



MYSTERY PHOTO

Found Behind the Wall

Page 10



BASCOM HOLLOW

An Idyll in West Gill

Page 9

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

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YEAR 9 - NO. 32

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 12, 2011

Slide Show Revives Wendell of 30 Years Ago



Lisa Aubin (left) and Annie Diemand clowning at the 1981 Bicentennial

BY JONATHAN von RANSON - 'We're an old, young, chopping, dowsing, music-playing, clowning, bicycle-decorating town!' sang the slide show, with its images taken around the time of Wendell's 1981 bicentennial.

'Impermanence,' it whispered.

'We're so very human!'

it said. 'We're lucky.'

Five people watched photographer Ed Judice's newly minted DVD twice through on Monday night. Three were fairly long-timers and two relative newcomers. Flung into an orgy of reminiscence, we who were there in the early 1980s found ourselves compulsively identifying

and telling stories about the people and scenes.

"Karen Pierce. She built that house. It's gone now."

"Great clowns, those three: Annie, Kathy and Lisa!"

"That hulk, it's probably Hetty Green's house, the Witch of Wall Street."

When watched later, SLIDE SHOW pg 8

Allen's Run for 5th Selectboard Term Draws No Opposition



DETMOLD PHOTO

Pat Allen

BY MATTHEW SMALL MONTAGUE - After serving four terms — that's twelve years — on the Montague selectboard, Pat Allen of Greenfield Road is running again, unopposed, in Monday's town election. Since the town will be deprived of a debate this year, Allen was willing to sit down and answer some questions to offer voters an idea about why she is running again

and what her vision for the future of Montague looks like.

Ask her why she is running, and she might just tell you, "Because we're going to have fun now." But not in a flippant tone. When talking about the town, Allen is obviously optimistic about the direction Montague is moving. As the Great Recession bottoms out, Allen said she'd like to see the cur-

rent trend of vibrant cultural activity pick up the pace, especially through the continued success of RiverCulture. Allen said she wants to see events like the upcoming Turners Falls World Fair in August continue and grow. It's events like these, she said, that generate much needed enthusiasm in the community and have our neighbors and, indeed, the see ALLEN pg 8

Montague Passes GMRSD Budget Unanimously



Attempt to Cut Off Funding for Strathmore Fails

DETMOLD PHOTO

Planner Walter Ramsey defended the town's continued investment in the Strathmore Mill, as the finance committee members Lyn Reynolds (l-r) Andrew Killeen, Mike Naughton, and John Hanold listened. Ramsey said, "Yes, Holyoke has a lot of mills, but Turners Falls only has two."

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Montague town meeting backed the Gill-Montague Regional School District's \$7,576,183 assessment to pay the town's share of a level funded \$16.4 million FY'12 budget unanimously on Saturday, putting to rest four years of contentiousness and failed budgets, and recent state takeovers of district finances.

In the wake of a budget compact struck last fall between the district, the

member towns, and state legislators, the final district meeting of November 22nd, 2010 also gave a unanimous stamp of approval to the FY'11 district budget, after Montague town meeting had turned that budget down twice earlier in the year.

The district was able to keep the overall budget to \$16.4 million for a second year only by wringing \$240,000 in savings from

reductions in administrative staff, and from as yet unspecified personnel cuts equaling \$164,000 to be found elsewhere in the roster of district personnel.

"We are grateful in this past year the town and schools have come together on the budget," said school committee chair Emily Monosson.

"We want you to see what we are trying to achieve," said superintendent see PASSES pg 13

Montague Rejects Effort to Shrink Number of Voting Precincts

BY DAVID DETMOLD Montague town meeting members on Saturday rejected a proposal from the selectboard to reduce the number of polling places and voting precincts in town, and to cut the number of elected town meeting members from 126 to 72.

On a close, standing count, the measure was voted down 34 -31, indicating the needed quorum of 64 elected members was still present in the room at 2:30 p.m. when the vote was taken, but just barely.

Town clerk Deb Bourbeau, with information provided by the Massachusetts Secretary of State's office, argued for the proposal, saying the town was required by law to review precinct boundaries after each decennial census, to make sure each precinct in town contains roughly equal numbers of residents. State law requires the town of

Montague to have at least one precinct for each 4,000 residents. Therefore, with a new census of 8437 (down 61 from 2000) the town is required to have no less than three precincts.

But Montague's Town Meeting Act of 1962 stipulates Montague shall have "no fewer than five precincts, and no more than ten." The town presently has six. In order to reduce the number of precincts to three, as the town clerk proposed and the selectboard endorsed, town meeting would have to vote to amend the Town Meeting Act that set the minimum number at five.

Bourbeau said her office has two full time staff to handle an increasingly complex and busy workload. In order for the town clerk's office to meet the annual demand to either level fund or reduce their department's budget, Bourbeau said the only real place to find savings

would be in the expense for running town and state elections — which occur twice a year, on average.

Bourbeau said her office would be able to save \$1600 per election if the town reduced the number of polling places from six to three, out of a total line item for poll workers and board of registrar's salaries of \$10,514 a year. She said further savings could be found in her office's \$14,550 expense line item, a good percentage of which is dedicated each year to printing ballots and programming the data for the handicapped accessible voting machines the state now mandates must be available at each polling place.

Bourbeau has reported that only one voter currently uses those machines in Montague, which formerly conducted all town and state elections using paper ballots and antique but see REJECTS pg 14

PET OF THE WEEK

Bird Watcher



Trixie

My name is Trixie and I'm a five-year-old female domestic long hair cat in need of a good home. Do you have a windowsill, preferably a wide one? How about a bird feeder? Within view of the wide windowsill? In my previous home, I loved to watch the birds from an indoor – never outdoor – perch. I've also been known to sit in the bathroom sink and drink from the faucet. That is the "tricks" part of my name! My previous owner described me as "clean, sweet and a lap cat." If you're looking for a well-mannered, affectionate and playful homebody of a cat, look no further. You've found what you're looking for right here. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org.

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WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Playing in Wrecks

On Sunday, May 22nd, at 6:00 p.m., two time Poet Seat laureate Candy Curran of Orange and artist Dick Baldwin of Wendell will participate in a conversation about poetry and art at the Wendell Free Library. Curran will read from her work *Playing in Wrecks: Poems New and Used*, recently published by Haley's of

Athol, for which Baldwin created the cover art.

"*Playing in Wrecks* reflects a close observance of a disappearing New England landscape in a 50s childhood, coming of age in the geography of today," Curran said. Refreshments will be served; the event is free and open to the public.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Music and Art at the Library

• Musicians please contact us if you are interested in performing on a Thursday evening this summer as part of our Music on the Patio series. In past years we have enjoyed music as diverse as folk, Quebecois, Barbershop, classical, and much more.

• Art in the Community Room –

In May and June, come and see paintings by Alice Scheffey and Bella Halstead. If you or someone you know is an artist, contact us for information about exhibiting at the library. 75 Montague Road, P.O. Box 250, Leverett, MA 01054. Phone (413) 548-9220, email Leverett@cwmar.org.

MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

Spring Book Sale This Saturday

• Join the Friends of the Montague Libraries on Saturday, May 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls for their Spring Book Sale. Books sold for \$2.00 per bag. Audios for \$2.00 each.

• Millers Library Club meets Tuesday, May 17th, at 3:30 p.m. for a free afterschool program for

children of all ages at the Millers Falls Library, with stories, crafts and snacks.

• Rocks & Minerals program on Wednesday, May 18th at 1:15 p.m. Homeschoolers of all ages and their families are invited to join Rachel Roberts for a fun hands-on program about rocks and minerals.

Edible Plants of Spring

TURNERS FALLS - There will be an 'Edible Plants of Spring' walk with Blanche Cybele Derby on Sunday, May 15th, at 1:00 p.m. The walk will begin at the start of the bike path near Unity Park on 1st Street. Artist and author Blanche Cybele Derby has supplemented her diet with wild plants for over thirty years. She has lectured and led many wild weed walks, and writes about many edibles for her local newspaper. She is the author of several books, and has produced three DVDs on

wild edibles. An enthusiastic practitioner of what she preaches, she hopes to inspire others to become more involved in the natural world. This program concludes the Crabapple Blossom Festival. It is funded by NOFA, with support from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. In case of rain, a program on wild edibles will be held in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center. For more information, call 863-3221.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – May 16th - 20th

GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging director is Roberta Potter. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call (413) 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday, May 16th
Election Day - Senior Center Closed

Catskills Trip

Tuesday, May 17th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Yoga

1:00 p.m. Canasta Lessons

Wednesday, May 18th

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
11:00 a.m. Third Wednesday Book Review

12:45 Bingo

Thursday, May 19th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi

1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, May 20th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. For information and reservations, call Polly Kiely, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3308. Mealsite Manager is Jim Saracino. Lunch is daily at 11:30 a.m., with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Please call the Senior Center to find out when the next blood pressure clinic will be held.

Monday, May 16th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Osteo-exercise
12:00 p.m. Pitch

Tuesday, May 17th

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10:00 a.m. Senior Business Meeting
12:30 p.m. Painting

Wednesday, May 18th

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba
12:30 p.m. Bingo



Liaja Steele shows that the stick she collected for the agricultural commission's scavenger hunt on Arbor Day fit the criterion. It was, indeed, as long as her femur. Commission chair Steve Damon (in chair) awarded prizes to the winners.

Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from documents relating to the original construction of the Suspension Bridge between Turners and Greenfield in 1871.

It seems the completion of the road on the Greenfield side leading to the "White" or lower suspension bridge was not without some controversy. The Turners Falls correspondent for the *Gazette & Courier*, who had not researched, or been given any specific information regarding the construction project, penned this colorful account (his interpretation) of the road-building project.

"Building the temporary road down to the suspension bridge was one of those lawless, unauthorized undertakings that are sometimes justifiable. No one knows who built it(?) Even the workmen did not know who paid them for their doing the job.

The road runs across the land of the Turners Falls Company, but the officers of the company were away at the time and did not have a chance to oppose the trespass upon their possessions. It is, however, such a public convenience there is not likely to be any trouble."

More bridge "facts" next week!

Great Falls Middle School
Students of the Week

Grade 6
Daniela Parpalov

Grade 7
Seth Rider

Grade 8
Serena Smith

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Thursday, May 19th
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
Friday, May 13th
9:00 a.m. Bowling

LEVERETT Senior Activities
• Take-It-Easy (Chair) Yoga – Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4.00 (first class free).
• Senior Lunch - Fridays, 12:00. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.
• For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, extension 5 or coa@leverett.ma.us.

WENDELL Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760 for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center if you need a ride.

Friday, May 13th
Coffee Connection

Stop in at the Wendell Senior Center for the Coffee Connection on Friday, May 13th between 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. All ages are welcome to join us for coffee, tea, a few treats, and good conversation. Katie Nolan, (978)-544-2306, and Doug Dawson, (978) 544-7762, are hosting.



Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG - The annual **Wendell plant swap** will be held at the town common, near the gazebo on Sunday, May 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Bring annuals or perennials (or other trade items if you don't have spare plants) and swap with your neighbors. There is usually a good selection of plants and it's always fun!

Any questions, contact Katie Nolan at ledgehouse@gmail.com or 978-544-2306.

Aubuchon Hardware of Turners Falls, located in Food City Plaza, will hold a **Customer Appreciation BBQ** event from Friday, May 20th, through Sunday, May 22nd. The event will include a bounce house, balloons and popcorn for kids plus a car show on Saturday, May 21st, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for

us older kids. On Friday and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. you can buy a hot dog for a quarter with all proceeds to be donated to the Franklin Area Survival Center. Non-perishable food donations will also be accepted.

A golf scramble to benefit the **Montague K-9** program will be held Saturday, May 14th, at the Thomas Memorial Golf and Country Club in Turners Falls, starting at 9 a.m. Cash prizes will be offered for the top two four person teams. For more information, call 863-8003.

The Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls will be hosting a **monthly plant swap** to be held the third Saturday of each month through September, starting on May 21st from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you have extra perennials and are on the lookout for something new,

entire story less than intelligible. Therefore, we reprint von Ranson's article in its entirety this week, as it was meant to first appear.

In general, we ask for our readers' patience as we grow. For the last two months, we have found it more and more difficult to pack the amount of local news and views that comes our way each week into our former standard 16 page format. Now, at 20 pages, we are finding it that much more difficult to get all the proofreading done in time to make it to the printer on Thursday mornings without glaring errors (see above).

We are doing our best, but volunteers with a keen eye and a good sense of grammar are still needed for late night shifts on Wednesday evenings or on Thursday mornings. Call 413-863-8666 if you'd like to help.

this is definitely the place to be. Master Gardener Marguerite Sgardaro will be the swap mistress for this first Saturday. The bank will be looking for volunteers to take a turn running the swaps for the remainder of the season.

Each Thursday afternoon volunteers show up at the *Montague Reporter* to mail out that week's edition. This process, which includes a few anxious moments wondering how everything is going at the *Brattleboro Reformer*, where our paper is printed, along with a whole lot of laughs, has been going on since our very first issue more than nine years ago. During this time, we have mailed papers all over Franklin County, to many states, Canada, and Iraq. Presently we are mailing your local paper to 23 states. Just this week we picked up new subscribers in Puerto Rico and one in Scotland, too.

News of our local events, concerns and politics are traveling far. *The Reporter* is now being read internationally. And even in Agawam.

Send local briefs to: reporter-local@montague-ma.net.

Root Cellaring Skill Share

Wendell local food coordinator Liz Carter invites anyone interested to a skill share session on Root Cellaring on Sunday, May 15th, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library. New and veteran root cellar-ers share tips and techniques, followed by a conversation about community root cellaring. Let's come up with a plan for storing crops while there's still time to grow them. Contact Liz Carter at wendelllocalfoods@gmail.com for more details.

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Water Bills Due by June 3rd

MONTAGUE - Turners Falls Water Department semi-annual water bills were mailed on Friday, April 29th. Payments are due by June 3rd. Payments can be made by mail or in person during normal business hours at the water department (Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; closing at 1:00 p.m. on May 13th). A drop box is located at the offices at 226 Millers Falls Road to the left of the entry door. Or they can be paid on line by visiting our website www.turnersfallswater.com and clicking on - on-line bill paying and following the screen.

To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-addressed

stamped envelope and the entire bill with your payment.

This bill is due and payable without penalty within 30 days of the bill date.

Any portion of a bill unpaid after 30 days is subject to a \$20 late charge.

Any portion unpaid after 60 days is subject to shutoff.

Water usage is based on a six-month period: approximately April 1st through September 30th, for summer reads, with a November 1st billing; and approximately October 1st through March 31st, for winter reads, with a May 1st billing. Sewer bills are based on the winter water usage, and then doubled.

National Spiritual Alliance Psychic Fair, May 28th

The National Spiritual Alliance is sponsoring a Psychic Fair on Saturday, May 28th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple, across from the Post

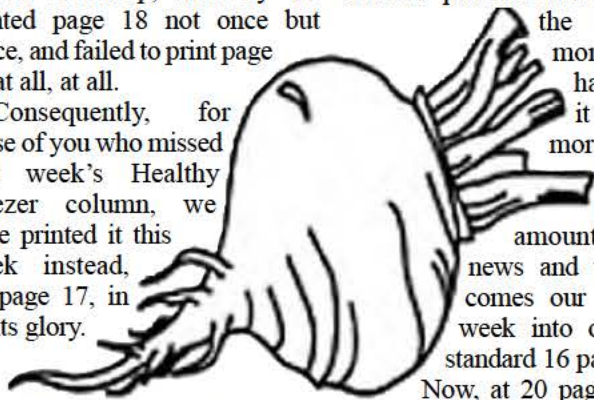
Office in Lake Pleasant. For more information and directions, visit the TNSA internet website, thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org

Clarification:

We are covered with embarrassment (one might say red as a beet) over last week's unprecedented screw-up, whereby we printed page 18 not once but twice, and failed to print page 17 at all, at all.

Consequently, for those of you who missed last week's Healthy Geezer column, we have printed it this week instead, on page 17, in all its glory.

And, we are doubly embarrassed over our failure to set off in italic type, as originally submitted, the quotes of Hiroshima atomic bomb survivor Takaaki Morikawa in last week's op-ed by Jonathan von Ranson entitled: Thoughts on Hiroshima Survivor's Story: What Supports the Bombs? The failure to separate Morikawa's quotes from von Ranson's opinions rendered the



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Give New England's River a New Lift

BY KARL MEYER

GREENFIELD - Given a chance to fix the ocean connection on the Connecticut River — the migratory fish link severed at Turners Falls, Massachusetts ever since John Adams was president — wouldn't you do it? If that chance was blown decades back and you had a second shot to rescue New England's longest river, you'd do it, right?

The fate of our river for generations to come is currently being decided, out of public view. Agencies responsible for the public trust are negotiating with global energy giant GFD-Suez / FirstLight. Negotiators include Caleb Slater of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, John Warner of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Field Office, Julie Crocker of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, and NOAA attorney Kevin Collins. Talks center on the crippled fish passage at Turners Falls.

But the proposals under discussion mirror the worst decision made for the Connecticut River since 1978: continuing to send migrating fish into a trap — the Turners Falls power canal.

The reparation talks were announced at a 2010 Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC) meeting. Reparations should have been in place back in 1998, the halfway point in Northfield Mountain's license. Ongoing fish passage improvements are a mandated part of FirstLight's 40-year Northfield Mountain license, compensation for profiting from use of the public's river. Yet studies from the 1980s proved that using the power canal as a migration conduit was a mistake.

What's under discussion appears to be a surrender of the river to conditions surprisingly well-aligned with the unencumbered water-use desires of a for-profit company. It forces shad and herring into a stress-laden environment nothing like a river — leading to more roiling waters at the powerhouse, where this run has died for centuries. The

one difference is that fish would get an elevator lift into alien, muck-laden habitat — the power canal — instead of up useless salmon ladders in place since 1980.

Federal Conte Fish Lab scientists continue repeating studies remarkably similar to those of two decades ago, with FirstLight helping to fund them. Yet "improvements" recently touted at a US Fish and Wildlife symposium are worse than numbers seen a quarter century back.

Engineers and biologists refer to it as the "by-pass reach." It's the Connecticut's dead reach, the curving, two-mile, river chasm of ancient shale directly below the Turners Falls dam. It once teemed with migratory life. Today, flying in the face of federal law, environmental statute and license requirements, this critical river segment goes largely ignored and unregulated — unchallenged in the courts by public agencies and environmental interests.

The "dead reach" is subject, alternately, to withering, water-starved days when flows are cut to a trickle beneath FirstLight's gates — or, to punishing, quick-changing flood tides pushed downstream from their nearby Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage plant. Giant surges of water pulse into the river through turbines beneath its 5.6 billion gallon mountain reservoir to take advantage of price spikes on the energy "spot" market, wreaking havoc with fish and the river. Like prior owner Northeast Utilities, GFD-Suez wants to continue its punishing practices below the dam — a crippled trench home to federally endangered shortnose sturgeon.

Those unchecked operations force most migrants to abandon the river below Turners Falls — tricked out of the channel by outflow from the power canal downstream, and forced "upstream" into its pummeling flows. Just a tiny portion of migrants succeed in that industrial "bypass." Stressed, depleted, faced with confused currents and an expanse of muck-filled canal

see RIVER pg 9

A Placid Evening on the Connecticut River, May 1676

Do you support immigration reform?

Not Really. If they weren't born here, they should go back where they came from.



CLAUDIA WELLS COLLAGE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Vote for Crosby is a Vote for Budget Gridlock at GMRSD

As candidates for the open Gill seat on the GMRSD school committee, both Sandy Brown and Patricia Crosby have a passion for educational excellence and a strong desire to help the district be the best it can be.

Only Brown, however, fully supports the Compact, which is widely credited with avoiding a third year of budget stalemates and with providing a road map to fiscal stability for the district over the next few years. Crosby, in contrast, has said that she would prefer to return to the budget process that in recent years has led to assessment impasses and state control of the district's finances.

That is a recipe for disaster. When Crosby argues that the school committee should not con-

sider the member towns' ability to pay in setting their assessment request, she seems to forget that's exactly what the towns did for two years in a row. They were ready to do so for a third time, until the Compact provided an alternative. As a result, for those two years the district was under the fiscal control of the DESE, raising doubts among the community and state officials about its long-term viability, and among parents about the wisdom of sending their children there.

The Compact changed all that. It has shown that the district can be viable if certain steps are taken, and it outlines the responsibilities of the district, the towns, and the state in the process. The superintendent was very involved

in developing it, and the school committee, the selectboards and finance committees of the member towns, our state senator and representatives, and officials from the DESE have all supported it and pledged to help make it work. Electing a school committee candidate who wants to throw it out the window is absolutely the wrong way to go.

There is a clear choice in this race between a candidate who wants to help the district move forward on a firm financial footing and one who wants to return to the days of budget gridlock. Please join me in voting for Sandy Brown for the Gill seat on the GMRSD school committee.

- Mike Naughton
Millers Falls

Let's Build on the Strengths of the Gill-Montague Schools

I am running for a seat on the Gill-Montague school committee because I think the school committee has been going in the wrong direction. I think they have been focusing on what's wrong with the system and each other instead of focusing on what's right, and building on our strengths.

We have sent many talented young people off to great jobs and successful college careers - from a widely-recognized fire chief much in the news lately, to a more recent graduate, now with a pharmacy degree and a salary that would make your jaw drop. In just the past ten years, I have witnessed us

launching musicians, veterinarians, entomologists, accountants, nurses, police officers, writers, entrepreneurs, teachers, bankers, college administrators, communications directors and foresters, and they have gone off to (and graduated with honors from) schools like Tufts, Northeastern, Brown, Russell Sage, Emerson, University of Vermont, Holy Cross, Cornell, Assumption, Skidmore, Bryant, Mt. Holyoke, Trinity and many other great schools, including our excellent area community colleges and university.

They have achieved their goals because we have great kids in a wonderfully diverse student body, and as a result of some inspiring teachers and staff and some engaging curriculum (during the school day and after), as well as the devoted support of sometimes aston-

ished parents. But we hear too little about them. What we hear about are how many of our children MCAS failed.

I also think the school committee could use more people on it who try to be mindful that the tone and demeanor they use to conduct the business of the district sends an important message to children and families, in and outside our system. We all get hot under the collar or petty sometimes, and I would probably be no exception, but children need to see grown-ups acting like grown-ups - keeping that tendency under control, and coming together to solve difficult problems. Parents and the community as a whole need to know that people representing them are not fueled by personal animosity against any individual or group, or by bitterness over history that should be respected and then given a proper burial.

Thank you for this opportunity. I hope Gill and Montague voters will go out of their way to get to the polls and vote for whomever they choose on May 16th.

- Patricia Crosby
Gill

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& MORE LETTERS

Write-in for Library Trustee

I recently noticed that the ballot for the Montague town election does not have a candidate running for the two-year term for library trustee. I am running as a write-in candidate for this position.

- **Juanita Caldwell**
358 Turners Falls Road
Montague

Brown has the Experience

Do vote for Sandy Brown for Gill-Montague school committee on Monday, May 16th.

Sandy Brown has been my good friend for some 15 years, since we carpoled for the Master Gardener program in Amherst.

I taught school for 30 years, and appreciate the impact of school administration on a system.

Children must give 12 years of their lives to school. Their skills and interests must be considered, along with the materials and the personnel and the costs. Sandy has the experience, the knowledge, and the economic background to make good judgments.

- **Fran Hemond**
Montague Center

A Vote for Brown is a Vote for Sustainable School Budgets

Sandy Brown has my vote as the Gill representative to the GMRSD school committee. She has clearly stated her support of the budget compact signed by the towns of Gill and Montague, the GMRSD school committee, our state legislators and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

At the public forum, May 3rd, Sandy explained and fully supported the Compact and its new vision of a cooperative process by which all the parties are committed to work together toward district budgets and town assessments that will protect and

support the quality of our children's education. Patricia Crosby, running against Brown, has stated that the district should develop its budget based on educational needs - submit it to the towns, and let the towns approve the budget or vote it down. For four years, this approach led to district meetings, failures to reach any agreement and DESE taking financial control of the Gill-Montague schools for two years.

With the work of town residents, it is time to move towards a more balanced, long term plan for financial sustainability in

GMRSD funding. The Compact enabled both towns to finally approve unanimously the budget proposed by the GMRSD at the district meeting in December, 2010.

We need school committee representatives who will work together with the towns.

I urge both Gill and Montague to join me in voting for Sandy Brown for GMRSD school committee on May 16th. Polls are open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. in Montague, and noon - 8 p.m. in Gill.

- **Claire Chang**
Gill

Offended by Article on Historical Accounts of Jesus' Death and Resurrection

As a practicing Catholic, and one who believes in freedom of speech and freedom of the press, I am quite offended that Jeff Singleton would write such an offensive article, titled, "Was Jesus Resurrected from the Dead," (*MR IX #29 - On Books*), especially during one of the holiest weeks in the Christian church.

If Mr. Singleton wants to get his facts straight then, in my opinion, he should attempt to arrange a meeting with the leaders of both the Christian and Jewish faiths. Perhaps he would find that leaders in both of these religions have been meeting for years discussing differences of opinions, all in good faith.

I don't know whether Mr.

Singleton is an agnostic, Christian, Jew, Muslim, or whatever, but I do believe that it was in bad taste for this article to appear in the *Montague Reporter* during this time of year, and I suggest that Mr. Singleton refrain from writing about topics he knows little or nothing about.

- **Art Gilmore**
Millers Falls

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Emergency Responders Canvass for Clear House Numbers

The Montague Center fire department is contacting all homeowners in the district to stress the importance of properly marking their home or business with reflective, easy to read street numbers. Members of the department will canvass the district with an explanation letter.

These reflective numbers play an important role to ensure emergency personnel are able to locate the correct

address without losing valuable time. It is also a state law that homeowners mark their property.

If residents do not receive a letter, or if they have any questions, they may contact the department at 367-2757, or stop by the station on Old Sunderland Road any Thursday night.

- **Ann Fisk**
Montague Center

Support the Budget Compact, our Superintendent, and our Children

Our goal for the Gill-Montague school district is excellence in education for all our children. We must not forget the district has only this one purpose: it is not here for the benefit of the school committee or the administration or the teachers. Its sole purpose is to serve our children, who are wholly dependent upon the success of the district for the quality of their lives.

In my view, the role of a pro-

fessional, disciplined and civil school committee is principally to help determine and approve the district's annual budget and to develop policies designed to result in educational excellence.

For me, this means achievement of financial sustainability, the bedrock of any successful school. I have been consistent, unvarying and unqualified in my support for the budget compact and its principle that budgets

must be developed cooperatively with the towns and the state. I reject the "them versus us" mentality some of the old guard would pursue.

I also support programs to raise the bar for students at every level of achievement, and to provide excitement in the classroom. I think of what the poet W. B. Yeats said: "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." I would like to be

part of a team that inspires students in this way.

At the same time, I understand the district is managed by the superintendent. A school committee that serves the students must be strong and consistent in support of its superintendent. There must be no backroom or underground opposition.

We need a strong, fully integrated core curriculum in the humanities and sciences. But it is also true that the horizons of all students are expanded by art, music and theater. I am commit-

ted to making the arts a vital part of education in our district.

We need to turn away from the old ways and the old guard. We need a school committee that will work well together and with the towns, support its superintendent, and above all we must keep our focus on those for whom we exist - the students.

If you agree with these basic points, I hope you will vote for me on May 16th.

- **Sandy Brown**
Gill

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REPORT FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**Erving Appoints a Fourth Fulltime Police Officer**

BY KATIE NOLAN - James LaFlamme of Granby was appointed as Erving's fourth fulltime police officer at the May 9th selectboard meeting. LaFlamme was interviewed in March when a different position was open.

According to selectboard member James Hackett, although an official start date has not been set, LaFlamme will begin training as soon as possible.

The addition of a fourth full time officer was approved at the May 4th annual town meeting.

The selectboard appointed Jean Schermesser of Maple Street as the fifth member of the Usher Plant reuse committee. Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin instructed town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp to ask the committee for a timeline for when the committee will present their proposal for the reuse of the property, which has largely been reduced to rubble, with the exception of the boiler room building.

Patriots Environmental, a salvage firm from Worcester, bought the seven-acre Usher Mill complex on Arch Street in Erving Center in 2007, after the main buildings were badly damaged in an arson fire. Patriots has not paid any taxes on the property since 2007.

In an earlier meeting, town treasurer Margaret Sullivan informed the selectboard she expects the town will take possession of the Usher Mill property in mid-August.

The selectboard determined that all departments should submit a ten-year plan for capital expenses by September 1st of each year. Goodwin said, "There should be no more surprises," late in the annu-

al budgeting cycle.

The selectboard also set a schedule for the FY'13 budgeting, with a December 1st deadline for all department budgets except the school committee, and a February 1st deadline for the school committee's budget.

Selectboard members agreed the school budget is more complex than the budgets for other departments and would require more preparation time.

Goodwin recommended the warrant for the next annual town meeting be signed by April 1st, allowing residents a full month to consider the expense information before the annual town meeting.

The selectboard reviewed a draft warrant for the June 20th special town meeting, including articles for borrowing \$150,000 from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Brownfields revolving loan fund for site work at the Usher Mill, payment of bills of prior years, and approval of the Hampshire Power program from Hampshire Council of Governments to aggregate residential and business customers for electricity supply.

Regarding the Brownfields loan, selectboard member Eugene Klepadlo asked, "Wouldn't it be better to take the money from stabilization?" instead of borrowing at 2% interest. Sharp said he would investigate whether a promised \$50,000 grant from FRCOG for the Usher site work was contingent on taking out the loan.

Hampshire Power is licensed by the Commonwealth to buy and sell electricity on the wholesale market. With the selectboard's approval, aggregated residents and

businesses in town would automatically join the program and potentially receive lower rates; individual customers can opt out.

The next selectboard meeting on May 23rd will begin with a tour of the Erving Paper Mill, starting at 6:30 p.m. In March, mill executives offered the selectboard an opportunity to visit Erving Paper to see how the mill is coping with hard economic times.

Erving Paper Mill subsidiary Erseco operates the town-owned Erving Center water treatment plant that treats wastes from Erving Paper Mill, Erving Center residents, and fee-paying 'third party' septage haulers. The town pays Erseco \$1 per year to treat the Erving residential wastes, and has been receiving approximately \$150,000 annually from Erseco as its contracted share of third party fees.

In December, the selectboard agreed to forgive one year's worth of revenue-sharing payments, and to renew the existing contract for three years, starting in fiscal year 2012.

In March, Erving Paper Mill and Erseco CEO Morris Housen told the selectboard that continuing to pay the contracted fee to the town is "making it difficult for the mill to thrive."

A request from an out of town man to buy two cemetery plots near his father's plot on a "financed" basis was considered. The selectboard decided the plots near the father's plot would be held for 120 days to allow the interested party time to save the money and pay for each lot in full, without involving the town in financing.

The resignation of Leo a accepted.

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**Committee Formed for Strathmore Mill Redevelopment**

BY MATTHEW SMALL Redeveloping an abandoned mill building isn't easy under the best of conditions. But the task becomes more difficult when the property in question has also suffered from arson damage.

Nevertheless, Montague town planner Walter Ramsey, has been working steadily toward a solution for the redevelopment of the town owned Strathmore mill. On Monday, May 9th, Ramsey asked the selectboard to establish a task force to help him explore the possibilities for redeveloping the site.

The task force will consist of the town planner, the town administrator, the building inspector, one representative each from the selectboard, the finance committee and the planning board. Though selectboard member Mark Fairbrother seemed reluctant at first to include space for members of the community at large and any abutters in the vote, the board ultimately decided to approve a task force that included room for these additional positions.

The task force's first order of business will be to issue a request for expressions of interest (REI). Unlike a request for proposals (RFP), the criteria for an REI is less onerous for respondents, and the information gathered will allow the town get a feel for what the market may be like for the 244,482-square-foot, 140-year-old

mill.

Board chair Pat Allen noted that an REI could be issued multiple times to test the waters as the economy improves.

Ramsey also reported the planning office has launched a website (www.strathmoremill.com) to help market the Strathmore complex.

Robert Trombley, superintendent of the water pollution control facility (WPCF), was present to request an extension of the industrial discharge permit governing the daily discharge of effluent from Australis Aquaculture, an indoor fish farm at the Airport Industrial Park. Trombley reported a few alterations to the permit agreed to by the WPCF and Australis, and recommended the agreement be extended for the maximum term of five years. Though the request elicited no particular comment from the board, it was noted that Australis, like Southworth Paper, has a permit from the EPA allowing them to discharge water that has been treated "to within permit requirements" directly back to the Connecticut River. The remainder of the waste is treated by the town.

Fairbrother noted the tube used to discharge water into the river floats to the surface when in use. Trombley said that he would contact the plant to make sure they are aware of that issue.

In other news, the board

approved Ramsey's participation in developing a regional sustainability plan in concert with Greenfield, Deerfield and Orange and a steering committee of business leaders, transportation agencies, and nonprofit organizations in Franklin County. Ramsey will dedicate a portion of his time over the coming year to helping with the plan, and Montague will receive \$40,000 in funding designated for a downtown Turners Falls livability plan.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio reported the revised request for proposals for the town owned Montague Center School building has been posted to the central register and advertised in various newspapers.

Abbondanzio asked the board to approve and sign a resolution in support of updating the Massachusetts Bottle Bill. The expanded bill would include bottle deposits for non-carbonated beverages. Allen said she was surprised such a bill hadn't come forward sooner, with the proliferation of disposable plastic water bottles over past years.

However Chris Boutwell, who works as a wholesale sales representative for area liquor stores, voiced his dissent. Saying the representatives and senators who are sponsoring the expanded legislation are all from eastern Massachusetts, and adding

Notes from the Montague Town Clerk**Montague Study Committee Forming**

A committee has been formed to study how many precincts shall exist in the town of Montague and whether the makeup or form of town meeting should be changed.

The committee shall be appointed by the town clerk and shall consist of nine members; one town meeting member from each precinct and three residents from the town who are not town meeting

members.

Anyone interested in participating is urged to contact the town clerk's office at 863-3200, ext 203 or at townclerk@montague-ma.gov.

Town hall is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town hall is closed on Fridays.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Energy Performance Contract Coming into Focus

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The town is moving closer to signing a contract with Siemens Building Technologies to replace the boiler, remediate asbestos in the boiler room, improve the building envelope and replace lighting fixtures with more efficient models at the elementary school this summer. "We hope to have the contract signed this month, so we can get as much work as possible done this summer," during school vacation, said town administrative assistant Ray Purington on Wednesday.

The town has been looking into the possibility of taking out a US Department of Agriculture loan to help the town finance the town's roughly \$120,000 share of the \$275,000 project. A state grant will pay for \$150,000 of the boiler replacement work, and utility rebates will be good for an additional \$4,000 on the lighting. The town is also trying to shop the project to local banks, who are interested

in purchasing the Qualified Energy Conservation Bond that attaches to the project.

When all the possible funding scenarios are lined up, the selectboard will choose one, and get the project rolling, Purington said.

Meanwhile, a strong sulfur smell from the cold water taps issuing from sinks in the principal's office and boys room at the elementary school is very likely not of organic origin, Purington told the board during Monday's meeting. After touring the elementary school with the water operator from Northfield Mount Hermon, an expert from the Mass Rural Water Association, and GMRSD facilities manager Steve Roberto, the consensus of opinion is that the smell is coming from a chemical reaction from high levels of iron and manganese occurring naturally in the water supply. The recommended solution for now is to flush the system out thoroughly and regularly.

Board member Randy

Crochier recommended doing that in such a way as not to wear out the septic system; watering the lawn for example.

Purington said the town was still waiting for results of water tests at the school, and should consider pulling the pump from the well this summer and seeing whether sediment is building up.

The recreation commission will memorialize the life of Jasmine Edson by dedicating the new scoreboard for the girls softball field at the elementary school on Friday, May 20th, at 5:30 p.m. A potluck barbeque will follow, along with a girls softball game. Bring memories of Jasmine to share.

In other selectboard news, Doug Harris, preservationist for ceremonial landscapes for the Narragansett Indian Tribe, appeared before the board to discuss a proposal by Joe Williams to hay the field at the former Mariamante property, a 10-acre town

see GILL pg 12

REPORT FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Brazeau Reappointed as Chair

BY DAVID DETMOLD - After being swept unanimously back into office at annual town meeting on April 30th for another three year term, Rich Brazeau was reappointed as chair of the selectboard during the board's reorganizational meeting on Tuesday, May 10th.

Peter d'Errico, who made the nomination, said, "I think you do a great job. We share the work like we always do."

Brazeau accepted the post with characteristic understatement. "You're stuck with me for another year."

The board scheduled a debt exclusion vote for the purchase of the new fire engine on Saturday, June 11th, at the town hall from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The amount to be borrowed will not exceed \$135,000, and may be reduced if other unexpended line items can be shifted to stabilization before the end of the fiscal year.

After the heavy lifting of preparing and passing the town and schools' annual operating budgets, the board turned to a lighter agenda on Tuesday, discussing the placement of Burma Shave style posters the energy committee plans to put up at various locations in town to persuade residents to think twice before purchasing energy intensive plastic bottled water. The campaign, which may feature the slogan Leverett Drinks Well, will focus on the sober facts of the energy cost associated with the 8.2 billion gallons of bottled water consumed annually in the United States, and the 17 million barrels of oil that are consumed just in the production of those plastic water bottles, according to a 2006 Pacific Institute analysis.

The energy committee is considering purchasing stainless steel reusable

water bottles with the slogan Leverett Drinks Well printed on it, as a fundraising and energy saving project.

Jeff Glazier was given a pay raise from \$14.00 to \$14.50 per hour, having successfully completed his six month probationary period as custodian of town buildings.

Mike Ketchum was promoted from attendant to supervisor at the town transfer station, after Orson Jones resigned to join the army. "Orson's been a great employee," said Brazeau.

The board voted to allow town clerk Lisa Stratford to take a leave without pay for six months for medical reasons, and to take all benefits available to her now and again at the beginning of the next fiscal year, in July. Dee Ann Kely will fill in at the town clerk's office five hours a week until December.

The board signed warrants for the expenditure of Chapter 90 money on various road repaving projects, catch basins, piping and shoulder improvements, including parts of Shutesbury Road and Montague Road.

Brian Hannabour, a developer from Johnstown, New York (and brother-in-law of Chris Nelson) gave a presentation to the board in a joint meeting with the affordable housing trust. He talked about his recent project in Johnstown where he developed three energy efficient, handsomely appointed townhouse duplexes for seniors, which, after grants were applied, were able to be marketed at slightly less than \$140,000 per unit.

The board discussed the possibility of approaching the planning board to see if a zoning overlay district could be created to not only cluster homes, but also to allow for clustered homes to be built on smaller foot-

prints than presently allowed in town, as a move toward creating the conditions for similar affordable homes to be built in town.

"Maybe we could use the affordable housing trust money to help make something like this more affordable in town," said Brazeau.

The board received written notification from Keith Morris, (keithmorris@comcast.net) an environmental consultant based in Leeds, that on behalf of the New England Central Railroad, herbicides will be sprayed along the railroad right of way by rolling h-rail truck. The herbicides to be sprayed in this manner include the brand names Razor, Razor Pro, and Arsenal Powerline, and the spraying will begin after June 1st, depending on the weather.

The board expressed concern about wetlands and private wells along the right of way, and agreed to forward the letter to the board of health and the conservation commission.

The board unanimously approved the switching all residential and business customers of WMECo in Leverett over to the Hampshire Council of Governments for supply of electricity, following the authorization by town meeting.

A cabin fire at the Leverett Peace Pagoda on Sunday morning has been determined not to be arson, and no accelerants were found to be involved, according to various sources near to the Peace Pagoda, including Tim Bullock, the person who had been living in the cabin. Bullock, who was away visiting his mother on Mothers Day in Philadelphia at the time of the fire, said the probable cause of the fire was faulty wiring. Bullock said the cabin, and his possessions in it, were a total loss.

NOTES FROM THE GILL TOWN MEETING

Town Meeting Approves Hampshire Power Supply for Residential Electricity

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Residents who fail to license their dogs by April 1st of any year will be subject to an immediate \$10 late fee; two more seats were added - by popular demand - to the town's five member agricultural commission; and all residents and business owners of town may soon be supplied with electricity by the Hampshire Council of Governments instead of WMECo. These were a few of the items dealt with at a short opening session of annual town meeting on May 9th.

All the so-called "money articles," (along with a motion to allow business signs higher than ten feet tall, but less than twenty feet tall, by special permit, anywhere in town) will be considered when the town meeting reconvenes on Saturday, June 25th, at 9 a.m., with coffee and other refreshments available for early birds.

On Monday, town residents accepted a report from the Riverside Municipal Building study committee, delivered by Pam Shoemaker, supporting the continued lease of part of the main

floor and some basement rooms to the Four Winds School, an independent middle school that has operated out of the building for the past nine years. Shoemaker said the committee supported continuing the lease to Four Winds as long as the costs of operating the building are roughly equaled by the revenue. At present, Shoemaker said, costs and revenues "appear to be roughly equal."

Patricia Crosby said, "That school charges a sizeable tuition. Why don't we charge more

see POWER pg 12

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from **SLIDE SHOW** pg 1
the show's other qualities came to the fore. I appreciated the colors, the weather and light, the three evocative reminiscences Judice recorded from older citizens.

The subjects in his photos show an open, uncomplicated relationship with the camera – shots even of buildings and landscapes are clean and simple. That viewing was also when the love messages, mentioned at the beginning, came through most strongly.

The word 'reverence' seems a little too lofty to describe what Judice, felt toward Wendell – the town as a whole, in its landscape, its people and their spirit, their animals, work, citizenship, and festivities - of the 1970s and very early '80s. 'With great affection' probably fits well enough. But it all builds in the presentation, and I must warn of the eye-dampening effect – in my case felt most strongly on the third viewing, after the excitement of the sudden time-warp subsided.

Judice, native of Wendell, onetime selectboard member and briefly this town's police chief, took on the project of shooting and gathering the pho-

tographs and recording the reminiscences a year or so before the bicentennial. He also photographed the celebration itself. He assembled the results and showed them a few months later on innovative, dual, pulsing and fading slide projectors in the town hall as an extended part of the celebration.

Now this top-tier commercial photographer out of Northampton has dusted off the celluloid frames, fixed a few scratches, and transferred them, seemingly just as they were, to a DVD he recently delivered to Wendell. Copies are offered for sale at the Wendell Country Store – at this point all but three of the 25 he left there last week have been sold.

Especially for those of us who lived here at the time, the faces, dress, hair, landscapes and even the voices combine to throw us back into what seems like a more youthful, simpler, slower-paced, possibly more idealistic Wendell. It was a more complete one. Jack Ellis, Jackie Ricketts, Bradley Merchant, Tom Devine, Roger Hogerheide and others were still alive. But many children also appear – a darling Gretchen Wetherby, a

poised Nathan Boland, Kyle Gilman in his mother's arms – with the poignancy that speaks of how many of them have grown to a fine maturity. Pictures of activity at Swift River School document how the community helped them do so.

They did miss Wendell Center School, and Lucille Lewis's one-room schoolhouse down in Mormon Hollow. The way Mrs. Lewis described the daily activity there in her strong Western New England accent, the older boys, one of whom was Bradley Merchant, longtime member of the highway crew, would keep the wood stove stoked. Many times Bradley's Grandma Merchant and the family's German shepherd would spend the day next to the warm stove at the back of the classroom.

There's a very funny reminiscence by Raymond Wirth about the church on the common, and faith and lightning. He also describes life in the earlier part of the century from a youngster's viewpoint, starting with breakfast.

Judice was a selectboard member in the '70s and one of the voices on the show is that of

Emma Cappelluzzo, who gives a glimpse into the political process of the time. Emma was town moderator when I came to town in 1978. As a series of photos of town meeting roll by, she says that in Wendell, issues come up that "get people worked up and involved, and sides are taken, sides are torn apart and sides are taken again. Then, three months later, people have forgotten any conflict about the issue and they go onto the next issue... But underlying all that energy is a sense of what is best for the town. There is no place I know that you can make a difference as you can in Wendell."

In Judice's camera's eye, Wendell is the sky and fields, the clotheslines and wood-sided outbuildings, the dogs and tractors as well as the people. There are enough cemetery shots, including the stone crypt in the Jennison Road cemetery, to suggest a theme. Near the end, a family – the parents and their two young children – are out on a walk along West Street. The scene is a piece of photographic perfection, and it pains us to have to say that two of this beautiful family's members are no longer with us.

It can hurt to watch this show, at the same time that it gives our generations a rich continuity, a reminder of what's in our collective memory and DNA – a real gift to the community. Thank you, Ed!



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from **ALLEN** pg 1

whole Commonwealth, talking about the great things happening in Montague. (The RiverCulture project took home the prestigious Commonwealth Prize for Creative Community from a statehouse ceremony in February.)

But Allen isn't only concerned with supporting the arts and cultural aspirations of Turners Falls. She realizes there is a laundry list of the projects, many quite pressing, that need the town's attention.

Besides chairing the selectboard, this year Allen also serves as the chair of Montague's capital improvements committee, so she has her finger on the pulse of the town's needs.

The next big capital improvement project she's looking forward to taking on is a new headquarters and garage for the highway department. "The folks at the highway department work hard," she said. "They deserve clean, decent and warm facilities."

As far as increasing town rev-

enue, Allen looks forward to the construction of a solar array at the industrial park as a new source of income.

There are a lot of current projects that have been worked on for years that Allen anticipates will come to some degree of completion in the near future to positively affect the economic environment and financial stability of the town. For example, she looks forward to seeing something of benefit to the community being sited at the former Montague Center School building, through a recently posted request for proposals. She would also like to see the Railroad Salvage building (if it can still be called a "building") properly demolished, and something done with the Strathmore Mill to preserve the historic nature of the site.

Asked if she had any specific ideas on next steps the town should take to find a reuse for the Strathmore, Allen praised the work of town planner Walter Ramsey, who is currently working toward a solution.

Giving credit where credit is

due is one of Allen's trademarks. After she said how pleased she was with the recent cooperation between the town and the district schools on the budget compact signed in the fall of last year, she praised the job superintendent Carl Ladd is doing at the helm of the Gill-Montague schools, and said she thought under his leadership the schools have certainly turned a corner.

During this interview, Allen mainly focused on projects the town currently has in the pipeline, but she did look forward to plans she hoped the town would undertake in the next few years. She would like to see the redevelopment of the Montague City Rod Shop property in her home village of Montague City, near the bikeway. It would be a perfect space, she said, for something like a coffee and ice cream shop, or a bike repair shop, or something that would benefit people using the bikeway.

Allen is also interested in finding ways to make town government work smarter. She said she would like to see a comprehen-

sive study of town government performed during her next term on the selectboard. Such a study, she said, would give the town an idea where the efficiency and effectiveness of our government could be improved.

Allen finds running unopposed for the top slot in town government a mixed blessing of sorts. Her enthusiasm for active participation in civic life came through when she mentioned how it felt to be in one of a solid slate of single-candidate races up and down the town ballot this year.

"It would be nice to have more people running for all the positions. It's very nice if people really think you're doing a great job," she admitted, "but at a certain point, you really start to wonder what's going on."

Polls are open in all six precincts in Montague from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, May 16th. Allen is running on a platform of cultural and economic development for Montague. She hopes everyone will get out and vote.



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DETMOLD PHOTO

Bascom Hollow

BY P.H. CROSBY

BASCOM HOLLOW - This is the most beautiful and satisfying of all the West Gill walks, and probably the most rewarding to someone with no particular attachment to Gill, someone just looking for a good walk. I should probably save it for last, but I can't bear holding off writing about it that long.

Starting at the intersection of Center and West Gill, I head west on Hoe Shop.

There are potatoes everywhere! Big and gnarly, with blackened crevasses, they are strewn on both sides of the road for several hundred yards, a few in the middle getting squashed

and re-squashed by the occasional passing car.

Possibly a truck with a load of leftover winter storage went this way, unaware it was leaving a good portion of its treasure behind as it rumbled through. Maybe headed for a pig farm somewhere, getting the last best use out of last season's crop.

Farmers use everything. Then they use it again if they can. When my husband returned to farming after we moved back to this region, the first thing he did was try feeding leeks to our sheep. Before starting to grow leeks, he wanted to make sure that - if all else failed, and he couldn't sell them - at least the

cally-minded daughter when it comes to trash. If it's biodegradable, not in such a quantity as to be a huge eyesore, and likely to be covered over anyway in a few weeks' time by growing grass or shrubs (or falling leaves, or snow), may as well let it lie. Better off harmlessly decomposing there than expending energy to truck it to a transfer station, recycling center or finally a landfill where, added to a mountain of trash, it may take months or years to disintegrate.

Soon, I pass an old cemetery where many from Old Gill are buried, including members of the Hastings family, perhaps the ones who built the house I now

live in, and whose baby's shoe, found in the walls of this 200-plus-year-old building when we began to renovate, I am looking at as I write.

High-topped, made of brown leather now stiff and cracked, with a small white button and a sole not much more than four inches long, the shoe sits on a shelf next to the desk. Odd to think now that a child that small, barely walking, would have worn such a sturdy, well-crafted, businesslike shoe.

Also in this cemetery are the Days, the Hales, and, of course, the Bascoms themselves, including Eunice Bascom, "consort" of Dean Moses Bascom, died 1802:

"Affliction's force in various shapes she try'd,

With resignation bore the afflictive rod..."

The inscription appears to end a little more cheerfully, but without gravestone-rubbing materials, it's not quite legible.

Coltsfoot and horsetail fern line the roadway on the left in the next stretch. Coltsfoot is a not-very-pretty but interesting flower, with a two-toned stem and a scrubby-yellow, bowed, paintbrush bud that opens eventually into a kind of feathery, white, rayed-out bloom, whereupon it immediately scatters to the winds in tufts, spreading its seeds. Horsetail fern, a neighbor once told me, is one of the oldest plants on the planet, a descendant of Paleozoic ancestors growing here 400 million years ago.

Left at the fork onto Bascom Road is another animal crossing, again near water, and the crossing would be from what's left of 'the wilds' around the golf course to a patch of town forest that bridges the two tines of the fork, so to speak, made by Hoe Shop Road and Bascom. The terrier always goes crazy with sniffing here, probably picking up the scent of the fox I have seen pass more than once.

We are now very much in the woods, and will be for another five minutes or so of fast walking. There are no houses. At this time of year, just a rich, damp, secret smell of wood, moss, bog,

leaf and fern.

After a short steep incline, we descend gradually into the magic kingdom that is Bascom Hollow. Also protected (thanks again to Gill and devoted conservationists and benefactors), this is an extraordinary patch of open meadow on both sides of the Fall River. I believe it is a remarkable place in terms of geological features, too, visited regularly by Greenfield Community College professors and their students on class field trips, something about the fact that some of the hills we have just walked through are drumlins, piles of rock debris or till left by the receding glacier. This small golden valley is rimmed by natural terraces, glacially-formed. You would swear they must be landscaped, they are so smooth and rounded and symmetrical.

Deer, turkey, bobcat, fisher, porcupine, beaver, muskrat, fox, owl, and of course fish in that river - they, and more, are all here. There is scarcely a walk when I don't see at least one. I'm sure the three families lucky enough to live here see moose and bear as well.

If you have another ten minutes, you can walk to the nicely-reconstructed bridge over the Fall River connecting to Greenfield, and over which early defectors from Greenfield would have come to settle Gill. There, the voice of the river will drown out the distant but distinct roar of Route 91.

As I walk back, I remember how once a pick-up truck slowed beside me in the early morning hours, one, to be truthful, I had been a little worried about. The truck had been out here morning after morning in the wee hours, driving slowly past me, the driver unrecognizable behind a beard and cap.

On this particular morning, the truck approached and the driver slowed to a halt and leaned toward the window. "Two does and a fawn," he said in a hushed whisper. "Just up ahead, in the meadow on the left." And he drove on.

There's a haiku in that somewhere, too.

RIVER from page 4

leading to more roiling waters near the powerhouse, the fish simply stop migrating. Shad and herring surrender their upstream spawning impulse at Turners Falls, languishing for weeks in the wide sections of canal - habitat best suited to carp and pond fish. Barely three fish in a hundred ever pass toward Vermont-New Hampshire waters.

The solution at Turners Falls is simple: build the long-overdue fish lift at the dam, and return regulated spring flows to the crippled 'dead reach.' That simple solution has been in place at Holyoke

dam since 1955 - the most successful fish passage on the East Coast. FirstLight, sanctioned by the EPA for dumping 45,000 cubic yards of silt pollution into the Connecticut last year, can then use that mid-May to early-June window of low electricity demand for mucking-out their power canal, as well as silt in that mountain reservoir. They'll then be in compliance when bids begin on a new license, for 2018.

This is New England's River; these are New England's fish. Biologists agree a lift at the dam with ample water in that riverbed

will restore a bona fide ocean connection to Vermont and New Hampshire for the first time since 1798. With megamillions spent on a federal program that produced 51 salmon last year, it's time both fisheries officials and dam owners got the real job done. Building that lift would make decades of failure and unfulfilled obligations a thing of the past.

Environmental journalist Karl Meyer followed the migratory route of Connecticut River fish by bicycle last year, from Long Island Sound to Bellows Falls, VT.



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Little Box Store Opening Soon



Zak Kelly, of *Estes Builders in Buckland*, holds a painted panel found behind a wall of the storefront being renovated for *Nina's Nook* on the Avenue, next to *Equi's*. Anyone with information about the painting's origins, get in touch.

BY DAVID DETMOLD
TURNERS FALLS – Nina's Nook, a 22 foot long, five foot wide "art installation," on Avenue A, next to Equi's Candy Store, will be opening next month. For sale will be jewelry and accessories, paintings and sculpture, and cards, all made by Turners Falls artist Nina Rossi.

Rossi called the 110 square foot shop, which has been under renovation this week by the strong men from *Estes Builders* in Buckland, "a lovely little retail space." She would not reveal the rent. But in distinction to the decades-long process the developer of the big box store in Greenfield has gone through, Rossi said she got approval for her business license in just "twelve and a half minutes," at the Montague town hall.

Rossi, perhaps best known on the local art scene for her iconic

map of the herding patterns of local shopping carts that used to hang on the wall of the former selectboard meeting room, said rather than open in a more conventional retail space, she decided to "adopt a stray building, a feral building," in need of creative re-imagining.

The only thing is, "I can't have a grand opening, because it's so small," said Rossi. "If more than five people show up, we might reach the fire code limit."

Besides the items for sale, Rossi plans to have a marble maze on the wall, and she will be collecting stories passersby, as well.

She calls this part of her business plan 'Omnium Gatherum,' which she said was inspired by the 1995 walking tour of Turners Falls organized by Nancy Dubosque and Cynthia Tarail, in

which newer residents shared stories of Turners with longtime residents.

Nina's Nook, which at one time served as a veterans outreach center, a taxi stand, and a roasted peanut stall, should fit right into the tradition of Turners storytelling. For her *Omnium Gatherum*, Rossi will tape record stories of any and all takers, limited to about five minutes, and would welcome anyone with memories of that small shop, or any aspect of Turners Falls to stop on by. She plans to type up the results on a real old time typewriter, as a way of honoring the craft of preserving oral history and reinforcing the actual process of writing.

Rossi plans to be open by mid June, on Thursday through Saturday afternoons. After that, "We'll see how it goes. It should be really fun."

Lawyers offer Clinic on Fourth Amendment

BY DAVID DETMOLD
GREENFIELD - How much freedom are you willing to give up in return for security?

That was one of the questions raised by Northampton attorney William Newman, director of the Western Mass chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, and Susan Tombs, of Cummings & Reid in Greenfield, at a clinic on the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution offered at the Greenfield Community College downtown center on Friday, May 13th.

The clinic was sponsored by the Recover Project, a Greenfield nonprofit funded by the Mass Department of Public Health dedicated to helping people recover from drug and alcohol addiction, and the ACLU club of GCC. About two dozen attended.

Aiyana McConnell, of Leverett, a member of the GCC ACLU club said, "We just studied this, and we knew there were questions about the 4th Amendment. We wanted to hold a clinic so people could know their rights."

The clinic began with a refresher on the 4th Amendment, known in popular

jargon as the amendment prohibiting unreasonable searches and seizures. Yet the exact

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated; and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

wording of the amendment appears to be continually balanced by courtrooms throughout the land against the need of law enforcement agents to secure public health and safety, keep airports free from the threat of terrorists, highways free from the threat of drunk or drugged drivers, and city streets safe from the threat of gang violence.

For example, "The courts bend over backwards to protect officers approaching vehicles, and allow broad interpretation of what is 'reasonable' to protect their safety," said Tombs, who has trained 35 lawyers to represent indigent clients in Franklin



Bill Newman

County as court appointed counsel.

Tombs said the 4th Amendment was authored 224 years ago by men who were not considering the impact of their words on courts dealing with the seizure of computer data, or whether passengers entering an airport gate would be randomly searched in an era of airplane hijacking and suicide bombers.

Tombs listed the court recognized exceptions to the 4th Amendment: You and your immediate surroundings can be searched if you are legally arrested. You can be searched if you consent to a search (although police reports routinely state the

suspect consented to a search, while defendants routinely claim they were responding to police orders and intimidation, Tombs said). In emergencies, if your house is on fire, for example, firefighters or police may enter your house without a warrant and if they see something illegal inside, that type of search is not prohibited by the 4th Amendment either. The other exception Tombs noted is 'plain sight,' as, for example, if someone is walking down a public street carrying contraband in plain view. Or, "If you leave something lying on the front seat of your car, police are free to act."

"What if you have something in a bag?" asked an audience member. "And the police say, 'What's in the bag?' And you say, 'Nothin'."

If you consent to the search, the police may search the bag. Otherwise, the 4th Amendment generally applies. But as a practical matter, Newman cautioned the audience, the police officer may recall the interchange in court as: "Show me what's in the bag?" while the defendant may recall the same statement as an order: "Show me what's in the bag!" The definition of consent hangs in that balance. Each case is determined by the specific facts of the case, the attorneys said.

The inside of homes and our persons are protected from unreasonable searches by the 4th Amendment, but what about the hallways of shared apartment buildings? What about the driveway outside a private home, or the garbage can? There is less of an expectation of privacy in these places, and "courts have carved out a virtual exception" to the right to privacy in an automobile, no matter how much time we may spend in them, the attorneys said.

Under the doctrine known as 'the Fruit of the Poisonous Tree,' evidence obtained by illegal searches is routinely thrown out of court, but the defendant needs

see **CLINIC** page 11

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from CLINIC pg 11 to challenge the search in order to invoke that doctrine. Challenging the search successfully often results in cases being thrown out of court, no matter the evidence seized. Confessions given to police officers are not legally admissible if the defendant is shown to have been arrested as the result of an illegal search.

The lawyers walked their audience through a couple of fact patterns to see how well the precepts of the 4th Amendment were understood. In the first scenario, a police officer pulls over a speeding car, detects an odor of marijuana, observes the passenger acting nervously, orders him out of the car, and finds drugs on his person. Was that search legal?

The lawyers said the car has been seized, using the terminology of the 4th Amendment, as soon as the blue lights begin flashing. That seizure is allowed to protect public safety, though traffic laws are a civil, not criminal matter. By statute, police can also demand and take your license and registration. But this is a traffic stop, and the police are on shakier constitutional ground to demand identification from the passenger, or to order him out of the car and search his person without probable cause. And since the April 19th decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Court this year, in *Commonwealth vs. Cruz*, the odor of burnt marijuana, in a state that has decriminalized marijuana use, is no longer considered in and of itself probable cause for such a search. Neither is nervousness, since nervousness is a common reaction to being interviewed by police, regardless of whether illegal activity has occurred.

The lawyers went on to propose another scenario, where the police stop two black men walking down a street in a high crime area of Springfield, where a

shooting has occurred, and wind up searching them and finding illegal weapons. These are scenarios citizens of this country face every day, and the lawyers emphasized, as courts have emphasized, that simply because a person's life circumstances find them living in a high crime area, that does not necessarily mean they are criminals themselves.

"The 4th Amendment protects the innocent as well as the guilty," said Newman.

That is something to consider, as routine searches at airports and court houses now spill over into railroad stations and subway terminals, and as Hispanic citizens in Arizona and elsewhere live with the daily consequences of new laws being passed that come into direct conflict with the precepts of the founding fathers.



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

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from GILL page 7

owned parcel at the corner of West Gill and Main Road. Williams would not cultivate the field, but would only fertilize and mow it. The selectboard told Harris this would not disturb the subsoil, and of course it would bring in some revenue for the town, which has been in a lengthy negotiation with the Narragansetts and the Wampanoags over the future use of that parcel. The Native tribes are concerned about the property, as there are historical reports of Native burials in the vicinity.

Crochier said haying would leave the field looking much more presentable than in recent years, when the town has brush hogged the field after it had gone to seed.

The board declined to go into executive session to discuss the proposal with Harris, who said he personally did not have a problem with the proposal to hay the field. He promised to contact the concerned tribes and get back to the board with their thoughts on the subject by Wednesday, but as of Wednesday afternoon, he had not been back in touch, according to Purington.

The board did go into executive session to discuss a proposal to transfer \$4000 from the Northfield Mount Hermon account to the police department for extra part time salaries, to help cover the extended medical leave and

now family leave for Sergeant Chris Redmond. Returning from executive session, the board voted two to one in favor of transferring the funds, with chair John Ward in opposition.

The board signed a letter to the Mass Department of Transportation asking the DOT to cover the utility cost and maintenance of the street lights on the Gill-Montague Bridge, which the DOT has agreed to do, according to Purington.

Asked why the number of street lights on the bridge will be expanded from eight or nine to 52, Ward said, "Because it's no longer a bridge, it's a landing strip." He added, "It will take three and a half times as much electricity to light that bridge as before," a development that seems to fly in the face of the state's goals for energy conservation.

The board appointed Donna Bigelow, Peter Conway, Dick French, Liz Gardner, Ken Johnson, Jeff Kocsis, Barry Petrin, Chris Polatin, Tim Storrow, and Ivan Ussach to the town forest task force; and French, Gardner, Kocsis, and Ray Purington to the open space committee, which will be working to update the town's 2005 open space plan, with the help of planners from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. More members are needed for the open space plan committee; if interested, call Purington at 863-9347.

from POWER pg 7

Town administrative assistant Ray Purington said, "We charge as much as we think they can afford," and noted the town had reduced the rent this year based on the school's declining enrolment.

Crosby followed up, "Seems like we're taking the tenant's word for it. It's a substantial tuition."

Shoemaker said the building has benefited from the volunteer effort of Jim Tomasi, who has re-glazed and repainted six of the large multi-paned windows in the historic building. Interior storms may soon be installed, to reduce energy loss. The lighting fixtures need to be upgraded to more energy efficient models, perhaps with the help of utility rebates.

She said, "The Riverside Municipal Building study committee affirms the value of the building and property as a prominent location on Route 2, and a gathering place for Riverside youth at the ball-field, and for outdoor movies. It offers the whole town a place for activities like the annual craft fair and farmers markets."

Timmie Smith asked why the study committee was entering into a dialogue about the archeological and historic value of the building and grounds with Mass Historical Commission, and Shoemaker said, "Bluntly put, we don't want another Mariamante property," referring to the town owned land on the corner of West Gill and Main, which had been purchased with the hope of redeveloping the acreage for commercial use, but has been tied up in negotiations with Native tribes concerned with reported burials in the vicinity. The Riverside building is within the Riverside Archeological District, on the National Register of Historic Places.

Agricultural commission chair Steve Damon, supporting the expansion of the commission to meet growing demand, said, "I am proud to say we're a commission where we have people actually banging down the doors to get on it."

No one challenged this wild remark, and town meeting supported the expansion.

Damon said the commission is presently searching for judges to arbitrate the first annual Gill Pumpkin Ice Cream contest this fall.

Before taking his seat, Damon let the 50 voters in attendance know, "We currently have 20 farms that will be listed on our farm guide," and warned, "Maybe in a few years we'll come back and ask for nine seats."

Town meeting added the energy commission to the list of town boards now eligible to maintain a revolving fund, with annual expenditures for the energy commission from the fund not to exceed \$1,000.

The town accepted \$152,763 for FY'12 Chapter 90 (roads and bridges) state aid, up 29% from FY'11.

Gill joined Montague, Leverett, and a number of other Franklin and Hampshire County towns giving their selectboards approval to enter into what is intended to be a cost saving contract for the supply of electricity to town residents and businesses through the Hampshire Council of Governments, who have been wholesaling electricity to towns and school districts throughout Western Mass recently. Now, instead of supplying only town and school buildings, HCOG will be supplying homes and businesses as well, after compiling a track record of saving \$1.4 million for municipal customers over the last five years. Any residential or business customer may opt out of the aggregate electricity supply agreement, if the selectboard approves it; WMECo will remain the distributor of electricity in Gill. Customers will receive one monthly bill, as before.

A routine motion to reappoint the selectboard as fence viewers, measurers of wood, bark, and surveyors of lumber drew a mild protest from Claire Chang.

"Isn't this sort of archaic language?" she asked.

No one disagreed, but selectboard member Ann Banash said the town probably has to approve the motion. The same argument has undoubtedly been given for centuries.

A quick search of the Old

Sturbridge Village "glossary of New England town officers" reveals that fence viewers are town officials charged with the duty of ensuring that "legal fences are built and maintained" and "may also mediate disputes over fences at boundaries." As the glossary notes, "Legal fences were very important in an agricultural community where loose animals could cause a great deal of damage to crops. The law required each man (*sic*) to surround his fields by strong fences at least four feet high, and the fence viewer was responsible to check the legality of these fences. If an animal broke through a legal fence, the animal's owner was responsible for any damages; if the fence was illegal, the owner of the field could not claim compensation for lost crops."

As to the measurers of wood, bark and surveyors of lumber, here is what the Old Sturbridge glossary reveals. These town officials are charged with the duty to "inspect and measure firewood and bark brought into the town for sale to insure correct quantity and grade" and to "inspect and measure planks, boards and timber put up for sale to ensure that it is properly measured and labeled."

On second thought, maybe these motions could be dropped next year, without complaint.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

Break In Attempt at Wendell Country Store

Tuesday, 4/19

5:00 p.m. Tenant/landlord dispute at a Lockes Village Road address.

Saturday, 4/23

6:30 p.m. Landlord of Lockes Village Road residence reported missing some items at that address. Advised this is a civil matter between him and tenant.

Monday, 4/25

9:05 p.m. Report of girl sitting in road on Depot Road-upset over boyfriend leaving her. Sent home.

Thursday, 4/28

7:58 p.m. Report of person taking wood (cut trees) from Depot Road-advised through Shutesbury police to cease.

Sunday, 5/1

12:53 a.m. Broke up party on Stone Road under power lines.

Monday, 5/2

4:14 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Depot Road. Unoccupied van totaled by fire. Put out by fire department.

4:30 p.m. Ongoing tenant/landlord dispute at Lockes Village Road residence. Again advised to pursue in civil court.

Wednesday, 5/4

9:53 a.m. Owner of Wendell Country Store reported attempted breaking and entering at 3:00 a.m. No access gained.

Saturday, 5/7

7:30 a.m. Fencing at Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station damaged last p.m.

Sunday, 5/8

9:00 p.m. Possible rabid dog on West Street. Unable to locate.



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from **PASSES** pg 1

dent Carl Ladd. "with the finance committees of both Gill and Montague working with our legislators to develop a plan for fiscal sustainability for the district." Ladd added, "We've cut \$405,000 from a level service budget, \$800,000 the year before, and \$200,000 the year before that. We have slowed the growth of the budget by \$1.4 million in two years. And that has not sacrificed the quality of education for our students."

Ladd said, "We have more advanced placement programs than ever, the Montague Elementary School was commended by governor Deval Patrick for academic progress, and we're trying to address the school choice issue that has been plaguing the district for a number of years."

He said, "Legislators weren't able at this point to live up to their end of the compact," increasing state aid to the district only .05% rather than the 2% called for this year, with Montague making up the difference from town stabilization. But he said, "They are keenly aware that without the state stepping up we could be back to where we were before, with defeated budgets."

Montague selectboard chair Pat Allen said, "The school district and the superintendent have done an amazing job in keeping the budget in line. We want to applaud their efforts over the last few years."

Doug LaPointe, Precinct 4, asked for more details about the state's failure to uphold their end of the compact, and Jeff Singleton, school committee member, said, "It's a serious concern. We met with senator Stan Rosenberg and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education staff on April 15th, and I was amazed at the level of detailed understanding of the situation from Rosenberg and the DESE. If this continues, it could be a problem with viability and town support of assessments. I'm not convinced the district is viable without changes in the state aid formula."

Les Cromack, Precinct 1, said, "A number of years ago I made the statement the school committee has an insatiable appetite for money. I felt that was true at the time. I am gratified and happy that it appears we are coming up with a budget that is fair to the towns and fair to the school committee."

Rich Ducharme, Precinct 3, asked for an update on the school choice numbers for Gill-Montague. Ladd replied that the GMRSD currently receives 109

school choice in students, and has 222 students choosing out, [for a net loss of \$565,000 in FY'11]. There are presently 1057 students enrolled in Gill-Montague schools, Ladd said.

Legal Bills

Town meeting approved an additional \$40,000 for the town's legal budget, over a protest from Jeanne Golrick, Precinct 2.

"I oppose this article in its entirety," said Golrick. "The more you vote legal money, the more litigation will continue."

Selectboard chair Allen noted that a number of the cases being fought in court right now are between Golrick and the town.

Dry Hill Cemetery

An article to fund the general government of the town for \$7,311,792 passed after 25 minutes of discussion, with questions being asked about when a more fuel efficient model of police cruiser would become available (not this year, as Ford previously advertised, but next year, said Chief Zukowski) and what exactly the town intends to do about the inaccessible road to the town owned Dry Hill Cemetery, where 25 former town residents lie buried beneath toppled stones, brush and bramble. Among their number are three veterans, including two from the Revolutionary War.

A long running legal dispute and standoff with landowner Jim Senn, who owns property on either side of the town's proven right of way on Dry Hill Road, has left the graveyard all but inaccessible to descendants of those buried there, who include the Andrews family, the Bartletts, Benjamins, Paines, and others.

"I would hope I would not be buried under that brush, if it's not going to be taken care of," said Art Gilmore.

John Reynolds, Precinct 1, said, "We spent a lot of money litigating this, and trying to get access... When I've been up there, it's a disgrace."

Cemetery commission member Sue SanSoucie (the only member presently appointed to that three member board) told the meeting, "It's really a deplorable situation. We seem to get nowhere. We pay lawyers. We run into a stone wall every time."

Michael Muller, Precinct 1, recommended opening up Dry Hill Road from the west, a distance of about a mile and a quarter from the last pavement, where the roadbed has been entirely washed out and impassable for many decades.

Senn has threatened to sue the town if a road is put in along the town's right of way on the short steep stretch from the town ceme-

tery down to Wendell Road, if runoff from a new road were to damage his adjoining fields.

Union Contracts

In another area of concern, Singleton tried to get town accountant Carolyn Olsen to state how much money is being set aside in this year's budget toward wage and benefit increases for town staff, but Olsen would only say, "None of the contracts have been settled, even for 2011."

Singleton, noting that the town's additional revenue from the 2½ percent increase in the levy limit, declining state aid and local receipts would equal about \$370,000 this year, said, "We should first negotiate with the unions what the guidelines are before we throw numbers on the table. We need to be more public about this - it's the biggest budget driver we have."

Water pollution control facility supervisor Bob Trombley said his department was able to deliver the same service to the town this year for \$84,896 (4.5%) less than last year due to savings from the hauling of solids, and from improvements in the plant's process, resulting from innovations developed by the employees working as a team. Trombley received a round of applause after he spoke.

Tech School

Town meeting approved a roughly \$50,000 increase (8%) for the town's contribution to the Franklin Tech School, mostly driven by an additional three students attending the Tech School from Montague (from 69 up to 72). About two percent of the increase resulted from the decision by the FCTS committee to maintain the auto body shop program, originally scheduled to be axed this year.

Montague's rep to the FCTS, Rich Kuklewicz, said the town would be forced to pay for out of district placement and transportation for any students wishing to take a program not offered at the Franklin Tech, such as animal husbandry, and this concern weighed on the committee when they decided to keep the auto body shop program, despite the resulting increase to the budget.

Kuklewicz noted the Tech School is educating three more students now from Montague than it did in 2009, for roughly the same cost to the town: \$678,000.

"We would like to borrow your magic wand," said town finance committee chair John Hanold, after Kuklewicz revealed this fact.

In other business, town meeting agreed to spend \$9,000 on a wheelchair access ramp at the

Sheffield school building, \$7,000 to repair the auditorium steps at Sheffield, and \$3,000 to repair the employee parking lot at that school. Montague will spend \$50,000 to re-roof the operations building at the water treatment plant, and \$20,000 to survey the sewer pump stations, both sums to be raised from the WPCF's retained earnings account. The town will spend \$8,000 to hire a lawyer to help renegotiate the ten-year cable contract with Comcast, in hopes of maintaining or improving cable access service in town, and extending the reach of cable to underserved neighborhoods. The DPW will have \$50,000 to use as a discretionary fund to repair or replace vehicles or equipment this year, \$54,055 to pay for leases of two six wheel dump trucks, and \$222,951 to purchase a new street sweeper, because the old one is nearly shot.

Montague will spend \$58,000 to fund pre-development work at the former landfill and burn dump off Turnpike Road. This sum is to be taken from money previously allocated to develop an industrial park off Millers Falls Road, on acreage owned by Northeast Utilities at the north end of the Montague Plains. NU has advised the town it is not interested in negotiating further towards the town's eventual purchase of that land.

Town planner Walter Ramsey noted, "It's important to think about industrial growth for the future. The Airport Industrial Park is reaching capacity."

He said of the 163 acres the town owns off Turnpike Road, 18 acres are prime developable land, and 65 acres is developable land with certain constraints.

LaPointe asked, "Are there traffic studies?" for the area. "That's a dangerous curve on that hill."

The town is also hoping to interest a developer in siting a solar farm on the former landfill site, adjacent to a utility power line.

Town meeting agreed to spend \$20,000 for new bullet proof vests, tasers, firearms and other equipment for the police department.

Strathmore

A petitioned article advising the town to stop spending money on pre-development work ongoing at the town-owned Strathmore Mill failed by majority vote. A lawyer for the Swift River Hydro group, that operates a hydro turbine in a condo-ized section of the mill, threatened to sue the town if they stopped maintaining the building.

Petitioner David Thompson,

Precinct 4, said, "We're going to have \$400,000 [in roof repairs and sprinkler upgrades] in there. It's got a roof; it's got a sprinkler system. I don't believe any developer is going to buy it. If anybody wants to buy a factory, they have 10 or 12 of them down in Holyoke. There's no parking. You're going to have to use a foot bridge to get to it."

Ramsey said, "Yes, Holyoke has a lot of mills, but Turners Falls only has two [counting Southworth]. It's an important part of our history. Small towns that have gotten behind their mills have had huge success in redeveloping them." He pointed to Easthampton, Bellows Falls, VT and Newmarket, NH. He said the town would need to be patient to find "a unique developer for this unique site."

Gilmore cautioned the town to be more discriminating in picking the next owner of the mill, and Al Ross, Precinct 1, said, "We don't need another Railroad Salvage."

In the final action of the day, town meeting approved a motion to grant the selectboard authority to enter into a contract with the Hampshire Council of Governments to supply electricity, hopefully at a lower cost than WMECo, to aggregated residents and businesses in town.





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Music of the Gaslight Era

BY DAWN WARD

MOORES CORNERS - The Leverett Historical Society is proud to present another evening of musical history with local Amherst musician John Root.

The program: Music of the Gaslight Era (1890-1920), will be presented Friday, May 27th, from 7 - 8 p.m., at the Moores Corner Schoolhouse in North Leverett.

Root will be performing popular music of ton piano. He features a delightful repertoire of instrumental and vocal musical styles from the turn of the previous century.

The audience will learn how America's ethnic and racial diversity created unique

musical styles. All are welcome to sing along. Donations for the musician will be graciously accepted at the door.

The school house is located approximately three miles east on North Leverett Road from the intersection of Route 63. The small white one-room schoolhouse is diagonally across from the Village Coop, with the sign out front: Leverett Historical Museum.

Parking space is available across the street at the Village Coop.

The school house has no bathrooms or water available - so plan accordingly.

For further info on this event, contact 413-367-9562 or dmward@crocker.com.



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Twenty Seats on Montague Town Meeting Up for Grabs in Monday's Election

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Running for a seat on Montague's representative town meeting has never been a very difficult proposition. Candidates generally have to do little more than gather the signatures of ten registered voters in their precincts to get their names on the ballot, and only very rarely do they face any opposition in town elections.

But this year, with 20 seats going begging, and openings in every part of town with no candidate at all on the ballot, just about all someone would have to do to get elected to town meeting is to get a friend or neighbor, (or the first person you see heading toward the polling booth - as long as you are standing 150 feet away from the door when you ask

them) to write in your name and address on the empty line at the bottom of the ballot. In fact, writing in your own name and address might be good enough to get you on board. A handful of write-in votes - or even just one - is usually good enough to get you elected to serve your precinct on town meeting.

Here's the breakdown of empty seats with no candidate in the running on Monday:

In Precinct 1 (Montague Center) there are two 3-year seats, and one 1-year seat up for grabs.

In Precinct 2 (Lake Pleasant and Millers Falls) there are one 3-year seat and one 2-year seat with no candidates.

Precinct 3 (east side of the Hill) is loaded with opportunity for write-ins, with five 3-year

seats available, along with two 2-year seats.

Over on the west side of the Hill, in Precinct 4, there is just one 3-year seat seeking a candidate, and the same is true downtown in Turners in Precinct 5. But there are six seats up for grabs in Precinct 6 (Montague City and the Patch), five 3-year seats and a 1-year seat to fill the unexpired term of Carlyn Saltman, who resigned after the ballot was printed.

So come on, Montague, write in your favorite civic-minded friend or neighbor, and give them a chance to vote on an \$18 million budget on your behalf, and they can decide how many unregistered vehicles you can have in your front yard while they're at it.

from MONTAGUE page 6 that he had not personally seen many bottles on the side of the road while driving, Boutwell noted that the actual effect of such a bill may be to drive business away from local transfer stations.

The resolution passed with a vote of two to one.

The town administrator also reported he had received confirmation that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation will take responsibility for the utility payments and maintenance of the lights on the Gill-Montague Bridge, which are expanding from the eight or nine present street light to 54, with the estimated electric bill expected to more than triple. Apparently the state DOT has not been talking to the Mass Department of Energy Resources about the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Get ready to race! The Northampton Cycling club was unanimously granted a permit to

once again hold a series of crits - that's a short bicycle race on a closed course in bike-speak - on Wednesday evenings on Industrial Boulevard, beginning May 18th and ending June 22nd. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., and two races will be held each evening. The races are sponsored by local businesses, which provide dinner for the winners and various other prizes.

Three other events were authorized by the board to take place on or near the Montague Center common. On May 14th from 9 a.m. to noon, the 1st Congregational Church will hold a toll booth fundraiser for the Relay for Life. First Congregational will also hold their annual Montague Old Home Days in August. On May 29th, the Montague Center Fireman's Relief Association will hold a Memorial Day observance in recognition of local veterans. 

REJECTS from page 1 reliable hand cranked ballot boxes.

Last year, Bourbeau said, the town spent \$2,414 programming those handicapped accessible voting machines, which are a recent state mandate. Presently, Bourbeau said, the state pays to program ballots for state and national elections, but she said the Secretary of State's office has warned the town it may not be able to continue paying to program even those election ballots, the cost of which may then fall to the town as well.

Even so, the total amount of money likely to be saved by reducing the number of polling places in town is likely to be less than 1/10th of one percent of the total town budget.

The promise of saving that amount of money was not enough to convince the majority of town meeting members at the end of the day.

The proposal would have also reduced the number of town meeting members from 126 to 72. Bourbeau said, "We're having trouble filling the quorum," needed to hold town meetings. That quorum - one more than half of the elected members, or 64, was filled on Saturday, with 74 attending at the beginning of the day, but by meeting's end the departure of just two more members could have lost the quorum.

At some recent special town

meetings, laggards had to be located by phone and called to attend before proceedings could get underway.

Bourbeau and the selectboard also proposed amending the Town Meeting Act through special legislation with wording to cause elected town meeting members to lose their seats after more than one unexcused absence in a row. This part of the proposal found a great deal of support from the members who spoke to it.

On Saturday, 21 members failed to excuse themselves from attending by calling the town clerk's office in advance of the annual town meeting. Ten of those no shows - Gary Billings, Precinct 1; Kenneth Burke, Precinct 3; Evelyn Daly, Precinct 5; Linda Davenport, Precinct 6; Robert Fritz, Precinct 3; Charles Kelley, Precinct 4; Don MacPhail, Precinct 3; Matt Robinson, Precinct 3; Doug Stephens, Precinct 6; Anthony Tucker, Precinct 4; and Alicia Wells, Precinct 3, also failed to notify the clerk in advance of skipping the special town meeting on January 6th, 2011, or the annual town meeting of 2010. Burke, Daly, Robinson, and Wells have failed to show or be excused from the last four meetings in a row.

A number of people, including Art Gilmore of Precinct 2, and Kristi Bodin of Precinct 3, spoke

in favor of returning to an open town meeting form of government, so any registered voter of Montague could participate. At present, any registered voter may speak at least once at town meeting, but only elected members may vote.

John Hanold, Precinct 5, proposed amending the warrant article to cut the number of elected town meeting members from 126 to 90, as a compromise measure, but that amendment failed by majority vote.

Garry Earles, Precinct 4, spoke in favor of keeping the number of town meeting members low, to increase accountability. "You started out at 63; then went to 72; now it's 90. I'm not sure what the reasoning is."

Bourbeau said there are always open seats with no candidates for town meeting, but in the Monday, May 16th town election, there will be an unusually high number of blanks (19) on the ballot, with open town meeting seats in every precinct of town.

Finance committee member Mike Naughton, of Precinct 2, asked Bourbeau why three was "the best number" of precincts for Montague, and Bourbeau gave an answer based on dollars to be saved per election.

Naughton replied, "The amount of money being saved is not so huge it counters other arguments. It may discourage

public participation. The proposed Precinct 1 (which would include most of Millers Falls with Lake Pleasant and Montague Center) will be voting at the Montague Center fire station. No offense, but the Montague Center fire station is a little out of the way. It's a trip to go vote."

Don Clegg, Precinct 5, spoke about the large percentage of married couples and town employees who now sit on town meeting, questioning whether the resulting body is truly representative of the town as a whole, or whether it represents a good number of people who are voting on their own department budgets, or in their family's interest.

Clegg was advised by Hanold and Gilmore that not every married couple votes alike.

Building inspector David Jensen, Precinct 2, said it was important to "do this once and do it right," and counseled that agreement should first be reached on how big town meeting ought to be.


Sue Dresser, Precinct 6, said she believed the people who reformed town government in 1962 from open meeting to representative town meeting chose five as the minimum number of voting precincts for a reason. "We have five distinct villages, five unique communities." She said villages voting together helped bring people together in those communities, which she

called "the lifeblood of our town."

But Jay DiPucchio, Precinct 5, said he always considered himself a citizen of the town of Montague, not of Turners Falls, and pointed out that the dividing line for Precinct 4 and Precinct 5 has run right down the middle of Central Street, so he can't "share my Precinct 5 vinegar," with his neighbor across the street. Bigger precincts would bring more diversity of representation, DiPucchio opined.

In the end, it was too close to call without a standing vote, but the urge to shrink the size of government, sweeping the country from coast to coast, came up three votes short in Montague on Saturday.

A follow-up article, brought by petition, with John Reynolds of Precinct 1 arguing for the proposition, passed easily, calling for a committee of nine to be set up to examine how many precincts shall exist in town, and whether the makeup or form of town meeting should be changed. Six town meeting members, and three members of the public at large, shall serve on that committee, to be appointed by the town clerk.

Interested residents should call 863-3200, ext 203 to inquire about serving on that committee, which shall report back to town meeting by the end of November. 

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BY ALISTAIR MACMARTIN - The Wendell energy committee has arranged

WENDELL ENERGY CORNER

Solar Furnace Workshop - Saturday May 14th

for Peter Talmage, from the science faculty at Greenfield Community College, to give a presentation on the theory, design and construction of a solar powered hot air furnace you can build at home with readily available materials. The unit mounts on a south facing wall and provides virtually free heat through the heating season, with the only

ongoing expense the cost of running a small fan. Readers may recall the front page story in the Reporter a few weeks ago on Tina Clarke's low energy house (*MR IX #24 - Solar Power House*). That house utilized a solar furnace of this style. We will build one as part of the workshop, to be sold to a participant afterward for the cost of

parts (less than \$250). A slightly different version is installed at the Wendell library (that funny looking thing sticking out of the window). Talmage will cover how to build both styles. The workshop will also address how to assess your location for suitability for a solar furnace. The workshop runs from 10

a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 14th at the Wendell town hall. Dean's Beans is generously providing coffee, and a light lunch is provided, for this free workshop. To register, or for more information contact Alistair MacMartin macmartin4@gmail.com, 413-992-7604.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Superintendent Ladd Calls Evaluation Comment "Wildly Inappropriate"

BY KATE FITZGERALD - Gill-Montague school district superintendent Carl Ladd, at the May 10th school committee meeting, called a comment appearing in his recent job performance evaluation as "erroneous" and "wildly inappropriate." The comment, which was added to Ladd's evaluation by school committee member Joyce Phillips, refers to a recent issue involving the Turners Falls Band Boosters parent volunteer organization, which received notification in October of last year from the Massachusetts Attorney General's office that they were operating illegally without a letter of solicitation or proper tax-exempt status. In his report to the school committee, in which he did not name the school committee member who had made the

comment, superintendent Ladd said he had handled the issue in the way he saw fit, stating he had "worked with the building principal to determine what the facts were, contacted the school's district attorney and discussed the issue with him, informed the organization of the issue, and then worked with them to correct the oversight." Ladd went on to say that the Band Boosters organization, which conducts fundraising activities to support the school band, had promptly received permission directly from the Attorney General's office to continue operating as the issue was resolved. Phillips, who identified herself as the source of the comment on Ladd's job performance evaluation, offered her own response to the committee, indicating she had never filed a formal complaint against the

parent organization, but rather had inquired about the tax exempt status of the Band Boosters in response to "a variety of issues" that had been brought to her attention. "When the matter remained unresolved, I met with the superintendent to share with him, in depth, my frustration and dissatisfaction," Phillips said. "I felt it was responsible to include this on his evaluation." The school committee approved a request by Ladd to notify the public of the "inaccurate" nature of the comment. Other topics discussed included the recent hiring of Martin Espinola as director of teaching and learning for the 2011-2012 academic year, as well as updates on the search for a new Gill Elementary School principal. Ladd said he expected to announce a selec-

tion before the end of May. Also underway is a search for a new Montague Elementary Principal, as well as a project manager for the district's accelerated improvement plan. The deadline for submitting the improvement plan was pushed back to June 30th. Superintendent Ladd also discussed his plans to organize "Coffee Chats," a series of conversations around the towns of Montague and Gill, to get feedback directly from parents and grandparents about issues, questions, or concerns they may have about the district schools. The first Coffee Chat will take place on May 12th at 3:30 p.m. in the Montague Senior Center. Ladd is hosting these informal discussions with district constituents in order to better understand the factors behind the district's stubbornly high

school choice out numbers. Committee member Sorrel Hatch announced she is stepping down from the Gill-Montague school committee after serving the past three years. The next school committee meeting will be on Tuesday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. at Turners Falls High School. At that meeting, held the day after the town elections which this year features a race for the Gill seat being vacated by Hatch, the school committee typically reorganizes and elects a new chair, and other officers. Voters in Gill and Montague may vote on school committee candidates from either member town in Monday's election. Polls are open in Montague from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 16th, at all six polling places, and in Gill from noon to 8:00 p.m. at the fire station.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Illegal Dumping, Assault, Break In, Hit and Run

Tuesday, 4/26
11:57 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and motor vehicle lights violation.
Wednesday, 4/27
9:58 a.m. Suspicious person at Lightlife Foods on Industrial Boulevard. Advised of options.
2:54 p.m. Brush fire behind Veteran's monument on Avenue A. Referred to other agency.
9:58 p.m. Disorderly conduct at Fifth Street and Avenue A. Services rendered.
Thursday, 4/28
6:22 a.m. Illegal dumping on Fourth Street. Referred to an officer.
10:09 a.m. Unwanted person on Unity Street. Advised of options.
1:51 p.m. Shoplifting at Food City on Avenue A. Investigated.
5:06 p.m. Shoplifting suspect at Third Street and Avenue A. Services rendered.
10 p.m. Loud noise disturbance at Millers Falls railroad yard. Services rendered.
Friday, 4/29
11:41 a.m. Unwanted person at Shady Glen on Avenue A. Services rendered.
12:18 p.m. Assault at Food City on Avenue A. Advised of options.
2:45 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for

assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, misdemeanor breaking and entering, vandalism, damage, or defacement of property, and assault and battery.
5:07 p.m. Illegal dumping on Fourth Street. Referred to an officer.
8:44 p.m. Summons issued for [redacted] for attaching plates to a motor vehicle, driving an uninsured motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration, lights violation, and failure to stop for police.
10:59 p.m. Summons issued for [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, and operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration.
11:49 p.m. Report of burglary, breaking and entering on Avenue A.
Saturday, 4/30
11:05 a.m. Neighbor disturbance on Paradise Parkway. Referred to an officer.
5:26 p.m. Summons issued for [redacted] for speeding, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration, and driving an uninsured motor vehicle.
Sunday, 5/1
12:15 a.m. Illegal dumping at Lake Pleasant Road and Green Pond Road. Referred to other agency.

Monday, 5/2
2:58 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on G Street. Investigated.
6:39 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Third Street. Report taken.
12:17 a.m. Fight on H Street. Services rendered.
Wednesday, 5/4
6:01 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Avenue A. Services rendered.
Thursday, 5/5
12:27 p.m. Hit and run accident at Third Street and Avenue A. Report taken.
2:08 p.m. Illegal dumping behind Jake's Tavern. Services rendered.
4:02 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for intimidating a witness and assault and battery.
Friday, 5/6
3:53 p.m. Illegal dumping on Greenfield Road. Investigated.
Saturday, 5/7
4:38 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Turners Falls Road. Advised of options.
9:28 p.m. Threatening, harassment at Montague Elks Lodge on Elk Avenue. Investigated.
Sunday, 5/8
9:38 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Ripley Road. Services rendered.
6:27 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Avenue A. Report taken.
6:29 p.m. Domestic disturbance on West Street. Investigated.
8:04 p.m. Trespassing reported, info wanted, on East Main Street. Advised of options.
8:34 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Montague Street. Investigated.

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Helfand Warns of Future Meltdowns on 25th Anniversary of Chernobyl

BY KATE FITZGERALD
NORTHAMPTON - On April 26th, sophisticated American built robots entered the crippled reactor 1 at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex 150 miles northeast of Tokyo in an effort to further assess the damage caused to the reactor by the devastating March earthquake and tsunami.

On the same night at the Unitarian Society of Northampton, Western Massachusetts residents gathered to commemorate another catastrophic event in the history of the nuclear power industry, now known as the Chernobyl disaster. Twenty-five years earlier to the day, a series of explosions and fires at the Chernobyl power plant in Ukraine released a plume of highly toxic radiation which blanketed 77,000 square miles of the Soviet Union, along with much of Europe. Some estimates have placed the Chernobyl death toll as high as 985,000, between 1986 and today. A large expanse of the affected land remains uninhabitable.

Following a reading (as

adapted by Vermont native Spencer Smith) from the book "Voices from Chernobyl" by Svetlana Alexievich, Dr. Ira Helfand of Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) warned the audience, unless dramatic changes occur, they should never be shocked to learn of another nuclear meltdown.

"After Chernobyl, the Americans and the Japanese said, 'We can never have another Chernobyl, our reactors are different.' And they were right," said Helfand. "In Japan there has not been a Chernobyl; there's been a Fukushima. And now we're being told that we can never have another Fukushima."

Helfand continued, "We won't have a Fukushima. We'll have an Indian Point, or a Pilgrim, or a Vermont Yankee. The plant will fail, an enormous amount of radiation will get out, and many people will get sick and die."

According to Helfand, an emergency room doctor at Cooley Dickenson Hospital and a founding member of the Nobel Peace Prize winning Physicians for Social

Responsibility, the inherent problem in all nuclear power facilities is the assumption that mechanical systems can be perfected and future leaks can be fully contained. "That hubris has to be challenged directly," Helfand charged. "We are people and we make mistakes, and the technology that we build is fallible."

The Indian Point nuclear plant located in Buchanan, NY is approximately 30 miles north of New York City. If a nuclear accident were to occur at that reactor, over 17 million people would fall within a 50 mile evacuation radius.

"Even the best evacuation plans could not possibly deal with a problem of this scale," Helfand warned the Northampton audience. "There is no way to evacuate over 17 million people. And if that's what you need to do, and you can't do it, then the plant shouldn't be there in the first place."

There are currently over one million people living within 50 miles of the Vermont Yankee plant, including many residents of Massachusetts.

Recently, the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) performed a disaster and evacuation drill with local emergency departments situated within ten miles of the plant. The departments involved reportedly received a high performance ranking from FEMA, and a full analysis is expected in the coming months.

In closing, Dr. Helfand

encouraged the Northampton audience members to write to their local leaders and to keep up with the public discourse surrounding nuclear power facilities. He urged the public to take advantage of the recent events at the Fukushima Daiichi plant.

"We have to speak very clearly to those in the nuclear industry and to their friends in government: this can't happen again."



KATE FITZGERALD PHOTO

Dr. Ira Helfand of Physicians for Social Responsibility speaking on April 26th at the Unitarian Society of Northampton

Recital Chorus Spring Concert

GREENFIELD - Each spring for 14 years a concert of vocal and choral music has been presented in the Greenfield area by the Recital Chorus, directed by Margery Heins, with Barbara Hudgik, accompanist. On Friday, May 20th, at 7:30 p.m. the group's 15th spring concert will be given in Sloan Theater at Greenfield Community College.

The concert will include a variety of music including madrigals, folk songs, spirituals, songs from musical theater, and works of Mozart, Grieg, Saint-Saëns, Barber, Casals, and Elliot Levine. Small and large ensembles will be included on the program. Selections include Mozart's famous "Ave Verum Corpus," "How Merrily We Live" by Michael East, and "I Got a Home in-a that Rock," arranged by Howard Tappan. The public is encouraged to come and enjoy this free program, approximately an hour in length. Sloan Theater at GCC is handicapped accessible. For more information call 413-775-1171.



Margery Heins

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Deer Hit on Route 63, Property Found

Thursday, 5/5

1:34 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with a report of a possible female driver in distress on Route 63. Checked area. Unable to locate.

8:36 p.m. Accident, car vs. deer, on Route 63.

Friday, 5/6

8:15 p.m. Call of possible runaway near Forest Street area. Spoke with same. All set.

Sunday, 5/8

1:00 p.m. Found property given to police department. Incident report taken.

3:06 p.m. Report of loud drum noise at French King Highway. Spoke with resident. Advised to keep volume down.

Monday, 5/9

5:50 p.m. Loose dog reported on Mountain Road. Returned to owner.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. How can I tell if I'm suffering from sleep apnea?

About 18 million Americans have sleep apnea. It's much more common in older adults and men. Apnea is Greek for "without breath."

People with sleep apnea stop breathing for as long as 30 seconds at a time. These interruptions can happen hundreds of times a night. The breathing cessations may wake you and prevent you from getting a good night's sleep. These awakenings

THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Sleep Apnea, Anxiety and Gas

usually are so brief you don't recall them.

The most common symptoms of sleep apnea include:

- Excessive daytime sleepiness
- Loud snoring
- Observed episodes of breathing stoppages during sleep
- Abrupt awakenings with shortness of breath
- Awakening with a dry mouth or sore throat
- Morning headache
- Problems associated with sleep deprivation such as forgetfulness and mood changes.

About 90 percent of sleep-apnea victims have a windpipe blockage. Obstructive sleep apnea occurs when the muscles in the back of your throat relax. These muscles support the soft palate, tonsils, tongue and uvula — that doohickey that hangs in the back of your mouth. When

the muscles relax, your airway is narrowed and breathing is cut off. A blockage can also be caused by a lot of fatty tissue in the throat.

Q. I seem to be anxious more than usual. Is this something that increases with age?

Because the stresses of health problems, losses and other major life changes build up as we get older, we tend to become anxious. Some surveys suggest that one in five older adults suffer anxiety symptoms that require treatment.

In addition to psychological causes, medical disorders common in older adults can be directly responsible for the anxiety we feel. These include heart disease, neurologic illness, thyroid and other hormone problems. In addition, anxiety can be a drug side effect. And seniors take a lot of medicine.

Anxiety disorders in seniors

have been underestimated. One of the main reasons is that older patients are more likely to emphasize their physical complaints and downplay emotional problems.

Anxiety disorders are serious medical illnesses that affect approximately 40 million American adults. They all involve excessive, irrational fear. Anxiety disorders are chronic and can worsen if untreated.

Anxiety disorders are treated with medication and psychotherapy. Both approaches can be effective for most disorders. Anxiety disorders are not all treated the same, so it is important to determine the specific problem first.

Although medications won't cure an anxiety disorder, they can keep the symptoms under control and enable people to lead normal lives.

Q. I seem to pass gas a lot. What's normal?

For the record, most people

pass gas about ten times each day. Twenty times daily is still considered normal.

Most people produce between a pint and a half-gallon of gas each day. Oxygen, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen from swallowed air make up a large part of gas or "flatus." Fermenting foods in the colon produce hydrogen and methane as well as carbon dioxide and oxygen.

The unpleasant odor of some flatus is the result of trace gases, such as hydrogen sulfide, indole, and skatole, which are produced when foods decompose in the colon.

We release gas upwardly by belching and downwardly by flatulence. When we swallow air and don't release it by belching, the air will work its way down and out the rectum. About half the gas passed from the rectum comes from swallowed air.

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

NEWS ANALYSIS

BY JONATHAN von RANSON

GREENFIELD - There sat four rows of us, specimens of a very clever mammal that's gotten in way beyond its depth, hearing from one who learned, starting as a six-year-old boy, that nuclear weapons are cruel, indiscriminate, hellish, particularly when they explode, especially nearby.

Around 40 of us gathered in a room at Greenfield Community College, hoping to chip away a bit more of the collective mental wall and better 'get it' — the reality of a world in which an entity of our making called *government* still maintains things called *weapons*, some of which can carry out not just regional murder or continental mayhem, but destruction capable in a single day of changing the biology of our compromised planet.

We were five miles away from the hypocenter. Suddenly the sky was blindingly bright. Then a concussion, with flying shards of glass. We had no idea what was happening. Soot, papers fluttering down. I tried to catch some of them. Then the sooty, black rain.

Thoughts on Hiroshima Survivor's Story:

What Supports the Bombs?

I don't mean to say the event itself last Friday in the college's Sloan Theater was less than remarkable. Hardly. By his American speaking tour, the college's guest, Takaaki Morikawa, who is now 71, is breaking a Japanese taboo about identifying oneself as a atomic bomb survivor lest one be shunned. (His traumatized people have had no way of knowing what carcinogenic residue might haunt their tissues, their genes. For decades they've put their everyday welfare ahead of even emotional healing, let alone any life-changing lessons they could share.)

But on this side of the ocean, and history, our culture has its own taboo that relates to how we hear such a message, how we process dire information as a whole — a taboo that this audience was challenging but that generally continues quite intact. As Americans, we're the half-proud cooks who developed the recipe, $E = MC^2$, and gained the narrow benefits of serving the fiendish casserole to our enemy.

Our synaptic paths resist full understanding, full accountability for such things.

Victims flocked to the hospital seeking help. One man who lost both eyes felt his way there along the riverbank. I, at age 6, was terrified to see the victims — they looked like ghosts.

As much as we granted the speaker's authority and found our understanding deepening, the personal account of Mr. Morikawa, survivor of Hiroshima, could evoke just a stronger, clearer shadow — but still only a shadow — of the horror of August 7th, 1945. For us it was a brutal, second-hand glimpse along with some third-hand news that blended into statistics, painful, but still statistics. His story, even added to what we already knew, couldn't make Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or the nuclear weapon status quo, so irresistibly real that we would think of nothing else for days and secede from the union, or march on the Pentagon, or run for public office. There was something anti-magnetic at work.

My father didn't talk about it for a long time. Forty-five years ago he even swore to my fiancé, 'My son is not a victim.'

An atomic bomb survivor like Morikawa, standing there alive, dressed in a suit, with a tumor of uncertain origin in his right lung, provided a peep-hole into the hell of 20th Century atomic war... a gentle taste of what current nuclear stockpiles promise, globally. But our empathy as listeners couldn't help but contain a whiff of paternalism. Sitting in the lecture hall in our jeans and plaid shirts, slacks and blouses, it almost seemed as if we were whistling in the dark. The PowerPoint slides had informative labels in quaint, translated English that bespoke the fervor behind them, but something compartmentalized the subject



Abbie Jenks, advisor to the GCC Peace & Social Justice Studies program, presented Takaaki Morikawa with the peace symbol he's showing. Morikawa spoke as a survivor of the U.S. atomic bombing raid on Hiroshima in 1945.

and chastened it slightly: the academic setting... the projected images... conscience fatigue? Our best questions sounded fragmentary next to the great totality one will never make eye contact with, the ensconced military-nuclear establishment. It's a fraternity at the confluence of pure science, mad technology and our fears. The mystique is deep and cherished. Mere conscience seems puny next to it.

Once he did talk, he recalled the sight of a woman carrying a baby with its skin burned off. He saw people blinded by glass see HIROSHIMA pg 18

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Franklin County Entrepreneur of the Year to be Named

TURNERS FALLS - Who is Franklin County's 2011 Entrepreneur of the Year? Find out on Thursday, May 19th at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls.

At the awards ceremony, which starts at 7 p.m., the Franklin County Community Development Corporation will announce the first Dick Haas Entrepreneur of the Year Award. This event honors the enduring spirit of local business owners as they share their stories of struggles and triumphs.

"This is the first annual event

to celebrate entrepreneurship in Franklin County," said CDC director John Waite. "We have named this award in honor of Dick Haas because he was one of the most successful entrepreneurs in Franklin County over the last 30 years. With his wife Janet, he built Hillside Plastics from a struggling start-up into a thriving business employing more than 100 people at their facility in Montague. Hillside Plastics is best known for its signature maple syrup jugs, under the name Sugar Hill, which are

used in syrup producing regions throughout the US and Canada. Dick Haas passed away in December 2010 and this award is a natural way to honor him and the many entrepreneurs who are following in his footsteps."

"Dick Haas was not only a fine businessman, but he also was always working to help the community," noted Gary Gruber, chair of the CDC's board of directors. "Dick was an anchor on the CDC's board for many years and continued to support us as he went on to do

other things. He was also a key member of the board of Greenfield Savings Bank."

Asked who will be the first Haas Entrepreneur of the Year, Gruber said, "The awardee is a well known and well respected person who runs a very successful business, has shown great commitment to the Franklin County community as well as to the CDC, and has demonstrated support for a wide variety of community concerns. Since we are lucky to have many people in the county who fit that descrip-

tion, you will just have to attend the event on May 19th to find out."

In addition to the award presentation, Gary Bogoff, owner of Berkshire Brewing Company will speak about being an entrepreneur. The event will be followed by a networking reception with refreshments next door to the Shea at the Hallmark Institute of Photography Gallery; Rob Fletcher will play 'Toast of the Town' jazz standards. For more info, to reserve tickets for the event on May 19th, contact the Franklin County CDC at 413-774-7204 (X 100) or at www.fccdc.org.

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from **HIROSHIMA** pg 17
fragments when they turned to look at the blast.

So it's not just 'getting' that weapons of mass destruction disintegrate us, smash us dead, or, in unluckier cases, burn our skin off. Nor just fathoming that they simultaneously level cities, sicken rescuers, drop black rain, and keep on giving (so to speak) medically and karmically for decades. It's the very idea of them that needs to be 'gotten', and the ideas that led to them. Nuclear weapons and nuclear weapon stockpiles come out of somewhere. They're the logical extension of our 'national' 'defense' - two unquestioned concepts linked into one unholy truism. It's largely in defense of our economy the logical extension of which is the takeover of nature in an avalanche of stuff.

My cousin, his classmates were all killed, but he survived. He had the school building fall on him. He lost his left eyeball.

Writers Wanted

The Montague Reporter is seeking to hire committed reporters to cover local school committee and selectboard meetings. If you aren't committed yet, we can get you committed. For details call (413) 863-8666.

He said that hibakusha - social discrimination - was more painful than dying.

Simply stated, the problem is the great taboo in our own culture against learning how crazy the very idea of our domination of nature and the world is. Our many technologies - not just nuclear - that serve our supposed mastery are actually secondary. Yes, the modern superpower takes weaponry and commerce too far. But the real problem is how far we take denial.

Cumulatively, our economic tools are exhibiting a life-degrading effect even more inexorable than that of the Bomb. To be willing to see the machinery of advantage in all its moving parts is to begin to grapple with the question of nations and corporations, and the anonymity and moral shrinkage they allow - or force on us under taboo. How badly has any concession of thought and speech infected our personal assumptions? Do the bombs ride the coattails of our middle-class salaries? How do they relate to the domination of nature? In order to work with our declared anti-nuclear purposes, does our daily economic activity need to align with a non-hierarchical understanding and expression? In answering we may finally gain the world-changing power of the missing truth.

An organization called

Mayors for Peace is conducting a campaign called Cities Are Not Target - CANT. I invite you to support it.

A WW II US Air Force veteran was in the audience. He said Hiroshima had been selected because it was a "clean" target, without prior war damage, and the effects of the bomb would be easy to assess. He also said Nagasaki wouldn't have happened if the Japanese had acted quicker to capitulate. Morikawa agreed with the first statement, but corrected the second, in a firm, but polite, Japanese way:

Japan had already signed away its power. There was no need to drop the A-Bomb. I have seen the papers. But the US would have had no justification for its big expenditures if it didn't drop the bombs.

Do we meet one of our parents' generation's victims, like Mr. Morikawa, trouble ourselves inconclusively, and break free to enjoy the goods, services and power of our carbon and nuclear magic kingdom? Could the system we're part of be praising Green nature while draining her blood, breath and flesh, like offering a woman kisses while stealing her purse? Pondering this seems a fair response to Mr. Morikawa's experience as a six-year-old, facing nuclear annihilation, and now that of a 71-year-old, braving ostracism.



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Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Bistro Boys*, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 15th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Edible Plants of Spring Field Walk*, take a walk along the Canal-side bike path with Blanche Derby to locate and learn about edible plants that emerge in Spring. The walk will depart from the bike path entrance in Unity Park at 1 p.m. In the event of rain, the program will be held in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center. -1-3 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lady Elvis, Harmaniacs*, 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, Classic rock and dance music, 8-10 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 13th

Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center: *Senior Hike to Rose Ledge*, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Friends' Coffeehouse Series Presents Kathy Chapman and Blue Moon*. Kathy sings songs about family, love and life's challenges in a smooth, folk/rock, Nanci Griffith style. Tunes from Patsy Cline to Jimmy Hendrix along with some original pop tunes written by guitarist and music composer Joe Pod. Doors open at 6:30 pm, concert begins at 7 pm.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kristin Ford, And the Kids and the Pirates*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, Acoustic driven originals, 9-11 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Leah Randazzo Group*, 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Rock 201*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 14th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Eyes on Owls- Live Owl Presentation* 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. See live owls up-close, discover how to find wild owls, and learn how to hoot. Two sessions. And 1:30 - 2:45 p.m. will be offered- the first will be held indoors and the second will be outside, weather permitting. Pre-registration is required due to limited space. Call 413-863-3221 for more info or to register.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Prom of the Future*, 9:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, 9-11 p.m.

Leverett Town Hall: Scottish singer/songwriter, *David Ferrard* will play at the Echo Lake Coffeehouse, 7:30 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Charlie Apicella & Iron City*, 8 p.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Used Book Sale*, Books are \$2 a bag. Proceeds to go to the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Teens Across the North, Emily Cappa and Ben Hersey*, A mixed media event. Artist Emily Cappa will discuss art in the everyday practice. Ben Hersey will perform an original monologue; one can never anticipate which dimension Mr. Hersey will wind up in. A new collective, *Teens Across the North*, will handle the musical portion of the evening. The Teens

ations past. Joining Elizabeth is her mother Sandy, who lends her strong voice to close mountain harmonies and soul-satisfying gospel. Their two voices, interspersed with old-timey banjo tunes, can lift and carry the listener away to another time. Nicholas Francis sings and plays old-time inspired contemporary folk music. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Patty Carpenter & Friends*, jazz, pop, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, singing all your Johnny Cash favorites and many more, 9-11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Reprobates*, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 21st

Wendell Town Hall: Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, *barnRocket*, strong song writing, is where the emphasis lies here. With a melting pot of American roots influences, *barnRocket* is bound to bring you original tastes of Cajun, Rock, Folk, Country, Funk, Bluegrass, World Beat and who knows what else. With John Monthei on Banjo and Pedal Steel, Sean Kimball on Bass and vocals, Leslie King on Mandolin, Guitar and vocals and Peter Nabut on Guitar, Accordion and vocals, 7:30 p.m.

Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center: *Underwater Organisms: Amazing Diversity*, ages 12 and up, 2-4 p.m. Free.

Leverett Town Hall: *Plant & Garden Book Sale*, hosted by The Leverett Historical Society. Plant and book donations are needed to make this event happen. For more info or to help, call Dawn Marvin Ward 367-9562. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer*, the dance party, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Zydeco Connection*, 9-11 p.m.

Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls: Pothole Pictures presents *Striking a Cord*, which follows Nell Bryden and her band on her USO concert tour through the war zone as she performs and visits with U.S. soldiers in the field, 7:30 p.m.

Arts Block Cafe, Greenfield: *Joy Kills Sorrow*, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 22nd

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Thrive Show!* A monthly series dedicated to performance and cultural exchange. Readings, music, light refreshments, and a whole lot of fun. This month is Thrive Staff Show-time, featuring readings and music by staff and volunteers including Janel Nockleby, Jamie Berger, and more! 4 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT*

The Brick House
Community Resource Center
presents:
The Free School

This summer The Brick House will be launching The Free School. During July and August, The Free School will host a number of free classes & workshops ranging anywhere from bike mechanics to gardening, fixing up your car, to sewing.

The Brick House Free School is calling all individuals interested in participating, facilitating a class/workshop, or helping out with the planning this summer.

For more info about getting involved with The Free School email: awyers@brickhousecommunity.org

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24 Third St., Turners Fall, 01376
www.brickhousecommunity.org

Karaoke, 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Sturdy Temple, Featuring Jim Henry, Guy DeVito & Doug Plavin*, 9-11 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 24th

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Music Exchange!* Bring your instrument and play some songs, practice, teach, learn, share. Led by Steve "Coolio" Koziol. See our facebook page for our songs of the month to learn and come in ready to play. 7 - 9 p.m.

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EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT
Montague Inn: *TNT Karaoke*.

EVERY SUNDAY
Thrive Project Turners Falls: *Franklin County Drawing Posse*, an informal drawing group led by Anja Schutz. All skill levels more than welcome. 1 - 4 p.m.

NOW THROUGH MAY
Franklin Medical Center Cafeteria, Greenfield: Oil paintings on display by *Ted Graveline* of Gill. All sales proceeds will benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

NOW THROUGH JUNE
Wendell Free Library: exhibition of recent paintings by *Heather K. Lenz*, these ten oil paintings present the viewer with an unusual combination of beautiful, rich imagery and stimulating content focused on transformation, regeneration and growth. The exhibition presents the viewer with another person's investigation into the process of living. It will reward patient inspection. Artists reception Saturday, May 7, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

NOW THROUGH MAY 30th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *A Sense of the Refuge: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 50th Anniversary Exhibit*, A four-panel exhibit describing the history, people, wildlife, climate challenges and special significance of the Arctic Refuge is on view in the Great Hall until the end of May.

THROUGH SUNDAY, JUNE 5th
Hallmark Gallery, Turners Falls: *I Was There: Stories of War and Homecoming*,

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The Road Less Traveled A First Rate Work by a First Rate Artist

RICHARD ANDERSEN & DIANE LYN MONTAGUE - The primary purpose of college art museums is to teach art and art history from original works. Most of these works are either first-rate works by second-rate artists or second-rate works by first-rate artists. Kerry James Marshall's *Untitled* (2009) does not fit either category. A first-rate work by a first-rate artist, it is part of the *Embodied: Black Identities in American Art* exhibit currently on display at the Yale University Art Gallery.

Although there are other paintings in the room where *Untitled* is hung, and a wide variety of works in other media

in several adjoining rooms, Marshall's painting seems almost to leap from the wall into your personal space as soon as you see it. And it doesn't let you back off either. It's that powerful.

Why? For one thing, it's big — five feet high by six feet wide — and its colors are brilliant, bold, and striking. The most thought-provoking reason, however, may be the attitude of the African (American?) woman at the center of the painting. She's just spun away from working on her self-portrait to look you in the eye. "This had better be good," reads the expression on her face. The confrontation is so dramatic you almost feel

like apologizing for interrupting her.

Because the woman does not avert her eyes, you eventually have to avert yours. Perhaps you notice first the oversized palette. Could it be in the shape of Africa? A fingernail on the hand that holds the palette boasts the red, green, and black colors of the Pan-African flag. The woman's and the artist's political affiliations are certainly clear.

But what about the deep ebony color of the woman's skin? It doesn't seem real. The gallery's catalogue for the exhibit suggests that the artificial color of the woman's skin implies that social constructions are only "skin deep." The fact that the self-portrait is outlined in a child's paint-by-numbers scheme seems to underscore this interpretation, as does Marshall's use of acrylic paint on a durable PVC (?) canvas. The catalogue goes one step further, however,



Detail from Kerry James Marshall's painting *Untitled* (2009)

claiming Marshall's emphasis on artifice even calls the subject's gender into question. How do we know she is not a he in drag? A clean-shaven man camping in dress, wig, and jewelry.

You can decide for yourself between now and October 29th. It's free, and the money you've saved on admission you can put toward a good meal at the Union Café down the street.

Sidewalk Touch-Up


Saturday, after a year of school children scuffing the words away, Sebastian Gutwein (right) and his father Barry repainted the poem on his Woven River Art Pathway in Turners.

"Woven River"

<i>This is a village</i>	<i>A village</i>
<i>We are woven bricks</i>	<i>A quiet cradle of churches</i>
<i>Mudstone and fish</i>	<i>Chestnut and shoal</i>
<i>Train rails and intention</i>	<i>Lantern and flicker</i>
<i>We are arrowhead and industry</i>	<i>We are sewn</i>
<i>Water flying over cliff</i>	<i>Brothers and sisters</i>
<i>We are sbad bush and oar</i>	<i>Soil, song and river</i>
<i>Artist and bridge</i>	<i>— By Maria Williams Russell</i>



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