



# The Montague Reporter

## Town Meeting Gets Down to Business

### \$518,000 Education Stabilization Fund Created

**BY EMILY BREWSTER MONTAGUE** - Town meeting members got up bright and early on Saturday, May 7th, to spend the day discussing and voting on town business. A special town meeting convened at 8:30 a.m. to vote on 11 articles, among them three articles dealing with the more than \$800,000 returned to the town by the Gill-

Montague Regional School District when it wound up '04 with close to \$2 million in Excess & Deficiency funds, of which it is legally permitted to retain only an amount equivalent to 5% of its operating budget. Town meeting members voted to create a Special Purpose Education Stabilization see **MEETING** pg 10

## Selectboard Hears New Noise Regulations

**BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE MONTAGUE** - On Monday night, May 9th, the selectboard addressed the issue of excessive noise in town by unanimously approving new noise regulations, that go into effect immediately. With this vote, the town now has guidelines in place to monitor and enforce an acceptable level of noise at entertain-

ment venues, and from loud engines, industrial activity, and a variety of machines. Anyone who violates the new regulations will be cited with a non-criminal offense. Board chair Pat Allen, who joined Al Ross and Patricia Pruitt in voting for the regulations, explained they were easier to amend than bylaws. see **NOISE** pg 13



## Trees on the Avenue

**BY JOHN HANOLD TURNERS FALLS** -

**A**s part of the Crabapple Blossom Festival, a weeklong series of events celebrating the brilliance and fragrance of the blooming crabapples and ornamental cherries

on Avenue A, a dozen residents accompanied Alan Snow of the state Bureau of Forestry on the evening of Wednesday, April 4th as he evaluated the tree plantings from the Carnegie Library to First Street. In the course of the walk he pointed out that

the trees on the southeast side tend to be flowering crabapples, which can easily be pruned to stay under the power lines, whereas ash, Norway maple and pin oak are prevalent on the northwest side, where there are no similar overhead

obstacles. Most of the trees appeared reasonably healthy at this point in the year, but he observed that trees planted in an urban setting endure challenges that are absent in a forest setting. In Snow's opinion, the see **TREES** pg 17

## TURNERS FALLS LIGHTS IT UP

**BY LEE CARIGNAN TURNERS FALLS**-The defending state champion Turners Falls girls softball team defeated Hopkins 8-0 Monday night in the first home night game in Turners Falls. The win pushes the undefeated Indians to 12-0. Julie Girard pitched six strong innings to get the win. Cindy Hopf was the losing pitcher for Hopkins.

The Indians got off to a fast start. Girard retired Hopkins in order to start the game off. In the bottom half of the first, Ashleigh St. Peter led off with a double. Girard helped her cause by doubling St. Peter home. The Indians first baseman Kellie Brown singled



PHILIPPE DEGUISE PHOTO

*In the bottom half of the first, Ashleigh St. Peter led off with a double to spark Turners' 8-0 hitting spree over Hopkins in Monday's first ever night game at Turners High. St. Peter had a less than stellar showing Wednesday, (above) going hitless against Frontier. Turners won that game too, 5 to 1.*

see **SOFTBALL** pg 17

## Forming a Safe Homes Network at GMRSD

**BY JERRI HIGGINS - MONTAGUE CITY** - Rachel Stoler, director of the Community Coalition for Teens (CCT), inherited the vision of CCT's former director, Angel Russik, of bringing the Safe Homes Project, a national program for families and caregivers of middle and high school aged youth, to this area. Russik felt it would be a perfect tie in to the work already being done through the CCT around teen substance abuse issues in Franklin County, and Stoler was excited to implement the Safe Homes Project. The Safe Homes Network Resource Guide lists families within the district who have pledged to supervise youth activities, and to

not allow alcohol or other illegal substances to be served or used in their homes or on their property. Parents and caregivers use the guide to find other parents in the network to reach out to when dealing with teen safety issues - smoking, drugs, impulsive behavior leading to vandalism, violence, early or unsafe sex, and other risky behavior. Stoler thought the Safe Homes Project would be "a good connection with, and for, the parent community, and since we had done a lot of work with the Mohawk Trail Regional High School and there was interest from the Nine-Town Community Partnership, we decided to launch it at Mohawk." Stoler notes that pledging

to be a part of Mohawk's Safe Home Parent Network neither guarantees against substance abuse, nor changes any liability for underaged use of alcohol, tobacco, or other illegal substances. The program got started in the spring of 2004, after an interest assessment the previous winter. Stoler followed up with a meeting of interested parents that June, which only one parent attended. At that meeting it was decided to get an information sheet into the Mohawk student handbook, and Stoler says it was "just the basics - what's the law, what are the potential consequences of youth or underaged substance abuse, and what were see **GMRSD** pg 3



**PET OF THE WEEK****I Love Laps****Fred**

Fred is a short-haired brown tiger cat in need of a good home. What a cat this boy is - 18 lbs of cat! He is a giant 6-yr-old with a white bib who has lived indoors only since he was discovered to be FIV+. (Please note that FIV+ cats can live for many years and remain healthy as horses.) Fred is an awesome love of a cat and anyone would be lucky to have him. He's the quintessential lap-cat, adores petting and yet independent too! To learn more about adopting Fred, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at [info@dakinshelter.org](mailto:info@dakinshelter.org)

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**The Montague Reporter**

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Subscription Rates:  
\$20 for 6 months

**CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS****Children's Art Festival**

**BY LINDA HICKMAN**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - Children's Art Festival and Used Book Sale at the Carnegie Library on Saturday, May 21st from 1 - 4 p.m. Children's art work, live music, craft tables

and refreshments will be featured on the lawn. A large book sale for all ages will be held inside the library. In case of rain, all of the activities will be indoors. For more info: 863-3214.

**MONTAGUE CENTER LIBRARY NEWS****Bilingual Children's Concert at Montague Center Library**

**BY LINDA HICKMAN**  
**MONTAGUE CENTER** - An English - Spanish children's concert will be held at the Montague Center Library on Thursday, May 19th, at 10 a.m. Musician Tom Carroll and bilingual educator Laurie Davidson of Montague Center will play traditional songs and

songs composed specifically to teach Spanish in a fun, interactive manner. The program is designed for young children and their families. Registrations are not needed. The concert is sponsored by the Montague Cultural Council. For more information, please call 863-3214.



*Below: Laurie Davidson and Tom Carroll of Montague Center performed a bilingual concert in Peskeompskut Park on Thursday, May 5th as part of the Crabapple Blossom Festival. They will also be performing at the Montague Center Library on Thursday, May 19th at 10 a.m. For more information: 863-3214.*

**Friends of the Montague Reporter Meeting**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 17th 7 p.m.**  
24 Third St., Turners Falls

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES May 16th - May 20th**

**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 (863-9357). 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.

**Monday, 16th**

Town elections - Senior Center closed for activities.

**Tuesday, 17th**  
9:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
11 a.m. Elder Law Essentials with Attorney Kate Downs  
**Wednesday, 18th**  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 19th**  
11 a.m. "Preparing for Recovery Before Surgery" program  
**Friday, 20th**  
9:45 a.m. Senior 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.

**FACES & PLACES****School Quilt Helps Others**

*Honor student Joseph R. Parzych, and his teacher, Deirdre Gill, stand before a quilt made by her Greenfield Middle School students, illustrating ways of helping others.*

**Turners Falls Women's Resource Center Drop-In Activities**

**Tuesdays:** 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.; Yoga  
9:00 a.m. - noon; drop-in and computer lab  
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.; drop-in and computer lab  
**Wednesdays:** 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.; drop-in and computer lab  
**Thursdays:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.; drop-in and computer lab  
For more information, call: 413-863-4805

**Gill-Montague Family Center Drop-In Activities**

**Mondays:** 9:30 a.m. - noon; playgroup for families  
**Wednesdays:** 9:30 a.m. - noon; playgroup for families  
**Thursdays:** 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Parent2Parent support group (free childcare and dinner)  
**Fridays:** 9:30 a.m. - noon; playgroup early arts  
For more information call: 413-863-4805

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

**GREAT OFFERS IN MAY AT THE YMCA IN GREENFIELD**  
\$40 Value!  
Free Summer Nautilus Membership with Silver Membership Purchase by May 15  
Call us or stop by today.  
451 Main St., Greenfield, 773-3646  
Register Now for Summer Camps or come to Camp Information Day, Saturday, May 21 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Sign up for 6 weeks by May 23 for a free summer adult membership or half-price Mini Week at Fabulous Camp Apex!

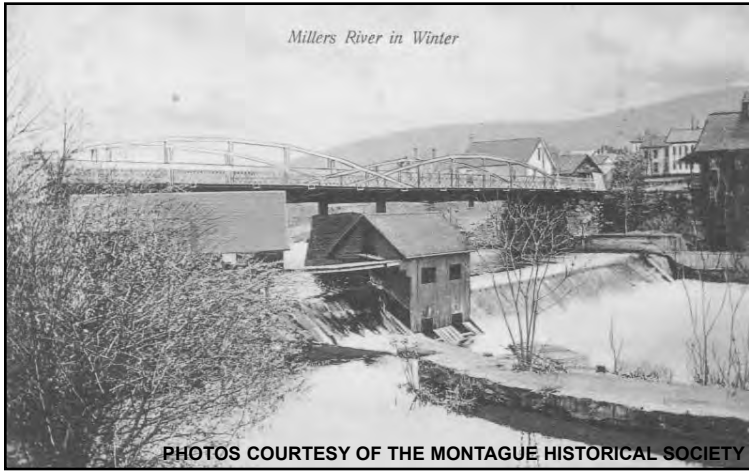
**Senior Action Meeting**  
"Advocating for Seniors in Franklin County"  
**Thursday, May 19th**  
**Greenfield Senior Center 1:30 p.m.**  
Speaker will be Lorraine York-Eddberg, SHINE Director, Franklin County Home Care Corporation speaking on Medicare Part D.

**THE SHADY GLEN**  
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HOMEMADE SOUPS  
HOMEMADE DESSERTS  
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**FOR 40 YEARS ON AVENUE A IN TURNERS FALLS**  
863-9636

## POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

## Millers River

## "Millers River in Winter"



*In this photograph one can see the building before the flood. This postcard was sent in 1908 but probably was taken earlier than that*

BY LILLIAN FISKE - I have never been able to determine where Miller's Plain or Millers Falls got its name. I have a family deed dated Nov. 25, 1848 when Ebenezer Whitney purchased a property bordered on the south by Sunderland and on the north by Millers Plain.

The postcard "Millers River in Winter" shows a mill over the dam and could explain why the name got changed from Grout's Corner to Millers Falls. This change took place about the time the village was incorporated.

## "Millers Falls Dam at Flood Time"



*This represents a later view, with part of the mill building no longer there*

## GMRSD

continued from pg 1

some of the statistics related to this particular district, that came out of the 2003 Teen Health Survey."

Over the summer, the group met again, with a few more parents joining, and they drafted a letter that went to all the parents in the district with the school summer mailing. Stoler notes that it was key to have school officials on board, actively supporting the initiative. The principal at Mohawk, Philip Dzialo, put the information on the first page of the handbook, and it went out to parents with another copy of the letter, and the pledge form that is part of the Safe Homes Parent Network commitment. By November of 2004, participation was already above 40% of the Mohawk Trail Regional High School families. Through a status confirmation mailing sent out with 1st quarter grades, more parents signed on, bringing the district-wide participation to 47% of the families.

Stoler feels that this initiative has gotten phenomenal participation because of the dedication and staunch support of the school administration, as well as the committee work done by parents who attended meetings and prepared mailings, follow-up mailings, and set up information tables at school sporting and social events. The group put out a resource guide, and, learning from the experience of other Safe Homes Parent Networks in Massachusetts, decided to keep the program on a district level, rather than organize regionally. "It's more difficult to manage regionally, whereas, if you have a committee of parents who are really focused on their neighbors and people in their district, it works much better. I think that's why we got such a big response at Mohawk," said Stoler.

The Social Norms class at Mohawk - a group of students who looked at getting the positive results of the Teen Health Survey out to students - was also approached for input to the

guide. Stoler said, "The students actually took this on as a project, reviewing what has been in other guides, and deciding what they wanted to give some input on. They contributed to content and layout as well as what sort of statistics they wanted in the guide." Stoler added that the six people on the parent committee had final approval of the guide, and decided how they wanted to present the parent information. "They determined that it made most sense to list parents by town because most kids who are socializing at least know what town their friend lives in.

"An enormous asset of this program," said Stoler, "is that it breaks the ice for parents. If you see my name on the list, you know at least that I am open to talking about what's going to be happening at my house. The basic principle is to establish a comfortable communication network. No parent can control 100% of what's going on. A parent could sign on, and their child might still do something behind their back. It's not punitive - it just signals an openness, and an acknowledgment that most parents don't want their children drinking and doing drugs."

Stoler said the program has also come up against some resistance. There are parents who have felt uncomfortable with the name of the program, with the implication that if they don't sign the pledge, theirs' is not a "safe home". That is not the message the program hopes to send, but rather, that whatever family is listed, is open to hearing from other parents, helping to keep tabs on their teenagers, and being there for teens who might feel more assured they'll have less of an opportunity to get pressured into drinking or using other substances.

"Unfortunately, there are some parents who will feel they'd rather have their teens at home drinking, rather than at somebody else's house, or out on the road," Stoler added. Other parents are afraid that signing the pledge makes them more liable if something happens at

their home, which isn't true.

"It's really normal and important for parents to be concerned with what their children are doing in their social lives," said Stoler. "In fact, the community needs to be concerned too."

Community outreach is another important aspect of the program, and critical to its success. Stoler said it's important for law enforcement to be involved with this initiative. "We're hoping it will spread throughout the community, and as people talk about it more, then it becomes the norm that it's not appropriate for underaged kids to be 'using,' whether it's alcohol, drugs, or tobacco," Stoler said. "Most kids aren't drinking, or taking drugs. Most kids aren't even using tobacco, and it's important for parents and community to reinforce that."

The parent and education coordinator at CCT, Michele Houghtaling, is new to the area, having moved here recently from Rhode Island. She hopes to bring the Safe Homes Parent Network to the Gill/Montague Regional School District, with the help of Martin Espinola, who heads Grants and Technology, and is the contact for all the survey work. Nancy Hill, one of the pledges in the Mohawk guide, is a Montague resident who has a child at Mohawk, two foster children at Gill/Montague, as well as two home-schooled children. She believes in the merits of the program. "I'd like to know that if my kids are going to someone's house, that it's a safe place for them to be - that it's agreed beforehand that they'll be supervised. The Safe Homes Network is a great way to have that happen." She would like to see the program come to Gill/Montague. "I think if the Safe Homes Network was more widely known, it would have a lot of participation. It's a great idea."

Houghtaling is very familiar with the Safe Homes Project, having been involved with it in Lincoln, Rhode Island, where it has been well received and successful. Houghtaling is eager to

work with parents, community partnerships and programs to expand the Safe Homes Parent Network to other local school districts. She has also contacted the principal of the Greenfield High School about starting up the program there.

As with Houghtaling, Espinola emphasizes education and awareness as prerequisites to prevention, and he is enthused about trying to bring this CCT program to the Gill/Montague Regional School District. Reducing violence, and the perception of the community being a place dominated by violence, has been a significant issue for the Gill/Montague Community School Partnership. "This is part of a bigger issue that the schools have undertaken with the community," explained Espinola. The Safe Home Parent Network will be "another valuable way for us to bring forward our program of education and awareness, and is part of a much bigger effort to see if we can have an impact on changing the perception of the community. We're concerned that our students feel safe at school and in the community, and we want to do everything we can to foster these kinds of programs, and be able to do more down the road."

Along with community organizations, detective Douglas Brown, from the Montague Police Department, is a Gill/Montague Community School Partnership liaison who also champions the efforts of bringing the Safe Homes Parent Network to the Gill/Montague community. Detective Brown said he appreciates "parents giving teenagers a safe place to hang out, with the parents of the

children going to these houses understanding there will be zero tolerance for substance use/abuse." Brown went on to say, "There are several programs and opportunities for children in our community. The difficulty is getting parents to encourage participation, and to participate with their children. I believe there is a stigma that if you engage in these programs, you have deficiencies in your parenting. This is not true. Every opportunity given to us is an opportunity to learn."

Interested parents are currently being sought to form a Safe Homes Parent Network committee in the Gill/Montague Regional School District. Please contact Martin Espinola at: (413) 863-3252, or email him at: [mespinola@gmrtd.k14-mass.edu](mailto:mespinola@gmrtd.k14-mass.edu). For more information on the Safe Homes Parent Network, contact Michele Houghtaling at: (413) 774-1194 x 119.



## Gill School Carnival

at the Gill  
Elementary  
School  
48 Boyle Rd.



Saturday, May 14th  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Games, pony rides, hayrides, silent  
auction, bake and plant sales  
Famous Gill Firemen's French  
Fries, Burgers and Dogs

## Carriers Needed!

Three different paper routes are available for after school hours on Thursdays on the Hill section of Turners Falls. Contact the *Montague Reporter* at 863-8666 for more details.

## TAG SALE

### Montague Center Fire Headquarters

28 Old Sunderland Road,  
Montague Center  
Proceeds benefit the  
Montague Center Fireman's  
Relief Association

Saturday, May 21st  
from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
(Rain date Sunday, May 22nd)  
Coffee, Doughnuts & Hotdogs provided

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

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# High Level Horse Trading

The horsetrading going on in Montpelier over Vermont Yankee's proposed storage of long-lived, lethally radioactive, high level nuclear waste in dry cask containers on the banks of the Connecticut River has reached a fever pitch. According to a front page article in the May 9th *Brattleboro Reformer*, "the House Natural Resources Committee have been trying for several weeks to frame a deal that would allow Yankee to store its spent nuclear fuel in dry casks." Reportedly, the legislature is seeking an agreement whereby Entergy Nuclear, the nuclear plant's owner, will pony up a certain dollar figure for the right to expand on-site storage of used fuel rods from the rapidly filling seventh story fuel pool to upright metal caskets on a concrete ground level pad.

Entergy has balked at the proposed fee, threatening to shut down the plant, depriving New England of 540 megawatts of electric power and putting its 600 workers on the unemployment line if Vermont tries to make the company pay "rent" for dry cask storage.

Although much effort was made to encourage residents and officials in Massachusetts and New Hampshire to come to a recent public hearing on the subject of long term storage of high level waste on the river, noticeably absent from this jockeying is any mention of monetary benefits for the municipalities or states that would be most affected by any malfunctions at the Vernon site. Gill is a dern sight closer to Vernon than Montpelier is.

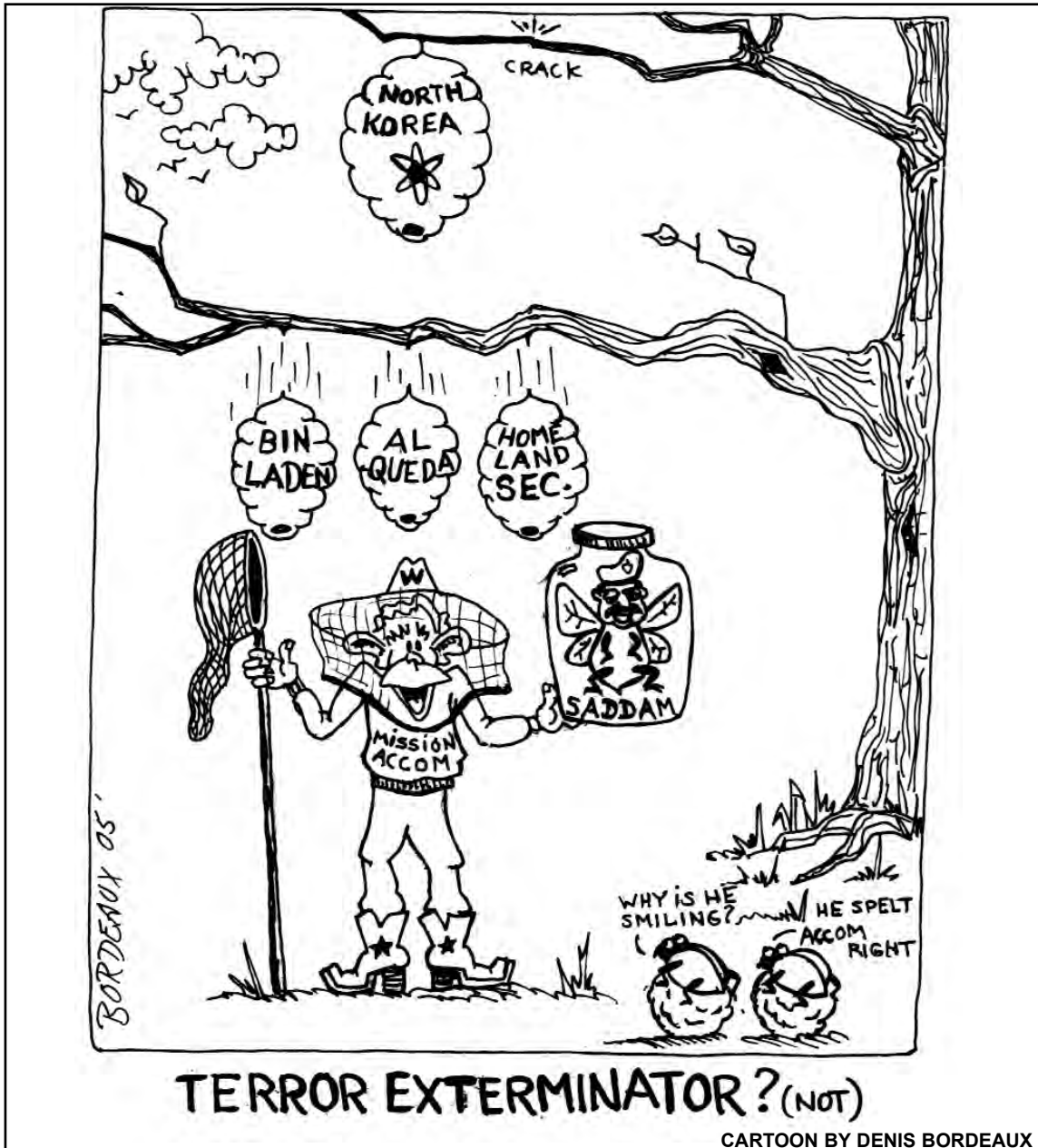
Another problem lies in the design of the casks themselves. Pitched to the Vermont legislature and the public as safe and

reliable, the Holtec Hi-Storm 100 dry fuel storage containers (25 of which are planned for use at Vermont Yankee) is in fact in the experimental stage of production. This week, a last minute intervention by Brattleboro-based citizen advocacy group New England Coalition brought the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's approval of the new Holtec casket design to a screeching halt, even as the legislature debated its approval.

There is no doubt that the present method of storing high level waste high above ground at Vermont Yankee is unsafe. But before Vermont approves a change - which could lead directly to the creation of a permanent repository for highly radioactive material on the banks of New England's largest river - careful consideration of the safety of the new storage units, and the trade-offs if the utility is given the right to use them - should be undertaken.

According to the *Vermont Guardian*, "the Minnesota Legislature in 1994 created a renewable energy fund by charging the owner of the Prairie Island plant for dry cask storage at the rate of \$500,000 per cask per year. That was changed in 2003 to \$16 million a year. As a result, owner Xcel, formerly Northern States Power, has developed approximately 425 megawatts of wind power - almost four-fifths of the power generated by Vermont Yankee - and is now required to produce 10 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2015."

With that kind of power in the offing, maybe a shutdown of Vermont Yankee wouldn't be such a bad idea.



## GUEST EDITORIAL

# One Voice, One Vote

**BY LESLIE BROWN**  
**MONTAGUE CITY** - On a chilly New England day well defined by Shakespeare: "Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May / And summer's lease hath all too short a date," I review the previous one. Gavel to gavel, 8:40 a.m. - 2:55 p.m., with a fifty-minute lunch break, 46 articles at an average of 7 minutes each. Despite the moderator's credible effort to package the initial fifteen articles into one block vote of "yay" or "nay", Saturday's annual town meeting evolved as always: one voice, one vote, one article at a time.

Wanted: citizens willing to sacrifice at least one full day per

annum to sit, study and listen as the minute details of municipal spending are culled, weighed, examined, re-examined one by one until all articles are inspected, laundered and laid out to dry. Guaranteed: mental exercise, boredom, exhilaration and frustration. Each article is punctuated by questions. The questioners are: inquisitive, the serious who have done their homework, reviewing all materials before entering the hall; the posturing who need to have a voice on each vote regardless; the informed who need each detail defined before they decide; the misinformed who require instruction; the lobbyists who have their endless opinions.

After lunch we groan because less than half the articles have been read. Tempers rise. The reasonable is suddenly regarded as unreasonable. All that said, the final motion to adjourn is approved and we leave fatigued but also satisfied because this is democracy after all: one voice, one vote. However flawed the process, in Montague we continue in this intimate, individual format. Unlike more urban areas, we do not vote at remove through a representative. Instead, as individuals, warts, opinions and all, we are heard. This is the democratic process at its best.

**Thank You!**  
 Thanks to Meg Bowman, Steve and Suzette Snow-Cobb, Jeanne Weintraub, Mik Muller, and Fran Dolan for bringing a splash of color to the front page.

**SIGN ME UP!**  
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**The Montague Reporter**  
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**The Montague Reporter**  
**T-Shirts Available Now!**

The Montague Reporter T-Shirts are made of light-weight cotton, with the cool black on gray logo.

They're just \$12 and are available at Rau's Sunoco, the Montague Mini Mart in Montague Center, Cup O'Joe and the newspaper office 24 Third Street in Turners Falls.

**Buy yours now and spread the news!**

*Kathy Litchfield and Arthur Evans model Reporter T's, which debuted at the Arts & Blooms Festival.*

**American Dead in Iraq as of 5/11/05**

**US FORCES**  
 Casualties in Iraq as of this date  
**1,606**  
 Wounded in Action **12,243**  
 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

# Green Lawns Healthy Lawns

The following editorial was inspired by the Healthy Lawn Workshop put on by the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District at the Great Falls Discovery Center on April 7th, led by Ann McGovern of the Mass Department of Environmental Protection.

**BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE**

Each year the advent of spring is met by a certain relaxation of the senses, a calming of the nerves. The worry of high heating bills and icy roads are behind us. The branches of the trees paint the countryside an intense shade of early green, dotted by the blooms of future fruit and fresh flowers. Every evening the drone of lawn mowers can be heard across the neighborhood as the competition intensifies to keep the grass trimmed, weed free and looking just right. Everything is under control.

That perfectly green lawn, the one where the dandelions dare not show their bright yellow flowers, the one being watered in the middle of that hot July day, the one with the children and pets frolicking around, is not, necessarily such a healthy place. The synthetic fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides, and volumes of water only serve to provide the illusion of good health. In reality the countless hours spent spreading, mowing and watering sustain an illusion, one whose financial and environmental cost mounts high.

According to a report by the Pesticide Action Network, each year Americans apply over 90 million pounds of pesticides to their lawns and gardens, or between 3.2 to 9.8 pounds per acre. Commercial agriculture in comparison averages 2.7 pounds per acre and is in decline as the demand for organic agriculture intensifies and the use of IPM or integrated pest management becomes more widespread. According to a report issued by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, 5 to 10 pounds of pesticides are applied to each acre of lawn each year, amounting to well over 80 million pounds per annum nationally. To American homeowners, this translates into well over two billion dollars shelled out each year to keep that preternatural green sheen

glowing on their lawns.

Under federal law, a pesticide is defined as "any chemical designed to kill, repel or mitigate a pest." While the use of such products may be useful in limited situations, their health effects on humans, animals, and water resources can be serious. Pesticides are known to bioaccumulate, which means they travel up the food chain by accumulating over time from one organism to another and from soil, water and air. Consequently, pesticides may run off the land to which they were applied into the groundwater, to the streams and rivers where fish live. The residue is then ingested by fish, and by their predators, which may lead to health effects to the humans at the top of the food chain.

Closer to home, dogs who play on lawns sprayed with pesticides lick their paws. Children who play close to the ground put their fingers in their mouths. Pesticide residue is carried into the house on the soles of shoes. According to an EPA study, this "can increase pesticide loads in carpet dust as much as 400-fold. Pesticides have also been found to persist for years within homes, where they do not degrade from exposure to sunlight or rain." While the EPA carries out such studies, much of the research on pesticides is based on determining what a lethal dose is and not on long-term health effects.

While pesticide use is a health risk, the maintenance of the perfect lawn raises other issues. According to the report by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, "The average lawn consumes 10,000 gallons of water annually, which accounts for 40 to 60 percent of total household use, or 32 gallons of water per person per day." In addition, the use of 40 million lawn mowers, which mainly use two-stroke engines, pollute the air more than automobiles at a rate 11 times greater than a new car for each hour of operation. According to the same report, "One person's time spent mowing the lawn over the course of one year generates the same amount of pollution created by driving a car 16,000 miles."

If you must use pesticides, insecticides, or fungicides of



PHOTOS BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

Sheil LaShire mows her lawn on a sunny afternoon on Turners Falls Road.

any kind, both synthetic or natural, determine the problem you are dealing with first. Then find the product to address the problem and buy only what you need. If the size of the container is too large for your needs, consider asking a neighbor if you can borrow some. Keep in mind that some products deteriorate over time. Read the label carefully and follow the directions. If the manufacturer recommends using gloves, a mask or goggles, do so. Keep other humans and animals at a distance as well. Many problems occur from incorrectly using pesticides.

So what is a homeowner to do who wants a nice lawn? First and foremost it is important to have your soil tested for pH levels and nutrient content. You can do this for \$9 by contacting the University of Massachusetts Soil Testing Laboratory at 413-545-2311 or on the Web at [www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest](http://www.umass.edu/plsoils/soiltest). This will inform you as to the quantity and type of lime to use as well as to your soil's nutrient needs. This may also keep more money in your wallet as you save on the purchase of unnecessary products.

Choose the correct type of seed for your needs. Determine the amount of sun and shade your lawn is subject to as well as its use. A south-facing site used frequently by children at play has a very different need from a shady area used for show. Check the contents of the product you buy to determine if it fits your

needs or ask your local professional. If you must plant grass seed in the spring, do so early and much. However it is best to seed in the late summer or early fall. That is because grass plants need cool weather to properly root. Additionally, the tender plants don't have to survive the stress of hot summer weather.

New or established lawns should only be watered if necessary. Purchase a water gauge or use an empty can to measure the depth of watering in one application. This should not measure more than one inch, which will water the ground to a depth of four to six inches. The more deeply the ground is watered, the longer the roots of the plant will be, allowing them to get water from a greater depth dur-



ing the drier months of summer. In addition, water in the early morning to minimize loss from evaporation due to heat. Watering in the middle of a hot day is wasteful since a great deal of the water evaporates and never reaches the roots of the plant. However, keep in mind that watering in the evening is not recommended either as it keeps the lawn wet overnight which encourages the spread of disease. Finally, grass can turn yellow during the height of the summer heat due to a natural cycle call 'dormancy' whereby the plant adapts to stressful conditions. The grass will turn green again once the rains begin anew.

Before mowing, make certain the blade of the mower is as sharp as possible. It is important to cut the grass cleanly so as not to damage the plant by tearing it. Mow when the grass is dry and set the mowing height at three inches. This maximizes the root depth and helps choke out weeds by shading those plants. In turn this minimizes the need for herbicides, a good environmental and money saving practice. Avoid bagging the clippings as these add valuable nitrogen to the soil, cutting down on the

see LAWNS pg 6

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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Preparing for Town Meeting

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN** - The Wendell selectboard meeting of May 4th was largely a preparation for the annual town meeting, which will take place (tentatively) on Wednesday evening, June 8th at 7:00 p.m. A special town meeting will begin at 6:30

p.m., to tidy up business from this fiscal year, which ends June 30th.

Anne Diemand, from the police department, and Asa de Roode, from the fire department, introduced the board to the new National Incident Management System (NIMS).

NIMS is a new federal program that involves police and fire departments, a member of the selectboard and other town boards, although it is not certain right now which other boards. Chosen members of the town NIMS need to pass a test, and Diemand offered to help people prepare for that test. If the town is NIMS certified it will be eligible for federal grants. Diemand and de Roode agreed to form a town NIMS Advisory Group (NAG) to learn more about what is required, and to pass that information on to the selectboard. In effect forming the NAG gives de Roode an assistant in his role as the town's emergency management director.

Regarding the town meeting article that would authorize money for a full-time professional assessor, Michael Idoine of the finance committee said that Leverett, with twice as many houses as Wendell, has a 20-hour a week assessor, and suggested halving the salary authorized in the article. Selectboard member

Christine Heard suggested that the finance committee talk directly with the assessors and see what their needs are.

Heard asked how the town acquired the vehicles whose cleanup would be authorized by \$20,000 in another article. They were apparently abandoned on property taken by the town for back taxes. The acting clerk said the process for disposing of vehicles was that they be impounded, towed, and an announcement be posted that the vehicle will be disposed of. At that point the town can auction any vehicle that has value.

New Salem has many more students at Swift River School than Wendell, and Heard said that town is really suffering with their increased share of the school budget. Shared town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said the New Salem selectboard is divided, but some members want Wendell to pay a larger share. A meeting was held Wednesday, May 11th at the school to discuss the issue with New Salem officials. Heard said she could

attend, as did board chair Ted Lewis. Idoine said he would attend with the intention of gathering information. He said he would be willing to reconsider the arrangement for determining each town's share, but he was not in favor of paying part of New Salem's share under the present terms. Wendell paid its full share of the budget when more students came from Wendell than from New Salem.

Aldrich said that Seal Lamdeleine, who has been running dances at the town hall, requested a key to the hall to save herself the difficulty of picking it up each time from the custodian. She would pay a \$25 deposit. Keller thought the idea might be OK, but Lewis said the town had to change locks once before because so many keys were out and unaccounted for. Heard suggested the board wait until the end of June when Lamdeleine has to get her approval updated, and then decide.

The board went into executive session at 8:30 to discuss a personnel matter.



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## LAWNS

continued from pg 5

cost of fertilizer, much of which is nitrogen based to give the lawn that dark green color. Since clippings are 80% water, they do not generally contribute to thatch buildup.

If your mower does not have a mulching blade, replace it. Or, buy a manual push mower, get more exercise, spew less fumes into the air and save a bundle of money.

Changing your lawn care approach to one which is beneficial to the environment does not require reinventing the wheel.

Start by having your soil tested. Water only if needed. Buy and apply synthetic pesticides and fertilizers only when needed. Switch to organic products. Start a compost pile and use the contents as fertilizer. Plant bushes and trees instead of lawn. Replace your lawn with an array of indigenous ground covers. Plant a meadow. But whatever you do, work to build your soil so that it is can take advantage of its own resources. Your soil is a living, breathing organism which needs to be fed and nurtured. In the end, your children, your pets and the food you eat will be better off. And besides,

think of what you can do with the money you save!

For more information contact the following organizations:

The Environmental Protection Agency - [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection - [www.state.ma.us/dep](http://www.state.ma.us/dep)

Northeast Organic Farming Association of Massachusetts - [www.nofamass.org](http://www.nofamass.org)

NOFA Organic Land Care Program - [www.organicland-care.net](http://www.organicland-care.net)

Pesticide Action Network of North America - [www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org)

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**NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**

# Mitzkovitz Purchase on May 23rd Warrant

**BY IVAN USSACH** - Jeffrey Dubay treated several townsfolk to a historic new look, donning what he called "human clothes" for his first selectboard meeting after winning the position as a write-in in the recent election. Jacqueline Boyden, after recovering from the shock, remarked she hadn't seen Dubay out of his overalls since about 1985. Dubay's reaction to the attention was lukewarm, and he suggested he might return to his usual duds if the flattery continued. In addition to improving the selectboard's sartorial image, Dubay indicated he planned to continue to serve on the planning board for a time, at least until a new set of zoning by-laws are voted on by the town.

With board chair Andy Tessier absent, the board could not approve the minutes of the previ-

ous week's meeting. In his first order of business, Dubay, along with board member Linda Downs-Bembury, approved two of four articles for consideration by the town at a special town meeting scheduled for May 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at town hall. One of the articles would authorize the selectboard to purchase the 8.23-acre Mitzkovitz parcel on French King Highway for \$165,000. The other article would transfer just over \$15,000 from the undesignated fund balance to the police station project. Citing a potential conflict of interest, Dubay declared himself unable to vote on approving the other two articles for the May 23rd meeting, as they have to do with the planning board.

It was later reported at the meeting that the Mitzkovitz property had been assessed at

\$120,000. The board also approved payment of \$800 for the assessment.

**In other news:**

Town water bills are due May 16th. Payment should be made to Margaret Sullivan, collector, at town hall.

Sullivan, in her capacity as town treasurer, was invited by the board to discuss the complicated matter of Union 28 employees becoming employees of the town for insurance purposes. Sullivan received a letter dated May 6th from Linda Driscoll, school district superintendent, stating that six of the eight Union 28 employees working in the district office are eligible to have their insurance benefit copay match that of Erving town employees. Erving currently pays 86 percent of such costs. "This has repercussions

money-wise," Sullivan told the board. After lengthy discussion, Sullivan and the board agreed there might be a better arrangement than to have them "bounced" to a new town for insurance purposes.

The board voted to accept the \$66,100 bid from Freitas Construction, Inc., of Ludlow, MA for the "replacement of seven sewer manholes." Freitas was the lowest bidder among three companies. The next highest bid was \$99,500.

The board acknowledged receiving a letter from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) concerning the Maple Avenue landfill. The DEP wants additional testing done at the landfill to ensure it is safely closed.

The DEP also sent a letter to the town accepting the report it

recently received from Mike Pierce, operator of wastewater treatment plant #1.

The board noted the resignation of Gary Burnett from the town's Personnel Relations Review Board (PRRB). Burnett was chair of the PRRB, on which he served for many years. Mike Truckey was appointed chair of the PRRB to replace him, and a town citizen is now being sought to fill the open seat.

Fire chief Mick LaClaire visited the board to see if there was a way the town might contribute to the purchase of dress uniforms for fire department members. Several options were discussed, but the board could not approve of dedicating any funds for uniforms at this time. Chief LaClaire and the board also discussed the matter of boarding up the Usher plant.

## Blue Meadow Farm to Close



PHOTO BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

**MONTAGUE** - After 17 years in business, Blue Meadow Farm on Meadow Road is closing. A final sale will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 14th and 15th.

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## NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

# Gill Board Proposes Cuts to Departmental Requests

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**GILL** - The selectboard made recommendations to shave \$80,000 off departmental requests, to bring the town's Fiscal '06 budget into balance in advance of the second half of annual town meeting, set for June 6th. The board's recommendations will be brought to a joint meeting with the finance committee, tentatively scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on May 24th, to seek consensus on the recommended cuts.

Saying, "We're not out of the fiscal crisis yet," board member Phil Maddern took aim at fire

chief Gene Beaubien's request for a \$67,803.80 operating budget. Noting increases in line items for vehicle maintenance (\$1,000), new equipment (\$2,000), professional fees (\$500) and building supplies (\$500), Maddern felt the fire department should be able to live with a 10% overall increase from Fiscal '05, and recommended holding the line at \$62,000 for a total operating budget. The board opposed Beaubien's separate warrant article request for \$30,000 to hire a full-time firefighter, to man the station during the days,

when most of the call firefighters are working out of town. "There's no way we can afford that," said member Ann Banash.

Earlier in the meeting, Beaubien had informed the board of the breakdown, during a training practice, of the town's Jaws of Life. After replacing the cutting blades (for more than \$3,000) during the winter, the hydraulic arms failed in a recent training session. The board recommended Beaubien look into replacing the entire unit, which is 20 years old, rather than purchasing replacement parts piecemeal.

Beaubien also informed the board of the repair cost for a damaged water tank on Engine #1. The board voted to pay the bill for repair, \$3,173.58, from the NMH fund, drawing the balance of that fund down nearly to zero for now.

Looking at the police department request, the board balked at Chief David Hastings' plan for a \$24,987 (14.35%) increase over Fiscal '05. Asking Hastings to shave that request from \$174,152.90 down to \$160,000 (a \$10,000 hike from last year), the board will expect Hastings to cut back mainly in the increase for personnel salaries, the lion's share of the police budget.


The board left intact departmental requests from the highway, (reflecting a third crew member and a 20% increase over '05) and the town clerk (requesting \$10,165.55) and tax collector (asking \$13,114.53). But they sent the assessors back to the drawing board with their request for \$3,000 in computer equipment and a 15-hour-a-

week clerk at \$13 per hour to replace long-time clerk Harriet Tidd, who is retiring at the end of June. The assessors hope to keep Tidd on at 5 hours a week for a full year to train her replacement, but the board questioned the duration of that training. If a new clerk was hired at \$13 per hour, then that person would be expected to have computer skills (which Tidd may lack), and even if they were hired at a lower wage scale, the board felt a year's training would be excessive.

The board heard estimates from highway superintendent Mickey LaClaire for rebuilding the front entrance to town hall (\$4,000, or so) and for paving Barney Hale Road with oil and stone as far as Eddie Ambo's house. LaClaire calculated 6,000 gallons of oil and 252 tons of stone to pave 6/10ths of a mile, for \$14,900. Banash said the board had agreed to ask town meeting before paving dirt roads, and asked to bring the idea of paving Barney Hale to special town meeting in June.

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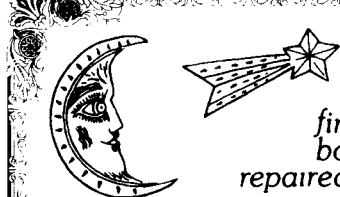
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**NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

# Gee Gets Glowing Review

**BY SARAH PEBWORTH**

GMRSD superintendent Sue Gee met or exceeded all the performance criteria on the school committee 2004-05 evaluation. She is an "effective, conscientious, and committed educational leader," committee chair Joyce Phillips said. Performance criteria categories include communication and public relations, administration and finance, personnel management, and educational and professional leadership.

After summer break, students will be returning to school August 31st, according to the 2005 - '06 school calen-

dar approved at Tuesday night's meeting. While the district considered changing in-service half-days to Wednesdays instead of Fridays, Gee said parents preferred Fridays. School would end June 13th, 2006, if no snow days were needed.

The concert band received special recognition and the jazz band and chorus received first place awards during the music department's annual spring trip, according to Ali Urban, of the Student Advisory Committee. Students from the music department traveled to Virginia and Washington, DC, for the

competition and festival.

Lynn Bassett, director of business and operations, recommended committee members accept the bid from Franklin County Fabricators, Inc. for the Sheffield stair railings. This project is to make the stairs compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). When asked by committee member Sally Shaw how ADA projects were prioritized, Bassett explained that the district works from a budget-driven priority list, although she is concerned because it is six years old and needs updating. "We've made a lot progress

in six years," she noted.

Director of special education and student services Laurie Farkas honored school nurses on behalf of the district. Nurses present to receive flowers were Nina Mason, Sally Maynard, and Vickie Healy. Also honored were Nancy Parks-Mlezcko, Janet DiBiase, and Heidi Shattuck.

After much debate, the school committee did not approve the superintendent's request to have its policy manual put online by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. The association would charge \$3,500

initially and then \$850 annually for the publishing and maintenance of the manual online. The committee will consider having the work done in-house instead.

In personnel changes since April, Jacqueline John, special education paraprofessional in Sheffield, resigned, and the following hires were made: Brian McCarthy, business office manager; Jill Kuehl, special education paraprofessional in Sheffield; and John Fox, alternative education paraprofessional at TFHS.

# Gill History: Facts and Figures

**BY ALLAN ADIE**

**GILL** - Here are a few more excerpts taken from one of the chapters I wrote in the *History of Gill, Volume II*, (copyrighted by the town of Gill, reprinted by permission).

1901 - Iron Bridge at Fall River built near the house of Frank N. Bascomb; appropriated: \$1200, actual cost: \$1507.

1903 - Smallpox epidemic; paid out \$652.23 for supplies and vaccines.

1933 - Earle Squires elected as town clerk and treasurer. Mr. Squires served for 40 consecutive years, retiring in March, 1974.

1944 - Two \$10 bounties paid for wild cats.

1949 - Kenneth Greene, owner and operator of Riverside Taxi, will call for and deliver groceries as well as doing other errands and transporting passengers.

State health officials met with selectmen to discuss sewage situation in Gill.

1950 - After collecting garbage and rubbish from Riverside for 14 years, John Duda discontinued service.

Residents living on dirt roads may purchase calcium chloride and the town will

spread it. Second annual volunteer cleanup of town hall. Men worked outside, women

inside. Supper followed (served by women). Town meeting in March voted to

have a committee of five contact the County Commissioners concerning snow removal and general

conditions of the Turners Falls - Gill bridge.

To this day it is still a problem trying to walk the bridge after a snowstorm.

August hail fell, large as moth balls, destroyed four acres of tobacco ready for cutting at the farm of Joseph Baranowski, West Gill Road. No lights in large section of Center Gill and West Gill from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Farmers using machines to milk and needing electricity for coolers were worried and not certain what to do. The hour-long wind and rainstorm knocked down much corn.

In November, a storm broke 20 panes of glass at the Congregational Church. Parts of town without lights for two days.

*More historical facts and figures next week.*

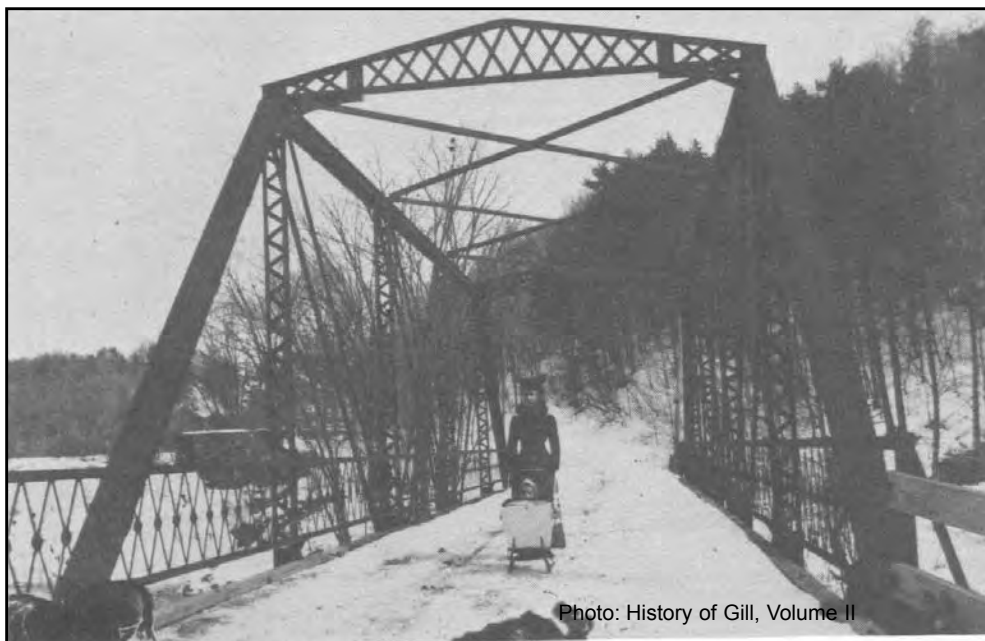


Photo: History of Gill, Volume II

*Iron Bridge from Factory Hollow to West Gill, constructed in 1901 for \$1507*

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# Business is Blooming at Five Acre Farm



PARZYCH PHOTO

*Amy Flagg of Gill, watering a flowering crabapple tree.*

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH NORTHFIELD** - Randall's Five Acre Farm in Northfield is ablaze with color. Perennials, bedding plants, tomatoes and other vegetable plants occupy tables covering the greenhouse floor.

"A nice old couple comes down from Putney, Vermont every spring," cashier, Jeanette Trombley said. "They get the very same plants every year; they're so sweet."

Five Acre Farm has expanded retail sales in a new 16,000 square foot retail greenhouse. Hanging planters now occupy cross members of the replacement greenhouse adjoining their 5,600 square foot showroom. Both are packed with just about every vegetable and flowering plant known to man, and a whole lot more unknown to this man. In addition to retail, Five Acre Farm has a huge wholesale business, dwarfing their

retail business.

"We are going to expand with a new greenhouse covering an acre," owner Bill Randall said. "We're just getting set up; it will be our propagation range."

The new greenhouse will be larger than the area of three football fields. Randall plans to propagate cuttings and plugs for annual starter plants to supply other growers. Either wholesale or retail, the most

popular flowering plants are impatiens, marigolds, petunias, zinnias, ageratums, and begonias. Roses are now on sale, and are also best sellers. Moving well are fruit trees, ornamentals, flowering trees and shrubs. The variety of plants offered seems endless and ever-expanding.

"We always have new varieties each year," master gardener Amy Flagg said. "We have purple hollyhocks and double scarlet hollyhocks this year. We also have, for the first time, columbines in orange and blue.

New too, this year, are "weeping cherry" trees which prove to be popular.

Landscape artist Shane Hammond hauled a cartload of lush shrubs to Jeanette Trombley's cash register, while his partner, Dan Kelleher, lugged a tub-planted purple rhododendron. They plan to make repeat trips, as work progresses on their landscape project. They like to buy their plants at Five Acre Farm because of the quality and the huge choice.

The retail greenhouse sports new ceramic ornamental garden pieces, bird baths, fountains, cast iron ornamental patio furniture, garden benches, and other things to beautify gardens and patios. A large ceramic dog

on display held a basket of flowers - the ideal dog - easy to care for, and beautiful, besides. All you have to do is water it.

Five Acre Farm keeps a large crew of production employees busy growing and shipping plugs and cuttings, finished potting products, annuals and perennials. They ship nationwide, as far away as Alaska. Though the garden center is usually busy, Randall's employees are ready to offer gardening and landscaping advice, whenever requested. The vigorous plants and pleasant atmosphere keeps loyal customers coming, year after year, drawing retail customers come from New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont. Browsing through the displays of flowers and shrubs is a joy in itself, so treat yourself to a sight that will lift your spirits.

Five Acre Farm is located at 108 Hinsdale Road in Northfield, MA, opposite the outdoor movie theatre. For a free catalog illustrated in color, or to order, call 800-221-2049, if you live in Nome, Alaska. If you are a local resident, call 498-2208. But the best thing to do is to take the scenic ride up there to see the plants in living color. Then, treat yourself to a creemee on the way home. You will be glad you did.

## MEETING

continued from page 1

Fund, funded with \$518,000 of the total returned to the town by the school district. This fund is to be used for capital expenditures, rather than operating expenses, ensuring that the money does not become part of the town's regular budget for education. Members also voted to transfer \$300,000 of the funds returned by the school district to the general town stabilization fund to make up for money taken from that to make up a school budget shortfall several years ago.

The articles presented to town meeting members at both the special town meeting and the regular town meeting mostly dealt with money matters. Salaries of elected and appointed officials were fixed for the fiscal year, as they are each year at town meeting, but this time the salaries reflected wage increases recommended in the "Pay and Classification Study," done for the town by Bennett Associates in 2001. The recommendations in that study have been postponed for several years, but this year town meeting members voted to fix salaries the study earmarked as too low at a scale more in line with those in similar towns, to make the town of Montague a more competitive employer.

Town meeting members voted to appropriate funds to

pay the town of Erving for Montague's estimated cost for the yearly operation of the Millers Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant; to authorize town officials to apply for and accept grants; to approve a recycling contract that will earn

ardous materials expenses (into which fees from individuals are placed); to fund the Household Hazardous Waste Program for the sum of \$4500; to appropriate \$310,166 (to be reimbursed by state funds) for various local transportation projects such as

\$10,000 to upgrade the town's computer hardware (specifically to replace the town's main file server); to appropriate \$25,000 to fund an evaluation by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments of the town's sidewalks and roads and to make

Town meeting members also voted to create an Agricultural Commission, with five members who will work for the preservation of agriculture in Montague. Other towns in the Commonwealth have formed Agricultural Commissions to support farms, farming, and farm related businesses. Plans done for the town in 1999, 2003, and 2004 all recommended that such a commission be created.

Funds were appropriated for Montague's share of the Franklin County Technical School yearly operation costs; the total amount, \$640,672, is up 6.8% over the 2005 FY assessment. The increase reflects a slight increase in the number of Montague students attending the Tech School, as well as increases in the cost of health insurance, retirement benefits, utilities, and transportation at the Tech School.

Articles involving matters that may provoke more in depth discussion will be addressed at a special town meeting, tentatively set for Thursday, June 9th. Those articles include the appropriation of money for the Gill-Montague Regional School District and authorization for the town to borrow \$5.7 million to pay for combined sewer overflow mitigation and upgrades of the Waste Water Treatment Plant.



PAINTING BY NINA BANDER

*This acrylic and pastel painting with stainless steel foil, entitled "Block Grant" by Nina Bander, was inspired by community block grant developments and improvements "in abstract, fanciful form."*

Montague \$15.67 per ton of recyclables in addition to a share of the revenue that results from the sale of those recyclables; to reauthorize funds related to dog licensing and haz-

repaving roads; to appropriate \$30,000 for a new police cruiser as part of the town's annual cruiser replacement cycle; to lease or buy various vehicles for the DPW; to appropriate

some improvements to sidewalks; to appropriate funds to make improvements to selected town libraries and schools, and to fencing at Unity Park as well as the Unity Park field house.

## Learning to Fly Fish Part 6

## Enough About Me: Let's Fish

BY ARIEL JONES

**THE OZARKS** - I am writing from Lakeview, a small community located in the Ozark Mountains in north central Arkansas. Frustrated with the continued highwater levels and cold weather this spring in Massachusetts, I decided to fish awhile in Arkansas.

The countryside here in the Ozarks is lovely, set in rolling hills with a great variety of lush vegetation and clean rivers and lakes. The White River, the Northfork River and Bull Shoals Lake in particular are famous for their beauty and great fishing. Trophy rainbow and cutthroat and large brookies are found here. In the lake, created by Bull Shoals dam, amazing small and largemouth bass abound. There are abundant resorts, guide services and boat rentals available to make fishing a great experience year round.

**Finding a Guide**

Before leaving home, I called my cousin Jack to see if he might like to rent a guide and boat for a day. He was game, so I looked up the White River online and printed out guide service information. The day after I arrived, I gathered my maps of the area and went in search of a service to book for the following week. I visited a few places, all lovely, some



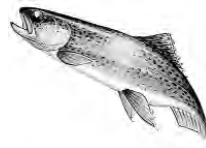
ARIEL JONES PHOTO

Clint Wilkinson brings in a Rainbow on the Northfork River in Arkansas.

with beautiful accommodations overlooking the river. Cruising down Highway 62 in Gassville (population a little over 1,000) I spotted a fly fishing retail shop which announced guide services, and I pulled in.

To the right of the entrance to White River Fly Fishing two men were busy at a table, tying flies. At the main desk a friendly young woman named Danielle greeted me and we began to chat. She had moved to Gassville from Bloomington, Indiana four years ago, met Clint, the owner, tried fly fish-

ing, and stayed. At last I met another woman who had become entranced (obsessed is perhaps more accurate) with fly fishing! She could hardly wait to show me a photo of herself with the 10 pound rainbow she'd caught last year. It was probably eight pounds, given that all fishermen are liars, but who cares? That's a terrific fish to catch and even harder to land. Of course, I



booked a date with Clint as guide for the following week.

**The Big Day**

My cousins arrived on Sunday, and Jack and I were up at 6 on Monday morning to a cloudless, sunny sky. Snatching some coffee and my mother's ever-present (and delicious) donuts, we took off to meet our guide, Clint Wilkinson, owner of White River Fly Fishing. He said we were going to the Northfork River, which joins with the White. I knew of the 4½-mile long Northfork, but I

was at first disappointed. The White River is very famous and attracts fly fishers from all over the world. Both rivers provide tailwater fishing below their dams.

However, the larger dam at the White was releasing a lot of water and was too high, and dangerous, for good fishing. The water at the Northfork dam had been turned off for 24 hours and the river level had lowered to perfection for both fishing from the driftboat and for wading.

Clint hitched up the trailer with the 20' driftboat on it and we headed for the Northfork River. On the way he talked to us about these rivers and about the trout that live in them.

Why are these particular rivers so ideal? The cold water released from the dams year around is a perfect temperature for trout habitat. The mild climate of Arkansas provides good conditions for year around fishing. Both rivers are nutrient rich, supporting freshwater shrimp, sow bugs and forage fish. Trout grow very large in such an ideal environment, up to one inch per month. The Arkansas State Department of Game and Fish stock hundreds of thousands of trout a year. These healthy, fast growing fish grow big and fight hard.

To be continued next week . . .

## Planting Seeds for Children's Futures



DETMOLD PHOTO

At Sheffield School Career Day, environmental educator Dawn Ward shows the students her patented bug box. "Here's where the bug chewed a hole in the mesh..."

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** - "At the elementary level, it's about planting the seeds, getting the kids to think about the possibilities." That's how school counselor Kevin White described the meaning of Career Day at Sheffield Elementary, a school-wide extravaganza that brought professionals from all walks of life into the classrooms on Friday, May 6th. "People from the community come into the schools and interact with the students. It's a day for them to share what they do; it really helps the kids understand the work and get a sense of the paths people take to get there," said White.

Among the dozens of presenters this year were a children's librarian, a pomologist (apple scientist), a bus dri-

ver, an animal groomer, a truck driver, and Robert Charboneau, a railroad conductor.

Charboneau, of Greenfield, told an intent semi-circle of children in Amy Berman's classroom that he was following in the career path his family had laid out before him. "My dad and granddad worked for the railroad," he said. He showed an antique kerosene lantern that had been handed down in his family, it's wick trimmed and ready. Conductors use battery operated lanterns now, of course, and radios, but the old red signal flags, on the back of every train, (so we know we have all of our cars) are still in use, as are fusees, red flames used for emergencies (rather like bottle rockets in appearance), to tell other trains there is danger up ahead.

see CAREERS pg 12

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## CAREERS

continued from pg 11

Being a conductor is a weighty responsibility, and Charboneau studied hard to learn all the codes and signals needed for switching out cars and maintaining safety along the line. Putting the matter in simple terms, "One engine weighs 300 tons," he told the kids. "About the weight of 150 elephants. The cars weigh 35 tons, about the weight of 17 elephants."

Charboneau said switching out the cars on the lengthy freights was a complicated procedure, involving rolling cars down a grade to switch tracks, and carefully logging their destination and inventories. This becomes more complicated in heavy snow, when the cars won't roll. Then they have to be switched out using an engine.

The kids had several questions for Charboneau. "Do you have to work at night?" (Yes, but no more than 12 hours at a stretch.) "Don't you get tired?" (Sometimes.) "Do you wear steel toed boots?"

Curiously, the answer to this, for Charboneau anyway, was no. He said sometimes heavy pieces of steel, like the knuckles that couple the cars together, can suddenly drop out of position, and if you're not careful, cause severe injury. If one of these heavy pieces drops on the steel toe of a boot, it can sever toes. Still, he assured the kids, "It can be dangerous, but it's a fun job, too. Except when it's raining out."

Charboneau said it's common to use two, three or even

four engines to pull lengthy freight trains across country. "Each engine can pull about 3,000 tons," he said. "Sometimes the trains stretch out over a mile long, 100 cars or more.

That's a lot of elephants.

Encouraging the youngsters to think about the possibility of a career in the natural sciences, environmental educator Dawn Ward displayed skulls she had found on forest walks, turkey feathers that could be used - and were - as quill pens, and a bug box she had made with a mesh screen its occupant had neatly chewed through to fly the coop. The kids inspected her menagerie with interest, as she told tales of elongated beaver teeth and the trees these oversized rodents chew through to prevent serious overbites.

Ward pitches her presentations to the age level of her audience, which can range from pre-schoolers to third or fourth graders. For the younger children, she uses finger puppets, play-dough (for imprinting animal tracks), songs and children's books, like Paul Stewart's *A Little Bit of Winter*, which she paged through quickly for her present audience. She asked her listeners if they could identify the animal pictured on the book's jacket, and one lad correctly guessed, "A hedgehog."

Hedgehogs, it turns out, are not the same as porcupines, the waddling, spiny creatures common to the New England landscape. Hedgehogs are denizens of *Old England*, whether of hedgerows or meadows, and, unlike their New World herbivorous cousins, they are meat-



Robin Williams gets a taste of the prisoner's life in the back of state trooper Dennis Eugin's patrol car. "I'll study harder," he promised.

eaters.

Showing off a moose antler, which had been nibbled along one edge, Ward speculated a passing chipmunk or squirrel had made a meal on the moose's discarded bony growth, seeking calcium, she thought. She held up a turtle shell, showing how the turtle's backbone was actually fused to the shell, making it's protective plates very much part of its body, unlike a snail's shell. And she held up a snapping turtle's bleached head and jaw, at which point one of the more squeamish adults left the room.

In the relative safety of Officer William Doyle's presentation on how to grow up to be a police officer, a packed room of listeners found out, "The main thing police officers do is to help people. Unless they've done something really bad." He looked around the room meaningfully.

"Like rob a bank or blow up a store or something." The kids looked at each other, and then back at Doyle, who told them, "If you want to be a police officer, the main thing you need to do is start now by behaving yourselves. Get good grades. When you're 18, you can apply to be a police officer."

One young girl said admiringly, "Then you get a pretty uniform?"

"There's a little more to it than that," Doyle told her.

"How do you know if someone's driving drunk?" demanded another student.

"You have to talk to them and find out." Doyle talked to the children about attending the police academy in Agawam and getting trained to handle firearms safely.

He asked them what they would do if they came across a handgun or other firearm.

"Tell your parents."

"That's right. What's the one thing you don't do?"

"Pick it up."

"That's right. Guns are so dangerous. Bullets could go flying and harm or kill someone

you love."

"Do you have a police dog?" one student wanted to know.

Doyle explained that Officer Dempsey took care of the department's police dog, Kyra. "A police dog has a great nose and can find people if they are lost. Or if people are up to no good and run into the woods, Kyra can track them and find them."

"Can the dog understand you?"

"The dog understands Officer Dempsey."

"Could your dog learn to be a police dog?" another youngster wanted to know.

"I don't think so," Doyle admitted. "My dog doesn't seem to be too bright."

The kids enjoyed this admission, and it set off a round

of comparison between their dogs and K-9 Kyra.

Meanwhile, Doyle displayed a bulletproof vest and a defibrillator, and told about what police do as first responders to accidents or medical emergencies.

"If you see our blue lights flashing and our sirens wailing, it means 'Watch out, Get out of our way!' We might be racing to help somebody."

The kids knew what a defibrillator was already and how to use one. They'd seen it all on an episode of *Sponge Bob Square Pants*.

And so, another chapter in

another successful Career Day at Sheffield School, as the kids went from room to room sampling a vast array of possible future trades and occupations.

"Some people have one career their whole life while others change mid-career," noted counselor White. "It



Railroad conductor Robert Charboneau demonstrated hand signals to the kids at Sheffield School.



Officer William Doyle displays a bulletproof vest to the students, who had a lot of questions. "How come you drive so fast?" "Sometimes we have to," Doyle replied.

## NOISE continued from pg 1

"They're ours to deal with," she said, adding she wanted to see how successful the new regulations were at meeting this summer's issues. However, she said, "We don't expect a lot of trouble."

Ross was not as optimistic in regard to the frequency with which such regulations might be used. Additionally, he had serious concerns about the effect of prolonged loud noise on one's health. "Generating noise in an entertainment facility is dangerous. It can damage your hearing. It is not purely social. It's a health issue too," he said. However, Ross said he felt the new regulations were enforceable, reminding residents of the exceptions incorporated in them.

According to the regulations, "Excessive noise at unreasonable hours shall be required to be muffled so as not to be objectionable due to intermittence, beat frequency, shrillness or volume. Failure to do so will be a violation of this regulation." But what about emergency vehicles, parades, specially permitted events, agricultural equipment, hunting, church bells, construction and certain street performers? They are all exempt as long as they operate

within approved zones, under license, and at the appropriate times of day. The police department will enforce the new noise regulations.

Chief Zukowski said he had spoken with the police departments of both Amherst and Northampton, who told him they rarely used their own noise regulations. According to Zukowski's recommendations, the non-criminal violations of the new regulations would be punishable by fines payable to the town tax collector, and would only become a matter for the courts if the fines were not paid. A first violation would be

punishable by a \$50 fine, a second violation within 12 months would receive a \$100 fine and any violations thereafter within that same 12-month period would be subject to a \$200 fine and the possibility of having a license revoked. Zukowski added the offenders would have the right of appeal.

### Waidlich Honored

In other business, the selectboard unanimously approved a request by town planner Robin Sherman to rename the Montague Conservation Trust Fund, created in 1966 to protect farmland and other natural

resources, now to be known as the Henry G. Waidlich Conservation Trust Fund. Waidlich, who just turned 85, has served on nearly every board and committee in Montague including the selectboard and finance committee, was a founder of the trust and convener of the Millers Falls Watershed Conservation Commission. The board endorsed the proposal to rename the trust in Waidlich's honor with great enthusiasm.

### Pre-Town Meeting, June 2nd

Sherman also requested that a pre-town meeting be set for

Thursday, June 2nd at the Discovery Center. Sherman was concerned that the special town meeting set for June 9th, a continuation of the annual town meeting of May 7th, faced some large and complicated issues that needed discussion prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

John Reynolds suggested that a flier be sent to members to inform them of the scope and content of the special meeting. The board agreed to Sherman's suggestion and tentatively approved the request to schedule a pre-town meeting.



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## Open Swim

Open Swim is back! Montague Parks and Recreation would like to announce the Open Swim program will continue through June 17th. Open Swim is held in the evenings at the Turners Falls High School indoor swimming pool on the following days and times: Monday - Family Swim from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Adult Lap Swim from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Wednesdays - Family Swim from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Adult Lap Swim from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Thursdays - Family Swim from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Adult Lap Swim from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Youths under 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For more information contact MPRD at 863-3216.



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\* Union 28 is the elementary schools in Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury, and Wendell.

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## THE HEALTHY GEEZER

# The Toxicity of Grapefruit Juice

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. My daughter heard that grapefruit juice can be toxic for some people. Is that true?

- Surprised, in Altoona, PA

The juice, itself, is not toxic, but you should be careful taking medicine with any grapefruit.

Grapefruit juice can raise the level of some medications in the blood. The effect of grapefruit was discovered after using juice to mask the taste of a medicine. So, be sure to ask your doctor or pharmacist if it is safe to have grapefruit with your medications.

Taking medicine can be hazardous to your health. You have to know what you're doing.

For example, calcium-rich dairy products or certain antacids can prevent antibiotics from being properly absorbed into the bloodstream. *Ginkgo biloba* can reduce the effectiveness of blood-thinning medications and raise the risk for serious complications such as stroke.

You should educate yourself so you know what active ingredients are in the prescription and over-the-counter medicines you are taking.

Some people treat over-the-counter pain relievers as if they are harmless. They can hurt you if you take them improperly.

They contain drugs such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, naproxen sodium and aspirin. Acetaminophen is in Tylenol. Ibuprofen is in Advil. Naproxen sodium is in Aleve.

Many prescription or over-

Seniors take more medicines than any other age group because they have more health problems. Taking several drugs a day presents dangers. Here are some more tips to avoid these hazards:

Always inform your doctor or pharmacist about all medicines you are already taking, including herbal products and over-the-counter medications.

Tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about past problems you have had with medicines, such as rashes, indigestion or dizziness.

Don't mix alcohol and medicine unless your doctor or pharmacist says it's okay. Some medicines may not work well or

may make you sick if you take them with alcohol.

The best advice is this: Don't be afraid to throw a lot of questions about your medicines at your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. Here are some good ones:

When should I take it? As needed, or on a schedule? Before, with or between meals? At bedtime?

How often should I take it?

How long will I have to take it?

How will I feel once I start taking this medicine?

How will I know if this medicine is working?

If I forget to take it, what should I do?

What side effects might I expect? Should I report them?

Can this medicine interact with other prescription and over-the-counter medicines - including herbal and dietary supplements - I am taking now?

And, ask your pharmacist to put your medicine in large, easy-to-open containers with large-print labels.

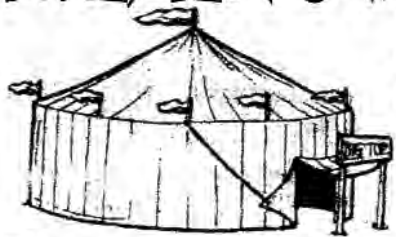
If you have a question, please write to [fredcicetti@gmail.com](mailto:fredcicetti@gmail.com).



ILLUSTRATION J. HARMON

the-counter medicines that treat multiple symptoms, such as cold and flu medications, also include acetaminophen and the other pain-relieving ingredients. So you have to be careful not to take too much of any one ingredient by ingesting more than one medication that contains that ingredi-

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Session 1: May 22 6:30 pm

with Wesley Blixt

Finding the Story and Developing the Lede -

What really IS "the" story, and what makes it important? How editors choose d'news. (participants should bring two things to class - a news story that you REALLY like or REALLY hate. And one you have written.)

Session 2: May 29 6:30 pm

with David Detmold

Reality Journalism - staying awake at Board Meetings

and keeping your readers up with you. Finding the drama in the drollery of daily small town doings.

Session 3: June 5 6:30 pm

with Wesley Blixt

Ethical Questions in Community Journalism -

Covering cops - and other unnatural disasters

Covering Municipal Government - City vs. Town

How it works ... who it works for.

Attribution - The in's and out's of hesaid /shesaid

Da Law - Your rights under the Open Meeting and

Public Records laws - Libel - Plagiarism

General Guidelines: Things to Bring - Bring a note-

book and writing implement. Mud tablets and stylus, quill and parchment, laptops, chisel and marble slabs, OK. Pizza and beverages provided for participants. Eating, drinking, talking out loud, intrusive questions & other disruptions are encouraged.

Wesley Blixt is a teacher, reporter, writer and activist who has lived in Franklin County for over 25 years. He wrote for the Springfield Union News and Sunday Republican for more than a decade, most recently as an investigative reporter covering criminal justice issues. He has taught writing and journalism at UMass, Deerfield Academy, and Bard College, and is the author of an unpublished novel "SKATERS," set largely in Turners Falls.

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# My Favorite Warblers

BY FRAN HEMOND

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - The warblers, lovely, lively, elusive. Some forty are listed as eastern birds, but most of us casual birders will be lucky if we have half that number on our life lists. A winter with accommodating water birds, whose good size and slow movements permit careful study with binoculars, makes identifying the diminutive warblers a challenge. Too, the little birds in the woods do not have the protection of a span of water to keep observers at bay, so they are prone to flight at the sound of approach.

Many warblers winter as far south as Central and South America. In May, they are migrating north and will nest in our woodlands. One Memorial Day some years ago, an early morning bird trip in Vermont's woody hills provided more bird sightings and bird song than three seekers could count.

Though you never know which warblers will come into your view, there are a few that are relatively common. My favorite warblers are those whose song is unmistakable. A common yellowthroat who nested each year on a damp hillside thicket made for easy identification. He repeated, "witchety, witchety, witchety," *ad infinitum*, flouted his black mask and yellow breast and tan back from his safety in the brambles, regularly serenading a lady who perhaps thought his song musical. Roger Tory Peterson is more charitable than I, calling it a "bright rapid chant." The yellowthroat does

fix his song on your memory, and you will be happy to recognize him anywhere.

Another little fellow whose

sharp tone. He is not supposed to be easily sighted, but this little brown bird with an orange stripe on his head and a striped breast may be found walking along on a woody path on a woodsy path. Again, his call will not let you forget him.

In the same woodland you may well see a yellow warbler. He lives up to his name. He's yellow all over with red streaks on his breast; his song is a happy series of

tweets. He's kind of a sunshine bird, that doesn't have to stay around too long to be identified. You'll probably find him singing mid-high in a tree.

If you become interested in bird watching, an unusual sight-

ing can make your day. It's a good hobby, with or without company. You will need a book to help you identify, binoculars to make it easier, and the rest of your life to keep looking. Among the warblers, you will love the redstart, whose lady is distinctive herself, the black and white warbler, who is just that, and, of course, our myrtle warbler who withstood a name change a few years ago to yellow rump, but seems to have returned now to his original moniker.

Those warbler woods are miles and days away. But here, the sun breaks through. The flowering quince stirs in a light breeze and gives life to a new, bright scene. A house finch stops by briefly, a spot of purple in the rhododendron, and the ubiquitous robins, eight inches of purposeful hopping and worm digging, recall me to the real and solid world outside the window.



A black and white warbler

persistent call is easy to recognize is the oven bird, so-called because the nest is built low to the ground. Kids who cherish outdoor freedom may not be happy that he repeats "teacher, teacher, teacher," in a rather

## OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

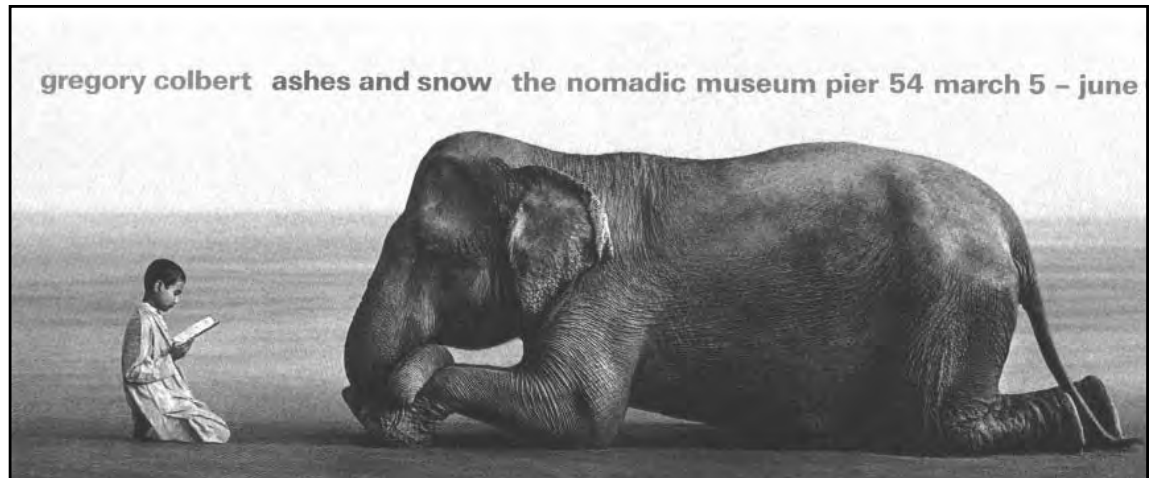
# A Nomadic Museum Docks at Pier 54

BY FLORE

**MANHATTAN** - Some of us remember, that grand first contact with the Newfoundland, America!

Nothing like arriving amidst the dancing waters, holding tight, New York in its harbor. The tugboats were all over the place, directing the ocean liners to their personal docks. Unbelievable, to think, it took five days at sea from Cherbourg, France! *Bonjour, le mal de mer*, if the crossing was

particularly rough! I did it several times; crossing the Atlantic really put the city back in its proper human scale. Now, just walk over the Chelsea docks, the sensation is the same. In fact it is the best way to venture towards that Nomad ship. You read me right! Yes, this incredible 45000 square foot temporary vessel, built of recycled material, shipping containers for its walls, paper tubing for its roofs and columns, holds an impressive magnificent exhibit:



gregory colbert ashes and snow the nomadic museum pier 54 march 5 - june

*Ashes and Snow*. The giant photographs and accompanying 35mm film are the work of the talented Gregory Colbert, on display in a gigantic, floating cathedral! The show explores our capacity for sharing the animals' world of wonders, interacting with our human ways. "There will come a time when the lion will lie quietly by the lamb," *inoublable*, a must see, even if you have to row there! The museum, however, will pack up on June 16th and go to a different port of the globe! So, don't delay its discovery! To bring back the heyday of water-

fronts, this floating museum is the brainchild of Shigeru Ban, a gifted, visionary architect whose primary concerns are utilizing structural lightness and efficiency. The dissolution of boundaries between exterior and interior, as Frank Lloyd Wright explored, plus economical means of constructing such buildings. How would you like to sit on a paper chair? Live in a paper log house? Pray in a paper church? Quoting Ban in a lecture he gave two years ago in Milan, Italy: "Even in a disaster area, I want to create beautiful buildings, to build a monument

for common people." To further the discovery, get the book on him:

*Shigeru Ban*, edited by Papress, Princeton.

*Bon voyage!*

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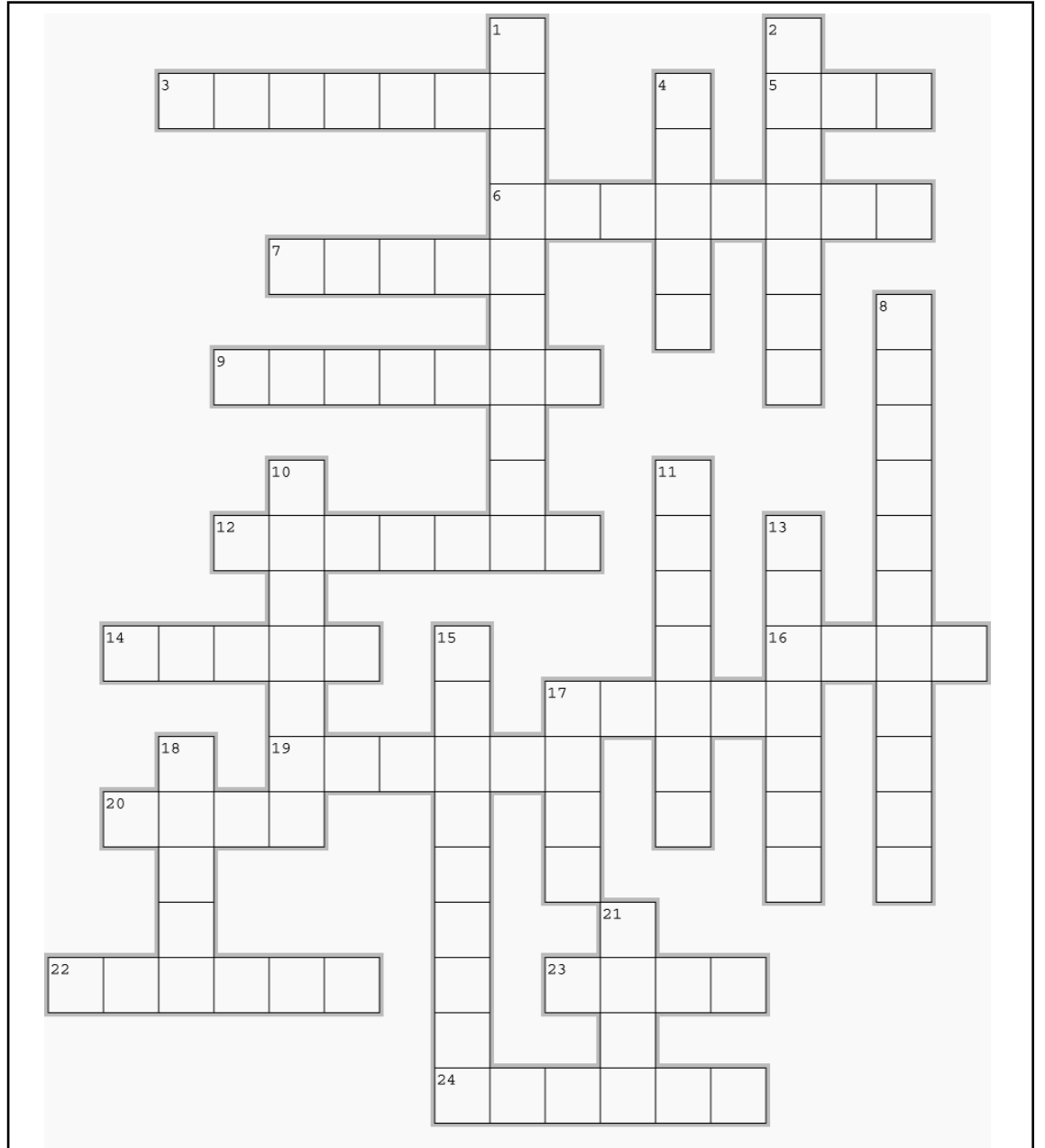
by Bette Black

**Across**

- 3. Pay no attention to the man behind it.
- 5. What Tin Man first asked Dorothy for.
- 6. Guild represented in Oz.
- 7. It falls on the Wicked Witch of the East.
- 9. Age of Judy Garland during the shooting of the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*.
- 12. In Oz, these fly.
- 14. What the Tin Man asks the wizard for.
- 16. What the magic slippers are made of.
- 17. What Scarecrow asks the wizard for.
- 19. She's the Good Witch of the North.
- 20. Dorothy's last name.
- 22. Professor Dorothy meets after running away from home.
- 23. There's no place like it.
- 24. Cowardly Lion definitely believes in these as he nears the witches castle.

**Down**

- 1. He's married to Auntie Em.
- 2. The field-full which puts Dorothy to sleep.
- 4. Distinctive characteristic that distinguishes Oz from Kansas.
- 8. The road that must be followed.
- 10. What Cowardly Lion asks the wizard for.
- 11. What the city in Oz is made of.
- 13. Meteorological phenomenon featured in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.
- 15. Little people of Oz.
- 17. He wrote *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, published on his birthdate of May 15th in 1900, and the stage production in 1902.
- 18. It caused the demise of the Wicked Witch of the West.
- 21. Dorothy's little dog.



**OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**

## Right On Sisters

BY FLORE

Haven't we come a long way! Not separated from men-folks, but working together, in fruitful unison?

Take time to ponder yesterday's women's cultural setup, during the celebration of this National Women's Health Week (May 8th - 14th).

Bear in mind, too, the celebration is an everyday glorious event and around the clock!

According to statistics, an average American woman gave birth to seven children. That

was back in the 1800s. Something worth considering, now!

Sixty years later, however, the birth rate declined progressively, due to a visionary Englishwoman named Mary Stopes, who opened the first center in London in 1920, making contraception generally available to women for the first time.

On this side of the world, it was Margaret Sanger who brought the birth control issue to the forefront in America.

These two fought fearlessly to convince the world, birth control was not only a right but a necessity. Sanger was responsible for opening the first birth control clinic, in 1917, in Brooklyn, but after much protest, demonstrations and rows, the center had to quickly shut down.

Coming back to our present time, the census of children

dropped to three offspring per middle class family. The United States has 60 million women of child bearing age, of whom only 64% practice some type of contraception.

Facing tight cultural boundaries in other countries, the womenfolk rely on their supportive sisters in other parts of the world. Remember, it is still regarded as sinful in many reli-

gious practices to control births.

Guess the size of our population all over our beautiful blue planet? Six and a quarter billion people. By the time we reach 2050, brace yourself: 9.1 billion! If we are to remain the most daring, yet the most inventive, aren't we, human beings, along with all the other species we endanger, worth saving?

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## SOFTBALL

continued from pg 1

home Girard to give Turners Falls a 2-0 lead.

In the second inning Girard retired Hopkins in order again, striking out two batters. Turners Falls got things going again in the bottom of the inning when Jaclyn Bastarache reached first base on an error. With two out, the never-say-die Girard smashed another double to score Bastarache. Kellie Brown followed with another single to give Turners a 4-0 lead after two innings.

In the top of the third Hopkins mounted their first threat of the night. After getting the first out, Girard walked a batter and second baseman Jillian Sicard committed an error to put players on first and second. With two out, Girard threw a wild pitch

to move the runners to second and third, but retired the next batter to get out of the inning with no runs scored.

In the fourth inning, Turners Falls broke the game open with two out and a runner on second base. Turners nailed four big hits in a row. Katie Kidder and Shelby Landeck had back-to-back RBI singles, followed by an RBI single by Allison Murphy who made it all the way to third on a Hopkins error. Kim Lastowski knocked in another run to make the score 8-0.


Katie Sylvain got a single in the sixth inning for the Golden Hawks to break up Girard's no hitter. In the bottom of the sixth Turners Falls outfielder Allison Murphy ripped a deep fly ball for a triple, but was thrown out at the plate trying to stretch it to a home run.

Coach Mullins pulled

Girard for freshmen relief pitcher Danielle Sullivan in the 7th inning. Sullivan allowed two base runners, but got out of the inning without allowing any runs.

Turners Falls ace Girard had a superb night, going 6 innings, allowing no runs, 1 hit, with 8 strikeouts, and 2 walks. Girard also had a good night at the plate going 2-3 with 2 doubles, 2 RBIs, and a walk.

The lights and the new softball field gave the Indians a very professional looking playing field. Music blared before the game and between innings to keep the big crowd entertained.

The Indians took their show on the road Wednesday, whomping Frontier 5-1. Their next home game is on Friday, May 13th against Athol at 7 p.m. Lights, camera,  championship action.



PHILIPPE DEGUISE PHOTO

Turners ace Julie Girard bears down during Wednesday's game, pitching her team to a 5-1 victory over Frontier.

## TREES


continued from pg 1

streetscape trees in Turners Falls have fared better than similar plantings in other towns. But in general, in urban settings the crowding of asphalt and brickwork around the roots and wounds from plows, mowers and trimmers reduce the average life of trees to 12 years from the far longer lives in forest settings.

Snow noted that although proper mulching is the best assurance of strong root-growth, mulch that smothers the base of the tree - and the

practice of setting a root ball too deep during planting -- will stunt growth or harbor insects and rodents that attack the trees. It appeared to him that extensive beautification of Avenue A occurred perhaps 20 years ago, so some trees show the effects of trunk damage and insect or disease infestation. It was heartening to hear that the planter sizes are not automatically bad, but it is clear that the choice of trees and limited root areas in some locations will result in dying specimens over time. Snow strongly favors the placement of sidewalks next

to streets, and setback planting of trees away from cars, to minimize damage from plows and expand the area available to growing roots. But he recognizes this conflicts with the goal of separating pedestrians from cars.

Members of the recently named Greening Committee were part of the tour, and their advice to the tree warden and town staff should be informed by this review from an experienced forester. Working together, we should be able to keep the Avenue blooming for many springs to come. 

## Spring on the Avenue



DETMOLD PHOTO

The flowering crabs and ornamental cherries in Turners Falls are in full bloom, delighting pedestrians with their color and fragrance.

### Religious Services

#### Baptist

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

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

#### Christian Science

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

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

8514 Sunday at 10 a.m.

#### Congregational

Gill Congregational Church, Main Rd., 863-8613 Sunday at 10 a.m.

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

#### Episcopal

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

#### Friends (Quakers)

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

#### Jewish

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

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

#### Lutheran

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

#### Nondenominational

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

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

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

#### Roman Catholic

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St. John's, 5 Church St., Millers Falls, 659-3435  
Saturday at 4:15 p.m. and Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

St. Mary's of the Assumption, 80 Seventh St., Turners, 863-2585  
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#### Salvation Army

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

#### Unitarian Universalist

All Souls, 399 Main St.,

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

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

#### United Church of Christ

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

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

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

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HOME COOKING

Here is a recipe Mitzi Koscinski of Turners Falls sent in for Barbecued Sauerkraut We encourage other readers to send in their favorite recipes, along with any introductory remarks they might like to share, to:

Montague Reporter, 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376, or via email to: reporter@montaguema.net

Mitzi Koscinski's Barbecued Sauerkraut

This a good side dish to serve at any backyard barbecue. It's similar to kapusta. This recipe serves at least ten or twelve.

- 1/2 cup oil
2 onions, chopped
2 large cans sauerkraut
2 green peppers, chopped
1 large can Italian tomatoes
5 tablespoons sugar

Brown peppers and onion in oil. When browned, add to-



WOODBLOCK BY MARY AZARIAN

atoes and cook all together for 30 minutes on top of the stove. Drain the sauerkraut and mix all together. Bake in a casserole dish at 300 degrees for one and a half hours. Can be doubled for a crowd.

CORRECTION:

Due to a layout error in last week's issue, we left the final line off Mitzi's Stuffed Pepper recipe. We reprint the entire recipe below.

Mitzi Koscinski's Stuffed Peppers

Ingredients:

- 6 large green peppers
1 1/2 pounds pork sausage
2 cups seasoned mashed potato
1/2 teaspoon paprika
1/8 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup chopped onion
1 egg, beaten

- 1/4 teaspoon sage
2 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese

Lightly brown sausage and onions. Pour off drippings. Combine with potatoes and rest of ingredients. Top and core peppers; remove seeds. (You

may also cut peppers in half, to remove cores and seeds, and stuff them that way.) Parboil peppers two or three minutes. Spoon mixture into peppers. Bake in a 12 x 8 inch baking dish at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.

Hot New Teen Disc

BY JARED LIBBY

TURNERS FALLS - The latest installment of the Avenue A Music Project's compilation CD is almost here! Teens have been working to record music at the Hot Spot Teen Center's recording studio since last fall, and are working on the art design for the CD's packaging.

The Avenue A Music Project is a program of the Brick House Community Resource Center at

24 Third Street in Turners Falls. The program allows for drop-in time to learn about writing, playing, and recording music. This is the third CD produced by the Avenue A Music Project since the fall of 2003. Featuring 18 tracks by local teens, the CD will be available for \$5 at the teen center as well as at open mic events.

Friday, May 27th will mark the official CD release date.

There will be a CD release party and open mic at the teen center that evening from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Those who have taken part in producing the CD will receive their copies in an informal ceremony, and the CDs will be available for sale that evening as well.

For more information, contact Jared Libby, Brick House Youth Programs Coordinator at 413-863-9559.

CLASSIFIEDS: \$5 FOR 20 WORDS RUN SAME AD TWICE, THIRD WEEK FREE MONTAGUE REPORTER 24 THIRD STREET TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

Table with 4 columns and 7 rows for classified ads. Row 6 contains the text '.10 for each additional word'.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

## FRIDAY, MAY 13TH

Live music and poetry at the Montague Bookmill in Montague Center - Multiple sound and spoken word artists appearing upstairs. *Schurt Kwitters* - sewing machine & electronics, will leave you in stitches; literally. *Brad Flis* - sound poetry. *Chris Cooper / Steven Zultanski* - tapes & voices, will blow your mind; literally. *Marie Buck* - it doesn't even sound like language. *Kurt Weisman* - pre-fab jazz-pop, brotherly love. *Lawrence Giffin* - poet laureate for the child war of 2076. *Bhob Rainey* - computers or saxes, tiny and otherwise. Autonomous Battleship Collective is a group of free-associators collaboratively promoting an agenda of radical aesthetics in real time / real space. A.B.C. operates in and around the Pioneer Valley, organizing affordable and accessible music performances, art events and other related happenings. For further information regarding performers or A.B.C.: [autonomousbattleshipcollective@hotmail.com](mailto:autonomousbattleshipcollective@hotmail.com). 8 p.m. \$7 at the door. For directions or venue info., contact the Montague Bookmill at (413) 367-9206 or [www.montague-bookmill.com](http://www.montague-bookmill.com).

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

New Wendell Community Dances at Town Hall, held monthly every second Friday. *Owl Dance Freestyle Boogie*. Fragrance free, drug and alcohol free, all ages, wheelchair accessible. 7 to 11 p.m. Sponsored by Stay Local, Play Local. Dance to DJ music or just hang out. Please refrain from wearing fragranced products (incl. perfume, cologne, essential oils and scented hair products) to create access for organizers and participants with chemical injury. Admission by donation, suggested fee, \$5 individual, \$10 family.

## FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MAY 13TH & 14TH

Ja'Duke Center for Performing Arts presents *The Wizard of Oz*. Performances at the Shea Theatre, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls. 8:00 p.m. Also May 20th, 21st and a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, May 22nd. For more info or to reserve tickets please call (413) 863-2281.

## SATURDAY, MAY 14TH

The Montague Grange, on the common in Montague Center announces a Weed Walk (herbs) beginning at the Grange, 10:00 a.m. Learn about local herbs from Anneliese Mordhorst who will introduce us to our local food and medicine. Common, wild plants offer an abundance of delicious nourishment, health and beauty in your neighborhood. All ages welcome.

13th Annual Walkathon for Meals on Wheels! Sponsored by Franklin County Home Care Corporation. Walkers can start walking anytime between 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. - a 3-mile walk. Every penny of your pledge stays in the community and goes directly to feeding an elder. Franklin County Tech School Track, Industrial Blvd. in Turners Falls. (413) 773-5555 x278.

Relay Rock 2005 - Waves of Emotion, a Franklin County Relay for Life Team, will sponsor a dance featuring the *Curly Fingers Dupree Band* at St. Kaziemerz in Turners Falls. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.; music from 8:30 - midnight. Admission is \$5 at the door. The team will also hold a 50/50 raffle during the course of the evening. All proceeds donated to the Relay for Life 2005 campaign to benefit the American Cancer Society. The Relay for Life is a 24-hour track event held rain or shine at the Franklin County Fairgrounds, where teams must have one member on the track for the duration of the event. This year's Relay begins with the Survivor's Lap at 5:45 p.m. on June 3rd and concludes at 6 p.m. on June 4th.

Coffee and Soul presents the *Second Annual Celebration of Peace and Justice*. The concert is a triple bill with Jim Scott, Charlie King and Karen Brandow, and Peter Siegel. Also an opportunity to find out about the work of peace and justice groups from throughout the Pioneer Valley. All Souls Church, 399 Main St., Greenfield. 6:30 for table viewing. Concert at 7:30 p.m. (413) 773-5018.

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

## 2 New Monthly Dance Series at Wendell Town Hall on second and fourth Fridays.



See below for more details. PAINTING BY JUDY MOLYNEUX

and demonstrations of the Art of Traditional Rug Hooking will be given.

## SUNDAY, MAY 15TH

New Art Exhibit opens at Northfield Mount Hermon. Trying to find truth is a concern of Arthur S. Goldberg, Northfield Mount Hermon class of 1955. And he does it by collecting art. Goldberg recently decided to share his muse by donating 11 of his paintings to NMH to coincide with his 50th reunion year. The Arthur S. Goldberg Collection is a near survey of contemporary art in New England. *Sharing a Passion: Gifts from the Collection of Arthur S. Goldberg* will run from May 15 through June 12 at the Nada/Mason Gallery on the school's Northfield campus. A reception with Mr. Goldberg will be on June 11 at 5:30 pm at the gallery.

## FRIDAY, MAY 20TH

Bellybowl Dinner & Music Series presents *Little Cyn and the Devils*, a dance band playing a mix of zydeco, roots, rock, and country with a strong Louisiana flavor. Bring your dancing shoes and be prepared to rock n' zydeco! 7 - 9 p.m. 104 4th Street, Turners Falls. For more info or directions call 863-4064.

## FRI, SAT AND SUNDAY MAY 20TH, 21ST & 22ND

Ja'Duke Center for Performing Arts presents *The Wizard of Oz* at the Shea Theatre, see May 13th & 14th for more details.

## SATURDAY, MAY 21ST

Adding 21st Century flash to vaudeville tradition, Dan Foley and Joel Harris are *The Airborne Comedians*. Whether balanced atop seven-foot unicycles or frantically flinging objects at one another, this pair is a sure bet to make you laugh. Live at the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse in town hall on the common in Wendell center. Visit [www.wendellfullmoon.org](http://www.wendellfullmoon.org) for info and directions. Proceeds to benefit Swift River Preschool. Showtime 7:30 p.m. Sliding Scale Donation \$6 - \$12 at the door. Decadently Delicious Dessert-o-rama, special blend fresh brewed coffee by Dean's Beans, Non-Smoking and Alcohol Free.

The Town of Ervings Memorial Day Parade & Civil War Monument Dedication will take place at Veterans Field, Moore St. (Rt. 63). Parade begins 10 a.m., Dedication at noon, Civil War encampment (10th & 25th Mass

chemical injury. Admission by donation, suggested fee \$4-\$9.

## ONGOING

Now Showing through May 29th at Green Trees Gallery: M. E. Kane, "Casualties or Creations". Works in charcoal and oils of the sculptural stumps left by the Army Corps of Engineer's Tully Dam project. Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main St., Northfield. Call (413) 498-0283 for more information. Gallery Hours: Thursday - Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

## Hot Spot Teen Center

**Mondays** - Ongoing Digital Arts Project, 3 to 5 p.m. except 5/30

**Tues & Weds** - Ongoing Music Project, 3 to 5 p.m.

**Thursdays** - Technology Drop-in hours, 3 to 5 p.m. and Movie Night, 6 to 8 p.m.

**Friday, May 13th** - Open mic at bellybowl, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

**Friday, May 20th** - Film Festival, 6 - 8 p.m.

**Friday, May 27th** - Open mic, 6 - 9 and Avenue A Music Project CD Release Party

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 Resource Center 24 Third St, Turners Falls

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**SHOWTIMES FOR**  
FRI. MAY 13TH - THURS. MAY 17TH

1. THE INTERPRETER PG13  
DAILY 6:00 9:00  
MATINEE SAT,SUN 12:00 3:00
2. KICKING & SCREAMING PG in DTS sound  
DAILY 6:00 9:00  
MATINEE SAT,SUN 12:00 3:00
3. XXX: STATE OF THE UNION PG13  
DAILY 6:00 9:00  
MATINEE SAT,SUN 12:00 3:00
4. HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY PG  
DAILY 6:15 9:15  
MATINEE SAT,SUN 12:15 3:15
5. HOUSE OF WAX R  
DAILY 6:15 9:15  
MATINEE SAT,SUN 12:15 3:15
6. MONSTER-IN-LAW in DTS sound  
DAILY 6:30 9:30  
MATINEE SAT,SUN 12:30 3:30
6. FRIDAY THE 13TH  
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT MIDNIGHT  
7. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN R in DTS sound  
DAILY 6:30 9:30  
MATINEE SAT,SUN 12:30 3:30

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE, FLORA LORE

<b>Across</b>	2. HAY
5. QUEENANNESLACE	3. KETCHUP
9. CATKIN	4. MILKWEED
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15. DECIDUOUS	7. BLACKEYEDSUSAN
16. TRILLIUM	8. RAGWEED
18. MUSHROOM	10. NUT
24. VIOLET	11. JACKINTHEPULPIT
25. LICHEN	12. NETTLE
26. CATNIP	13. BONSAI
28. POISON IVY	17. MOON FLOWER
29. TENDRIL	19. RADISH
30. FERN	20. INDIANPIPE
32. JEWELWEED	21. BOTANY
33. SKUNKCABBAGE	22. LADYSSLIPPER
<b>Down</b>	23. PERIWINKLE
1. GALL	27. THYME
	31. ELM

The Quabbin Chapter of the Association of Traditional Hooking Artists will hold a Hooked Rug Show & Sale on at the Jones Library in Amherst from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is Free. Beautiful rugs hooked by local artists will be displayed, vendors will offer supplies and accessories for sale

Mabel Zobel  
By  
Sandra Facto

"My kids are thinking of giving me a white cane for my hood, to warn other drivers."

# More May Day in Montague

## Jack in the Green

- traditional

Now winter is over, I'm happy to say  
And we're all met again in our ribbons so gay.  
And we're all met again on the first day of Spring  
To go about dancing with Jack in the Green!

Jack in the Green!  
Jack in the Green!  
And we'll dance each Springtime  
With Jack in the Green!

Now Jack in the Green is a very strange man,  
Tho' he dies every Autumn, he is born every  
Spring.  
And each year on his birthday we will dance  
through the street,  
And in return Jack, he will ripen our wheat.

With his mantle he'll cover the trees that are bare.  
Our gardens he'll trim with his jacket so fair.  
And our fields he will sow with the hair of  
his head.  
And our grain it will ripen 'til Old Jack is dead!

Now the Sun is half-  
up and betokens the  
hour

That the children  
arrive with their gar-  
lands of flowers.

So now let the music  
and the dancing begin,  
And touch the good  
heart of young Jack in  
the Green!



Photos by  
Philippe  
DeGuisse



## Oz at the Shea

**TURNERS FALLS** - by Kimberly Ja'Duke Productions and Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts are proud to present one of the most beloved stories of all time, *The Wizard of Oz*. *Oz* will be performed at the Shea Theatre, 71 Avenue A, in Turners Falls, on Friday, May 13th, Saturday, May 14th, Friday, May 20th, Saturday, May 21st, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, May 22nd, at 2 p.m.

For reservations, please call 413-863-2281 ex 2. Adults - \$12.00, under 18 and over 65 - \$10.00. *The Wizard of Oz* is directed by Nick Waynelovich, choreographed by Kimberly Waynelovich, and is underwritten by Greenfield Savings Bank. Dorothy Gale (Bethany Sterling), a young girl who lives on a farm in Kansas with her Aunt Em (Judith Kulp) and Uncle Henry (Tim Mosher), gets in the way while the adults try to work. She finds



**HOYDEN PHOTO**  
Eric Allen, as Nikko and Marissa Sicily, as the Wicked Witch of the West, rehearse a scene from the Wizard of Oz. Opening night is Friday, May 13th at 8 p.m. Show times also on Saturday, May 14th, Friday, May 20th, Saturday, May 21st at 8 p.m. and a matinee on Sunday, May 22nd at 2 p.m. See the Arts and Entertainment section on page 19 for further info.

a quiet place where she won't get into any trouble - Over The Rainbow. The girl is upset because their mean neighbor, Miss Gulch (Marissa Sicily), presents her with a sheriff's summons for her cherished dog, Toto. Toto escapes from Miss Gultch's bicycle basket and joins Dorothy as she runs away

from the farm. They meet up with kind Professor Marvel (Andy Harrison), who convinces her to go back home. A cyclone hits the area, and Dorothy and Toto are locked out of the family's storm cellar. They go into her room in the house, where Dorothy is accidentally hit on the head. Thus begins their journey to the Land of Oz.

Ja'Duke's production is sporting a cast of 120 singers and actors. Please come and join this piece of Americana and celebrate this musical masterpiece, which promises to take you beyond the rainbow and back again.

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