquire the property, contingent on Town Meeting approval, and finding that there are no insurmountable barriers to restoration and reuse of the mill. The Town is seeking a team of consultants to conduct pre-development feasibility analysis, including a market feasibility study, architectural, structural and mechanical evaluation, and analysis of options for access and parking.*

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# Benefit for Debbie Stone

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL** - Most people in Gill know and love Debbie Stone. And who could not like Debbie? I can attest to her sunny disposition, since she came to visit my daughters when they were growing up. Later, when she coached Little League in Gill, and her team won, she would take the kids out for ice cream afterward.

Her vivacious nature was contagious. Active in sports, she graduated from Turners Falls High in 1976. With her customary enthusiasm, she played on the Gill Girl's Softball team sponsored by the Gill Store, 1978-79.

odd jobs. According to her sister, Barbara Terault, on the morning of December 20th, as Debbie was going off to work, she drove her Toyota Tundra out of the garage, stopped, and went back to close the garage doors. But on this particular morning the truck rolled back. As she was trying to get out of the way and get to the brake, her feet slipped on the snow. The truck slammed into her body, pinning her midsection against the concrete frame of the garage door.

She was alone, with no one to help her. In excruciating pain, she extricated herself. Her legs were numb and would not

she had six broken ribs and bruised lungs. But worst of all - her 8th and 12th vertebrae were crushed.

It took ten hours of surgery, two metal rods, and 18 screws to repair her badly damaged spine, according to an article in *the Telegraph*, a New Hampshire newspaper. The article went on to say that she felt nothing, could move nothing from the waist down.

"She's got incredible spirit," her sister Barbara said. "Never once did she say, 'Why me?' And she's got fantastic support from everyone. They had a big fundraiser for her in Hollis, which is near Nashua, and she's received loads of cards."

Debbie is in St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center on Kingsley Street in Nashua, NH, 03062, Room 405, undergoing physical therapy. "Debbie is the only paraplegic in the place," Barbara said. The therapists are positive, and give her great care. Debbie admits she gets weepy at times, scared and even depressed, but in her optimistic view, she counts her blessings; "This could have killed me, but I'm here - with so much support and love."

She still has her spunk and is determined to walk again.

### Benefit Event

There will be a Benefit for Debbie Stone on April 2nd at the Kazimerz Society Hall on Avenue A in Turners Falls, from 6 p.m. to 12 p.m., with music and dancing. Come and enjoy the buffet at 7, prepared by the Stone family. Tickets may be purchased at the Gill Store, or from Gale Stone at 863-2548. You can also help by making a



COURTESY OF SUSIE MADDERN

Debbie Stone at center rear with the Gill Girl's Soft Ball Team, '78-'79.

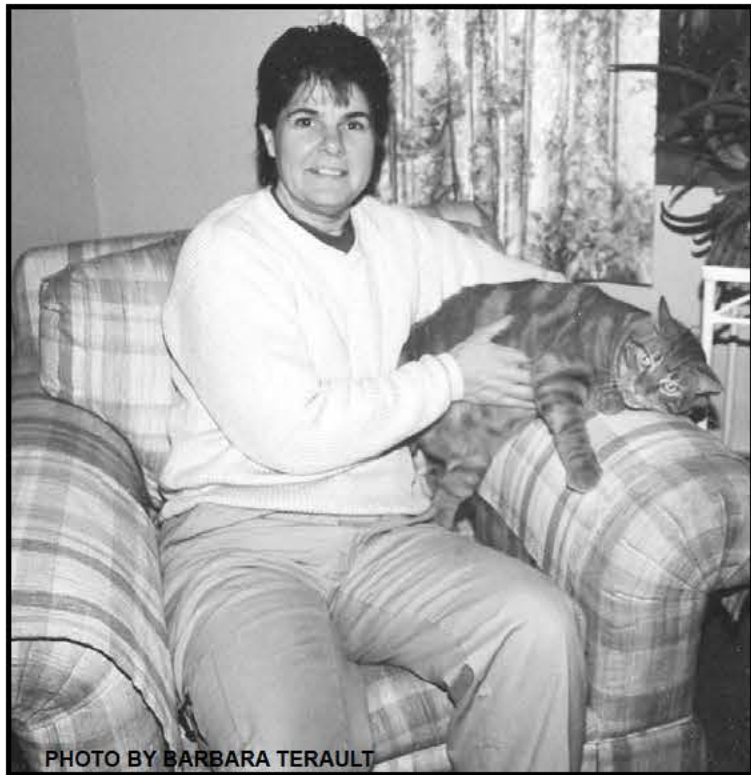


PHOTO BY BARBARA TERAULT

Debbie Stone and her cat, relaxing in her living room..

After leaving Gill, she owned a restaurant, the Rainbow Café, in Groton, MA, until soaring insurance costs forced her to sell. With her restaurant gone, she lost her health insurance. Unfortunately, Debbie had a bad accident just before Christmas, and is now paralyzed from the waist down. At the time of the accident, she worked at her new business in Hollis, NH, doing

move. She had a cell phone clipped to her clothing. She called 911, but lost the signal. She dragged herself to a better place for a signal and called, again. The ambulance rushed her to St. Joseph's Hospital in Nashua. After determining the seriousness of her injuries, she was transferred to Massachusetts General Hospital. There, Debbie learned

donation payable to The Sovereign Bank, 9 Ash Street, Deborah Stone Fund, care of Hollis, NH, 03049.

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# Chinatown Restaurant Reopens

BY LAENA SANTOS

**TURNERS FALLS** - The Chinatown Restaurant at 57 Avenue A reopened on Wednesday, March 2nd, greatly pleasing owner Lin De Xiong, who has worked diligently to correct the numerous board of health violations reported last month.

Since January 26th when the restaurant was forced to close, several customers have called Chinatown Restaurant asking

when they will reopen, said Xiong, who has owned the restaurant for four and a half years.

"I am happy to be open. My customers trust me and did not understand why we closed," he said.

The 14 board of health violations were discovered during a "routine inspection," resulting in the emergency closure last month.

Xiong said he met with the

board of health shortly after the closure.

"We hammered it out, hashed it all out, and told him that these laws will be complied with or else you will not reopen," said Chris Boutwell, chair of the Montague board of health. "He did comply, we went in for an inspection and there were still things he had

to correct. He wasn't allowed to reopen until the second inspection was complete."

Xiong said that among his tasks to complete before reopening was thoroughly cleaning the restaurant and throwing away all of the food items in question, including meats and open bags and barrels of rice.

During a recent visit amidst the sizzling sound of frying eggrolls, Xiong pointed out all of the equipment and food preparation surfaces that were

scoured.

"Everything we make like new," he said.

Xiong's busiest time of day is typically during the dinner hours, when customers dine in and also take out a myriad of his home-cooked Chinese specialties, from sesame chicken and pork fried rice to egg rolls and beef lo mein.

"I hope it will be busy soon," said Xiong.

Boutwell said he hopes Xiong continues to comply with the board of health food codes.

"In all honesty, they're going to have to comply, or else we're going to have the same problem over again. And, if it happens again, there will be a permanent closure and the license will be subject to revocation," he said.

Xiong also must reattend a mandatory food certification course (detailing food handling preparation, as acknowledged by the state and federal government), as required by federal law.



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## WAR

continued from pg 1

from reading the newspaper or watching the news. The fear for Jake and his friends and all the people caught up in this war. The fear that is underneath the anger when I hear of another person dying or being injured in this war.

One day I was on my delivery route, waiting for the clerk to sign the invoice, and I noticed the headline on the newspaper: **Black Hawk Shot**

*Down in Iraq. It was the weirdest sensation I ever felt. It was like a hole opened all around me and I didn't even know who I was. As she signed my invoice, the clerk looked at me and asked if I was alright. I just looked at her and said, "I would know." I took the invoice and walked out of the store, got into my truck and started to cry. I'm sure she thought I was nuts.*

*I guess that is how we make it through, by being a little nuts and by having lots of support and understanding. Again, I*

*know how lucky I am. I know how much support I have, and I am so overwhelmed by how many people are holding Jake in their thoughts and hearts, that every time they think of the war, they think of him.*

*Now that Jake is back on safer ground, I feel so different. It feels as if I had been underground, and now I have emerged. I can see the stars again. Then I think of all the other soldiers over there. When will this madness end? And my heart continues to ache.*

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



**WENDELL**

continued from pg 1

majority in favor of development and work to reduce the 150' well to septic system distance that Wendell now requires to the state requirement of 100'.

At the selectboard meeting on the 23rd, member Christine Heard said she had researched the legal way to fill board vacancies. Before an appointment can be made, the town clerk must receive a written notice of the resignation. The clerk must then notify the board involved, and the selectboard, and the vacancy must be posted for a week. Then the selectboard and the remaining board members must vote on a new appointment.

Therefore the selectboard instructed town coordinator Nancy Aldrich to post the vacancy, and scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, March 2nd to appoint a new board of health member. Lewis said the board had acted in appointing Williston on February 9th in the same way it had made appointments in the past, and added the action was in response to an emergency situation and was reasonable. The board of health, with only two active members, had been unable to act effectively, and if one member failed to appear the other was unable to hold a meeting. In December the board of health held no meetings.

Gloria Kegeles offered her name as a candidate for the vacant position.

**Deja Brew Pub**

Also on the 23rd, the selectboard continued its long delayed hearing about the Deja Brew pub proposed by Wendell Country Store proprietors Vic and Pat Scutari. The meeting room filled and overflowed with interested and concerned residents. Lewis said neither the police nor fire chief had responded with a concern, and the 35 days they are allowed for response had passed, so both departments are satisfied.

The highway department said they would prefer to have the Scutaris install an island or barrier to create two 24' wide exits from the Country Store lot, to require motorists to leave the parking lot at right angles to the road. The state considers that arrangement safer than the wide open parking lot at the store now. Pat Scutari said she wanted to cooperate with the highway department, but that 24' wide exits onto narrow Locke Village Road would deprive

delivery trucks of the swing room they need to back in or exit the store. Drivers have told her they would have to park across the street. She suggested painting lines might help define parking and traffic flow, but that a physical barrier might create a greater hazard. As it is now, a car has room to back out of a parking spot, turn around and enter the road facing forward. A barrier would prevent that, she said. In the 12 years the Scutaris have operated the store, only one collision has occurred involving a departing or entering vehicle, caused by the sun temporarily blinding the departing driver. Lewis suggested the Scutaris communicate directly with the highway department, and the highway department might install temporary cement barriers that could be moved and adjusted if they cause a problem.

Scutari also said she had asked highway boss Dan Bacigalupo about petitioning the state to reduce the speed limit from the center of town past the store, citing a change of use at the store.

David Charbonneau, who lives across Locke Village Road from the store, was the first neighbor to voice his opinion about the pub. He had no objection to the new business, but was concerned that cars coming out of the parking lot, and trucks stopped across the street from the store while their drivers had a cup of coffee, were chewing up his lawn. He asked that the town put granite curbs to mark the line between the road and his lawn, and said he would pay part of the cost. Lewis said before curbs are put in, the legal edge of the road has to be determined, and suggested Charbonneau talk directly with Bacigalupo.

Charbonneau also expressed concern that noise of departing patrons would set his dogs barking, which would then lead to complaints from other neighbors; this has happened occasionally when people leave the Country Store arguing.

Pat Scutari suggested the pub have a low key sign near the exit, with words something like, "Please respect our neighbors and leave quietly." Charbonneau and other neighbors would have the pub's telephone number, and a call would send a pub worker out to quiet any disturbance. Enforcement consequence would be being banned from the pub, or store, and in the past that threat has proven effective, Scutari said. She said generally a polite

request is effective.

Marianne Sundell, who lives between the store and the town common, said, "I think there already is a problem," with speeding cars and noise. "I am concerned with adding alcohol to the mix." Her house is close to the road and she said she had already lost two dogs to cars. Lewis said most of the people leaving the pub would be of drinking age, and they may have outgrown some of their wish to show off with vehicles.

Board member Dan Keller asked, "Would you like more patrols, or radar?" and Sundell replied unequivocally, "Yes." She suggested that random unpredictable patrolling would be the best low budget approach to reduce speed and noise.

Pat Scutari said, "What we are planning is very different from a bar." She said the brew pub would be a place where people can stop for a bite to eat, some wine or a microbrewed beer to go with it in a quiet atmosphere.

Sundell also voiced concern about noise affecting children, especially those who go to school in Amherst and need to leave for school at 6:45 a.m. She suggested the pub could close at 9:00 p.m. weeknights when school is in session, 10:00 p.m. during vacations, saying that might allow children along that stretch of road enough time for undisturbed sleep.

Pat Scutari asked her to speak only of her own children, not of others, because no other neighbor has objected to the pub including abutters on both sides who have school aged children.

Keller said, "The way we are dealing with noise is directly, not by regulating hours."

The next concern raised was for the natural environment; Pat Scutari said that postmaster Charlie O'Dowd wanted to extend the glass windbreak in front of the post office to protect the outside mailboxes, and the pub might extend that shield in the opposite direction to be a windbreak protecting its front door. Gloria Kegeles added that a windbreak or enclosure would also reduce the noise that reached the street.

Keller asked about proposed signs and exterior lights, and Pat Scutari said there already was a street light and the brew pub sign would probably be relatively small, wood, or perhaps stained glass, or on the roof like the sign on the Country Store. Heard asked, "Don't zoning bylaws specify permitted sign size?" Lewis and Keller said they did.

Vic Scutari asked, aside, "Do you have any jurisdiction over blimps?"

Pat Scutari asked if it would be OK for the pub to designate an outside sitting area, usable until dusk, either in front or back. Lewis responded, "for myself, get open first," before adding details like that. Keller agreed, adding that seating in front might conflict with parking, and Heard suggested putting outside seating in back of the store.

Planning board member Jenn Gross was concerned about the hours matching, so patrons do not leave the pub at closing only to drive to another establishment with longer hours. She said there was a common problem with no smoking allowed indoors leading to people gathering outside, with their conversation and noise. Pat Scutari said, "We have to build a landing" for a rear exit, and it might be reasonable to make that a deck for outside use on the side opposite most of the neighbors.

Aldrich said postmaster Charlie O'Dowd was concerned about the well and septic system. Pat Scutari responded the well has been a problem and the store has been making coffee using bottled spring water because of ground water infiltration during wet times. They plan to install an ultraviolet light water purification system by April 1st. The septic system was built by the previous owners with the capacity for a laundromat, or a 44-seat restaurant.

Resident Jackie Tolzdorf and south side abutter Rich Diemand spoke up in full support of the pub. Heard said a decision was required within 90 days, and Pat Scutari asked for a sooner response, please, so construction can start. Keller and Heard said the board would meet again in a week, which would allow time for paperwork. Keller said we may want to consult with our lawyer, and Aldrich said whatever decision the board makes on the brew pub proposal would go to the town clerk, and townspeople would have 20 more days to voice objections.

**Upcoming Borrowing**

After the pub hearing, town treasurer Carolyn Manley met the board with information about upcoming borrowing for the Fiske Pond purchase, the Anne Marie Meltzer property purchase, the new library, and town office construction. USDA loans can be for as long as 40 years at 4.5% interest, but the USDA would not lend money

for Fiske Pond because there is no building on the property. The Fiske Pond purchase will require two loans, the larger one short term, to be paid back as soon as Wendell receives the promised grants. The remaining \$120,000 can be borrowed with a State House Note, for a maximum of 30 years at the going interest rate. If the Meltzer property has a definite plan for construction, a vote authorizing the construction of a town office building, or even the town center septic system, a USDA loan would be available.

Finally, Aldrich brought up a rebate offer of up to \$.50/ watt for up to 3 kilowatts of solar or renewable energy generation from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. Librarian Rosie Heidkamp found this rebate, and suggested installing a 3-kilowatt system on the new library, for which the first bid she received was \$19,000. That would leave \$2,500 for the town to pay, which Heidkamp guessed would mean a 4- to 5-year payback for the library system. It is not yet clear how many of these rebates are available for one town.

**Williston Appointed to Board of Health**

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN**  
**WENDELL** - By a three to one roll call vote, the Wendell selectboard and board of health voted Harry Williston into the position on the board of health vacated by Kanin Graton's resignation. The appointment lasts until the election on May 2nd, when two members will be chosen. Williston was opposed by Gloria Kegeles. Selectman Ted Lewis abstained. Selectboard member Christine Heard said, "It is a pleasant change to have so much interest in a position that we have to chose someone to make an appointment."

Town clerk Annie Hartjens reminded those present that anyone wanting to run for one of those positions needs to have a petition with 28 signatures in to her by March 14th.

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## NOISE

continued from pg 1

side to smoke, occasionally bringing the party out with them.

Chris Janke, who lives two doors down from Yesterdays on Third Street, told the board he walked by the crowd in the smokers' patio this weekend with a friend from Boston who manages and tours the country with rock bands. Witnessing inebriated people wandering the sidewalk and harassing passers-by, Janke's friend made the comment, "They wear their drunkenness as a badge of honor out here."

Zukowski said if crowds became unruly in front of the bars, his department would deal with them under the town's bylaws for disturbing the peace or disorderly conduct. Still, a number of residents observed that it was difficult to enforce such bylaws, when the offenders were often gone by the time officers respond to their calls. Ross Cappetta, a Fourth Street resident whose apartment faces Yesterday's rear entrance, said bands leaving the bar at 2:30 a.m. were frequently rowdy and abusive. "They aren't happy people. They're loading their truck and yelling at each other."

"Maybe they can't hear anymore," put in board chair Pat Allen.

Cappetta said it was up to the bar owners to tell the people leaving their establishments to have a little consideration for the people living in the neighborhood. Janke's wife, Emily Brewster, said it was not only late at night that bar noise infringes on neighbors' ability to enjoy the privacy of their homes. "I can't sit in my living room at 9:00 p.m. on a Friday night with the windows closed

and watch T.V., two doors down." Cappetta concurred. "When a band is playing, on those nights, generally, I can't sleep, I can't watch T.V."

The board of health's Gina McNeely, there to present a draft of a proposed noise ordinance, observed, "If we had more common sense, we'd need less regulation."

McNeely said she had researched noise ordinances from Ogonquit, ME to Boston, and had drafted a proposal based on objective measure of sound decibels at the property line of establishments she felt would meet the needs of bar owners and residents alike. The proposed decibel limits would differ for business districts and residential districts. In a business district, "continuous, regular, or frequent source(s) of sound" would be limited to 65 decibels, from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., about 5 decibels above the noise of an average dishwasher, or normal conversation, and 5 decibels below the noise level of a car, an alarm clock, or normal city traffic. In residential neighborhoods, the levels would be limited to 55 decibels from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., about five decibels above the background noise of a normal neighborhood street. Between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6:30 a.m., limits in both districts would be lowered by 10 decibels.

The ordinance further would provide for the set levels to be "exceeded by 10 decibels for a single period, no longer than 15 minutes, in any one day. Otherwise, levels specified may be exceeded by special permit only."

Neely said sound measuring devices were inexpensive and easy to use, and recommended that establishments with enter-

tainment licenses purchase them. Bar owner Ron Laham from 2nd Street Sports Bar asked if the town could come by during the course of regular business and take sound levels outside the bars before the ordinance is put into force, to inform the owners how they currently measure up and to see if the levels are reasonable. Second Street manager Lew Collings had other comments.

"How's this going to work? On any given night, on a weekend, we have 20, 30, 40 people going outside to smoke. They're going to talk. By law they have to be outside. People leaving at the end of the night, will that give just cause?" to enforce the ordinance, he wondered.

Dave Carr, who owns the building at 88 Third Street, asked whether the partially enclosed smoking patio in front of Yesterdays should be considered outside the bar owner's establishment and responsibility, or part of the bar. "That noise is disturbing people who live in my building, and people who live across the street as well."

McNeely said noise that is considered transient would not fall under the guideline of the ordinance. Otherwise, "It's going to depend on the behavior of the people outside." If they are talking loudly "ten, fifteen, twenty minutes after the bar closes, that's not transient noise." Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick asked whether the ordinance could be applied to motorcycle owners with modified mufflers revving their engines for extended periods of time. Janke said he could look out his window and count the number of motorcycles parked in the lot off Third Street and predict how many times he will be woken up on any given night.

McNeely replied, "It's a general regulation for all noise."

But Collins pointed out patrons may park at one bar, go to another, and another, and then return to their vehicles. Which bar owner should be responsible for patrons' behavior then? Collins also wondered if the ordinance would be applied equally to the Shea Theater, the Community Band's concerts in the park, the Farmers Market, and other outdoor activities. Laham asked if the ordinance would be enforced whether or not someone calls to complain about noise. "If no one complains, I would say it's not a problem," Laham offered.

Board member Allen Ross commented, "We're not talking about a snoop squad. But we don't want a neighborhood that is accepted as a real raucous environment. Or people won't want to renovate their buildings, because people won't want to live there."

Board member Patricia Pruitt said she, too, had reviewed noise ordinances set in many places throughout the country, which in her opinion set levels "reasonable and easy to live with. We're talking about a level of sound way beyond these levels. The challenge is how can people in the entertainment business do their thing without impacting the livability of the neighborhood." She suggested the selectboard was at fault for not insisting on an adequate level of soundproofing in establishments prior to the issuance of an entertainment license, and thought the board should "be prepared to remove the business owners' licenses if they failed to adequately soundproof, or adhere to the sound limits once established. Allen agreed, and proposed initially issuing six-

month, provisional entertainment licenses in the future, to give the board a second chance of review "to see how things are working" at each establishment.

Ross proposed a graduated series of warnings and fines to enforce the noise ordinance, once the town adopts it.

Janke said, "We all want live music and entertainment in our town, a place you can drink and hang out." And the board consistently stressed they would maintain a "live and let live attitude," toward noise enforcement. McNeely said the draft regulations may be too strict for weekend nights in the business districts.

Then Allen turned the board's attention toward the persistent complaints about noise levels at Yesterdays, at 78 Third Street. She recommended the board require bar owner Linda Morrow to hire a detail officer to insure the noise levels are kept reasonable inside and outside the bar, and "to keep the peace out front" for a period of three months. She turned to Zukowski for his recommendation, and he considered the matter from several angles. "It might be good to arrive at a happy medium now," he said, "before the weather warms and the windows go up." But, rather than requiring a detail officer now, Zukowski said he would speak with the officers working the night shift and have them pay stricter attention to noise around the Third Street bar. "We don't want to stifle business, but we certainly want people to be able to live their lives," he said.

The board will take two weeks to consider the matter before acting on the proposed noise ordinance.



## TENSION

continued from pg 1

music. "I wish they would consider the point of view of the people who have to live here and deal with this. Every night a band plays at Yesterdays, I can't sleep and then wake up with a headache." As far as a need for entertainment in Turners Falls, Cappetta doesn't see it. "I don't think there's a need for loud music or dancing, not at the expense of the people who live here. The biggest business in

this neighborhood is the rental property. This is a bedroom community."

Morrow said she had no idea the noise from her bar was an issue with the neighbors until this past May. "The board of health contacted me, came out and did a sound meter reading and it did show that the bands were too loud. The board of health and selectmen offered their suggestions on what to do to prevent it. Since the state made the law of no smoking in bars, it is now hard to stop noise

coming out the door, but that is out of my control."

Cappetta claims nothing has been done to alleviate the problem, even after he made numerous phone calls to various government agencies, called the police night after night, and presented the selectboard with a petition signed by almost 50 residents of downtown Turners Falls. He's skeptical that even a noise ordinance could solve the problem. "A noise ordinance is fine, but only if they enforce it. That's the thing, this town has

laws; it just doesn't enforce them."

Morrow thinks at this point she's done everything she can to reach some kind of resolution with the neighborhood. "I have accommodated as much as I can. I cannot put the building in a bubble. It is a bar, not a library. It's one of the oldest buildings in Turners Falls; and it's not ready to die yet." She adds, "I do appreciate when people come to me directly with any solutions and ideas, I have proved that I'm willing to

accommodate to the best of my ability."

Hopefully for Cappetta, a resolution that allows he and his neighbors to get some sleep on band nights will soon be hammered out. "If something isn't done, I don't know what I'll do. I can't move. I've been here for 19 years. All my services are here. Where would I go?" Cappetta finishes with a sigh, "I just shouldn't have to wake up for church services on Sunday with a headache from the music the night before."



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Off the Beaten Track

# The Great Art Falls Fest

BY FLORE

**TURNERS FALLS** - Wake up, you-all, for winter, is a-going! This little house made of...brick, is doing it again. Climbing the squeaky stairway and holding firm its railing, you might wonder who hides there, quietly, behind an office's wall? On the landing, you will further notice some small hearty evergreens bowing, as the Pisa Tower, eagerly to greet you. As you enter, you will soon realize how the door leads you to be literally swept away. No need of introduction, you are soon involved in a beehive of doings... What is this Brick House about? A non-profit organization which mediates the well being of individuals in need. Families, communities, you name it, in Montague and Gill. In collaboration, through economic development and educative leadership. It has acquired its *lettres de noblesse* operating, would you believe, for 15 years. Providing attentive help to the well-being of needy residents and giving a helpful hand to community building

efforts, when the alarm signal is blinking on... Amazing achievements, better brace yourself! Their current commitments include: Bridging the gap between families receiving supportive services, from other local and state organizations. A dedicated youth program, in partnership with YES (Young Entrepreneurs Society). MIND (Montague Institute for New Direction), a versatile training program for unemployed women. Developing other arts technologies, including working in tandem with local school programs. Extending the cultural community center project, like programming art shows for both youth and adults. Creating local video projects to serve the need of visual exchange. Giving young people



ARIEL JONES PHOTO

community, we are just the igniters of encounters. It has to stem from something, somewhere, this time has come!" So mark your Gregorian Calendars. On April 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., a spring festival will take place: the Great Art Falls Fest. Where? Outdoors, at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. This is an invitation to all Arts and Craft magicians, creators, inventors of wild dreams and images. We need volunteers, musicians, pirouetting jesters, flambeaux blowers, clowns, mountebanks, gourmet chefs and

a chance to express themselves in this exciting high tech medium. They are just miracle workers, bridging community divides and delivering resources on a well-managed budget. Those responsible? Director Michael Bosworth, outreach coordinator Karen Stinchfield, youth multi-media coordinator Robin Chaia Mide, youth program coordinator Jared Libby, and Sike Sedzro, an Americorp member who works with youth on Brick House TV projects. These are the talented staff who are constantly coming up with brilliant ideas! Do you remember, last December the first Art Walk? They assisted with that memorable weekend of cultural exploration through the brick walkways and reascent studios of Turners Falls. It gave the villagers and their resident artists a chance to finally have a face to face. From one participant, I quote: "There is so much yet to explore in this unbelievable

tiers of Gordian knots. Contact the Brick House to offer your services for this great event, *tout suite*, if you have not yet received the necessary information. The booths are limited and they will cost \$35 for registration fee, (refunded if your work is not accepted). Deadline for submitting work, end of March. Proceeds from the Great Art Falls Fest will go to the Brick House. As this will be a juried show, we ask you to submit quality reproduction of your work. (Photos or slides are accepted.)

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 website:www.thebrickhouse-inc.org See you there!

## ART'S BLOOMING IN TURNERS FALLS!

The weekend of April 30th - May 1st, the artists of Turners Falls will once again have their studio doors wide open! Not only to allow a breath of spring, but also to invite all the neighbors, near and far, into the studios to enjoy the fruits of the winter's labors. The Open Studio Walking tour will include most of the artists you've come to know and some new ones, as well.

Saturday, April 30th and Sunday, May 1st, studios will be open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Artisan pleasures will abound! Come early and stay late! You'll have a bloomin' good time!

## Calling All Strathmore Mill Hands

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




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# Sunderland Gives High Schoolers a Shot at Screenwriting

**BY ANANDA LENNOX**  
**SUNDERLAND** - Two local screenwriters and the Sunderland Cultural Council have teamed up to offer screenwriting classes to Sunderland 9th - 12th graders at the Graves Memorial Library in Sunderland.

Kevin Martone and Michael Haas are offering a series of four screenwriting workshops. Each session will run from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. They are slated to begin on April 2nd and will continue through the following three Saturdays in April.

Martone and Haas hope to

share their experience and passion for screenwriting with teens in the community, motivate them, and bring out their own talents through these sessions. They say the sessions will be truly successful if the attendees learn something about the craft of screenwriting and develop a long-term interest in the field.

Both Martone and Haas are aspiring screenwriters who share a deep passion for this art form. They have written a dozen screenplays between them and have reviewed scores more in writing groups and online

screenwriting communities. In addition, Haas, a special education teacher in the Palmer school district, has experience in developing lesson plans and motivating students. Martone, who hails from corporate America, has experience marketing his ideas and looks forward to teaching students how to sell themselves and their scripts.

There are no fees involved, and classes are open to any Sunderland 9 - 12 grader on a first come, first served basis. Class size will be limited to ten students.

The program is supported in part by a grant from the Sunderland Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

If this first series of classes draws a large interest, Martone



Kevin Martone and Michael Haas

LENNOX PHOTO

and Haas plan to offer screenwriting classes in other communities as well.

Interested students should

contact either Kevin and Michael at: [scriptscreen@hotmail.com](mailto:scriptscreen@hotmail.com) or (413) 323-6055.

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## HOME COOKING

Here is a recipe Mitzi Koscinski of Turners Falls sent in to share. We encourage other readers to mail favorite recipes, with any introductory remarks you may wish to include, to Montague Reporter, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376, or via email to: [reporter@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter@montaguema.net).

### MITZI KOSCINSKI'S PASTA IN A POT

Brown 1 lb of good ground beef.

Saute chopped onion and ground pepper with the beef.

Add one large jar spaghetti sauce.

Layer with:  
 1 lb cooked shells  
 8 oz. mozzarella cheese  
 8 oz Provolone cheese  
 8 oz sour cream

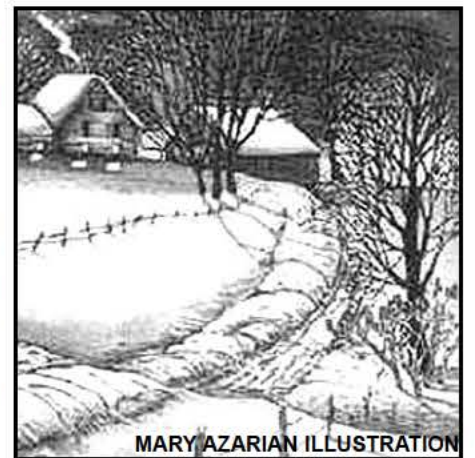
Parmesan cheese to taste

Put sauce mixture on the bottom of a large casserole dish.

Then layer cooked shells. Cover with grated provolone. Spread sour cream over provolone. Sprinkle with mozzarella and Parmesan. Repeat layers.

Top off with sauce and mozzarella. Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 45 minutes in a 350 degree oven. Then uncover and cook for about 10 minutes more.

Mange!



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

If Dogs Run Free

Thursday 2-24

1:52 p.m. Female juvenile arrested on a straight warrant

2:42 p.m. Report of illegal dumping at the Shea Theatre. Officer spoke to perpetrator. Trash to be removed.

Friday 2-25

12:00 p.m. Walk-in to station reported fraud. Under investigation.

7:27 p.m. Report of a domes-

tic disturbance at a Dell Street address. Verbal only. Officer spoke to all concerned.

Saturday 2-26

2:45 p.m. Report of loud neighbors at a J Street address. Officer spoke to both parties.

10:44 p.m. Walk-in to station reported a loose dog on G Street. Referred to Animal Control officer.

Sunday 2-27

7:28 p.m. Report of a fight in the alley behind Third Street. Gone on arrival.

10:52 p.m. Report of a dispute over property at an Avenue A address. Officer advised subjects of options.

Monday 2-28

7:45 a.m. Walk-in to station found cell phone and turned it in.

2:56 p.m. Report of license

plate stolen from motor vehicle at a Turnpike Road address.

8:22 p.m. Domestic dispute reported at a Third Street address. Found to be verbal only.

Tuesday 3-01

10:00 a.m. Person reported being bitten by a dog at a Willmark Ave address. Referred to Animal Control officer.

5:13 p.m. Report of a domes-

tic disturbance at a K Street address.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery.

8:36 p.m. Report of an assault at St. Stan's. Two subjects summonsed.

Wednesday 3-2

6:30 a.m. Report of a dog running loose on Federal Street, Millers Falls. Referred to Animal Control officer.

Buddhist Teachings Finding Freedom In Prison

On Monday, March 7th from 7 to 9 p.m. Venerable Robina, a Tibetan Buddhist nun, and the founder of the Liberation Prison Project, will give a talk on her important spiritual work with prisoners across the U.S. It will be held at Helen Hills Chapel, Smith College (corner of Route 9 (Elm Street) and Round Hill Road). Donations: \$5-\$10

On Tuesday, March 8th from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Venerable Robina will talk on how to decrease negative states of mind and develop positive lasting ones. This teaching will be held at the Shambhala Center, Ashfield Street, Shelburne Falls. Donations accepted: \$5-\$10

On Wednesday, March 9th

from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. the teaching on Patience and Compassion will be repeated. It will be held at Helen Hills Chapel, Smith College (corner of Route 9 (Elm Street) and Round Hill Road).

For additional information on these events, call 413-586-6288 (Northampton) or 413-774-5154 (Shelburne Falls).

First Annual St. Patrick's Day Feast

Thursday, March 17th 6 p.m.

St. James Episcopal Church in Greenfield

Public is welcome and encouraged to attend. A traditional meal will be served, featuring corned beef and all the fixings. Family-style seating in a community setting.

Tickets: \$11 adults; \$5 children.

Reservations: 773-3925 or 863-2307 (Patrick).

Religious Services

Baptist Faith Baptist Church, 331 Silver Street, Greenfield, 774-6438 Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., Wednesday Adult Bible Study 7 p.m. Youth Bible Club at 6:45 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Turners Falls, 10 Prospect, Turners, 863-9083 Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Christian Science First Church of Christ Scientist, 110 Federal St., Greenfield, 773-9765 Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) 25 Bank Row, Greenfield, 772-

8514 Sunday at 10 a.m. Congregational Gill Congregational Church, Main Rd., 863-8613 Sunday at 10 a.m. First Congregational Church, 19 Bridge St., Millers Falls, 659-3430 Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Bible study Wed. at 7 p.m

Episcopal St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Seventh and Prospect St., Turners, 863-4602 Sunday at 9 a.m.

Friends (Quakers) Mount Toby Monthly Meeting of Friends, Rte. 63, Leverett, 548-9188 Sunday at 10 a.m.

Jewish Temple Israel, 27 Pierce St., Greenfield, 773-5884 Friday at 6 p.m. (first weekend of

the month) and Saturday at 9:30 a.m.; schedule does vary, it is advisable to call in advance

Lutheran St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 23 Long Ave., Greenfield, 773-5242 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Nondenominational Grace Church, 41 K St., Turners, 863-2771 Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

National Spiritual Alliance 2 Montague Ave., Lake Pleasant, 367-0138 Sunday at 1 p.m.

Unity in the Pioneer Valley Church 401 Chapman Street, Guiding Star Grange, 625-2960; Sunday at 10 a.m.

Roman Catholic Our Lady of Czestochowa, 84 K St., Turners, 863-4748

Saturday at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m.; Monday at 8 a.m.; and Tuesday-Friday at 5:30 p.m. (Confession one half hour prior to mass)

St. Anne's, J St., Turners, 863-4678 Sunday at 8 a.m. and daily at 7 a.m. through February St. John's, 5 Church St., Millers Falls, 659-3435 Saturday at 4:15 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

St. Mary's of the Assumption, 80 Seventh St., Turners, 863-2585 Saturday at 4 p.m. and weekdays at 7 a.m. through October

Salvation Army 72 Chapman St., Greenfield, 773-3154 Sunday at 11 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist All Souls, 399 Main St.,

Greenfield, 773-5018 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

First Parish Unitarian, Main St., Northfield, 498-5566 Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

United Church of Christ Evangelical Congregational Church (UCC), 11 Church St., Erving (978) 544-8658

First Congregational Church (UCC), 4 North St., Montague Ctr., 367-9467 Sunday at 10 a.m.

First Congregational Church of Turners Falls (UCC), 148 L St., Turners, 863-9844 Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

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Help Wanted

Montague Parks & Recreation Department Lifeguards & Swimming Instructors

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

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

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

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Table with 4 columns and 6 rows for classified information. Row 6 contains the text: .10 for each additional word

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March at the Great Falls Discovery Center

TURNERS FALLS - All month, the work of nature photographer Glenn Corbiere will be on display at the Great Falls Discovery Center. View nature's beauty: the order Odonota. Nature photographer Glenn Corbiere's display of damselflies and dragonflies of the valley will be in the Great Hall through April 16th.

Saturday, March 5th: Wonderful Water, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Schoolchildren with adults are invited to conduct mini-experiments to show how water travels up a tree from the roots to the leaves. Your guide will be Gini Traub, regional environmental education coordinator for the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Saturday, March 12th: Drawing from Nature, 10 a.m. - Noon. Annie Chappell, artist and chair of the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, will show us how to sketch

from the wildlife in the exhibits. Please bring a 9 x 12 firm sketchpad, #2 pencils, and one or two black waterproof pens (Uniball or Micron). Limited to 8 participants, 14 or older. Please call 863-3221 to register.

Saturday, March 19th: Bald Eagles, 2 p.m. Find out about eagles in Massachusetts from MassWildlife's Connecticut River district manager Ralph Taylor. Also view the eagle nest in Barton Cove.

Saturday, March 26th: Alien Invaders, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Visitors are invited to join Sue Cloutier, of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on either of these guided tours of our habitat displays to learn about these silent threats to native species in the watershed.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is located at 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls. For further information, please call 413-863-3221.

Skate Park Benefit Concert

Friday, March 4th 7 p.m., \$5 at the Shea Theater, Ave A, Turners Falls featuring Amateur, Treehouse, Joe Cool, Big D and Nick V, Wyndow Payne, Schwill and The M, Gabe Mason, Jared Call Zack Holmes for info, 863-2213 Thanks to MCTV and GCTV for lending equipment

The Brick House and the bellybowl restaurant present

Acoustic Open Mic Friday, March 4th 6 - 9 p.m.

at the bellybowl, 104 4th Street (next to the Survival Center) in Turners Falls. All ages are invited to take advantage of this outlet for expression. Acoustic music of all types as well as spoken word performances are welcome.



For more information call The Brick House at 863-9576 or the bellybowl at 863-4064.

Hot Spot Teen Center

- Monday - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 to 5 p.m.
Tue & Wed - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 5 p.m.
Thursday - Technology Drop-in hours, 3 to 5 p.m.
Friday, March 4th - Acoustic Open Mic at bellybowl restaurant (4th Street by the Survival Center) 6 to 9 p.m.
Friday, March 11th - Skate Trip, 3 to 7 p.m.
Friday, March 18th - Field trip to the Groove Cafe Open Mic

in North Adams, 4:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 25th - Open Mic, 6 to 9 p.m.

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

SHEA THEATER SPRING ACTING CLASSES

The Shea Theater announces its spring acting classes for ages 8 to 14. Acting class for ages 8 to 10, will begin on Tuesday, March 8th from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. and will provide improvisational and theatrical skills and character and story development. Acting class for ages 11-14 will begin on Tuesday, March 8th from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. and will explore preparatory stage skills of self-presentation and ensemble building. Actors will develop improvisational techniques. Classes run for six weeks. For further information or a brochure, please phone the Shea Theater at 413-863-2281 or email us at shea@valinet.com.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# CALENDAR



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

## FRIDAY, MARCH 4TH

Greenfield Community College Chorus Spring Concert Preview - Sacred and Secular Music from the Renaissance to the Twentieth Century Music of Gastoldi, Morley, Telemann, Billings, Faure, Barber, Persichetti, and Vaughan Williams. Held in the Music Room (N-253) at Greenfield Community College located at One College Drive in Greenfield. 12:15 p.m. Full concert April 3 at the Unitarian Church in Northfield at 7:30 p.m.

First Friday Contra Dance with *Moving Violations* at Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. (413) 549-1913

## FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MARCH 4TH & 5TH

This week's film at MEDIA ARTS CAFE is *Nothing to Lose*. Things couldn't get any worse for advertising executive Nick Beam (Tim Robbins), whose life unravels when he discovers that his life is a lie. While sitting at a traffic light, a fast-talking car-jacker named T. Paul (Martin Lawrence) tries to rob Nick. With nothing to lose and on the verge of a nervous breakdown, Nick turns the tables on his mugger, and takes him hostage in a madcap comedy of hold-ups, high-speed chases, mistaken identities, and revenge. Rated R, 7:30 p.m., in the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main St., Northfield. 413-498-2100.

26th Annual Pottery Seconds Sale sponsored by Artspace Community Arts Center. Held at Greenfield High School, Lenox Ave., Greenfield. Friday 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. & Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (413) 772-6811.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH

Cybertracking in the Montague Plains: Hands on Science Presented by Northfield Mountain Recreation Area. Cybertracking is a computer program that allows outdoors person to use a GPS receiver and a handheld computer to map data for local conservation efforts. Presenter is Walker Korby who is interesting in

tracking the public use of land, whether for berry picking or illegal dumping, so as to better inform future conservation efforts. 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. For ages 10 and older. Pre-registration required 800-859-2960.

Cabin Fever Tour sponsored by CISA. See what's growing now, what's being harvested, and how your local farmers are preparing for spring. There will be dairy farms making fresh milk, sugarhouses boiling down syrup, emu chicks hatching, greenhouses full of blooming flowers and more. Be sure to visit the marketplace featuring goods from Local Hero farms, restaurants and retailers. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Snow date: March 6th. For map and more info visit [www.buylocalfood.com](http://www.buylocalfood.com) or call (413) 665-7100.

First Saturday Contra Dance with *Wild Asparagus* at Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. (413) 772-6840.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 6TH

Sarah Pirtle & Lui Collins  
**OUTBREAK OF PEACE**  
7 p.m. at Shelburne Falls Yoga  
Inspired by Sarah Pirtle's award-winning book, *Outbreak of Peace*, Lui Collins and Sarah Pirtle will share an evening of inspiring songs, poems and stories about peace-making... encouraging us all to explore how we each contribute in our own unique way to promoting peace in our community and on our planet. \$12 advance/\$15 door/under 18 half price. This intimate venue is mostly a sit-on-the-floor place with pillow and bolsters. There are about 25 chairs available for those who need them. Feel free to bring a back-jack or your own favorite pillow!

66th Season Pioneer Valley Symphony & Chorus - A Choral Salute to the British Isles featuring the PVS Chorus A ravishing collection of choral gems from the 16th century to the present. Second Congregational Church, Court Square in Greenfield. 7:30 p.m. For



Tom Neilson, the bard insurgent, live on stage at Leverett Town Hall, Saturday, March 12th. 7:30 p.m.

info or directions call (413) 773-3664 or (800) 681-7870.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 10TH

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

## FRIDAY, MARCH 11TH

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

## FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MARCH 11TH & 12TH

Mohawk Trail Regional High School presents its 28th annual All-School Musical, *Seussical the Musical*. March 11th and 12th, 8 p.m. March 13th, at 2 p.m. For reservations call (413) 625-8371. *Seussical the Musical* will also be performed at the **Shea Theater**, 71 Ave. A, Turners Falls on March 19th at 8 p.m., March 20th at 2 p.m. Adults - \$10.00, Under 18 & Over 62 - \$9.00, reservations (413) 863-2281.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH

A New Moon Coffee House with Tom Neilson, The Bard Insurgent. Presented by the Leverett Recreation Commission. Tom is one of the most savvy political song-writers in the country. Skilled at parody and satire, his quick wit skewers the outrageous behavior of the greedy & powerful in corporations, the media & government. Leverett Town Hall, Leverett Center, 7:30 p.m. \$10. For info or directions email [diacrowe@yahoo.com](mailto:diacrowe@yahoo.com) or call (413) 548-9394.

Two acts in one night at Montague Bookmill. Rock/Blues/R&B: Chris Corsano, Spencer Yeh, Peter Kolovos perform free/rock/jazz/noise by way of drums, guitar and violin performed by three notable improvisers. Son of Earth: flagship of the Apostasy label, improvisatory notions on a variety of instrumentation and electronic circuitry. And then... Autonomous Battleship Collective is a group of free-associators collaboratively promoting an agenda of radical aesthetics in real time /real space. A.B.C. operates in and around the Pioneer Valley, organizing affordable and accessible music performances, art events and other related happenings. For more info regarding A.B.C. email [autonomousbc@yahoo.com](mailto:autonomousbc@yahoo.com), [www.autonomousbattleshipcollective.org](http://www.autonomousbattleshipcollective.org). For directions or venue info, contact the Montague Bookmill at 413-367-9206 or [www.montaguebookmill.com](http://www.montaguebookmill.com). \$7, 8:30 p.m. Montague Bookmill, 440 Greenfield Road, Montague, 367-9206. Beer, wine and food available downstairs from the Lady Killigrew Cafe.

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

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

## ONGOING EVENTS

Now through April 1st Robert Farber Photography exhibit at PureLight Gallery in Turners Falls. Robert has published nine coffee table books, the first, *By The Sea*, was brought into Doubleday publishing by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. His latest books are *American Mood* and the revised soft

cover publication *Natural Beauty Farber Nudes*. For more information on Robert, please visit his web site, [www.robertfarber.com](http://www.robertfarber.com). PureLight Gallery, 37 Third St., Turners Falls. For more info or directions call (508) 885-6048, visit [www.purelightgallery.com](http://www.purelightgallery.com), or email [jan@purelightgallery.com](mailto:jan@purelightgallery.com). Gallery Hours: Fri. 4 - 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. or by appointment.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Psychic Fair

The National Spiritual Alliance will sponsor a Psychic Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 26th, at Thompson Temple, across from the Post Office in Lake Pleasant. Readers use different techniques to obtain information for those who consult them, including astrology, I-Ching, hand reading, psychometry, spiritual counseling, and tarot cards. Consultation is with a medium of choice. "Spirit and Spa," an anecdotal and pictorial history of the "glory days" of Lake Pleasant as a Spiritualist resort, is available via the TNSA internet website, <http://www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org> and also from the Lake Pleasant Village Association at the Post Office, Carroll's Super Market in Millers Falls, and the Book Mill in Montague Center.

*The Gypsy Wranglers* will perform live at Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse on Saturday, March 26th. A special blend of Acoustic Swing Music drawn from the traditions of Gypsy Jazz, Cowboy Swing, French Musette, New Orleans Jazz and Big Band. Proceeds to benefit Temenos. Visit the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse on the web at [www.wendellfullmoon.org](http://www.wendellfullmoon.org) for directions and all kinds of other offerings.

Sunday at 7 All films free donations accepted

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SHOWTIMES FOR FRI. MARCH 4TH - THURS. MARCH 10TH

1. SIDEWAYS	R
DAILY 6:00 9:00	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00	
2. THE PACIFIER	PG in DTS sound
DAILY 6:00 9:00	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00	
3. BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE	PG in DTS sound
DAILY 6:00 9:00	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00	
4. CONSTANTINE	R
DAILY 6:15 9:15	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15	
5. HITCH	PG13
DAILY 6:15 9:15	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15	
CINEMA 6 AND 7 NOW HAVE NEW SEATS	
6. BE COOL	PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:30	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30	
7. CURSED	PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:30	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30	

Lui Collins

**OUTBREAK OF PEACE IN SHELBURNE FALLS WITH SARAH PIRTLE MARCH 6TH**

STONE by STONE



# West Along the River

BY DAVID BRULE

**MILLERS FALLS** - January snows drift into February, still light and powdery even after days on the ground. Easy walking to the river, sometimes directly along the traveled and packed path, or other times off on an angle taking a new route to the water's edge. Tracks appear, this one an errant coyote, good stride until it intersects our own path and mixes in with snowshoe, boot, house Siberian and squirrel traces.

The river, beyond birch and alder, moves along brightly and silently in the frozen morning mist. Some days under dark skies and snow-filled air it moves silently in the frozen morning mist. Some days under dark skies and snow-filled air it moves sullenly, slurring partly frozen liquid snow on its surface; but this morning it's bright and steaming at 0 degrees. Trees along the edge are frosted with inch-thick lace on every branch

and twig that falls away with even the faintest breath.

The swift running river is open and free of ice drawing wintering black ducks and goldeneye up-river from the frozen Connecticut. They line the shore of the island basking or feeding in the early light. They will be gone at the least sign of intrusion, ever wild and wary. On the cliff at the bend, long icicles hanging over rock faces glisten in the frost. Otter sign - tracks and slide marks - lope over the snow-covered surface. Memories of a glimpse of three of them, playfully loping over this spot years ago in their hunch-backed and humping scramble, shooting a wild glance over a shoulder and gone, in a wink. Missed them this time, although they did leave their tracks behind.

On a winter morning walk such as this, few birds other than the ducks are present. Still, from somewhere overhead, the

calls of wintering robins drift down, and up on the mountain is a red-tail on his perch in a lightning-killed tree, catching the warmest sun, breast feathers fluffed to the southeast.

Bright days in February unlock the snows, the river rises and pushed through channels in the woods usually unlocked only by the spring freshet. And this year February seemed mild, encouraging the first hooded merganser, a dandified male, here to fish in the swift currents rushing by the cliff face. Even the first red-winged blackbirds have been coaxed up the valley and now deck the trees around the yard, the first migrants following the glacier's retreat. The first of millions, literally, to flow back into our northern veins swelling the woods and river with color and song. But spring is a chancy affair, and snows will yet drive the blackbirds to the feeder and the goshawk back to the yard, as



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUE CLOUTIER

*The Millers River Watershed*

last week when he sat on the picket fence, a burning eye fixed on the terrified flock of English sparrows huddled deep in the brush pile, usually chattering and fighting like rag pickers, now frozen in silence, not daring to blink.

The goshawk, finally discouraged, goes over to scour the

marsh, later to leave the darkening woods to the great horned owl who prowls the edges of our settlement at dusk. Already his booming voice calls in the dark pines at the foot of the mountain, reminding all of his night territory of his intention to mate and nest in these February woods.

## Hawk the Hunter

BY FRAN HEMOND

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - Bright sun warms the little creatures foraging in another late winter snow cover. The nuthatch sways on the bird feeder, one foot on the opening as usual. The perch is not made to his dimension. He is supposed to feed walking head down on a tree trunk, rooting out the insects. A young squirrel tunnels in the snow beneath, silver gleaming on his tail. His pink ears and gray body occasionally emerge.

The lady cardinal, who is usually reticent, displaces a junco. She is indeed a muted beauty. Her red bill is nicely set off by its black base, orange-wash breast, tan body and crest and slightly darker tail. Today she is one of the hungry. The others give way. The male cardinal is nowhere to be seen.

Suddenly, at some kind of alarm, the other birds scatter, but she still hops around in the rhododendron thicket. The only movement a snow cloud as a light breeze shakes the branches of the trees around the pond.

And then, a dark bigger bird swoops down on the thicket. A crow? He stops just short of the branches he is too big to penetrate, hesitates and flies to the catalpa tree. A little bird has just made it to the shelter of the rhododendron patch. He is now so still he cannot be seen.

The big dark bird sits on a branch facing the pond, his back toward the breakfast club. He's a hawk. No wonder everyone scattered. Somehow the feeders got an alarm before he appeared. The predator turns his head an unbelievable 180



degrees and checks the feeding station. Then switches direction, showing off his barred orange underparts. With that dark blue back and head he's likely a sharp-shinned hawk. He is handsome, lithe and lethal. Fortunately, the thicket was too dense for him. His lack of success confirmed, he flew off north.

The concern of whether the feeding station is a lure reasserts itself. The sheltering rhododendron does offer some protection

to the feeding birds; they do have trouble finding food when the vegetation is covered in winter snows. This time their good alarm system played out. The hawk must eat too, but not at my house.

After he left, the squirrel emerged from nowhere. He sat completely motionless against the porch foundation for several minutes, his little paws up, his pink ears sharp. By the time he resumed tunneling for snow-covered seed, the morning had nearly gone. A few juncos appeared and some time later the male cardinal finally showed up.

Hawks are no novelty. The day before, a red-tailed hawk had prospected from the heights of a favorite tree overlooking the meadow. He is certainly a glorious bird as he circles high looking for prey with his red tail

proclaiming his identity. Rodents are a large part of his diet.

Mice and such also help to sustain the little gray screech owl that finds the big tall dead tree along the canal in Turners a good home. His hole is almost at the top and is a perfect fit. He sits in the entry from which he can monitor the woodland, the canal, the drive, and his vision is probably such that he does not need binoculars as do the folks who come to see him. If wisdom resides with immobility, he must have it. For he seems to not even blink. The Audubon bird book says that his nest is a mere cavity or box without a nest lining, which must be hard on little owls. Halfway down the drive along the canal, he adds diversity to the water and wood-loving birds that call it home.

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