



Year 3  
No. 24

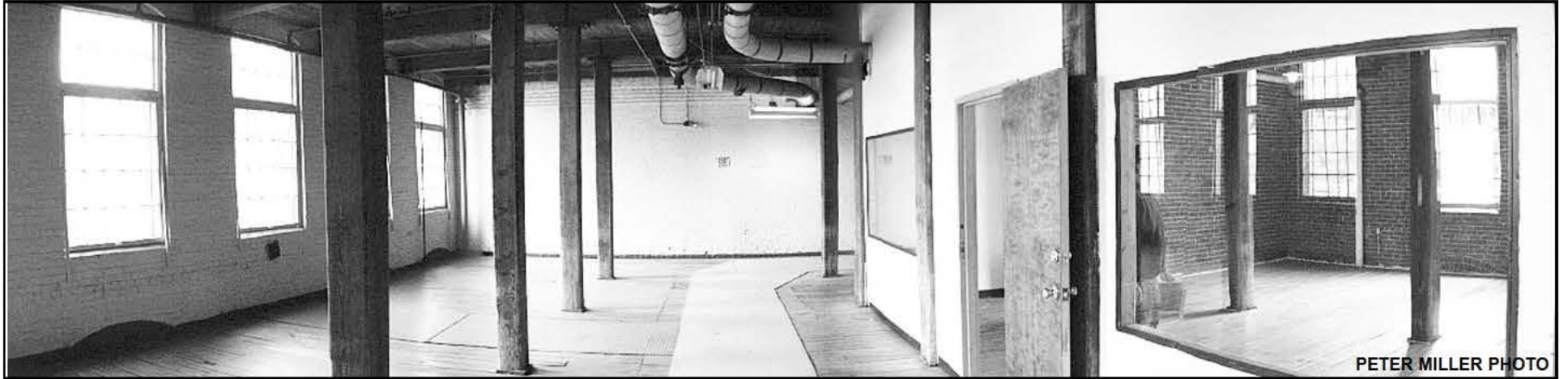
50¢

# The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 31, 2005



PETER MILLER PHOTO

## Strathmore Consultants Get to Work

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** - Move over, Sisyphus. Rolling a bolder up a hill is nothing compared to the task facing the team of Finegold Alexander and Associates, consultants hired to develop a feasibility study for redeveloping the Strathmore Mill. On February 3rd, town meeting authorized the selectboard to sign a purchase and sale agreement for the 134-year-old, 250,000-square-foot former paper mill. Part of the agreement was a stipulation allowing four months for the town to conduct a feasibility study before completing the purchase. If

the results of that study are discouraging, the selectboard may withdraw from the purchase and sale agreement with no penalty.

After forming a citizen advisory committee to guide the process, drafting a request for proposals, and interviewing five candidates for the role of consultant, the town settled on Boston-based Finegold Alexander on March 15th. The team is expected to come up with an analysis of the market potential for reuse of the mill, an evaluation of the structural integrity of the vast complex, a plan for improving parking and access to the

Strathmore, and an estimate of what partial or complete demolition of the site would cost should redevelopment plans fail. They've been given an eight week timeline to complete these tasks.

At a daylong meeting on Friday, March 25th, town officials met with the principals of the consulting team to outline some of the obstacles to a successful reuse of the Strathmore, built on a thin peninsula of land between the power canal and the Connecticut River. Town planner Robin Sherman told Jim Alexander the pedestrian footbridge to Strathmore is owned by Northeast

Generation, and parts of the mill's only access road, along the canal, is owned by Northeast Generation and Esleek Manufacturing. Water department superintendent Mike Brown explained the only potable water line to the Strathmore, an eight-inch line suspended beneath the footbridge, froze up some winters back, and there may be sewer issues too. "Esleek controls the lift station," to pump sewage to the town lines from the Strathmore, Brown added.

**STRATHMORE**  
continued on pg 16

## Archaeological Study May Not be Needed for Mariamante Land

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

**GILL** - The future of the former Mariamante property on Main Road is still uncertain, but the town of Gill should decide what type of development it wants before a determination is made of the need for archaeological studies. According to Professor Mitchell Mulholland, Director of the Archaeological Services Department at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, it is uncertain whether or not any studies are even required.

On March 24th, in a presentation before 15 members of the ad hoc advisory committee formed to guide the development of the 12-acre town-owned parcel, Mulholland outlined the available options, based on what is currently known about the land. At this point, it appears the land can be developed without a detailed archaeological study if the town does not seek federal or state money for the project. However, Mulholland advised the town to consider doing an 'intensive locational survey' to map out areas in need of protection from development. If the survey finds nothing significant, the process ends there. If areas in need of protection

see GILL pg 9

## Zukowski Works with Greenfield to Win Competitive \$30,000 Grant

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**MONTAGUE** - Police Chief Ray Zukowski announced his department, in cooperation with the Greenfield police department, had been awarded a highly competitive state grant worth \$29,735 to run a number of community outreach programs on topics ranging from substance abuse prevention, juvenile fire setting prevention, to "Raising Our Children."

The money, awarded from the Byme Grant program, came from a total pot of money for police departments statewide totaling around \$50,000, Zukowski told the selectboard on Monday, March 28th. "These funds will allow the Greenfield and Montague police departments to cooperate to improve the lives and safety of kids and families in both communities," said the chief. The funds will be divided between the two towns to run programs for two years.

Zukowski also announced his department expected to receive funds earmarked under the Justice Assistance Grant program totaling \$19,639, for

see SELECTBOARD pg 6

## Farmer's Friend Sirum Equipment Holds Open House

BY

JOSEPH A. PARZYCH

**MONTAGUE** - The sun shone brightly on a fine spring day, March 26th, as a huge crowd descended on Sirum's annual open house in Montague. There was plenty to eat, to see, and to buy.

"We've got \$4.5 million dollars worth of equipment around here," Ed Sirum said. "I know, because we just got the figures together for income tax."

People walked around the yard, talking and looking at all manner of farm equipment displayed. Inside, farmers did more talking, or sat watching movies of new and innovative farm equip-

see SIRUM pg 11

*Left: Visitors look over the high lift forklift at Sirum Equipment's Open House last Saturday. This machine is ideal for stacking hay bales or ensilage, high. Masons, roofers and siding installers like to use 'em, too.*



PARZYCH PHOTO

**PET OF THE WEEK****Don't Play Shy****Schuyler**

Schuyler is a four-year-old domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. If her snow-bunny coat doesn't catch your eye, her seafoam green eyes just might. Schuyler is a beautiful white cat who was found stray. She is an immediately friendly cat who loves people and wastes no time playing shy. To learn more about adopting Schuyler, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at [info@dakinshelter.org](mailto:info@dakinshelter.org).

## April Events at the Great Falls Discovery Center

**Through April 16th**  
Nature photographer Glenn Corbiere's display of damselflies and dragonflies of the valley will be in the Great Hall through April 16th. At the Great Falls Discovery Center.

**Friday & Saturday, April 1st and 2nd** - Preschool Adventure: 10 - 11 a.m. Preschool children with adults are invited to join activities with Suzanne de Lesdernier as she explores matter at either or both events.

**Saturday, April 9th** - Trees in the Valley: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Visitors are invited to join Sue Cloutier of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to learn about

important native trees in the watershed.

**Saturday, April 16th** - Drawing from Nature: 10 a.m. - noon, Annie Chappell, artist and chair of the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, will demonstrate how to sketch from the wildlife in the exhibits. Please bring a 9x12 firm sketchpad, #2 pencils, and one or two black waterproof pens (Uniball or Micron). Limited to 8 participants, 14 or older. Please call to register.

**Saturday, April 23rd** -

**FACES & PLACES***Cat fancier, Turners Falls*

**Invasive Plant Control:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Saturday, April 30th** - Leaping Lily Pads: 11 a.m.

Families with young children are invited to join Susan Russo of the U. S.

**Fish and Wildlife Service** in activities to learn about a frog's life cycle at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls..

For further information, please call 413-863-3221.

**NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA**

**BUYING AND SELLING USED BOOKS**  
32 BRIDGE ST. 2ND FLOOR  
SHELburnE FALLS  
[ndole@crocker.com](mailto:ndole@crocker.com) closed Mondays

## Barber to Speak at NMH on Democracy and Terrorism

**NORTHFIELD, MASS.-** Benjamin R. Barber, the Gershon and Carol Kekst Professor of Civil Society and Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland, will be speaking on "Democracy: Terrorism and Interdependence" as part of the Northfield Mount Hermon State of the World lecture

series on Wednesday, April 6th. Barber is an internationally renowned political theorist. He consults regularly with political and civic leaders in the United States and Europe, including former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, former President Bill Clinton, former New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley, and former

President Roman Herzog of Germany. He has also consulted with the Corporation for National Service, the United States Information Agency, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has written 17 books, including Strong Democracy (1984), Jihad vs. McWorld (1995), and Fear's

Empire: War, Terrorism and Democracy (2003). The lecture will be in the Dolben Theatre on the school's Northfield campus. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will last approximately 90 minutes. The public is invited.

**Paint****25% off**

**COUTURE BROS**  
187 Avenue A, Turners Falls • 863-4346  
95 Years of Paint Know-How

### The Montague Reporter

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

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

Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

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

Subscription Rates:  
\$20 for 6 months

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES April 4th - April 8th

**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, 4th**  
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

**Tuesday, 5th**  
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Brown Bag distribution. Bags can be saved but must be picked up by 1 p.m.  
1 p.m. Council on Aging Board meeting at Gill Town Hall  
1 p.m. Painting Class with Louise Minks, instructor  
**Wednesday, 6th**  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 7th**  
1 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 8th**  
9:45 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

**ERVING Senior Center**, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday

shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

**Monday, 4th**  
9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library  
12:30 p.m. Pitch  
**Tuesday, 5th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Brown Bag  
12:30 p.m. Oil Painting  
**Wednesday, 6th**  
10 a.m. Line Dancing  
10-11 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic & Cholesterol/Diabetes Clinic  
12:15 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 7th**  
8:30-10 a.m. Foot Clinic  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12 Noon SHARE Tum In deadline

**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.  
**Wednesday, 6th**  
10-11 a.m. Free annual cholesterol clinic. Should take

place after a 12-hour fast (water only).  
10-11 a.m. Blood Pressure and Foot Clinic. Following the clinic, Elsie Diemand has invited COA seniors to lunch at the Diemand Egg Farm. Reservations at the time of the clinic.

## THE SHADY GLEN



PROPRIETORS

**BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER**

Serving  
HOMEMADE SOUPS  
HOMEMADE DESSERTS  
HOME STYLE COOKING

**FOR 40 YEARS ON AVENUE A IN TURNERS FALLS**

863-9636

# Tech School Future Farmers Attend State Convention

BY PAUL COHEN

**TURNERS FALLS** - Twenty-four student members and two advisors of the Franklin County Technical School FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter attended the Massachusetts FFA Convention. The convention was held on March 14 - 17 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel in Sturbridge, MA. The theme for the convention was 75 Years of Agricultural Education.

Students attended leadership workshops, assisted as Courtesy Corps delegates, and competed in numerous Career Development Events competitions. The advisors were Michael Lamontagne and Marie Superchi.

Once again, Franklin County Technical School students have performed extremely well in competition at the state level. The successes these Landscaping/Horticulture students enjoyed in this competi-



Left to right: Matt Boucher, Patrick Mathey and Tony Kozlakowski.  
Photo courtesy of Paul Cohen

tion speak well of the focus Franklin County Tech has placed in recent years on integrating its academic and vocational programs, and serves to illustrate the reason the school was selected by the state to be a Commonwealth Compass School.

Members receiving awards were: Justin Lawrence of Northfield, First Place in Talent; Kelly Reed of Erving, Justin Lawrence of Northfield, Mike Kolakoski of South Deerfield and Cara Cook of Warwick, Second Place team in the Division 1 Quiz Bowl; Trisha

Champagne of Sunderland, Brenda Fletcher of Greenfield, Tony Kozlakowski of Sunderland, and Eric Herzig of Colrain, Third Place in Team Management; Matt Boucher of Leverett, Patrick Mathey of Erving, Tony Kozlakowski of Sunderland, and Eric Herzig of Colrain, Second Place Individual in Safe Tractor Operation; and Matt Boucher of Leverett, Third Place Individual in Demonstration.

The Chapter also received the Sweepstakes Award for scoring the most points during the 2004-2005 year for schools with Landscaping and Agricultural Mechanics programs in the state of Massachusetts. This is the first time the Franklin County Technical School has won this particular award.

## Correction

Due to a reporting error, last week's article about planned renovations to the Gill town hall contained inaccurate information. The selectboard did not solicit bids from contractors for the planned office renovations; rather they asked three local contractors to offer their thoughts on possible design for those renovations. As stated in the article, the board intends to have the highway department do the actual construction.

## Nursing Home Ombudsmen Training

Become a certified volunteer ombudsman, a trained advocate for residents of nursing and rest homes. Visit residents weekly to monitor conditions and care and provide a voice for those unable to speak for themselves. The national ombudsman program is mandated by the state and federal government. Topics covered include "Laws and Regulations", "Residents' Rights", "The Role of the Ombudsman", and "Complaint Resolution". If you are interested in volunteering, contact Barbara Levy, Ombudsman Program Director at Franklin County Home Care Corp., (413) 773-5555 for info and an application.

## MONTAGUE DEMOCRATS TO HOLD ELECTIONS CAUCUS on APRIL 6th

Montague Democrats will hold their caucus to select candidates for Town Office elections on Wednesday, April 6th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Selectboard Meeting Room.

Successful candidates will receive the party nomination to appear on the May 16th town election ballot. Voting is by paper ballot.

Only registered Democrats may run in this, what amounts to a primary election for local offices. Democrats who wish to run in the caucus must deliver their intention in writing to Democratic Town Committee Chair Jay DiPucchio by 5:00 p.m., Friday April 1st. Notice may be by mail, email or in hand. Verbal declaration is not documentable and not acceptable.

Individuals choosing to run without a party nomination should gather nomination paper signatures to be turned in to the town clerk. Occasionally, candidates for the caucus nomination also gather signatures for nomination through the town clerk process so that they can still appear on the May ballot if they are defeated at the caucus.

By the Democratic Town Committee's vote following the 2003 caucus, registered un-enrolled voters may vote in the caucus. There is no provision in the bylaws or a procedural vote which allows absentee ballots.

As of Wednesday, March 30th, the ballot appears as follows:

OFFICE	TERM	INCUMBENT	PARTY
Selectman	3	Pat Allen	Dem
Assessor	3	Paul Emery	Dem
Bd. Of Health Member	3	Matthew McMullin	Dem
		Michael Nelson	Dem
Library Trustee (5)	3	Alice Armen	Dem
	3	Sharon Cottrell	Dem
	3	Veronica Phaneuf	Unenrolled
	1 apptd	Suzanne Kretzenger	Unenrolled
	1 apptd	Karen Schweitzer	Dem
Park & Rec. Comm.	3	Dennis Grader	Dem
Mont Housing Auth.	5	Stanley Zera, Jr.	Dem
Soldier Memorial	3	Arthur Gilmore	Dem
Trustees: Veteran	3	John Fox	Dem
Non-Veteran	3	Chris Boutwell	Dem

Questions/Letters of Intent?

Jay DiPucchio, Democratic Town Committee Chair  
35 Central Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376-1326  
413-863-8656 home 413-665-2901 work  
here.now@verizon.net

## An Invitation to Artisans

Submissions sought for Great Falls Art Fest. Artist submission deadline is April 4th. Contact the Brick House for an application at (413) 863-9576 or info@thebrickhouseinc.org.



## Strength Train only 40 to 60 Minutes Weekly for Benefits

In just two 20- to 30-minute workouts a week, you gain strength, increase bone density, maintain muscle and lose fat. Don't let the news scare you - start with a manageable plan for you. Call the YMCA at 773-3616 to find out how.  
YMCA in Greenfield  
451 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301 • 773-3646

## Poetry Page invitation for submissions

The Montague Reporter will begin featuring a monthly poetry page in April, to coincide with National Poetry Month. The poetry page editors - Chris Janke and Chris Sawyer-Laucanno - warmly welcome our readers to submit poems, (with the name of the poet and title of the poem at the top of each page) for consideration to:

reporter-poems@montaguema.net, or to  
poems, Montague Reporter,  
24 Third Street,  
Turners Falls, MA 01376.

The editors reserve the right of final selection for publication.

# The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

**Editor**

David Detmold

**Assistant Editor**

Kathleen Litchfield

**Circulation**

Jean Hebden  
Julia Bowden-Smith

**Layout & Design**

James Damon  
Boysen Hodgson  
Katren Hoyden  
Karen Wilkinson

**Photographers**

Sarah Swanson  
Joseph A. Parzych  
Anne Vadeboncoeur  
et al.

**Technical Administrator**

Michael Muller

*"The Voice of the Villages"*

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

## Entergy Proposes Long-Term Nuclear Waste Storage on Connecticut River

BY PETER ALEXANDER

Area residents have a chance this month to have their voices heard about Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee's proposal to create a long-term nuclear waste dump in Vernon, VT. On Thursday, April 14th at Brattleboro Union High School, members of the Vermont State Legislature are holding public hearings to take comments from the public. Each person is to be given up to two minutes to express his or her views on Entergy's plan; two very important minutes.

For those who are unaware of the enormity of the decision facing the Vermont Legislature, consider this.

There is no more deadly and insidious poison than radioactive nuclear waste. The "spent fuel" from Vermont Yankee will remain dangerous to all living things for tens - even hundreds of thousands - of years, far longer than any human societies or manmade structures have endured in recorded history. Entergy proposes to build a series of two-story high concrete silos on the banks of the Connecticut River, each to contain sealed steel canisters holding 47,600 pounds of irradiated nuclear fuel.

The nuclear waste already stored in a tank of water at Vermont Yankee contains thousands of times more radioactive material than was released in the bombing of

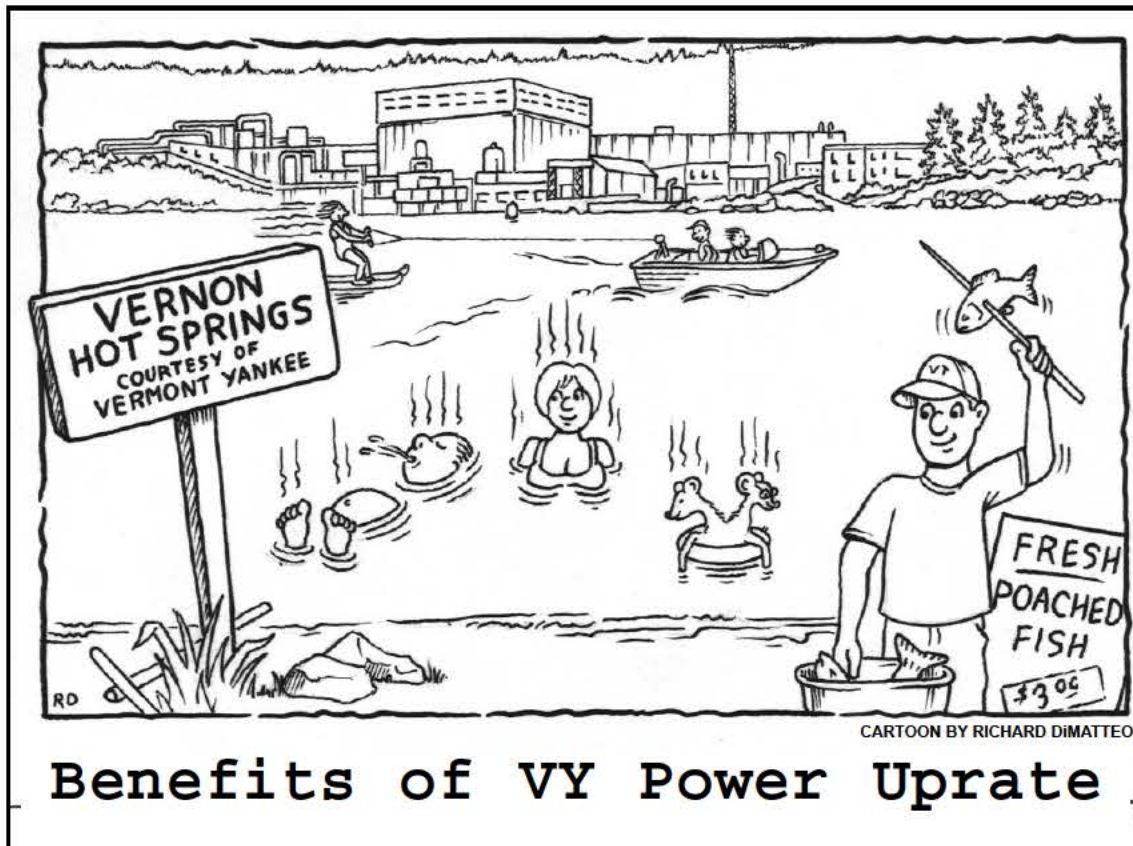
Hiroshima. According to a front page story in the *Washington Post* last week, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has systematically suppressed and manipulated studies that outline the enormous dangers posed by spent fuel pools like the one at Vermont Yankee. In other words, it is now clear that legislators and the public have been routinely deceived about the dangers of nuclear waste.

After working on the problem for more than 50 years, the best and brightest scientists in the world have been unable to figure out a viable solution to the problem of nuclear waste. "Reprocessing" does not solve the problem (it just creates more and different types of radioactive waste), and there is no way to store it safely for the thousands of years it must be isolated from the environment.

The Yucca Mountain storage facility will probably never open, and there is a proposal now in Washington, DC that "spent fuel" be permanently stored at each reactor site.

How should the Vermont Legislature address what may become a permanent nuclear waste dump in Vermont? Massachusetts residents take heed, Vernon sits practically on your border, less than 10 miles from the center of Gill.

Let your voice be heard!  
*Peter Alexander is the director of the New England Coalition in Brattleboro.*



Benefits of VY Power Uprate

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Easter Egg Hunt Thanks

The Montague Parks and Recreation Department and Parks and Recreation Commission would like to

thank the well over 200 children from throughout Franklin County who attended our 1st annual Easter Egg Hunt. The

hunt was held on Saturday, March 26th at Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls, where children were given the task of finding over 2,000 eggs placed throughout the park. It is quite apparent that this will be a great tradition for years to come, and we can't wait to plan for a bigger event next year.

We would like to thank the Montague Elks, Greenfield Savings Bank, and Equi's Candy Store for their financial support, and the Easter Bunny for setting aside time from his busy schedule to be present.

Sincerely,

- Jon Dobosz  
Montague Parks & Recreation Department



Xavier Linares and Aisha Osori.

## Electoral Math for April Fools

With town meetings and taxes coming up soon, I thought I'd pass on this bit of information. I believe I've figured out how the government arrives at its budget. You'll have to follow this closely and stick with me.

Let's say one of our Congressmen - or women - (I guess it's Congressperson now; I want to be politically correct) has a pork barrel project they favor. (You know they all do.) This project isn't figured into the budget, and it's only going to cost, we'll say, \$300,000. (I like to use round figures). To get this money, they'll just borrow it from some other funded programs. We'll say they borrow \$100,000 from Social Security, \$100,000 from Education, and another \$100,000 from Fish and Wildlife. That'll give them the \$300,000.

You still with me? Now, when the project is done, they find the cost was \$250,000. So that leaves \$50,000 they can return from wherever they borrowed it. Now, you know this

isn't going to happen. The Congressperson says, "I'll give them each back \$10,000 and keep \$20,000 for my next pork barrel project." That means they only borrowed \$90,000 from each department for this project. (Stay with me now!) Now, \$90,000 from three departments comes to \$270,000, and the \$20,000 they kept comes to a grand total of \$290,000. The way this Congressperson sees it, someone owes him \$10,000 for the next project.

I can't swear to it, but I think that's the math being used to run this state and country. You may want to write your state representative or congressperson to see if, in fact, this is what's going on down there. You may want to talk to your town officials to see what formula they use to spend your tax dollars before you vote for them at the next election. Something to think about.

-George Holmes, Jr.  
Turners Falls

**SIGN ME UP!**  
Now only \$20 for 26 issues!

**The Montague Reporter**  
24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**American Dead in Iraq as of 3/30/05**

**US FORCES**  
Casualties in Iraq  
as of this date  
**1,528**

Wounded in Action **11,442**

Presented by: Oak Ridge Detachment  
**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

## GUEST EDITORIALS

# Striking a Balance on a Budget for our Schools

By **Joyce Phillips, Chair, GMRSD School Committee** and **Mary Kociela, Chair, GMRSD Budget Subcommittee**

It's that time of year again. Time to look ahead to the next school year and build a budget that will provide a quality education for our students. The Gill Montague Regional School Committee has been working closely with school administrators, teachers, parents and officials in Gill and Montague to draft the budget for the 2005/2006 school year. In an effort to keep the community informed and to solicit support in the months ahead, we submit the following.

Many factors go into the budget process. We must estimate costs for services and programs mandated by the state. We must also estimate what we can expect in revenues. Ultimately, we are forced to make many budget predictions

based on past practice and the latest word from our state and local representatives. This is because the school committee must vote on the budget for next year well before the final figures from the state are known.

Each year the budget is voted on at the end of March. Often, it continues to change based upon information from the state, sometimes well into the summer months. Last year was a good example of this. Because the state was uncertain what it would provide for reimbursements in regional transportation, special education and charter school reimbursement, the school committee along with administrators budgeted cautiously. After the budget had been approved at town meeting in May, the state chose to send more revenue in all three of these areas. In an effort to restore some of the lost programs and staff, we carefully added back only what we could

cover the following year. For each dollar we spent to restore a program or staff member, we set aside a dollar. This was done so that neither the school nor town budget would be placed in jeopardy in this fiscal year. Because we worked so hard to be prudent with the spending and because the funds came so late in the year we were unable to spend it all. We had hoped to hold onto the funds in our E&D account (Excess & Deficiency recommended for emergency spending) however, there is a law that requires regional school districts to return any amounts of funding in excess of 5% of the current fiscal year's budget. As a result, we have returned \$822,429 to the town of Montague and \$135,332 to the town of Gill, even though these funds were originally intended for the schools.

The FY06 budget that has been presented to the Gill and Montague finance and select-

boards is a level service budget. This means the only increases from last year are the things mentioned above that were added in at the end of last year and one position to cover the extra maintenance needs in the new high school. The add-ins came directly from our goals and included increases in art and music, decreases in class size and restoration of teaching positions cut the previous year. The revenue figures we are using come straight from the Governor's version of the budget, which came out in February.

This level service budget represents an overall increase of 5.6%. There are ways that the towns could restore some of the returned funds to the school district. We hope to continue discussions with town officials to determine if this may be feasible.

Despite this increase to the town's assessment, the district is still a long way from fully restoring what we have lost

over the past couple of years. The schools continue to need more funding, but we realize the fiscal constraints for Gill and Montague. However, things are improving. We have money in our E&D account, which we did not have two years ago. We have a brand new middle and high school, completed on schedule and under budget, which is attracting more students to the district. In April 2007, Montague/Gill will receive the 90% reimbursement for the renovation project, five years earlier than expected. We have begun to add back some of the programs lost and the lines of communication between the school and the towns are stronger than ever.

We hope to build on all of these positive improvements and we hope you will support us in the months ahead. If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact us.

## Children's Lives at Stake

I am writing from Hyderabad, India, traveling here as a board member of Child Haven International, visiting Child Haven's homes for some 750 destitute children in India, Nepal, Tibet and Bangladesh. It has been my good fortune and privilege to have been surrounded by and engaged in the lives of children for much of my life. First as a child of parents who adopted 19 children, many from war-torn countries such as Vietnam, Bangladesh and Korea, later as a young Sunday school teacher in the church my father served as minister in Pointe Claire, Quebec. Then, after moving to Vermont in 1972, as a teacher's aid and eventually director of the parent cooperative preschool and kindergarten in Greensboro Bend, VT, the Caspian Area Center. The innocence, beauty, promise and hope for the future children represent never ceases to amaze, humble and inspire.

The tragic lives of countless children and the stark disparities between members of our human family are unavoidably visible here. All too common are children of all ages spending their entire day running through traffic begging in the smog, children with vacant, hopeless eyes and empty stomachs. Equally unavoidable is the conclusion that through the war in Iraq, our best resources as a nation, both human and material, are being horrifically misapplied. The war we as a people need to be, must be,

engaged in with all the strength and determination we are capable of, is the war on hunger, hopelessness, poverty and disease. This is the only war that will bring us a safer, more humane and livable future. George Bush's war on the Iraqi people stands in direct opposition to every principle and value I have learned through the love of my family. It is contrary to the most important lessons I have ever tried to teach the children in my care, and in its devastatingly destructive use of over \$150 billion of our Earth's resources, is an inexcusable theft from all those who hunger and need and have not.

One doesn't have to adopt and come to love children from other counties as one's own to know that each mother's grief for the 1,500 US soldiers killed in this war, is no more nor less felt than that of the mothers of the 100,000 Iraqis who also have died, too many of them children. Let us also remember the thousands who have been maimed, who have lost a limb or been blinded, or the many thousands psychologically wounded as well. This war will bring death and destruction for generations to come through our rampant use of weapons made with depleted uranium. The remnants of these weapons will cause cancers and other diseases among both Iraqis and US soldiers callously exposed to their usage by an administration all too willing to violate human lives.

I am deeply saddened and

indeed horrified that children I grew to be so fond of as preschoolers, whose sense of kindness, compassion, and justice I and their parents so carefully sought to engender, are now placed in a position where they have been ordered to kill or be killed in support of a war void of any visible moral pretext or necessity. There are no weapons of mass destruction to show, no connection to 9-11, no demonstrable necessity to remove Saddam Hussein from power before UN sanctions and the world community had time to act. The only discernible cause for this war appears to be an administration dominated by the blind, reckless and self-deluded interests of oil and weapons industry profiteers all too ready to trade human lives for material gain. The billions spent servicing their desires could have instead, by some estimates, totally eradicated world hunger for five years, completely turning around cycles of death and deprivation on a scale never seen before. Our continued presence in Iraq can only lead to more death and destruction on all sides. Our withdrawal will place the solution to the devastation we have created in the hands of regional and international mediators with the legitimacy and credibility our government now so dismally lacks.

When the lives of those we love, and the lives of any members of our human family are unjustly placed in grave danger by our government, it is our

responsibility, as participants in this democracy, to respond. The resolution passed by numerous Vermont Town Meetings this year, seeking to recall Vermont's National Guard Troops from Iraq, represents a modest and appropriate means toward this very end. We owe it to those members of our National Guard and indeed all of our armed forces, who so selflessly offered of themselves for our greater good, to ensure that their precious lives and well-being must not be squandered.

Indeed it is a sacred trust we owe all our earth's children. Let each of us, in our own unique way, do what we are best able, to bring this senseless war to an end.

- Robin Cappuccino,  
West Wheelock, VT

**Turners Falls  
Water  
Department will  
begin reading  
meters on  
Monday April 4th,  
2005.**

**We welcome  
your letters.**

Letters must be 400 words or less and must be signed. Please include your name, address and phone number. Deadline is noon on Tuesday.

**Montague  
Reporter**

24 3rd St Turners Falls, MA 01376  
(413) 863-8666 FAX (413) 863-3050  
reporter@montaguema.net

## Beautifying Downtown

On Tuesday, April 5th at 3:30 p.m. a meeting will be held at the town hall in Turners Falls to celebrate the success of past clean up efforts and to strategize about an ongoing plan for cleaning up, sprucing up and beautifying our downtown.

With new businesses, events and tourist destinations opening in the village, more people will be making downtown Turners a destination. A collaboration of partners including local residents, businesses and nonprofits, town government, schools, garden and other clubs are joining to help make Turners a more inviting place to live, work and visit.

The event is organized by Michael Bosworth of the Brick House, Linda Hickman of Carnegie Library and Turners resident Anne Jemas of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Please RSVP by calling 863-9576!

## NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

# Schools Cut Budget by \$200,000

BY SARAH PEBWORTH

**MONTAGUE** - In spite of having no final budget figures from the state, Montague-Gill Regional School District (GMRSD) Superintendent Sue Gee recommended \$200,000 of reductions in the FY2006 tentative operating budget at Tuesday night's school committee meeting. "The bottom line operating budget would increase 5.6 percent from last year," Gee said, which is a reduction from the anticipated 6.8 percent increase, not taking into account capital debt.

"This would lower the assessment approximately 4 percent for Montague," Gee said, from \$6,078,835 to \$5,882,924. The assessment for Gill would be lowered approximately 3.5 percent, from \$1,152,780 to \$1,117,691.

"This is an effort to work in collaboration with the towns and still maintain programs and new positions," she said. Based on analysis of the FY2005 expenditures, reductions were approved to the FY2006 budget as well as line item transfers in the same areas for 2005. Reductions to the FY2006 budget, currently at \$15,146,505, are as follows: spe-

cial education contracted services, \$20,000, transportation, \$40,000, "unanticipated" \$40,000, outside programs, \$20,000, regular transportation, \$50,000, and retiree health insurance, \$20,000.

Considering additional expenses of \$31,000 for bond anticipated interest and \$10,000 for the food service manager and revenues from "excess and deficiency" of \$51,000, the overall reduction to the budget totals \$200,000.

The committee approved line item transfers in the FY05 budget, including \$30,000 from the regular transportation line, \$20,000 from special education contracted services and from transportation. Lynn Bassett, director of business and operations, explained that transfers were necessary as needs vary from year to year.

Two retirements - Richard Pucko, effective February 28th, and Charlyn Connolly, effective June 30th - were announced.

Mary Kociela and the budget subcommittee met with the recreation committee to discuss rejuvenating the swim program. With the renovated pool, "no one gets rashes anymore," she joked.

They are planning an open house with a free family swim and will be encouraging swim teams to use it for practice.

Teacher Hannah Neville and 15 of the 16 high school students who traveled to St. Kitts and Nevis Islands attended Tuesday night's meeting, showing slides of their February vacation trip. Student narrators Shelby Landeck, Jaclyn Bastarache, John Waynelovich, and Ryan Herzig told committee members about seeing egrets, green velvet monkeys, crabs, goats, and cows, and snorkeling, touring old sugar mills, sea kayaking, and hiking. Some of the science activities of the trip included testing the salinity and temperature of the water.

Student Advisory Committee members Ali Urban and Lauren Tela noted that student council members will be serving and ushering at the Gala on April 9th.

### Bank Offers Benefit for Local Schools

Superintendent Sue Gee, of the Montague-Gill Regional School District, might start asking, "What's in your wallet?" as Greenfield Savings Bank launches the Civic Action Program,

which could benefit Gill-Montague schools.

The program, according to the bank, will donate \$2.50 to the fund for every \$1,000 of qualified purchases made with a bankcard. It will also donate \$10 for each new Civic Action account. As the program is offered to schools in Franklin County and Amherst, customers must designate Gill-Montague as their beneficiary. The promotion will run through December 31st.

This "is an opportunity for people in the community to benefit from having a free account and, in using the card from that account, donate funds to the Gill-Montague Education Fund," Gee

said.

Linda Ackerman, branch manager at the Turners Falls bank and mother of two daughters, Alex and Amber, who attend the Turners Falls High School, is enthusiastic about the program. "Greenfield Savings Bank is a local community bank that has its roots in the community where its branches are located. The bank realizes how strapped all of the school districts are. It's a wonderful way for Greenfield Savings Bank to partner with a worthwhile organization."

Gee noted that the education fund is used to improve and enhance art, academics, and athletics.

## Open Swim - Open House

### Montague Parks & Recreation Department

MPRD would like to announce an Open House for their Open Swim program on Wednesday, April 13th at the Turners Falls High School Indoor Swimming Pool. Open House will be held from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. for Family Swim, and from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. for Adult Lap Swim. Attendees will receive free admission for either session. Open Swim program information, as well as information on the benefits of swimming will be provided for those in attendance. For more information contact MPRD at 863-3216.

### SELECTBOARD

continued from pg 1

equipment replacement, including "replacing a couple of radar units that are over ten years old." The chief also said five or six of his officers would be participating in joint SWAT-team training

with officers from the Greenfield department, at an expected overtime cost of \$4,500.

Pam Kostanski, co-owner of Jay K's Liquors on Avenue A in Turners Falls, came before the board to describe her plan to hold a wine tasting event on

Saturday, April 30th in conjunction with the Arts and Bloom festival that weekend. She had initially asked to receive the board's permission to hold the event on the sidewalk in front of her store, but Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission regulations do not permit that. Instead, wine tasting of several varieties of wine will be available inside the store, along with cheese and crackers. "I think that will be a great addition," said selectboard chair Pat Allen.

Jeff Singleton, finance committee chair, asked the board to detail their policy on requesting legal opinions from town counsel. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said there was a

form for departments to request permission to consult counsel, and detail the specific concerns being researched, but the form had fallen into disuse. "A lot of what we've done in recent years is a lot more informal," he said. Allen called for a return to a more formal policy.

Montague's 42.6% recycling rate is among the highest in the state, announced Abbondanzio. Through recycling, Montague residents were able to reduce greenhouse gases equivalent to taking 289 cars off the road last year, he said, citing statistics provided by the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District. Not only did Montague residents avoid the environmen-

tal and financial costs of disposing the 42.6% of materials successfully recycled last year, but they saved the lives of 7212 trees, Abbondanzio said.

Speaking of trees, Abbondanzio said students from the Franklin County Tech School will be working on tree trimming on the Avenue, April 4th through 8th.

The combined sewer overflow abatement and water pollution control facility upgrade hearing has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 19th at 7 p.m. The anticipated repairs to the town's sewer system carry a price tag estimated at \$5.7 million.



Spring Special Bike Tune-up



**bioyoles**  
unlimited

413-772-2700  
322 High Street, Greenfield  
www.bikes-unlimited.com



good until April 15th with this ad

**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666**



Tues-Thurs 8 am-2:00 pm  
Friday 8 am-8:30 pm  
Saturday 9 am-8:30 pm  
Sunday 9 am-2:00 pm  
Monday Closed

VEGETARIAN • POULTRY • FISH

Coffee & Espresso • Baked Goods  
Sandwiches • Soups • Hot Entrees

104 4<sup>th</sup> Street • Turners Falls • Tel: 413-863-4064



54 MAIN STREET  
GREENFIELD, MA 01301

BRIAN SADLOWSKI

Sales & Lease Consultant

(413) 773-3678  
FAX (413) 774-5746



NEW BOOK

"Tales of a Firefighter"


BY TED GRAVELINE

author of

"Strike a Second Alarm"

WORLD EYE BOOKSHOP

email: ediecio@comcast.net  
or phone the World Eye Bookshop at (413) 772-2186



Bruce T. Croft, D.P.M.  
Ayleen Gregorian, D.P.M.

AFFILIATED PODIATRISTS, P.C.  
PIONEER VALLEY PODIATRY

PODIATRIC MEDICINE  
FOOT SURGERY  
SPORTS MEDICINE

Amherst  
20 Gatehouse Road  
(413) 256-0161

Greenfield  
329 Conway Street  
(413) 772-1997

Northampton  
264 Elm Street  
(413) 585-8802

Northampton  
Party World

39 Carlon Dr.  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413) 586-5995



Greenfield  
Party Center

18 Main St.  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
(413) 773-3035

we provide everything except the guests...  
northamptonpartyworld.com



Mary Lou Emond

CRS, GRI, CBR



COHN &  
COMPANY

Real Estate Agency

117 Main Street • P.O. Box 638  
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638  
413-773-1149 x142

HOME: 413-863-4568  
EMAIL: mlemond@crocker.com

**NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**

# Donelan Reports to the Erving Selectboard

**BY IVAN USSACH**

State representative Chris Donelan, whose district stretches from Athol to Greenfield, met with the Erving selectboard to keep in touch on local matters and discuss legislative affairs. Regarding the state's economy, Donelan had this to say: "Things are improving, but slowly. We've got a long climb ahead. We've got to balance expectations with realities." Donelan said he's been swamped with meetings with various groups, all advocating for an increased share of state funds. "We need to be slow and steady," he added.

Donelan said the state had a net loss of 30,000-40,000 jobs since the peak of mid-2001, before 9/11. There's been some increase over the past year and a half, he said. But the lost jobs, combined with many people taking lower-paying jobs, has had a significant impact on the state's income tax revenues, which provide a large share of the budget.

As discussion turned to the local economy, selectboard member Burt Dubay offered this observation: "My sense is that there's nothing on fire out here." Donelan responded that the area's affordability relative to the eastern part of the state will gradually make it more attractive to industry.

As for local aid, Donelan said the House will release its budget the week of April 25th, which will provide some "solid, local aid numbers for town meeting." There have been no big formula changes in the calculation of local aid. "When you're trying to keep everyone's head above water," he said, "it's hard to be creative." Donelan expects the Senate to offer a similar budget, and said cooperation between the two branches is "better than it's ever been."

The increased burden on towns to fund their own budgets, he added, is part of what he called "the Romney Effect."

Dubay noted that Erving is "lucky," in that it "doesn't have to count every dollar to know we can fund the budget." He was referring to the large portion of the town budget that comes from the tax assessment on the Northfield Mountain power generating facility. Board chair Andy Tessier told Donelan of the town's recent vote to provide additional funds to the town's stabilization fund, as well as accounts for the Maple Avenue landfill closure in Farley and other important items affecting the future finances of the town.

Donelan found that news heartening, comparing it with the somewhat gloomy deficit forecasts for Orange (about \$1 million) and Athol (about \$2 million). The major impact on town budgets, especially from increased health care and fuel costs, were acknowledged by all present.

Town administrator Tom Sharp asked Donelan about PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) funding. In the early nineties, after the state cut "payments in lieu of taxes" to towns for state-owned properties (forests, hospitals, prisons, etc.), a group named STAR - Standing Together to Act Responsibly - was formed to represent 120 Massachusetts cities and towns in an effort to restore the PILOT funds. The current state budget includes \$12.5 million to affected communities for PILOT funds. According to the Mass Department of Revenue, full funding for PILOT in FY '05 would be \$26 million. Donelan said the state is "looking to get back to full funding."

Selectboard member Linda Downs-Bembury next asked

Donelan about availability of state funds to purchase forested lands. A 120-acre parcel of forested land abutting Erving State Forest is currently for sale. Donelan said the APR program "is coming under fire now." The Romney administration, he said, is "eying land for industrial development." And most towns are not interested in purchasing land for conservation, he added, because doing so takes land off the tax rolls.

Donelan noted with dismay that farmland has become increasingly scarce. "These farms, like the ones we still have in Greenfield and Orange, are the last vestiges of a way of life," he said. "They should almost be covered under historic preservation."

Donelan informed the board of his new committee assignments. He is now on the Committee on Higher Education, where he is excited about efforts to separate higher education from K-12. In the early '70s, he said, the state contributed about 90 percent of total funding for public higher education. Now, he said, that figure is about 47 percent. Donelan said he is looking to work on stabilizing the state's share of Higher Ed funding, to prevent it from being overly dominated by private financing, which could always cease unexpectedly and leave the system dry. He also said he has been working to connect people in the North Quabbin region to UMass, because it is such a "tremendous resource." And many UMass employees live in the North Quabbin area, he added.

Donelan also serves on the new committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse. He observed that the linking of these two areas is an important step, as they are often causally

related. Donelan also continues to serve on the Public Safety committee. He encouraged the board to stay in touch and let him know how he can help. "Constituent services are 90 percent of the job," he said with a smile.

After Donelan left, the board turned its attention to approving the warrant calendar for the annual town meeting on May 4th. A total of 26 warrant articles, totaling \$6.357 million, will be presented. The town expects its FY '06 budget to be \$6.403 million, unless there is a change in state aid. The largest single warrant item is the Erving Elementary School budget of \$1,668,701. That figure, representing an increase of 6.8 percent over the school's FY '05 budget, is lower than the original EES budget submission, which was just over \$1.7 million.

The board also conducted a variety of routine business, including discussion of an Infiltration and Overflow report for POTW (water treatment plant) #1. The report, by consultants D3 Engineering, Inc., of Easthampton, was prepared for submission to the state department of environmental protec-

tion and includes numerous action items.

Town elections will be held May 2nd.

## Healthy Lawn Workshop

Maintaining a beautiful yard without using chemicals that may harm children, pets, and the environment can be relatively easy. On April 7th, from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m., the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District will present a free Healthy Lawns and Landscapes Workshop led by Ann McGovern of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

This free workshop will be held at the Great Falls Discovery Center, at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls. Homeowners and landscapers are encouraged to attend. To register for the workshop, call the district at 772-2438. Coupons and door prizes will be given away to attendees, including a chance to win a compost bin. Refreshments will be served.

*Your clear choice for*  
**QUALITY VINYL REPLACEMENT WINDOWS**  
**SUNRISE**  
(413) 498-4318

Fully Insured  
Free Estimates  
Honest Work  
Honest Prices!

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



**JOE GRAVELINE**

**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666**

INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES      LAMP REPAIRS  
USABLE METALS              LAMP PARTS

## Just Things

*We Buy Anything From a Pin To An Elephant*

ARTHUR COHEN              9 MT. HERMON RD.  
413-498-5043                  NORTHFIELD, MA

## Rau's Auto

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

**(413) 367-2475**

531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing  
Best service licensed Mechanics

## BAKER Office Supply

*Bring in this ad and receive one free ream of copy paper!*

www.bakerofficesupply.com  
310 Main Street • Greenfield

**774-2345                      Call Bonnie today!**

## Renaissance Excavating

COMPLETE SITE WORK



• SEPTIC & DRAINAGE SYSTEMS • SAND, GRAVEL & LOAM  
MAIN ROAD, GILL

DOUGLAS EDSON      (413) 863-4462

SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO.

## SCSC



298 Avenue A.  
Turners Falls, MA  
413-863-4322

Complete Masonry Supply



**Owning the best just got better!**

Drop by today and see beautiful, energy efficient wood and gas fireplace products by Regency, Hampton and Excalibur. Designer finishes, customizable accessories and a lifetime warranty are just a few more reasons you will choose the high quality Regency Fireplace!

## Sokolosky Realty

56 4TH STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MASS. 01376

JEAN DONOVAN, CRS, ABR  
BROKER

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

## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Sand, Septic and Fiske Pond Management

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

First of several attendees at the March 23rd Wendell selectboard agenda was Gail Krutka, asking to rent the town hall April 16th to hold a fundraising teen dance from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. She wants to raise money to help her daughter, Leah, travel to England, Scotland, and Wales as a student ambassador in the People to People program. After three weeks of traveling and living in homes, Leah will give a multimedia presentation at her school, Franklin County Tech, and possibly one in town. Krutka has the support of the Wendell Women's club, was hoping for a gathering of maybe 50 people age ten to twenty with several teen bands, and refreshments.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said the normal rental fee was \$45, with a refundable \$25 clean-up deposit. Board chair Ted Lewis said, "We'd like to help, but it is getting expensive to maintain the town hall," and suggested a \$25 rental, with the cleaning deposit, and the rest of the board concurred.

Molly Kaynor asked to rent the town hall the afternoon of Sunday, April 17th for a second try at holding a draft information session; the first date in February was limited because snow prevented the speakers from attending. The same speakers are planned for this event: Francis Crowe, a long-

time peace activist and draft counselor, Eric Wasileski, an ex-Marine, Sunny Miller, the director of the Traprock Peace Center, Aaron Falbel, an organic farmer, and Joe Toritto, a high school teacher from Holyoke. Kaynor agreed to the normal \$45 rent, and her first cleaning deposit check is still uncashed in the files of the town coordinator.

Town treasurer Carolyn Manley and town clerk Annie Hartjens brought in the notes for the Fiske Pond purchase to be signed by the selectboard, one note for the short term loan of \$280,000, until the town receives the DCR grant, and ten notes for \$12,000 to be retired one a year, with interest, for the town's share of the purchase. As an abutter, Lewis declined to sign the notes, but board members Dan Keller and Christine Heard signed them.

Lewis told Mahar High School student council representative Jenn Richards to attend the next selectboard meeting when the finance committee will be present. At the last selectboard meeting, Richards had asked for a donation to the Mahar after prom all night party to be held at the Athol YMCA.

Mark Stuart and his consulting engineer Bob Leet met with the board to answer issues raised about Stuart's sand and gravel operation on Plain Road at the last selectboard meeting.

There is no record of Stuart's securing a business permit, there is no site plan on file, and there are numerous old unregistered cars on the property. Stuart began by saying he had already paid to have the cars removed, and they would go as soon as snow and mud allowed. Leet added that building inspector Phil DeLorey had told them that as a pre-existing business Stuart did not need a license as long as he did not expand his operation. Stuart said that he had paid \$25 for a permit, and added that although more sand was being removed than originally planned he was only getting paid for the original rate of removal.

Deidre Cabral of the planning board said that as the special permit granting authority, the selectboard does not need to do anything until Stuart expands his operation. Leet said that every time a shovel of sand is removed, the site expands, but that by the time Stuart goes beyond his original plan, snow will be gone and he will be able to complete a survey; Stuart will have the site plan in six months to a year.

Heard said, "I guess that's where we are. Thanks for coming in."

At the request of Aldrich, Keller gave a short summary of the recent work of the town center septic study committee. The plan in its current rough outline calls for installing a holding tank serving all town buildings in the area of the Common, and a pressure dosing system using alternate pipes in alternate years, which more than doubles the expected life of the leach field. In addition there is room for an identical reserve leach field, doubling again the expected life of the system. The leach fields will be located ten feet from the north and east edges of the Meltzer property, allowing for a 100' buffer from the nearest private well. The septic system's projected volume would be 1500 gallons per day, below the volume that requires a high flow system. The estimated cost is \$250,000 without private homes connected, \$310,000 if two private houses are connected, but the committee is leaning

away from connecting private homes. It would be a mound system, one of the most environmentally sound septic systems available. Keller said he was not sure what the mound's height would be. An engineer from Dufresne and Henry will describe the proposed septic system at the annual town meeting in June.

Geoff Richardson, an abutter on the north and east sides of the Meltzer property attended the meeting at the board's invitation. One plan proposed for locating the new town office building on the Meltzer property would seek a right of way running through Richardson's property onto Center Street to avoid an unsafe exit onto Morse Village Road. Richardson viewed the plan, with aerial photographs including the proposed septic plan, but Richardson cited increased traffic near his house and said the plan was, "not all that attractive."

Heard asked if there was something the town could do that might make a right of way more attractive, and said he was welcome to call if he had any ideas or questions. As Richardson was leaving, he agreed to Lewis' request that he use his excavating equipment to move the veterans memorials from in front of the library to the north common, if the summer is dry enough.

Scott and Kim Smith, neighbors of Fiske Pond, came before the board after leaving the conservation commission's forum on the Fiske Pond management plan taking place simultaneously at the town hall. They raised objections to the purchase, the conservation restriction, and the management plan under discussion.

As neighbors with a horse pasture across the street from the parking lot they were concerned that children would be tempted to approach their horse, and possibly even climb under the fence. They hoped the parking lot could be moved back into the field. The Smiths, having the only house in sight of the entrance to Fiske Pond were concerned they would become the *de facto* neighborhood

watch. The Smiths felt the "dawn to dusk" hours for Fiske Pond to be open to the public were too vague and should be defined by set hours. They felt the town had opened itself to a new liability with the possibility of an old dump on the site, and no proper survey of the property.

Heard responded, "These were all my concerns before the purchase," but the town voted overwhelmingly for the purchase, and the selectboard went along with that vote. Keller added that it still might be possible to move the parking lot, and that some of the problems the Smiths experienced were under a different owner. He said, "Personally I hope the town owning the property will be better for you," because there would be several levels of response to any complaints raised.

Aldrich brought up a request by the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) for the selectboard to write to local legislators supporting a bill that closes a personal property tax loophole that allows the telephone company to pay \$6,000 to the town instead of the \$20,000 they would owe without the loophole. The board agreed to endorse the letter.

Heard said that Charles Smith and Don Chapelle of the conservation commission were shocked at the price of the legal opinion they recently requested from town counsel. They will meet with the finance committee and ask for a transfer of funds.

Find out about the draft.

Come to a  
**draft information session**  
at the Wendell Town Hall on  
**Sunday, April 17th**  
**from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

There will be speakers, open discussion and refreshments. Speakers will talk about the legal rights of draft age people, alternatives to the draft, the current status of the draft and they will explain what a Conscientious Objector is and give tips on how to develop a C.O. file. This event is co-sponsored by Traprock Peace Center.



## CarpeTech

At your service for over 30 years in the Pioneer Valley

### Residential/Commercial Cleaning Service

Under new ownership • Tim Vassar, proprietor



*Residential and commercial cleaning, window washing, floor stripping and waxing, pressure cleaning*

(413) 772-6970 P.O. Box 161, Greenfield, MA 01302

## More huge washers than ever!

now sporting:

4 TRIPLE-Plus LOADERS! (3&1/2 loads!)

1 QUINTUPLE LOADER! (5 loads!)

THIRD ST. LAUNDRY

plus all our single loaders!

Always Hot Dryers!

Suze's Gear for sale at : [www.suzeesthirdstlaundry.com](http://www.suzeesthirdstlaundry.com)

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Specializing in unique hair designs

# Bella

## THE SALON

312 MONTAGUE CITY ROAD 774-4003




413-256-6217

*fine instruments  
bought and sold  
repaired and restored*

### Fretted Instrument Workshop

49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002



540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992  
[www.countryoil.com](http://www.countryoil.com) 413-648-9912

24-HOUR  
BURNER  
SERVICE

24-HOUR  
PLUMBING  
SERVICE

LICENSED  
TECH-  
NICIANS

#M10588 (MA)



# State Records Outline Increase in GCTV Salaries

**BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE**  
**MONTAGUE** - Documents filed with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office shed some light on a longstanding request for an itemized breakdown of salaries at GCTV by Pat Allen, chair of the Montague selectboard. It appears that while Marty McGuane, GCTV's executive director, has repeatedly refused to provide such information to the board on the basis of privacy rights, GCTV's staff salaries are, in fact, a matter of public record.

It is the responsibility of the selectboard to ensure that the local cable access provider is serving the best interests of the town. The breakdown of compensation at the station has interested Allen because the executive director of GCTV is required to provide the selectboard with a line-item budget for running Crocker Studios, GCTV's Montague public access facility, on a yearly basis. However, McGuane has repeatedly refused to provide a specific breakdown of salaries, or percentages of salaries, required to run Montague's

cable access station, saying that by law he is obligated to protect the privacy of his employees.

McGuane has instead provided only a general compensation figure reflecting the total outlay for salaries.

According to information contained in documents filed with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office of Public Charities, non-profit agencies must file a yearly breakdown of salaries of its five highest paid employees. What the numbers reveal is that McGuane received a considerable increase in wages and benefits in 2002 and 2003 after GCTV took over as Montague's local cable access provider in 2001. Increases for other staff salaries are also noted.

In the year 2,000, McGuane was paid \$37,744 as executive director of GCTV, and listed no benefits. In the year 2001, he earned \$39,312, and again listed no benefits. In 2002, his salary increased to \$45,153, and he was provided with \$3,786 in benefits. In 2003, the last year on record, his salary

increased again to \$51,236 and his benefits reached \$9,000 dollars. In summary, since GCTV took over as Montague's local cable access provider, McGuane's salary has increased by \$12,014 and \$9,000 in benefits.

In comparison, the next highest paid employee who is listed as a tech coordinator earned \$27,814 with no benefits in the year 2000, and \$31,667 with \$8,000 in benefits in the year 2003. In summary, his salary increased by \$3,854 dollars and \$8,000 in benefits over the same time period. Other employees listed showed minimal increases across the board, had not worked long enough by 2003 to show any pattern, or had no amounts listed next to their names on the forms. The report for 2004 is due in May.

Information contained in this article is taken from official state documents as filed by GCTV, Inc. The forms do not indicate a percentage breakdown of staff salaries spent on running the Montague facility.

## Northfield Energy Fair

On Saturday, April 2nd, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Northfield Energy Fair will feature displays, discussions, books, information and neighbors interested in energy efficiency and renewable energy options for home, business and town.

The fair will be held inside the Northfield Town Hall at 69 Main Street in Northfield.

Visit booths to learn about photovoltaics, solar hot water, biodiesel, wind, efficient wood stoves, and energy efficiency measures and gain valuable information on state and federal programs. The fair will also include films and other AV presentations throughout the day.

**Discussion Sessions**

- Energy Basics - 10:30 a. m. to 11:30

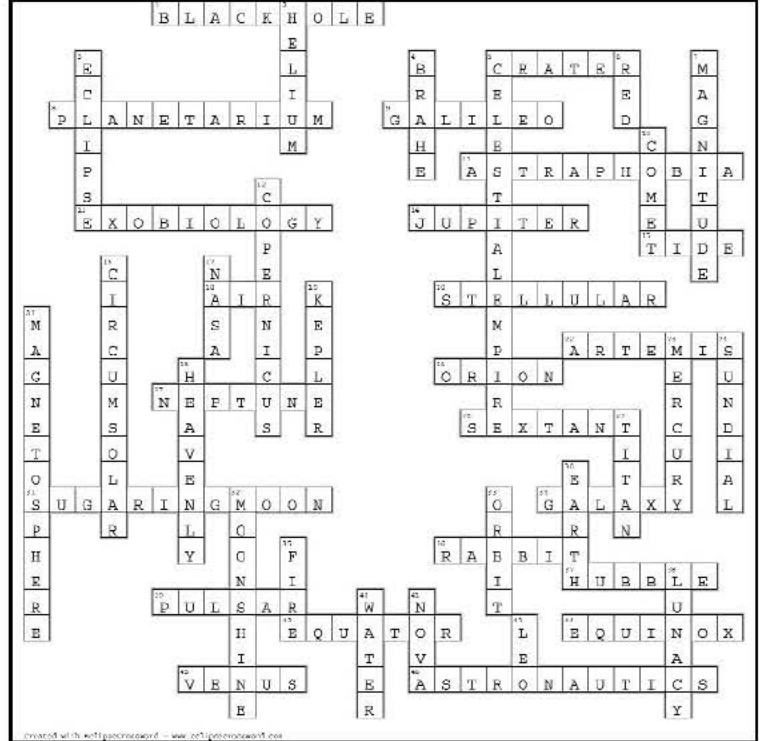
a.m. Moderator - Walt Congdon, Northfield Energy Committee; Philippe Rigollaud, Pioneer Valley PhotoVoltaics

- Municipal Perspectives - Noon to 1 p.m. (Over Lunch). Moderator - Don Campbell, Donald Campbell Associates; the Northfield Energy Committee.

- Projects and Dreams, Large and Small - 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Moderator - Peter Talmage, Talmage Engineering; Mike Kosciemsky, Kosmo Solar; Jeremy Toal, Turtle Island Design; Bart Bales, Bales Energy Associates and Solar Works, Inc.

- 'End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the End of the American Dream' at The Media Arts Café, in the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main Street, Northfield - 7:30 p.m. Free showing - Donations accepted.

## Here are the answers to last week's crossword puzzle, "Celestial Sphere"



### GILL continued from pg 1

are identified, it is possible to design around them. "Do the survey early. It's less expensive. Then develop around it," he advised. Mulholland estimated an intensive locational survey might cost the town between ten and fifteen thousand dollars. It involves gathering whatever information is currently known about the area and studying geological maps to identify likely sites. Test pits three feet deep and two feet square are dug in areas of high potential and of lesser potential to insure the accuracy of the data over a wide footprint. Recommendations are then made which help to deter-

mine next steps in developing the land.

"The time it takes to complete a survey depends on the size of the project area, the scope of the investigation, weather conditions, and other factors," according to the Massachusetts Historical Commission. If no evidence of any significant sites exists, a letter clearing the project is provided within 30 days of submission. If one or more potentially significant sites are identified, the MHC will make its recommendations known favoring avoiding those areas if possible, or requiring further archaeological surveying if necessary.

According to Mulholland, a site form survey for the

Mariamante parcel was filed with the MHC awhile back, but its purpose and contents are unknown to him. The survey is a form that is filled out to identify an historic building or area of land. "It is not necessarily archaeological," he says but hopes to acquire a copy from the MHC within two weeks. He recommended the town study it before proceeding with plans for the parcel.

At this point, Mulholland does not believe the parcel contains important archeological sites, because of its distance from the Connecticut River which provided sustenance and water travel for native peoples. He suggested plowing the land, waiting for a couple of rains,

then having a team of archaeologists map the parcel, which might decrease the cost of a locational survey. In any case he said, "Archaeology usually doesn't stop development."

According to Mulholland, whether or not native peoples have a say in the development of the land would depend on the type of development and the use of federal funds. Unless structural, artifacts would be removed from the site and taken to the lab for cataloguing and analysis. "We are required by law to curate artifacts and to make them available to the public," he said. In the meantime the land is pretty well frozen and unlikely to

provide any clues to 53what lies beneath.

Ideas for development currently include a natural history museum, light industry, senior housing, small-scale commercial use, and preservation of the land as a park. Large-scale development is not out of the question, but the beauty and unique character of Gill seem to be important to its residents in the decision making process. In the meantime, said Deb Roussel, town administrative assistant, Gill might consider leasing out the land this summer to a local farmer in order to earn some revenue from its investment.

**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666**

**Avicenna Skin Care Studio**  
 Customized Aromatherapy Facials  
 Gentle Face & Body Waxing  
 Natural Mineral Color Cosmetics  
 96 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst Center  
 253-9131  
 Barbara Deguise, Licensed Esthetician

**Anthony C. Tucker**  
 70 Oakman Street  
 Turners Falls  
  
**A Custom Touch**  
 Painting & Home Repairs  
 Home: (413) 863-4833  
 actuck@comcast.net

**Lynn Reynolds**  
 "Aiming for Astonishing Service"  
 • Specializing in Buyer Agency  
 • Professional Consulting  
 • Let us discuss the advantages!  
  
**REYNOLDS PROPERTIES**  
 256 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002  
 413-367-2425  
 lynreynolds@verizon.net

**Brian R. San Soucie**  
**Locksmith - CRL**  
 Serving the Area for over 25 years Certified • Bonded • Insured  
**We install all Types of Locks & Entry Devices for Businesses and Homes**  
 • Dead Bolts  
 • Household Lock Sets  
 • We Master Key & Re-Key  
 • Safe Combinations Changed  
 28 Montague Street  
 Turners Falls, MA 01376  
**Beeper 290-1162**  
**863-2471**  
**Fax 863-8022**

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

**CALL MARK & DULCIE LARANGE AND BE ...**  
**"LIVIN' EASY"**  
  
**SPA SALES & SERVICE SINCE 1976 SERVICE ALL BRANDS**  
**CUSTOM BUILDING AND REMODELING SINCE 1970 LIC#083647**  
**OFFICE: 413-774-2633**  
**CELL: 413-522-0366**

# The Healthy Geezer

BY FRED CICETTI  
LEONIA, NJ -

Q. I heard a comedian make a reference to "shingles" as if there was something funny about it. I had shingles and I didn't find any humor in the experience. Am I missing something?

*Not Laughing in New Orleans*

A. Shingles is a painful skin disease caused by the chickenpox virus awakening from a dormant state to attack your body again. Some people report fever and weakness when the disease starts. Within two to three days, a red, blotchy rash develops. The rash erupts into small blisters that look like chickenpox. And it's very painful.

Does this sound funny? I don't think so....

Anyone who has had chickenpox can get shingles. Half of all Americans will get shingles

by the time they are 80. Shingles occurs in people of all ages, but it is most common in people between 60 and 80. Each year, about 600,000 Americans are diagnosed with shingles.

The virus that causes chickenpox and shingles remains in your body for life. It stays inactive until a period when your immunity is down. And, when you're older, your defenses ain't what they used to be.

The inactive virus rests in nerve cells near the spine. When it reactivates, it follows a single nerve path to the skin. The shingles rash helps with its diagnosis; the rash erupts in a belt-like pattern on only one side of the body, or it appears on one side of the face. It usually begins as a patch of red dots that become blisters.

Physicians treat shingles with antiviral and pain medications. The antivirals don't cure shingles, but they weaken the

virus, reduce the pain and accelerate healing. The antiviral medications work faster if they are started early - within 72 hours from the appearance of the rash.

The disease's name comes from the Latin word *cingulum*, which means belt. The virus that causes shingles is *varicella-zoster*, which combines the Latin word for little pox with the Greek word for girdle. In Italy, shingles is often called St. Anthony's fire.

If you have had chickenpox, shingles is not contagious. If you have never had chickenpox, you can catch the virus from contacting the fluid in shingles blisters. However, you will not get shingles, but you could get chickenpox.

The pain of shingles can be severe. If it is strong and lasts for months or years, it is called postherpetic neuralgia. Persistent pain is a common

symptom in people over 60. However, most victims of shingles overcome their symptoms in about a month. And the odds are against them getting shingles again.

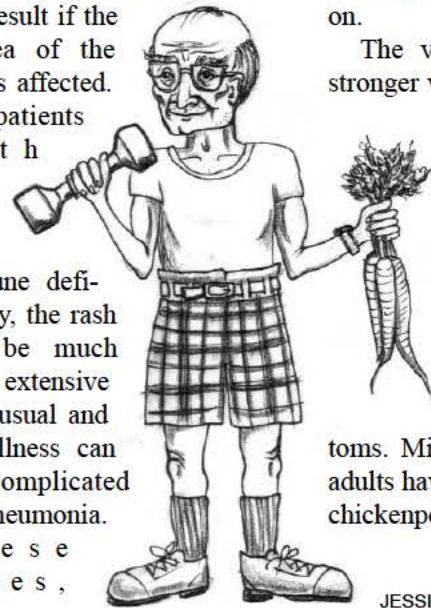
Outbreaks that start on the face or eyes can cause vision or hearing problems. Even permanent blindness can result if the cornea of the eye is affected. In patients with

immune deficiency, the rash can be much more extensive than usual and the illness can be complicated by pneumonia. These cases,

while more serious, are rarely fatal.

Researchers at the National Institutes of Health are now working on a shingles vaccine to prevent the disease in people who have already had chickenpox. It is designed to boost the immune system and protect older adults from shingles later on.

The vaccine is basically a stronger version of the chickenpox shot, which became available in 1995. The chickenpox shot prevents chickenpox in 70 to 90 percent of those vaccinated, and 95 percent of the rest have only mild symptoms. Millions of children and adults have already received the chickenpox shot.



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Loud Music and Verbal Disputes

### Thursday 3-24

5:23 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Turners Falls Road address. Found to be verbal only.

9:18 p.m. Report of a fight in progress in the alley behind the Colle Opera House. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

### Friday 3-25

9:55 a.m. Report of vandalism at an Avenue A address. Graffiti was sprayed on a building. Report taken.

9:19 p.m. After a motor

vehicle stop on Avenue A at 11th Street, a female juvenile was summonsed.

### Saturday 3-26

10:12 a.m. Report of a disturbance at a Dell Street address. A juvenile was out of control. Officer spoke to all involved.

4:44 p.m. Report of loud music at a 4th Street address. Subject advised to turn it down.

10:06 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Second Street address. [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, malicious destruction of property under \$250, and threatening to commit a crime.

### Sunday 3-27

12:29 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Second Street address. Found to be verbal only. Officer spoke to all involved.

3:44 p.m. Report of loud music at a Turnpike Road address. Subject advised.

4:09 p.m. Report of a window broken in retaliation for previous call. Report taken.

### Tuesday 3-29

1:28 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Millers Falls Road by Cross Street, [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

8:35 a.m. Report of wires down on Wendell Road. WMECO notified.

7:02 p.m. Walk-in to sta-

tion reported restraining order violation at a Second Street address. Male subject summonsed.

10:06 p.m. Report of a one-car accident on Route 63. No injuries. Report taken.

### Wednesday 3-30

7:56 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance in the alley behind 175 Avenue A. Found to be verbal only. Officer spoke to everyone involved.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

MATTHEW EDWARDS  
OWNER • CLIMBER  
INSURED

### EDWARDS TREE SERVICE

62 Mormon Hollow Road • Millers Falls, MA 01349  
978 544 7452

Locally owned since 1941

Full service market  
Fresh fish from the Boston Market  
Beer & Wine

70 Allen Street Greenfield, MA 413-773-1100 FAX 413-773-1105

## B. RUBIN & SONS INC.

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS  
MASS INSPECTION STATION  
NO. 13051  
194 MILLERS FALLS RD.  
413-863-2236

10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES

## LaBelle & Leitner

Auto Sales

AUDI • VW • VOLVO • BMW  
Large selection of diesel and all-wheel drive vehicles

Locally Owned for 27 Years

413-774-5517  
335 High St., Greenfield  
LALautosales.com

## Gerri Johnson

CRB, CRS, GRI

66 French King Highway  
Gill, MA 01376  
(413) 863-9736  
Fax (413) 863-9739

## PLOW FRAU

BOUWOW  
SITA LANG  
(413) 834-7569

### CLEAN-OUTS AND HAULING & Snow plowing!

We help you sort through or haul away unwanted stuff in your attic, basement, garage, barn, yard, or entire estate. Removal of just about anything! FREE estimates.  
Reusable goods are donated to those in need.

**SIRUM**

continued from pg 1

ment that gets the job done faster, better, and in more comfort.

"It was 'Old Home Day'," Sirum said. "People who hadn't seen each other for a long time talked up a storm."

People lined up to take advantage of the one-day special prices. Sales were brisk and counter men were busy writing up sales for oil, chain saws, parts, small tools and supplies. Three salesmen took orders for tractors and equipment. "Typically, we sell from about \$30,000 to \$100,000 worth in that one day," Sirum said. "It all depends; if someone buys a machine for 50 or 60 thousand, the total goes up."

Customers bought twelve tractors during the course of the day, and many others went home with visions of a soon-to-be jolly

green John Deere at work in their fields. John Deere isn't the only brand the Sirums sell, they also handle Kabuta, Patz, Stihl, and others.

Ed Sirum and his nephew, Adam, who run the place, worked hard to put it all together. While the event was successful, it's not all profit. The special prices cut into the margin, and it costs about \$7,000 to get everything lined up for display. Another \$1,500 went for food. Then the Sirums have to pay the help. But it was well worth it to renew friendship with customers, and to offer them special discounts in appreciation of past business.

Sirum Equipment Company has a fine reputation in the farm community, drawing farmers from three states in about a 50-mile radius. They have delivered machines to Cape Cod, and to farms on the Rhode Island border.



PARZYCH PHOTO

*Future farmers, Conner, 2, and Sam, 5, Bobala of Millers Falls team up to try out a John Deere tractor.*

Many regular customers came down from Vermont and New Hampshire to attend the open house event.

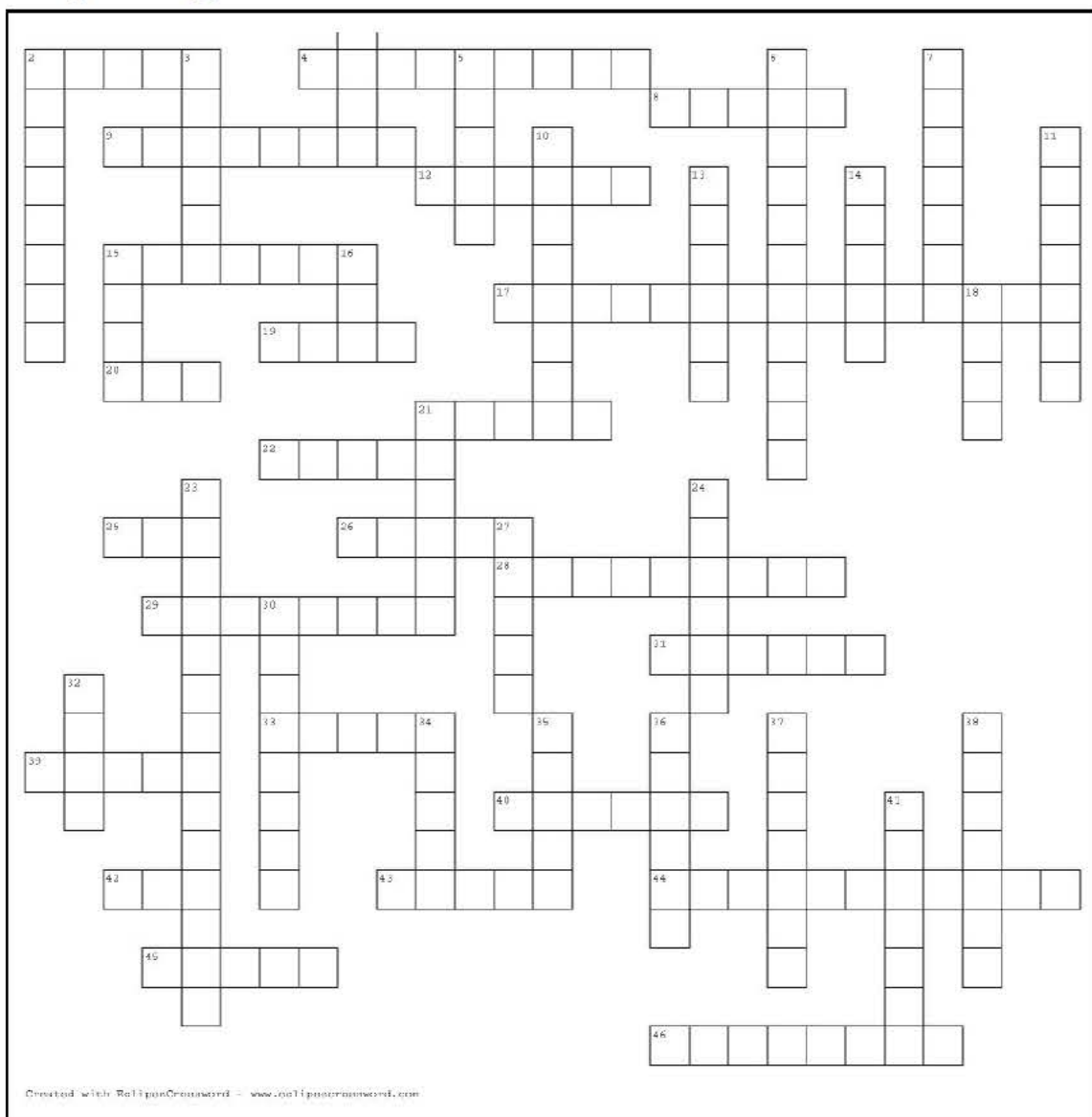
Tony Sirum, who began the farm equipment business in the 1940's, also operated a dairy farm, until the farm equipment

business grew too large to do both. In 1961, Sirum became a John Deere dealer. The following year, he gave up dairy farming. Farmers know that the Sirums understand the problems of the farmer, and that they want to help them farm successfully. Non-farmers who know of the Sirum's reputation buy conveyors, lawn and garden equipment, chain saws, other machinery, and supplies.

A new employee at Sirum Equipment once drained a customer's engine and accidentally poured a new charge of engine oil into the hydraulic system instead of the engine. He then loaded the tractor onto a trailer for delivery to the  
continued next page

**Kipling's World**

by Bette Black, edited by David Detmold



**Across**

- 2. To burn slightly.
- 4. Mowgli's brothers' word for the monkey people.
- 8. Make a vibrant sound.
- 9. Kipling's short story set in the dawn of the age of radio.
- 12. To avoid capture.
- 15. Adjective for Kiplings rickshaw.
- 17. Baloo's Disney song.
- 19. Having lost its native wildness.
- 20. The night thief the monkeys are scared of.
- 21. A race of Hindu origin, now found universally.
- 22. Rikki-tikki-tavi's nemesis.
- 25. Dan's playmate under Pook's Hill.
- 26. Where both Jungle Book stories take place.
- 28. Slightly green.
- 29. Old, gold coin of Spain.
- 31. A church porch.
- 33. What the Camel said.
- 39. A line of work or form of occupation.
- 40. Birthplace of Rudyard Kipling.
- 42. Mental perception or Barbie's mate.
- 43. What all places are to the cat who walks by himself.
- 44. Jungle greeting.
- 45. The color of Bagheera.
- 46. A phonograph.

**Down**

- 1. A raised platform in a hall.
- 2. Any marine fish of the genus

**Hippocampus.**


- 3. An expression of triumph.
- 5. Nautical order to cease or to stay.
- 6. Newlywed Kipling and his wife settle in this Vermont township in 1892.
- 7. An indication of something about to happen.
- 10. The channeling of psychic energy in an object.
- 11. The usual method of cell division.
- 13. What Kim calls "the Wonder House."
- 14. Any four-footed animal.
- 15. The last surviving faerie in England.
- 16. Closed and silent.
- 18. Strongly attracted by magnets and easily oxidizes.
- 21. A highly cultivated region of luxuriant vegetation.
- 23. What is as old and as true as the sky?
- 24. Tabaqui who runs about making mischief and telling tales in Jungle Book.
- 27. To turn or direct away from.
- 30. Vickary's object of obsession.
- 32. The red flower to Shere Khan.
- 34. A catkin bearing shrubbery.
- 35. Red scourge of the jungle.
- 36. What the Wisest Animal in All of South Africa advised the leopard and the Ethiopian to do.
- 37. A commemorative day of rest.
- 38. To purify or purge spiritually.
- 41. A species of narcissus.


**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666**

**Renaissance Builders**  
**Stephen Greenwald**  
 PO Box 272  
 Turners Falls, MA 01376  
 413/863-8316  
 Fax 413/863-9712  
[www.rebuild.net](http://www.rebuild.net)

**HK** | **Power Town Apartments**  
 152 Avenue A  
 P.O. Box 48  
 Turners Falls, MA  
 413-863-9433  
 professionally managed by:  
**HallKeen Management, Inc.**  
 rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St.  
**Sharon Cottrell**  
 Property Manager

**FIT FIGURES**  
 30-Minute Cross Training Fitness Center  
**Sandra Parsons**  
 Fitness Consultant • (413) 423-3954  
 • Yoga • RAMP Cardio Classes  
 • Nutrition Plans  
 • Fully adjustable machines  
**55 French King Hwy • Erving**  
 In the French King Entertainment Center

**MINIMALLY INVASIVE**  
**TOTALLY ESTHETIC**  
  
**Mark A. Wisniewski, D.D.S.**  
 173 Ave. A  
 Turners Falls, MA  
 413-863-4250  
 4 Springfield St.  
 Chicopee, MA  
 413-592-3530

**LAPINE TRANSCRIPTION SERVICE**  
  
 8/16mm films/35mm slides to DVD  
 or VHS, PAL conversions/picture  
 disks/Beta/Super 8mm/  
 U-matic/photo to DVD  
**Bill and Kathy White**  
 Greenfield, MA (413) 773-7747

Patrick Smith  
 HIC #134741  
 Insured  
 Turners Falls, MA  
 Patrick@Mtdata.com  
**EASTERN WEATHERIZATION**  
 Specializing in Cellulose Insulation  
 and Vinyl Replacement Windows.  
 Toll Free 866-262-5361  
 413-863-9409  
 FAX 413-863-3530

## SIRUMS

continued from pg 11

customer. It probably did little or no harm to the engine, and the customer would have never known if the Sirums had just filled the crankcase with oil, and kept quiet. But, Tony Sirum told the customer what happened, and loaned the customer a tractor while Sirum's mechanics installed a brand new engine in the customer's old tractor, at no charge. Stories like that have continued to build Sirum's reputation as a business where you could depend on honest dealing, and a willingness to help.

The annual open house draws a good crowd, every year. People know that there's always a good display of machinery, and plenty of bargains. Ed, who is a good cook, puts on a good feed with coffee, donuts, and cinnamon buns, in the morning. At noon there was an ample supply of kielbasa, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, ham, Italian sausage, noodle casserole, coleslaw, tuna salad rolls, egg salad rolls, and seafood salad rolls, plus a wide assortment of soda and juice, in addition to coffee. No one went away hungry, and some came back for seconds.

Several generations of families arrived at the open house together. Grandparents brought grandchildren to view the sights and smiled to see future farmers trying tractor seats, while the middle generation took a serious look at equipment, or stocked up on one-day specials. Not all visitors were farmers.

"We don't just sell to farmers,"

Sirum said. "Cowls Lumber bought a pair of Patz elevators to take away sawdust and scraps of lumber. Montgomery Roses bought a Patz elevator to move potting soil in their greenhouse, and to carry the stuff out. There are a lot of non-farmers who buy from us. Riding horses are big, today."

Riding horses outnumber horses in use during the horse-and-buggy era. Horse owners and stable operators buy tractors, manure spreaders, and haying equipment. Successful farmers, on both dairy and produce farms, are becoming more and more mechanized to cut down on labor costs. A bigger tractor with bigger plows can till a lot more acreage in a lot less time.

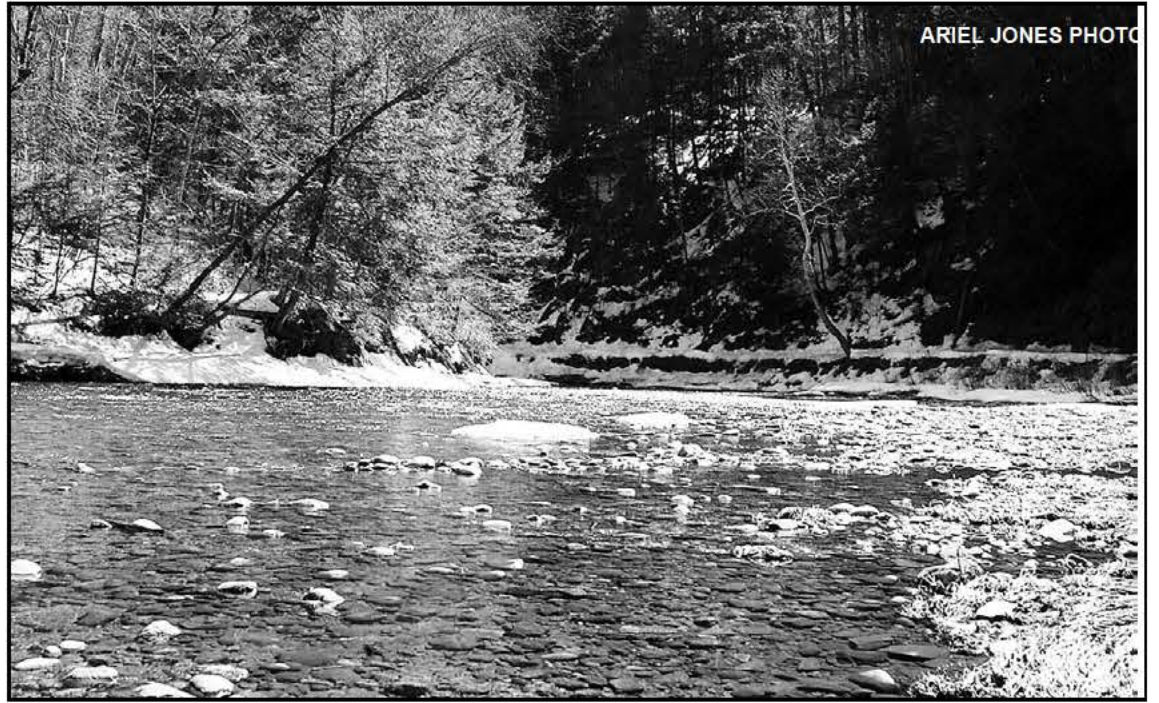
"Times have changed," Sirum said. "No one cleans a barn by hand, anymore. It just isn't cost effective."

Ed Sirum, Tony's brother, and Adam Sirum, Tony's son, run the business with virtually no help from Tony. He spends seven months of the year at his winter home in Florida taking a deserved rest after many years of long hours and hard work.

The Sirums built a huge addition to their John Deere agency about eight years ago, adding to other outbuildings, to house their expanding business. "In a couple of years we'll have to do something, again," Ed Sirum said. "We're running out of room." So far, John Deere hasn't been able to design a machine to reduce Ed's 50 to 60 hour work week, as the business continues to grow.

## LEARNING TO FLY FISH Part II

# EEK! It's Gushy!



ARIEL JONES PHOTO

BY ARIEL JONES

**MONTAGUE** - The first twenty or so minutes in the river were concerned mainly with balance and learning to walk in the moving water. My preoccupation with leeches shifted as we waded upstream and into deeper water. I realized that a river bottom is not a sidewalk. This particular section of the Ware River was very muddy in parts. The squishiness was unnerving, and it felt like there was an underground suction pulling at my feet with each step.

Since the river was slow moving I had not expected to feel the pressure of it so strongly. Walking upstream against the current was not difficult in itself, but the combination of that plus not being able to see what I was walking on made me feel very insecure. How could you deal with all this and still manage to fish? Why was I here?

We stopped with a few yards between us. Tom had selected a fly and put it on the tippet for me and it was time to cast. I managed to put the line on the water away from me and without hooking either of us. It wasn't graceful and it wasn't pretty, but it was better than trying to

walk. The longer I stood in the water, however, the more comfortable I felt.

As I began to relax, the river began to look and feel different from my first impression. It was still threatening to be up to my waist, and I had not completely forgotten the leeches, but a feeling was coming over me that I had not felt in a long time. It was quiet and lovely and I was engaged with something beyond myself. I was happy.

I did the best I could and eventually caught a little dace about three or four inches long, and didn't see any trout. It was dark by the time we went back to the van, and I had to grab Tom's arm a couple of times when I tripped over a log, or lost my balance. But I was less ashamed of my clumsiness already. A long time ago someone said to me that humility was simply being teachable. I understood that was the most important lesson learned on my first fly fishing expedition.

### Fall and Winter Pass

After the first expedition on the river, I felt both exhilarated and intimidated. There was so

much to learn! It was hard to imagine I could ever reach a point of understanding it all: from the choices of rods, lines, leaders and tippets, to the dizzying array of flies (not houseflies), something called "matching the hatch," "reading the water," whether to cast upstream or downstream, and on and on. It was more than I had bargained for.

And yet... I kept coming back to the feeling it gave me, the grace of it. I could not escape the strong and simple desire to become a fly fisher.

### I Quit Smoking

In May of last year I woke up one morning and decided to quit smoking. The decision shocked and frightened me, as I have always enjoyed smoking. Days and then weeks passed and I still didn't smoke. I decided to reward myself by buying a pair of waders and boots. I contacted Tom, received some more casting lessons from him, and we made a plan to go fishing on my birthday in July, two months to the day after I had quit.

## RABIES CLINIC

Saturday, April 2nd

9-11 a.m.

Office of

Lauralyn Brown, D.V.M.

194 Millers Falls Rd, Turners Falls

\$12/pet. Bring proof of current rabies shot to get 3-year vaccination. Dog licenses will be available. Dogs must be on leashes. Cats must be in carriers.

Questions? 863-3211 Town Clerk or 863-3202 Board of Health

## GILL-MONTAGUE --- GALA ---

On Saturday, April 9th at 8 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School Theater, the Gill-Montague Education Fund will host a Gala to benefit educational programs for Gill-Montague students.

Tickets for the Gala are \$10 and are available at Equi's, Scotty's, all Gill-Montague schools, and World Eye Books in Greenfield.

Please come and support our schools, and enjoy an evening of great music with family and friends.

## About-Face Computer Solutions

### COMPUTER SERVICES

PC REPAIRS AND UPGRADES

QUICKBOOKS SUPPORT & TRAINING

MAC CONSULTANT AVAILABLE

VIRUS REMOVAL

PC SETUP AND TRAINING

413-367-0025

abtface@bellatlantic.net

Office Hours by Appointment

## Candle of Hope

Created by Israeli and Palestinian craftswomen in a rare and remarkable collaboration of peace. Portion of proceeds benefits bereaved families.

Purchase with Purpose



Honey scented hurricane candle with hand embroidered gift bag and tea light \$36

www.hopecandle.com

413-586-5771

## Shambhala Meditation Center Open House

The Open House Dharma Gathering to be held Sunday, April 3rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., is a good way to meet others interested in meditation practice and to learn about the Buddhist path and the Shambhala Community. Meditation will be held from 9 - 11 a.m. (alternating sitting and walking), followed by a Dharma talk and discussion at 11 a.m.

This month's topic is "The Role of the Teacher on the Buddhist Path." The month of April marks the parinirvana or passing of Chogyam Trungpa, Rinpoche, the founder of Shambhala, beloved teacher and

seminal figure in bringing the teachings of Tibetan Buddhism and Shambhala to the west. This month's open house will explore the role of the teacher in the transmission and nurturing of dharma and nature of the student-teacher relationship in different stages of the spiritual path.

Free: contributions welcome. Visit us online at [www.pvshambhala.org](http://www.pvshambhala.org) or call the Center for more information. Shambhala Meditation Center of the Pioneer Valley 102 Russell Street, Hadley, Massachusetts 413-585-9848.

# Red Sox Rotation Set

BY LEE CARIGNAN

**TURNERS FALLS** - Over the last seven years, the Red Sox on opening day have been synonymous with ace pitcher Pedro Martinez. It's hard to picture the season starting off without him. In the off-season Pedro left the Red Sox to sign a better deal with the New York Mets. The loss of Martinez has left Curt Schilling the clear ace of the pitching staff. The Red Sox were hoping Schilling would be ready for opening day, but now will be heading into their April 3rd opener against the Yankees without either Schilling or Wade Miller in shape to head to the mound.

First Wade Miller announced he wouldn't be ready due to his shoulder, which he had surgery on last year. Although Miller is making progress and hasn't had any setbacks, he's going to need more time. It was a long shot that he would be ready for April. The Red Sox signed him to a low base contract with incentives to minimize the risk. If Miller returns to the form he was in before the surgery he will be a steal for the Sox. He has been throwing long toss, and is in the process of strengthening the shoulder. However, he may not be ready to pitch until June.

After Miller made his announcement, Schilling followed suit, letting the team know he wouldn't be ready for opening day either. Schilling, who is recovering from off-season ankle surgery, was hoping to be ready for opening day so he could face his old teammate Randy Johnson and the Yankees. Schilling was limited to throwing off the mound and playing long toss early in camp. He also battled the flu for a few days, and testified on steroids at a congressional hearing, causing him to miss further time. Schilling has been known for being a perfectionist, and hasn't been happy with his performance so far this spring. He appeared in his first exhibition game this week and struggled, but he did throw over 60 pitches. It appears Schilling won't be ready until mid-April at the earliest.

The Red Sox will start the season with a four-man rotation. There are enough off days in April to get by with only four pitchers. The Sox are hoping Schilling will be ready to join the rotation in mid-April when they will need to go with five pitchers. B.K. Kim or John Halama could be possible short-term solutions if Schilling isn't



ready to go by then. The temporary four-man rotation will include Wells, Clement, Wakefield, and Arroyo.

Dave Wells signed a two-year deal with the Red Sox this off-season. The 41-year-old left-hander pitched for the San Diego Padres last year. It was somewhat of a surprise when he signed with the Sox because of his hatred for Fenway Park. Wells admits he made some inflammatory comments out of frustration after some bad outings against the Sox, but he has pitched better at Fenway Park in recent years. Wells has always been known as an enemy in these parts, wearing his Yankee pin stripes proudly. The ex-Yankee hurler says he's happy to be with the Red Sox and looks forward to experiencing the Yankee/Red Sox rivalry from the other side. He says he's

looking forward to the opportunity to pitch the opener against his former team at Yankee Stadium. It should be interesting to see how Yankee fans react. Wells has the reputation of being a big game pitcher and hopes to help the Red Sox win back-to-back world championships this year. The lefty with the big breaking ball should make a big impact if he can stay healthy. He has had some history with back problems, but so far through spring training has looked strong.

Matt Clement, who signed a three-year deal worth \$25.5 million in the off-season will pitch game two against the Yankees. The ex-Cub knows what it's like to pitch for a team that hasn't won a championship for decades, and really admires what his new teammates accomplished last year. Clement had very little run support last year and won only 9 games. The Red Sox think he could win 15 or 16 games this year with their batting lineup to back him up. The Sox have led the league in runs scored the last two years and should easily lift Clement over his won-loss record with the Cubs.

Wakefield will pitch game three. He has had success

against the Yankees in recent years. The knuckleball pitcher has been with the Red Sox since 1995, longer than any other current player. Wakefield has been a valuable pitcher over the years by being flexible, durable, and eating up innings to keep the Red Sox in games. There was some talk about Wakefield going back to the bullpen earlier this spring, but manager Terry Francona plans on keeping him in the starting rotation.

Bronson Arroyo will be the fourth pitcher in the rotation. His first start will be against the Toronto Blue Jays on April 8th. Arroyo pitched well against the Jays last year. The young pitcher became a quality starter last year, finishing with an ERA slightly above four runs a game. He has been working on throwing fastballs inside against right-handed hitters this training camp. Arroyo admits right-handed hitters were leaning out on his breaking pitches last year. The Red Sox want him pitching inside more to back them off the plate. Manager Terry Francona is very high on Arroyo and thinks the 28-year-old righthander is still learning how to pitch, and is only going to get better. He could become a 15-16 game winner this year.

## Red Sox Trophy to Tour Region

The Boston Red Sox World Series trophy will make a barnstorming tour through the legislative district of state representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington) on Saturday April 2nd and Sunday April 3rd.

The trophy will make stops in all sixteen towns in Kulik's First Franklin District, making it the most extensive trip yet for the World Series prize. Kulik has worked with the Boston Red Sox and the Massachusetts State Lottery to make this tour possible.

"I am very excited that my

constituents will have a chance to participate up-close in the continuing excitement over the Red Sox World Series victory" said Kulik. "It is also wonderful to have the trophy visiting some of the state's smallest and most rural towns, especially on April 3rd, which is Opening Day of the Red Sox 2005 season."

Locally, the World Series trophy schedule will make an appearance:

Saturday, April 2nd  
Whately, Town Hall  
2:45-3:45 p.m.  
Conway, Town Hall

4:15-5:15  
Deerfield, Town Office  
5:30-6:30  
Sunderland, Library  
6:45-7:45  
Sunday, April 3rd  
Montague, Great Falls  
Discovery Center  
9:00-10:30 a.m.  
Wendell & New Salem,  
Swift River School  
11:00-12:00 p.m.  
Shutesbury, Elementary  
School  
12:30-1:30  
Leverett, Library  
1:45-2:45

## SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM Montague Parks & Recreation Department

Registration for MPRD's Summer Playground Program will begin on Monday, April 4th for Montague residents. Registration for non-residents begins Monday, May 2nd. This summer's program will be an eight-week program held from Monday, June 27th to Friday, August 19th. Our playground program offers field trips, special events and activities throughout the day. The discovery program (Ages 5 - 12), and the sports and adventures program (Ages 9 - 14) are available Mondays through Fridays, 9:00 a.m. -

3:00 p.m. Program fees for these programs are \$35/child/week for Montague residents, and \$45/child/week for non-residents. There is also a pre-school playgroup program which is held Mondays through Fridays; 9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Fees for the playgroup are \$25/child/week for Montague residents, and \$35/child/week for non-residents. For more program information, to register, and to receive our summer playground program brochure, contact the MPRD office at 863-3216.

**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666**

**T.L.C.**  
**URNS LAWN CARE**  
*Specializing in all aspects of Lawn and Property Maintenance.*  
Located in the Heart of Montague Center.  
If you're near us,  
we want to be there for you.  
*Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured*  
45 Main Street, PO Box B-6 Montague, MA 01351  
Gary Turn, Owner Phone: 367-0230 Cell: 522-2563

Brian's Faucet & Freeze-up  
Repair  
  
1-413-231-2163

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

*Acupressure Massage & Hypnotherapy*  
  
Janet Masucci  
413-863-8694  
Nationally Certified in Therapeutic Massage Since 1993  
64 French King Highway, Gill, MA 01376

**AJ'S**  
**CYCLE**  
274 Rt. 2, Gill, MA 01376  
  
  
● parts & accessories  
● helmets  
● books  
● apparel  
ALLAN • DAVID • MELANIE  
Tel: (413) 863-9543  
E-mail: AJCYC@CROCKER.COM  
Web: WWW.AJCYCLE.COM

**RIVERSIDE**  
**RADIATOR**  
Plastic - Aluminum - Copper - Brass  
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS  
AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT  
Foreign and Domestic  
Cooling System Specialist  
Rte. 2, Gill  
863-4049 1-800-439-4049  
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

# True Talk on Nonviolence

BY JOHN HANOLD

**GREENFIELD** - On March 22nd, Greenfield Community College's Downtown Center was the site a symposium on nonviolence featuring Michael True, a writer and activist who is currently Professor Emeritus at Worcester's Assumption

College. True presented a slideshow, with simultaneous commentary, highlighting the extensive history of nonviolent movements and demonstrations in American history. To no one's surprise, New England leaders and locations figured prominently in his presentation.

True's credentials as a speaker on the subject seem well-established: he has written several books on nonviolence, and was arrested along with at least one member of the audience, Suzanne Carlson of Greenfield, at a Massachusetts Raytheon plant while attempting to communicate with workers about the uses of their products - labeled by the demonstrators as Weapons of Mass Destruction. Other audience members had participated in some of the protests and marches cited in True's overview of nonviolent responses to social and political issues. True's concerns about America's role in current affairs were summed up in a comment from his introduction. "In war, you don't worry about the ones who lose, you worry about the one who wins."

Four primary issues were raised during the two-hour show: the abolition movement against human slavery in the nineteenth century, the extension of women's rights and workers' rights in the nineteenth and twentieth century, and anti-war/draft resistance protests in the twentieth. Slide portraits of movement leaders mingled with quotations from their writings and, in the later periods, photographs of public meetings and marches. True drew on his familiarity with the work of dozens of prominent advocates of nonviolence to provide an energetic anecdotal sprint through 250 years of action for social change in the US. True was careful to point out that some of these movements posed philosophical conflicts - for instance, Tom Paine advocated united colonial action against Great Britain, and several anti-slavery writers and speakers supported the Civil War. Thus, in contrast with Gandhi and M.L. King in later years, they were not philosophically nonviolent. In another vein, the destruction of property in the course of anti-war or draft-resistance demonstrations (armaments and draft records, for example) was not violent on a person to person level, but was clearly not a passive response. On the other hand, his pho-

tographs showed that police and counter-demonstrators clearly attempted to provoke violence from nonviolent protestors, most graphic in workers' rights demonstrations (1920's), lunch counter sit-ins (for example, Greensboro, SC in 1963), and school integration efforts (several locations cited from the 1960s).

Some examples of changing tactics, reflecting awareness and recognition of the right to organize and demonstrate, were the sit-down strikes in textile factories (Lawrence and Lowell 1912) and auto assembly plants (Flint, MI 1935), as well as the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955. These workplace or public transit responses used "on-site" economic leverage to express resistance in place of the marches or journalistic writings that were more common in earlier abolition and feminist campaigns.

For more information about future symposia at Greenfield Community College, call 413-775-1681.

**REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS CALL 863-8666, FAX 863-3050**

**Carpentry**  
01301 attn.: Lorraine or apply in person  
No job too small - General Carpentry and Home Repairs. Custom shelves a specialty. Call David, 625-9584

**Computers**  
Trackology Custom software, data base development and web design. Call 413-367-0149.

**Real Estate**  
**Reynolds Properties** - A friend for the buyer, someone to represent you! Consulting, buyer representation, 20+ years exp. Call Lynn Reynolds, ABR, CRS, GRI. Call 367-2425, (413) 256-8553.

**Help Wanted**  
**BAKERY SUPERVISOR** - We are seeking an innovative, energetic professional with a passion for creative baking and natural foods. Must have supervisory and production experience with cakes, specialty pastries and whole grain breads. Cook Professional cook to prepare fresh high quality dishes from scratch for our natural foods cafe. Full-time, days/evenings, including Saturday. Supervisory experience required. \*Salad Bar/Prep Cook \*Salad Bar set-up and some prep-cook hours. Experience a plus. All positions: full-time, competitive pay and benefits. Please send your resume, and cover letter to: Green Fields Market, 144 Main Street, Greenfield, MA

Consulting: The Brick House Community Resource Center seeks consultants to help youth investigate money making possibilities in hands-on arts skills. Call (413)863-9576 to receive the full scope of services.

**Can You Sell?** The Montague Reporter is looking for an Advertising Director. Can you help us grow? Display, Business Cards, and Classified Ads, Work by commission. Submit resume and work history: reporterAds@MontagueMA.net or 413-863-8666

**Services**  
**COHERENT CONSULTING** - Develop your vision for healthy communities, ecosystems and businesses. Grantwriting, strategic planning, Ecological Footprinting, technical and project support. 978.724.0108.

**For Sale**  
**SEE EVERYTHING YOU MISSED** in the Montague 250th Anniversary Parade: every float, every band, and all the crowd. Are you in this video? Call MCTV 863-9200 to order. Also for sale: Turners Falls Girls Softball Championship Game videotape. Both tapes on sale now Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners or by calling MCTV at 863-9200.

**Reporter Classifieds:**  
**\$5 for 20 words per week; .10 per additional word. Call: 413-863-8666**

## Reverend Mike Clark presents "The Life & Death of Martin Luther King"

**GREENFIELD** - Monday, April 4th at Noon in the GCC Cafe - Reverend Mike Clark is the pastor of St. John's Methodist Church in Watertown, MA. His years of ministry have taken place in New York City, Washington,

DC and numerous communities in New England. Reverend Clark served as the media liaison for the plaintiffs in the wrongful death action, King vs. Jowers in 1999. After five weeks of testimony and 70 witnesses, the jury took one hour to

find Loyd Jowers liable in the death of Dr. King and to conclude that a conspiracy had resulted in his death. This event is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Diversity Working Group, Office of Diversity and Student Life.

**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666**



**Fleming LANDSCAPING**

Lawn Renovations  
Shrub Installation  
Fully Insured  
Loam  
Mulches  
Mowing, Pruning, Cleanups  
Stockbridge Graduate

**Michael Fleming**  
Montague, MA

Ph: 413-367-0129 Cell: 522-5075

CUSTOM SAWING • PORTABLE BANDSAW MILL

**quist road lumber**

hourly rates will come to you flexible schedule small jobs ok

bandsaw reduces waste saws up to 30 in. x 24 ft. logs board edger increases production can broker forestry, drying, logging services

MICHAEL IDOINE • WENDELL, MA • 978-544-2623



Since 1895

On the Common  
Greenfield, Massachusetts  
Turners Falls, Massachusetts

**McCarty**  
FUNERAL HOME

(413) 774-4808

John C. Davis  
Director

www.mccartyfuneralhomes.com

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Newest

**IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE**

UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

774-7775

Easy in-town location  
Secure 24-hour access

VARIEITY OF SIZES  
PLENTY AVAILABLE

OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA

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

**KUSTOM**  
MONTAGUE, MA  
**AUTO BODY**

413-863-3780

Quality and comfort at a Reasonable Price

**TOGNARELLI**  
HEATING AND COOLING

Specializing in Repair and Installation of Gas and Oil Boilers, Water Heaters, Ranges, Fire Places and Piping

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM AT  
123 Ave A • 863-2295 • Turners Falls

Master Lic. #3850

**REGAL**

**Real Estate & Modular Homes**

Kyle Scott • Donald Bowman

Office (413) 863-9555 Fax (413) 863-9556

131 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

REAL ESTATE  
**BENCHMARK & PRATT**

BERNARD J. MONKIEWICZ, JR.  
REALTOR®

Hayburne Building • 55 Federal Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
Office: 413-774-1200 Desk: 413-774-1221  
e-mail: bernie@benchmark-pratt.com

**DOLAN & DOLAN**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHUN ILLUSTRATION

FRIDAY APRIL 1ST

**JD and the HARMONY GIRLS** perform at the bellybowl Dinner and Music Series from 7 to 9 p.m. Enjoy an eclectic mix of live acoustic folk, bluegrass, blues and improvisational music with a delicious dinner.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST & 2ND

Media Arts Cafe features two films this weekend. On Friday, the film *WMD: Weapons of Mass Deception*. It holds the media accountable! This is a powerful new documentary from the unique perspective of a former award winning network news insider turned critic. Danny Schechter, the "News Dissector" turns the cameras on the role media played in promoting the invasion of Iraq. On Saturday, a FREE film (donations accepted) called *End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the End of the American Dream*. In association with the Northfield Energy Committee, the Media Arts Cafe is screening this film as part of the Northfield Energy Fair. "A real eye-opener for SUV-loving America." \$10 general admission, \$8 Seniors, \$6.50 Students. Ticket price includes a complimentary beverage. Comfortable couches and cafe table seating. State of the art audio/video system. One show at 7:30 p.m. each evening. Located in the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main St., Northfield. (413) 498-2100.

SATURDAY APRIL 2ND

The Montague First Congregational Church will hold their 64th annual Sugar and Snow Supper. There are two sittings, one at 5 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m. \$9 Adults and \$4 Children under 12. Reservations should be made and honored by calling (413) 367-2736.

**Bowl-athon to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters** of Franklin County - please help BB/BS to bring big moments of magic into the lives of children. Create a team, get sponsors and come and have fun! French King Entertainment Center, Route 2 in Erving. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (413) 772-0915.

*Redbird* to perform live at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls, 7:30 p.m. *Redbird* is Peter Mulvey, Kris Delmhurst and Jeffrey Foucault. What an album, what a tour! *Redbird* is born out of a tour that Peter, Kris and Jeffrey played together in England in 2003. Upon returning home, they recorded *Redbird* in 3 days around one microphone, with the talents of producer and multi-instrumentalist, David "Goody" Goodrich. Listening to any one of these artists is a delight; put them all together, and it's pure ecstasy! \$15 advance / \$18 door / under 18 half price!

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND & 3RD  
Touch of Class Cat Fanciers

Spring Cat Show. Find out who's top cat and pick your own favorite feline. More than 300 beautiful purebred cats and kittens of over 25 breeds. Best Western Royal Plaza, Fitchburg. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (978) 975-3644.

SUNDAY APRIL 3RD

HALLMARK INSTITUTE OF PHOTOGRAPHY OPEN HOUSE  
Hallmark invites prospective students and their families to an open house from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tour the campus. Current students and staff demonstrate a day in the life at Hallmark and present photographic demonstrations.

GCC CHORUS SPRING CONCERT

Greenfield Community College Chorus will continue its spring semester performance series with a concert of music from the Renaissance to the present at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church in Northfield. The chorus of twenty singers will sing under the direction of Margery Heins, with Amy Crawford, accompanist. The concert is free and the public is encouraged to come and enjoy the program. Donations will be accepted to defray concert expenses. Music will be performed in French, Latin, German, and Italian, and will include pieces for one to five voice parts. Soloists drawn from the chorus include Michelle Plummer of Greenfield, Gretchen Harbourt of Bernardston, and Alec MacLeod of Montague. Guest instrumentalists include Shanti Archer, flute; Seth Ainsworth, violin; and Paul Tacey, percussion. The GCC Chorus will also be performing at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27th, at the Mid-Week Music Series at All Souls Unitarian Church in Greenfield. For more information, call 775-1171.

Guitarist/singer/songwriter and Greenfield native

**Bob Lord** returns to the area for a solo acoustic show at Cafe Koko, Main St., Greenfield at 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 6TH AND 13TH

Spirit of Women at Franklin Medical Center will sponsor a series of programs, "The Better You: Women's Health Workshop Series," from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. The workshops will take place at Baystate Rehabilitation Care at Franklin Medical Center, 48 Sanderson Street, lower level. The subjects of the three workshops are "Leaner Abdominals" (April 6th), and "Shape and Strengthen" (April 13th) to provide strategies for a healthier lifestyle for women ages 30 - 60. Pre-registration is required, and there is a fee of \$5/workshop. To register or for more information on joining Spirit of Women, call The Professionals at 413-773-8557 or 1-800-377-HEALTH.

FRIDAY APRIL 8TH  
The Brick House and the bellybowl restaurant present an

VUSI MAHLASELA  
MEMORIAL HALL  
SHELBURNE FALLS  
SATURDAY,  
APRIL 23RD



**Acoustic Open Mic** at the Bellybowl from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 104 4th st call the Brick House at 8639576 or the Bellybowl at 863-4064 for more info

SING IT WITH MUSIC

Final concert of Music in Deerfield's 26th season, 8 p.m. at the Sweeney Concert Hall at Smith College. Don't miss the venue of talented local musicians playing with the Miami String Quartet. Works to be performed include the Quartet in A major by Beethoven, Bela Bartok's Fifth Quartet, and Ravel's Quartet in F major. Please call (413) 625 9511 for reserved seating information. Tix: \$20 advance, \$24 at the door, \*Child/Undergrad Student \*\$5/\$9 at the door.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 8TH & 9TH AND APRIL 15TH & 16TH

The Country Players present Tennessee Williams' **CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF** This is a 50th Anniversary production of the classic drama at the Shea Theatre at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for general admission and \$10 for seniors and students, and are available at World Eye Bookshop or by calling the Shea Box Office at (413) 863-2281 x1, mature audience only.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH

The Pioneer Valley Symphony, Paul Phillips, Music Director and Conductor, presents **SCOTTISH ADVENTURE** featuring James Buswell, violin soloist. See ad on page 16.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14TH

The Community Coalition For Teens will host the 14th Annual Youth Conference "Speak Up or Stand Back...Take a Chance and Be Heard" from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Great Falls Middle School in Turners Falls. This year's Youth Conference includes 20 different workshops covering teen issues such as substance abuse, racism, homophobia, self-expression, healthy relationships, dating violence, and social action. The Conflict Resolution Theater Group from the Franklin County Technical School will provide the opening entertainment.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19TH

The Munch and Muse book Discussion Group will meet at the Carnegie Library at 7 p.m. to discuss *Seabiscuit*; both the book and the movie will be available for patrons to check out. Program is free and open to all.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD  
VUSI MAHLASELA

THE VOICE OF SOUTH AFRICAN FREEDOM, 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall. Vusi has been nominated for Best Male Vocalist in South Africa, and is described by Dave Matthews, as "the Woody Guthrie or Bob Dylan of South Africa." During the struggle against apartheid, Vusi was an activist and voice for freedom, culminating in his powerful performances at Nelson Mandela's 1994 inauguration and in the documentary film, *Amandla!* Shelburne Falls! \$15 advance / \$18 day of show / under 18 half price!

## Call for Artists

The Barnes Gallery at Leverett Crafts and Arts, 13 Montague Road near Leverett center is organizing a group show around the theme of: "Images of Peace and Protest." Deadline for bringing work is Monday, April 4th or Wednesday, April 6th from 2 to 4 p.m. Hang the show on Friday, April 8th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The opening is Saturday, April 9th, from 2 to 4 p.m. For more info call (413) 548 9070. A \$10 donation is asked of the participants to cover show expenses.

## Call for Actors

The Country Players will hold open auditions for the musical comedy, *The Music Man* from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 17th, and 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19th at the Fellowship Hall, Trinitarian Congregational Church, Main St., Northfield. For more info please call (413) 498-2736.

## Hot Spot Teen Center

**Monday** - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 to 5 p.m.  
**Tues & Wed** - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 5 p.m.  
**Thursday** - Technology Drop-in hours, 3 to 5 p.m. and Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.  
**Friday, April 1st** - Skate Trip, 3-6 p.m.  
**Friday, April 8th** - Open Mic at bellybowl restaurant, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, April 9th and 18th** - ACT Stavros Community Service Project, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., call Jen for info at 863-3548

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 is in The Brick House Community Center 24 Third St, Turners Falls

Sunday at 7 All films free donations accepted



## DEEP FREEZE FILMS

Double Feature, March 27th  
**The Gleaners and I** (2000) Artist Agnes Varda's no-holds-barred documentary  
**Scratch** (2002)  
A big hit at Sundance, this film traces the birth of 'turntablism.'  
Projected upstairs with refreshments by the Lady Kingrew Cafe  
www.montaguebookmill.com, (413) 367-9206



GREENFIELD GARDEN CINEMAS  
Main St. Greenfield, MA 413-774-4881  
www.gardencinemas.net  
SHOWTIMES FOR FRI. APRIL 1ST - THURS. APRIL 7TH

1. ROBOTS	PG
DAILY 6:45 9:00	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 2:15 4:30	
2. GUESS WHO	PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY 6:00 9:00	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00	
3. THE PACHIER	PG
DAILY 6:00 9:00	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:00 3:00	
4. THE RING 2	PG13
DAILY 6:15 9:15	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15	
5. MISS CONGENIALITY 2	PG13
DAILY 6:15 9:15	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:15 3:15	
6. SIN CITY	R in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:30	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30	
7. BEAUTY SHOP	PG13 in DTS sound
DAILY 6:30 9:30	
MATINEE SAT, SUN, & WED 12:30 3:30	

Mabel Zobel  
By  
Sandra Facto

That does it, I really do have to try quitting!

PAUL PHILLIPS Music Director 66TH SEASON 2004/2005

# Scottish Adventure

with James Buswell, violinist

Mendelssohn Hebrides Overture  
 Bruch Scottish Fantasy  
 Walton Symphony No. 1

**Saturday, April 9, 2005**  
 7:30 PM Greenfield High School, Greenfield, Massachusetts

## PIONEER VALLEY SYMPHONY

TICKETS \$5 - \$18, available at World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield; Broadside Bookshop, Northampton; online at [www.pvso.org](http://www.pvso.org) and at the door

sponsored by

**OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**

# Poisson d'Avril

**BY FLORE**

April Fools Day is called Poisson d'Avril in France. This is the phrase the French pronounce with loud delight when someone has been caught falling for a given prank.

They will try to pin paper cutouts of fish, an early symbol of Christianity, on your back, and catch you unaware.

This, of course, requires high dexterity on the part of the one doing the hooking. Tasty chocolate fish are also sold at many "confiseries" around that time of the year.

Here is an interesting anecdote related to Francis Duke of Lorraine, who was held in long captivity with his wife in Nantes. Would you believe they escaped disguised as peasants, on... April First! (so the legend tells). With the help of a woman who knew of the plan, she cried to the soldier, as they passed by: "Poisson d'Avril". He in turn, shouted to the other guards, "Poisson d'Avril" letting them pass out the prison' gates while

they were distracted.

Quel beau tour de force, non? Vive la Liberte!

People are likely to play pranks on one another on April Fools Day, so be aware!

How would you react if someone asked you to do



them a favor, like getting fresh pigeon's milk, on April 1st? Would you suspect something was up? Would you call it merrymaking? The goofing pattern goes way back to Roman times. Medieval monasteries had a turn at it, like replacing their bishop, once a year, by a monk, who, on April Fools Day, would officiate only

for a day and order his superiors to undertake ridiculous tasks (according to Brady's "Clovis Calendaria" published in 1812).

On this day, the ancient Celts observed Spring Rites around the Vernal Equinox, falling on March 21st (according to the Gregorian calendar), and ending on April 1st.

In fact, a lot of people took a long time to integrate the change from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian. The new year had formally been observed on April 1st, and not realizing it had been changed to the first of January, they were called: The Fools!

Amazingly enough, April Fools is still observed in many lands. In Scotland it is called Huntigowk. In Portugal, it is observed on the Sunday before Lent, and in Mexico it is called Holy Innocents Day, celebrated on December 28th.

On Friday, watch for the April Noddy and All Fools Morn: they might be after you!

**JOHN DEERE ABSOLUTE ZERO EVENT** NO INTEREST, NO PAYMENTS FOR 12 MONTHS\* ON SELECT LAWN TRACTORS

**JOHN DEERE** NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE™

### WHEN IT COMES TO FINANCING 0% REALLY ADDS UP.

**0% APR FINANCING**  
Fixed rate financing for 24 months\*

Get 0% APR financing on select Compact Utility Tractors.

**NO INTEREST, NO PAYMENTS FOR 6 MONTHS\***

0% APR financing, 0 payments on all John Deere Gator™ Utility Vehicles.

**OFFERS END SOON. GET TO YOUR JOHN DEERE DEALER TODAY!** [www.JohnDeere.com](http://www.JohnDeere.com)

**SIRUM EQUIPMENT CO.**  
 Rte. 63, Montague, MA (413) 367-2481

\*\*Offers valid 2/28/05 through 5/2/05. Some restrictions apply; other special rates and terms may be available, so see your dealer for details and other financing options. Available at participating dealers. \*No Interest, No Payments offer for 12 months on LT, LX, LT, GX and X Series tractors (L100 and G100 Series not included), and 6 months on Gator Utility Vehicles. Subject to approved credit on John Deere Credit Revolving Plan, a service of FPC Financial f.s.b. After promotional period, finance charges will begin to accrue at 13.9% APR. Payments will be based on 2% of the original transaction amount. A \$0.50 per month minimum finance charge may be required. Upon default, the interest rate may increase to 19.8% APR. †0% APR for 24 months, subject to approved credit on John Deere Credit Installment Plan. John Deere's green and yellow color scheme, the leaping deer symbol, and JOHN DEERE are trademarks of Deere & Company.

## STRATHMORE

continued from pg 1

There is no parking, to speak of, for the Strathmore on the mill site itself, and deliveries must come in past the Esleek mill, at the front of the access road. Brown said there has been some dispute with Esleek about where exactly their section of the access road begins and ends, further complicating the legalities of access to the Strathmore complex.

Alexander, the head of the consulting team, remarked, "They own all our lifelines."

Economic analyst Francis Mahady chimed in, "That'll be interesting."

"Thanks for sharing," called out someone else from the consulting team, and the staid demeanor of the officials began to dissolve in laughter.

Alexander: "Not only is it on an island, but somebody owns all its access and utilities. Anything else like that we should know about?"

But it is problems like these you call in the experts to solve, and Alexander and company seemed ready to put their shoulder to the wheel to get things

rolling.

Chris Sawyer-Laucanno, a member of the Strathmore advisory committee, looked back on how the committee happened to pick Finegold Alexander to work up the feasibility study. "It was clear that they had assembled a good team and had a lot of previous experience in restoring old mills," he said. "Finegold Alexander's architects fully convinced us they had an excellent grasp of what was involved with a feasibility study of this sort. Their previous projects had involved not only restoration and reuse of commercial buildings, they had also dealt very effectively with issues of parking and access. In addition, Francis Mahady, principle of FXM Marketing, proved to all of us that he truly understood what was involved with preparing an economic marketing report."

Sawyer-Laucanno went on to say, "Mahady noted it was not enough to rely on economic statistics of what Turners Falls currently looks like; it was essential to look at what might be, and to ferret out information not obviously on the surface." At last week's meeting, Sawyer-

Laucanno said, the consulting team "showed up with a viable schedule, were ready to move forward in a responsible and logical fashion, and had already begun to consider ideas. They seemed eager to involve a cross-section of the Montague community in their information gathering - through one-on-one consultations and public meetings. They were clearly excited about the prospect of taking on the project - even after they'd heard about all the negatives around water, sewer, easements, access, and so forth. In fact, Jim Alexander's response, "Well, we like challenges," was a clear indication that the team was undaunted, Sawyer-Laucanno said.

Finegold Alexander will work toward completing their feasibility work in time for a large public forum toward the end of May. Expecting a large turnout, Sherman said that hearing will probably take place at the high school auditorium.



**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666**

## Cup O' Joe

Espresso • Cappuccino • Lattes

- Great Casual Atmosphere
- Great coffee, pastries, and breakfast served all day.
- Deli sandwiches and wraps are available for lunch.

**New Weekend Hours**

Mon - Fri 7 to 2:30  
 Sat & Sun 7 to 4

111 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 / (413) 863-2800 / Zach Fellows - Owner

## Equi's Candy Store

since 1897

Walter & Pamela Williams, Proprietors

Homemade Candy • Sales of Beer & Wine • Lottery

125 Avenue A • Turners Falls • 863-9588

## CopyCat PRINT SHOP

Come to us for all your printing needs!

- Business Cards
- Color Copies
- Prints From Disk
- Laminating
- Carbonless Forms
- Oversized Copies

**And Much More!**

180 Main Street  
 Greenfield, MA 01301  
 774-3500