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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 4 - NO. 32

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MARCH 18, 2006

Blooming with Art

Turners Falls Open Studio & Downtown Walking Tour May 20 & 21

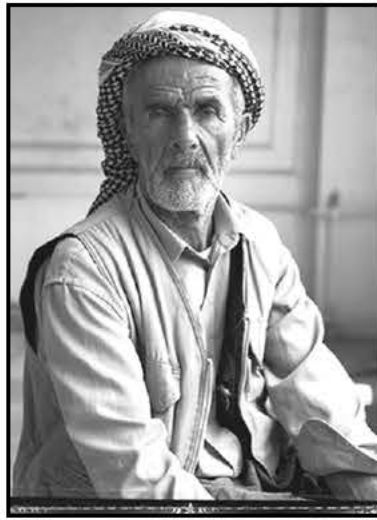
BY LISA DAVOL -

Turners Falls is the place to be this weekend as the old town opens its doors to reveal new growth and creativity. The second annual "Arts and Blooms" open studio and downtown walking tour features nine art destinations and a large juried art festival of 25 artists as well as musical performances on the lawn in front of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Have you had the pleasure of walking around the downtown lately? The Avenue is in full bloom, our historic buildings have been beautifully restored, and the nearly finished bike path affords breathtaking river views for a leisurely stroll. Self-guided historical walking tour booklets are available at the Discovery Center and at the



Left: Stone carving called "Shorty" by Tim DeChristopher.



Right: photograph from Alan M. Thornton's recent trip to Turkey.

Carnegie Library to give you more insight into the history of the preserved architecture. New restaurants and shops have opened and the opportunity to see works of world famous pho-

tographers is as close as Third and Avenue A.

Aside from all the daily charms of this town, this weekend will give you the opportunity to step into the workspace of

some of the artisans who have carved a niche in our cultural enclave. Artists will open their studios so you can get a glimpse of their creative process and an appreciation for what they produce as well as a chance to purchase some of their pieces not usually available.

Tim DeChristopher's sculpture studio at 151 Third Street is in the former Chick's Garage, the perfect space for DeChristopher's large stone sculptures. This weekend, he will be featuring new works in progress and hands-on stone carving demonstrations. He will also be taking registrations for summer carving workshops.

Alan M. Thornton Studio, the old livery stable at 36 Third Street, has been transformed to

capture Thornton's powerful portraits of people he met on a recent trip to Turkey.

Wednesday Nelen Sorokin's studio, just a few doors down at 22 Third Street, will take you into her world of everyday Eros translated through oil and encaustic paintings.

Jack Nelson's Carriage House Designs studio at 65 Canal Street is a work of art in itself. Perched above the canal, Nelson has redesigned the interior into an airy, magical space. Here he creates his paintings, ceramics and sculptures which are both abstract and realistic. Nelson, along with his wife Eileen Dowd, started these open studio tours in Turners over a year ago.

see ARTS pg 10

Library Volunteers Save \$30,000

BY JOSH HEINEMANN WENDELL & NEW SALEM -

On a cold, wet Sunday, May 14th, 13 residents from Wendell and New Salem drove to Suffolk University in Boston and spent the day salvaging shelves from the library the university is replacing. If purchased new, those shelves would cost as much as \$56,000, or less, depending on which catalog you are consulting.

Finding the library, and then finding a place to park among the one way streets and the lack of directional signs in Boston was a difficulty each driver had to face with only the help of his or her passengers.

Library staff had already marked the shelves set aside for the two towns, and as volunteers came in from the weather they fell into whatever job needed doing: removing, packing and wrapping shelves, dismantling supports, carrying pieces

and loading the truck. We took a break and ate pizza, and then went back to work.

Wendell librarian Rosie Heidkamp convinced her cousin who goes to school in Boston to help for most of the day.

The work took longer than expected, and the one U-Haul truck rented was too small for the whole load. The truck left Suffolk University around 5:30 p.m. and arrived in New Salem after 8 o'clock, where a fresh set of volunteers, coordinated by cell phone, helped unload the shelving into the New Salem town hall gym. Plans to separate the shelves between the two towns were abandoned until later because everyone was too tired.

On the trip home Heidkamp began calling on a cell phone to arrange for a second excursion to go back to Boston the next day. The Wendell highway depart-

ment supplied two workers for Monday's trip, and three volunteers joined them. Wendell librarian Clearwater Liberty arranged unloading crews for the second trip; she picked some of these volunteers up at the Wendell Country Store on her way to meet the truck.

Arrangements were made by New Salem librarian Dianna Smith, and selectboard member Tony Palmieri, along with Heidkamp.

On Friday, May 19th Wendell selectboard members Dan Keller and Ted Lewis, and highway commissioner Harry Williston will travel to an abandoned federal building in Boston to pick up some used furniture, mostly for the town offices. Next Tuesday, May 23rd, another team will go to Simmons College to pick up more furniture.

It's fair to say recycling has never been more popular.

Wrangling Over Railroad Salvage



BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - The Railroad Salvage building in Turners Falls is a crumbling relic of the town's manufacturing heyday, but two competing developers each believe they have the right idea - and the legal right - to save the building and turn it into a profitable piece of real estate.

The owner of the building, according to Patricia Dion at the tax collector's office, is Gary Kosuda, who runs a development business, Kosuda Properties, out of Fort Lauderdale, FL. Dion said Kosuda had allowed the taxes on the property to fall into arrears from 2002 to 2005, and the

town had placed the building in tax title. But she said Kosuda paid off all he owed in back taxes with a \$44,000 payment in December of 2005, and now owes only the second half of the current year's real estate taxes: \$2,600. Despite a huge 50 by 70 foot hole in the main roof, which collapsed this winter and crashed through five floors of the building to the basement, and several (one 50 by 30 foot and two 50 by 20 foot) smaller holes in the roof, Kosuda apparently has faith the building is still, well... salvageable.

Building inspector David Jensen

see SALVAGE pg 9

PET OF THE WEEK

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Mowgli's an 8-year-old brown tiger cat looking for a good home. He's a really friendly boy!

He is very relaxed and handles new situations well, which will make his transition into your home nice and smooth. He loves toys and petting and since he's lived with lots of other animals he's a pretty tolerant guy.

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Closed Saturdays

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - The Carnegie Library summer hours run from May 27th - September 2nd. Saturday, May 20th, is the last Saturday the Carnegie Library is open until after Labor Day Weekend. The rest of the week's schedule remains the same year round.

The library is open for the summer on Monday - Wednesday 1 - 8 p.m., Thursday 1 - 5 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Various childrens' programs are held when the library is not open. Library materials may be renewed by phone, by calling 863-3214, or on-line at cwmars.org.

Franklin County Tech Hosts Aleene Burt Memorial Blood Drive

BY PAUL COHEN
TURNERS FALLS - The Franklin County Technical

Assisting program. As a result of the drive, over 50 units of blood were collected at the Tech School.



Stephanie Graves (l) and Laura Burt.

GSA advisor Karen Sims said, "this is a yearly event that allows our students to participate in a positive community experience. It is embraced school wide by both faculty and students."

Aleene would be proud.

School recently held its 9th annual blood drive in memory of Aleene Burt. Aleene passed away in August 1996 from leukemia. She had been an employee of the school, and had asked that blood drives continue to be a yearly event there. During the recent blood drive, Aleene's daughter, Laura Burt, came to donate blood in honor of her mother. Laura is now 18, a resident of Millers Falls, and attends Greenfield High School.

Students from the Franklin County Technical School Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) group and the Health Assisting program assisted in making appointments and volunteering at the drive. Stephanie Graves, a close friend of Laura, is a senior at Tech and is involved in both the GSA group and the Health

Walking for Meals on Wheels



Dr. Joseph Viadero, of Montague, and his mother Carmen, of Bridgeport, CT, walked for Meals on Wheels on May 6th. That day, more than \$16,500 was raised to help feed frail, homebound elders.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES May 22nd - 26th

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Make meal reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Special trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

Monday, 22nd
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11:30 a.m. PACE Aerobics
Tuesday, 23rd
9:30 a.m. Aerobics

Wednesday, 24th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 25th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 26th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-

FACES & PLACES



Ted Kennedy at the Springfield College Graduation

'Tis Commencement Time Again

BY FLORE
SPRINGFIELD - All seemed to be working against the special coming event. The coming of Senator Edward Kennedy, to address the Springfield College Graduates, assembled with their family and friends, outdoors, in Blake Field.

The first incident could have cost him his life. The eight-seater Cessna Citation bringing him home last Saturday, from North Adams, where he had just delivered the commencement speech at "The Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts," was struck by lightning. All electric devices went out. Fortunately, the pilot was able to fly the plane manually to safety, landing it in New Heaven. No one was injured, a pure miracle wouldn't you say? The second problem was also of a meteorological nature. RAIN! But no one even noticed its imminent pouring. All were thrilled by the arrival of Ted Kennedy, who reminded the fervent 704 graduates that his brother, J. F. Kennedy, had climbed that podium too, to address commencement at the college 50 years ago. So did Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., years later.

Kennedy's remarks were directed toward hope. He urged the graduates to put hope back in its due place in the scale of human values. He said the future belongs to those who shape it. "In a sense, this is the story of America, change and progress. It is true here in Springfield as it is with the rest of the nation. You have already begun that journey at Springfield College, through education and service to others."

Haven't we all sprung from shoulders of giants? Ted Kennedy belongs in their league.

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GSB Gives \$500,000 Matching Gift to Franklin Medical Center

GREENFIELD - County's leading Greenfield Savings Bank gave \$500,000 to Franklin Medical Center's Second Century fundraising campaign.

This gift is the campaign's largest corporate gift and the highest amount ever pledged by the bank to a community project. The successful joint effort united two regional powerhouses: the area's premier medical center and Franklin

County's leading financial institution. GSB does business with half of all Franklin County households, is the number one residential lender and holds close to 40 percent of the county's savings deposits.

The half-million-dollar



From left to right: Michael Skinner, Franklin Medical Center President; Rebecca Caplice, GSB Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer; Joseph Poirier, GSB President & Chief Executive Officer; Robert Cohn, owner of Cohn & Company Real Estate & FMC Campaign Co-chair.

pledge, which will be given to FMC over the next five years, is just the latest (and largest) of many investments GSB has made in Franklin County over its nearly 140-year history. Other major contributions by GSB include \$50,000 to the YMCA for an

expansion to its facility in 1996 and \$25,000 each to Greenfield's Energy Park in 2003 and to The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts in 2006. In the past three years alone, the United Way campaign has received more than \$75,000 in charitable gifts from the bank as well.

The overall campaign goal for Franklin Medical Center is \$5.5 million, of which \$4 million has already been raised.

Wendell Women's Club Fundraising Supper



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTY ARSENAULT

The Wendell Women's Club, with the help of Relay for Life Team #73, hosted a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser recently at the Wendell Town Hall. Bethany Maselli, President of the WWC, said almost 90 meals were served to guests who came from Greenfield, Warwick, Orange, and Wendell. Heather Gymrek, Relay for Life Team #73 Leader said Wendell Fire Chief Everett Ricketts won the 50/50 drawing

that evening.

Both organizations wish to thank everyone who donated their time and assistance to make this event a big success.

Pictured (left to right) front: Heather Grymek, Relay for Life Team 73, Martha Senn, Michelle Connolly, Bethany Maselli, Laura Zera, Marcy Diemand, Julie Kosuda, Sarah Chase. (Left to right, back): Amanda Zera, Bethany Zera, Kim (?), and Kenzie Diemand.

Steer Clear of Bears

ERVING - This spring, the Erving police department has received calls regarding bear sightings from all over town. In order to keep bears and other wild animals away from homes, please be sure to abide by the following suggestions.

Bring in your bird feeders and any pet food bowls at night and keep your trash in a secure area.

If you see a bear, remember, it is a wild animal. Do not approach it, or try to make contact with this animal. It is best to stay away from bears, and stay indoors when they are in your vicinity.

Memorial Week Trash Pickup

GILL - Due to the Memorial Day holiday, trash pickup and recycling in Gill will be pushed forward one day, to Saturday, June 3rd.

Erving Memorial Day Events

On Monday, May 29th there will be a short parade (not like the major event last year) and ceremony in Erving (west end of town) starting at 9:30 a.m. Interested parties are asked to meet at the Fire Hall #2 (opposite the library).

Later that morning there will be a short service (no parade) in Erving Center (east end of town). Interested parties should meet at 11 a.m. at Fire Hall #1 (next to the Town Hall).

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Thursday, May 25th, at the Moore's Corner Schoolhouse, 7:30 p.m. Public welcome.

The schoolhouse is diagonally across from the Village Coop on North Leverett Road, three miles east of junction of Route 63 and North Leverett Road in Montague. A business meeting will precede the program at 7:00 p.m.

Psychic Fair

LAKE PLEASANT - The National Spiritual Alliance will sponsor a Psychic Fair Saturday (May 27) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thompson Temple across from the Post Office in Lake Pleasant. Divination methods include astrology, I-Ching, palm reading, vibration connection, and tarot cards. Consultation is with a medium of choice.

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Holyoke Canal Walk

A small delegation from Turners Falls traveled to Holyoke this week to view a presentation on the \$9.2 million Canal Walk project, a planned two-mile pedestrian promenade along the city's power canals due to break ground next spring. We had the feeling we were looking at a somewhat larger mirror image of our own milltown, going through a similar process of reinventing itself in the post-industrial era, using many of the same tools. Still one of the poorest cities in Massachusetts, Holyoke (popu-

badly;" (2 p.m.) "the stones of the bulkhead are giving way to the pressure;" and finally (3:20 p.m.) "your old dam has gone to hell by way of Willimansett."

The present stone dam was built from 1895 - 1900, and seems like it will last.

The canals have endured longer. They were built by pick and shovel, from 1847 - 1893, four and a half miles of them. They are exceptionally large, some 140 feet across and twenty-five feet deep. Ten billion gallons of water a day travel through them at peak capacity,



Along the Upper Canal in Holyoke

lation 40,000) was once an economic powerhouse, with 25 paper mills lining its three power canals. The Skinner silk mill moved here in 1874, after the Mill River dam in Williamsburg burst, flooding Haydenville and Leeds and killing 139 people.

Dams are not easy structures to build, as Holyoke remembers. An amusing anecdote of the first Holyoke dam, a hemlock timber and stone ballasted affair that blew out hours after it opened in 1849 (53 years after the first dam on the Connecticut was built at Turners Falls) is related at the Heritage Park visitors center. Apparently an on-the-scene observer kept Boston investors informed of the progress of the unfolding disaster by telegraph, thus: (10 a.m.) "the gates were just closed;" (12 noon) "the dam is leaking

adequate to the task of running the 100 mills that once lined their banks. Thirty one hydropowered electric turbines are still in use along Holyoke's canals, which are built on stepped levels, so the water from the upper canal flows through mills to the middle canal and thence through other mills to the third, reused as a source of power at each level.

In December of 2001, following a lengthy referendum and relicensing battle, the city's municipal power company, Holyoke Gas and Electric, bought the dam and canal system. Jeffrey Hayden, the city's director of economic and industrial development, said the city borrowed \$35 million to make the purchase. In the four years since, the municipality has been

see CANAL page 5

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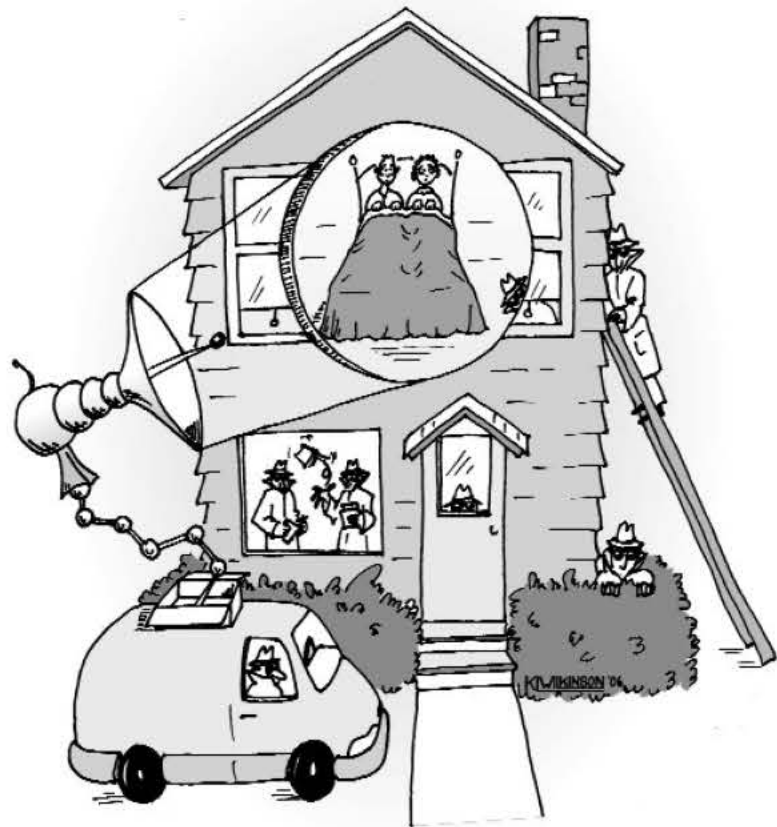
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KAREN WILKINSON GRAPHIC

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vermont Let us Down on VT Yankee

Shame on the Vermont Department of Public Service and the Douglas Administration. The DPS is charged with advocating on behalf of the public and looking out for public safety as well as keeping electric rates low for Vermonters. For the past two years, the state of Vermont, through the DPS, has been an intervenor in the proceedings before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board on the safety of the uprate at Vermont Yankee.

The state has argued that Entergy's analysis of its systems results in inadequate protection from the danger of meltdown due to coolant loss. The ASLB has agreed that these contentions, among others, ought not be disregarded and has arranged for a hearing on the merits.

Now the state has withdrawn these contentions and has asked that they be dismissed. Why? Shouldn't Vermont's regulators

do all they can to ensure the safety of the Vermont Yankee plant and of the citizens of the state? Now is the time to call on Gov. Douglas, and our congressional delegation for a full independent safety assessment of Vermont Yankee comparable to the study at Maine Yankee. Do the citizens of Vermont deserve any less?

- Evan Mulholland
Brookfield, VT

Selectboard Salaries Should be Increased

On May 6th, 2006, at the Montague annual town meeting, I mentioned to the town meeting members when Article 1 was brought forth in regard to the salaries of elected officials that I thought the salary of the selectboard members should be increased.

My reasons for an increase are that with a salary of \$2,745 for the chair, and \$2,534 for the second and third members it is virtually impossible to find people interested in seeking these positions.

In this day and age when gas prices have risen, and with the number of meetings these elected men and women have to attend on a weekly basis, it is a wonder we have anyone willing to serve at all.

If Dr. Ross were not willing to run during the May 15th election, the town of Montague would have only two selectboard members on board to face the many decisions the town of Montague faces during the upcoming years.

My proposal to the finance committee, and capital improvement committee is to bring forth a recommendation as follows:

- Selectboard Chair - \$5,000
- Second and Third Members - \$4,500.

I would be interested in what the voting members of the villages have to say about this proposal. Perhaps they can respond with letters to the editor of this newspaper. As a taxpayer in this community I have no intention of trying to place a tax burden on the few of us who have to support the town and school budgets, but the amount that I have proposed would do little to the tax in comparison to the

large articles under consideration.

Let's hear from you.

P.S. - Just to set the record straight, I am not interested in running for the selectboard.

- Art Gilmore
Millers Falls

American Dead in Iraq as of 5/17/06



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Earth Talk ~ Zero Waste

From the Editors of *E, the Environmental Magazine*

Q: Can you explain the 'Zero Waste' movement in Europe, Australia and elsewhere that goes beyond recycling to reduce waste? How can we make it happen here in the U.S.?

In essence, 'Zero Waste' is a design principle writ large, whereby products are conceived, produced, packaged, distributed and retired with their long-term environmental impacts in mind. According to the non-profit GrassRoots Recycling Network (GRRN), "Zero waste maximizes recycling, minimizes waste, reduces consumption and ensures that products are made to be reused, repaired or recycled back into nature or the marketplace."

GRRN is calling on companies to take responsibility for the entire life cycle of their products and packaging, and on governments to not subsidize non-recyclable waste processing.

"Waste is the result of bad design," says Eric Lombardi of EcoCycle, a recycler in Boulder, Colorado. "The concept of zero waste leads upstream to the designer's desk, where waste needs to be designed out." Lombardi, a leading light in the fledgling U.S. zero waste movement, lays out four basic principles for achieving zero waste: (1) Make producers responsible for the waste their products create; (2) invest in infrastructure rather than in more landfills and incinerators; (3) end taxpayer subsidies for wasteful and pol-

luting industries; (4) and create jobs and new businesses around the re-use of discards.

While the concept has been slow to catch on here, it has been standard practice in parts of Europe and elsewhere for over a decade. In fact, some 25 countries require companies to take back their packaging, and some have gone so far as to mandate "Extended Producer Responsibility" laws, whereby companies must pay for the waste generated in the production, packaging and distribution of their products.

In Germany, a 1991 ordinance seeking to address packaging waste was a huge success. By 2000, the agencies charged with collecting and recycling such materials were recovering

over 90 percent of the plastics and glass used in German packaging. (In the U.S. we reclaim 5.3 and 26 percent respectively.) Another success story comes from Australia, where its capital city, Canberra, embarked on a "No Waste by 2010" campaign in 1996. By 2001 the city had reduced waste sent to landfills by 40 percent and more than doubled the garbage it captured for reuse. The city also began fueling two of its power stations with re-captured methane gas from its landfills, which is plentiful enough to power 3,000 homes for 30 years.

In the U.S., industry has continually put up roadblocks to any serious consideration of adopting such initiatives at the federal level. But, according to

the Zero Waste International Alliance, at least 18 local communities have taken it upon themselves to adopt their own strategies for achieving zero waste. These include a dozen California cities and towns; Boulder and Summit counties in Colorado; Carrboro, North Carolina; the Central Vermont Waste Management District; and the cities of Seattle and New York.

"Zero waste is about challenging the ruling paradigm that says we can manage waste safely in landfills and incinerators," says GRRN's national coordinator, Bill Sheehan. GRRN helps coordinate efforts to implement zero waste campaigns in the U.S., and offers a wealth of free resources on its website.

CANAL continued from pg 4

generating roughly 45 megawatts of electricity from the dam, and Hayden says the revenue from the sale of that power has kept pace with the city's projections. We might want to keep an eye on the profit Holyoke will take from its municipal ownership of the hydro dam, enviously, now that Northeast Generation has announced plans to sell the dam here in Turners.

As the \$1.5 million canalside bike path in Turners Falls finally reaches completion, it will

also be interesting to compare notes with the economic development planners in Holyoke, who are marshalling larger resources to enhance pedestrian access to their canals. Both projects are aimed at stimulating tourism and recreational use near downtown waterways, with the hope of sparking economic growth along the old commercial thoroughfares.

A walk down the upper canal in Holyoke this week revealed a number of incubating art studios and small industries, cafes and curio shops growing up in the shells of the old mills. Hayden pointed to more than three

dozen paper related, recycling and publishing firms that now employ over 3000 workers in Holyoke, giving it hope someday to polish up the old Paper City moniker again. Building on the re-use theme, Hayden spoke of small companies recycling wood products into pellets for wood stoves, and other firms recycling and reusing office equipment and furniture.

In addition to hydrogenerated electricity, the city offers commercial and residential customers municipal gas, steam, and telecommunications at attractive rates, and a vast reservoir of readily convertible, affordably priced industrial space.

The canals are lined with public parks, which the Canal Walk project will enhance with pedestrian friendly bumpouts, traffic islands, signage, and lighting. The eight-acre Heritage Park near City Hall, on the banks of the upper canal, features a beautifully restored turn of the (last) century merry-go-round. The volleyball museum and children's museum are right next door.

A little further on is Open Square, a seven building, 500,000-square-foot, privately owned complex between the canals. Twenty years ago, Kodak Polychrome employed

150 workers there, all in one factory. Now, 25 to 30 businesses operate in 25% of the same space, with 120 workers among them. These young businesses are growing, Hayden said, and there is room for them to grow. Mt. Holyoke College recently began renting studio space for large mixed media installations and performances at Open Square, bringing yet another element to the downtown mix.

The UMass grad students presenting their visions for a multi-cultural, musical, vibrant, family-friendly downtown scene around the Canal Walk harkened back to similar pre-

sentations a different group of UMass grad students made in Turners Falls last year, describing ways we could create a gateway welcome center to enhance the Great Falls Discovery Center. A growing arts community is a factor both communities are emphasizing, as both an economic stimulus and a draw for visitors. Weaving through the storylines of both towns is the bold blue thread of water, in its man-made channels, with the limitless, clean, power it represents.

Our bet is on a prosperous future for all communities that harness that kind of energy.



Open Square, (right) holds a lively mix of arts and industries



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Apathy Wins In Montague and Gill

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The results are in from Monday's (5/15) town elections in Montague and Gill, and with no race on either ballot - except the less than earthshaking contest for a three-year seat on the Montague Parks and Recreation Commission, which Nancy Green took handily, topping Matt MacMullin 332-75 - it's no surprise that turnout was light. Only 451 voters showed up at the polls in Montague, a 10.25% turnout, to re-elect an unopposed Allen Ross to a three-year term to the selectboard, (Ross received 372 votes, 10 votes went to write-in candidates, and 15% of the voters cast no ballot for selectboard). The top vote getter for townwide candidates was Ray Godin, unopposed for town moderator, who received 403 votes. Down the line, all other townwide incumbents ran unopposed and were easily returned to office.

For town meeting, eight candidates vied for seven seats in Precinct 1, Montague Center, where town meeting seats are always at a premium. Allen Ross, Larry Peters, Leslie Cromack, Dorothy Freeman,

Jeff Singleton, and Linda Ackerman were all re-elected, while montaguema.net corkboard pundit Paul Kaufman beat out former Precinct 5 town meeting rep Mark Bander for the one open seat, 89-67.

In Precinct 2, Lake Pleasant and Millers Falls, incumbents Nancy Dlugoenski, Martha Pappas, Wendy Bogusz, David Jensen, Carol LaPoint, and Mike Naughton all walked to victory, while newcomer Mike Burek gained 53 votes to win an open seat (only Lapoint gained more votes, 56).

In Precinct 3, (east side of the Hill), David Dion, Patty Dion, Laurie Martin, Joyce Phillips, and Don MacPhail all coasted to re-election. Newcomers Carol Gloski and Margaret Pyfrom also gained seats.

On the other side of the Hill, in Precinct 4, Paul Flandreau, Sue and Brian San Soucie, Roberta Potter, David Thompson, and Pam Kostanski were all re-elected. In Precinct 5, downtown Turners, Julia Bowden-Smith was the top vote getter among the incumbents, with 42, with the other incumbents, Emily Brewster, Ellen

Kastanopolous, Mike Farrick, Patricia Pruitt, and Chris Sawyer-Laucanno hot on her heels. David Detmold snuck past Patricia Dunbar 38-29 for the other three-year seat, while incumbents Jack Nelson and Eileen Doud coasted to victory for two year terms. Newcomer Tim De Christopher carved out a place for himself for a one-year seat.

In Precinct 6 (Montague City and the South End), newcomer Doug Stephens joined incumbents Pat Allen, Brian Costa, and Edward Cutter. Write-in candidates for precincts 3,4, and 6 have yet to be determined.

Over in Gill, where 55 voters (5% of the registered voters) turned up at the polls, Leland Stevens, running unopposed for a three year selectboard seat, easily won re-election with 43 votes. There were no contests, and the only mystery was who would be written in for the two open seats on the three-person board of assessors. The board has struggled since a controversial designation of a new property tax district along the Connecticut River two years ago. All the original assessors who made that designation have

since resigned. The only remaining member, Greg Sneddeker, who joined the board last year, is a resident of the new district.

Director of Assessing JoAnne Greenleaf, director of assessing for the town of Montague, joined the board for one year, but reportedly turned down the opportunity to serve a three year term after being written in on Monday. Selectboard chair Phil Maddern said, "I don't know what we're going to do," about the two open seats. "We're going to have to start shaking the bushes." Maddern said he would start by calling the other seven town residents who had received write votes for the board.

Town clerk Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo said the assessors meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 17th, had been canceled for lack of a quorum.

On the Gill-Montague School Committee ballot, incumbent Valeria Smith was elected to a three-year term from Gill, and incumbents Kristin Boyle and Deb Bourbeau were returned to three-year terms from Montague. The school commit-

tee reorganized on Tuesday, May 16th, re-electing Mary Kociela as chair, and tapping Valeria Smith to be vice chair, and Deb Bourbeau as secretary.



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MCTV Schedule

May 19th - 25th • Channel 17

Friday, May 19th

Eagle All Day From 6:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. Brick House Poetry Reading
8:00 p.m. It's Dan Seiden's Show
8:30 p.m. GaiaVision
9:30 p.m. From the MCTV Archives

Saturday, May 20th

Eagle All Day From 6:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. GMRSD Meeting
9:30 p.m. Sammy's Video Archives
10:00 p.m. Montague Update
10:30 p.m. Neville Dennis Isle in the Sun

Sunday, May 21st

Eagle All Day From 6:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. Montague Selectboard 5/16
7:30 p.m. There and Back
8:30 p.m. Franklin County Democrat
9:00 p.m. Brick House Poetry Reading

Monday, May 22nd

Eagle All Day From 6:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. Montague Selectboard live
9:30 p.m. Montague Update
10:00 p.m. Sammy's Video Collages
10:30 p.m. GaiaVision
11:30 p.m. From the Discovery Center

Tuesday, May 23rd

Eagle All Day From 6:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. GMRSD Committee Meeting LIVE
9:30 p.m. Montague Update
10:30 p.m. Teachers at Sea
11:00 p.m. From the MCTV Archives

Wednesday, May 24th

Eagle All Day from 6:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. Montague Selectboard 5/22
9:30 p.m. There and Back
10:30 p.m. It's Dan Seiden's Show
11:00 p.m. From the Discovery Center

Thursday, May 25th

Eagle All Day from 6:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. GMRSD Meeting 5/23
9:30 p.m. Montague Update
10:30 p.m. Brick House Poetry Reading

MCTV offers Studio Tours and Orientations on the Second Wednesday of each month at 6 PM. The public is welcome and encouraged to come down to the studio at 34 Second Street in Turners Falls to see the MCTV studio and learn about the exciting opportunities MCTV has to offer Montague residents. Call 863-9200 for more information.

Southworth Co. Signs On



DETMOLD PHOTO

TURNERS FALLS - Men from Moren Sign Company of Agawam install the new Southworth Paper Company sign on the corner of the paper mill on Tuesday afternoon, May 16th, after removing the

Esleek Manufacturing Company sign, a landmark by the Power Canal for decades. Word is that the new company, based out of Agawam, is keeping a brisk pace of production at the old mill, with the papermak-

ers working overtime to keep up with orders. Whether or not it was an omen of good business, the sun, which had not been seen since Friday, shone briefly on the new sign Tuesday evening

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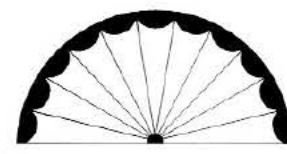
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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

River Road Farmland Approved for Protection

BY DAVID DETMOLD GILL - Tim and Dorothy Storrow brought papers from the state Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program for the selectboard to sign on Monday, May 15th, as the last step in preserving 18 acres of farmland they own on River Road for continued agricultural use.

Both the Storrows and French reduced the price of their farmland as a means of creating a local match for the state's purchase of the development rights on the land. Additionally, on the Storrow land, Gill used \$2300 from the town's conservation fund to pay for an appraisal of the land, giving the town an interest in the land as a co-holder of the APR deed.

and the board promised to research the matter before then. The Storrows said the fertile acreage along the river has lately been rented out for corn and hay, as well as the pasturage of sheep. Their land may now lie fallow for a few seasons, as the Storrows seek organic certification before resuming farming on it.

In other news, highway chief Mick LaClaire reported the town had received \$92,850 in state Chapter 90 funds for road maintenance in Fiscal '07. The board had previously urged him to set aside most of this year's Chapter 90 money in case the \$4.1 million Main Road reconstruction project due to start soon experiences cost overruns (on that project overruns beyond 10%, by contractual agreement with Mass Highway, are the responsibility of the town).

Consequently, on the 15th, LaClaire proposed taking \$43,500 out of this year's line item for oil (as in oil and stone, for resurfacing a portion of Boyle Road north of the elementary school and paving 3/10ths of a

mile portion of Barney Hale Road to the top of the hill) and taking it out of Chapter 90 funds instead. Since a large sum remains from previous years' Chapter 90 funding (approximately \$112,000, according to LaClaire), the board felt there would be enough of a cushion to cover contingencies for Main Road, and told LaClaire to go ahead with the plan.

The board urged LaClaire to keep in mind his department will be needing a new truck in the next year or so, and to set aside some of the remaining Chapter 90 funds if possible for that purchase. LaClaire said a single axle truck with plow would cost the department around \$100,000.

Taking \$43,500 for oil out of Chapter 90 will allow LaClaire to bring the highway budget down to \$262,161 for '07, more than \$15,000 below last year's request.

While he was there, LaClaire informed the board about progress, or the lack of it, on reopening the Bascom Road bridge, closed following damage to the abutments during last October's heavy rains. FEMA subsequently refused to fund repairs. Senator Rosenberg's office has asked the towns of

Greenfield and Gill to send letters attesting to the need to repair the bridge, so he can seek state funds for the repairs. LaClaire said he would gather supporting comments from fire chief Gene Beaubien and police chief David Hastings, who could verify the need to use the bridge for reduced response time on mutual aid calls to Greenfield.

Suzanne Smiley, former chair

of the planning board, has agreed to migrate over to the Zoning Board of Appeals, along with planning board member Bob Perry, now that the ZBA has been given the authority to handle special permit reviews (handled by the planning board up until now). The board appointed Smiley to the ZBA for one year, and Perry for two. Both boards will now have five members.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD Self Help Grant May Assist Conservation Land Purchase

Administrative assistant Tom Sharp told the Erving selectboard Monday, May 15th, that a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Conservation Self Help grant program for the purchase of open space may be able to help the town to a greater extent than first reported, in its effort to acquire and permanently protect 185 acres of conservation land on Old State Road. At their April 24th meeting, the board heard from Betsy Bhatti, a land protection specialist for Mt Grace Land Trust, that the Self-Help program might cover 52% of the purchase price of the land owned by the Giniusz family. After a meeting with state officials in Boston, Sharp told the board this week the program could cover 72% - 86% of the purchase price, a considerable improvement on earlier expectations. The town is negotiating for a reported asking price of \$800,000 for the old dairy farm, which includes fields, forested

sections, a cedar swamp, and cliffs. On the south side of the road, the land abuts an old town cemetery, where Revolutionary War Soldiers and early settlers are buried. The board has said the owners have a bone fide offer on the table from another buyer. Board member Jeff Dubay said the land could easily be carved up into 20 buildable lots, if it were sold for development.

Sharp said the Giniusz family is in the process of separating a few acres of land, with the old farmhouse, from the remaining acreage. The board hopes to seek approval for the purchase from a special town meeting before June 30th. The application to the Self Help program needs to be in by August 1st, and Sharp said the town should hear back from the state about the disposition of the grant by October 1st. If the purchase is completed, the town's conservation commission will oversee its management, in perpetuity.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG

Suspicious Acitivity

Thursday 5-11

9:20 a.m. General residential burglar alarm at a Saco Way residence. Officer sent, and residence was secure.

1:30 p.m. Riverside area resident advised she was receiving harassing phone calls. Report filed. Under investigation.

5:50 p.m. Mutual aid for Erving police with major motor vehicle accident on Route 2, all traffic re-routed.

Friday 5-12

4:15 p.m. General burglar alarm at the NMH campus. Security notified. All found to

be secure.

10:14 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating under the influence.

Sunday 5-14

8:30 a.m. Summons citation issued to [redacted] for operating after suspension.

10:30 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle activity in Gill. A vehicle reportedly pull up to a youth and asked the youth to come into the vehicle. Report filed, matter under investigation.

1:45 p.m. Complaint of a

tractor trailer unit in the roadway in the Riverside area, blocking the way for emergency vehicles. Officer sent.

10:30 p.m. General residential burglar alarm at a Riverside residence. Area was secure.

Monday 5-15

12:45 p.m. Motor vehicle accident without injury in the Route 2 area near Barton Cove.

Tuesday 5-16

9:31 p.m. Assisted Northfield Police with a domestic assault and battery arrest on Old Turnpike Road.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Rearranging the Chairs

BY JOHN HANOLD

It has been said that the passing of laws, like the making of sausages, is an effort best not observed. Tuesday's meeting of the Montague selectboard provided viewers a more light-hearted view of governmental operations, as the board re-organized itself for the coming year. In recent years it has been customary to elect as the new chair the member entering the last year of his or her term. As newly re-elected member Allen Ross observed, "In view of our collegial relationship there is no need to use the chairmanship to exert control." In keeping with that pattern, Patricia Pruitt was quickly elected as chair, and Allen Ross was elected clerk. He offered the opinion that his new position is the hardest one, because the clerk has to keep track of the details of motions.

Collegiality contended with light-heartedness as Pruitt and Ross attempted to change seats and microphones without damaging communications equipment or each other. MCTV graciously turned off the audio portion of the local broadcast during the procedure, so viewers observed the re-setting of chair

heights and microphones as silent cinema. One audience member suggested that a commercial for potables should fill the time-out period.

After the board completed the impromptu reorganization, they turned to the serious business at hand. First was a joint meeting with the two remaining members of the board of assessors to appoint a replacement for long time assessor Norm Fuller, who died last month. Three residents submitted letters of interest, offering varying strengths, and the combined boards discussed the relative importance of past experience, board continuity in the future, and involvement of broader age groups in town service. In response to Ross' question about how a candidate's views on economic growth or environmental concern might influence a member's actions, Betty Waidlich of the assessors assured him state mandates and guidelines prevent members from swaying assessing decisions.

Members of both boards mentioned the complexity of assessing issues and the need for every assessor to attend a state-mandated training course within two

years of appointment or election. One letter of interest was received only a day before the meeting, and the five deliberators considered whether to defer an appointment until the writer could be more thoroughly evaluated. All parties agreed that the board will continue to rely heavily on the experience of director of assessing JoAnn Greenleaf, whose two years' service in Montague are only the latest phase of her 22 years in the profession. The discussion concluded with the appointment of Theresa Ann Miner of Millers Falls, who will serve until the next town election. The single dissenting vote from Allen Ross was apparently based on a preference for further evaluation, not on a judgment of Miner's suitability.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio reported that final local aid figures from the state are still uncertain, but the funding level championed by the Senate Ways & Means Committee is higher than the governor's figures, so there is some optimism that a House-Senate conference committee may report out a bill with good news for towns and school dis-

tricts.

The selectboard set a summer meeting schedule, allowing for holidays and bi-weekly meetings in July and August. The meeting schedule for the board is as follows: May 22nd, June 5th, 19th and 26th, July 10th and 24th, and August 7th, 21st, and 28th.

In response to a combined request for bids on fuel oil by twenty governmental units, Rice Oil submitted the low bid of \$594,237.58, and the selectboard ratified the choice as it applies to the town of Montague and the Montague wastewater pollution control facility. Together with the Turners Falls Fire Dept., those units account for 16% of the total contract, and will pay an average of \$2.49 per gallon.

John Reynolds and Sam Gilford of the Cable Advisory Committee (CAC) presented their evaluation of the first quarterly report from Montague Cable Television (MCTV) covering their performance as local access provider for cable services. Their conclusion, seconded by the selectboard, is that MCTV has made steady progress in establishing services, in spite of funding constraints before the first payment was received from

Comcast. Gilford expressed eagerness for expanded programming, and both the CAC and the selectboard encourage residents to volunteer for both production opportunities at MCTV and service on the CAC. Compliments were paid to Anne Harding and Mike Bosworth for the financial reporting and structure of the report, and to MCCI board chair Michael Muller for technical progress. Training of Gill-Montague and Tech School students, a criterion during the selection process last year, has begun satisfactorily, and as funding continues the station will be able to plan for permanent staffing by June.

More equipment purchases and producer ideas seem to be required to support expanded programming. In reference to the lively process of choosing a local-access provider, Chairperson Pruitt said to Gilford, "I'm very encouraged to hear your remarks," to which he replied, "I just want this to be the best for everyone."

The board went into closed session for collective bargaining and discussion of real estate.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Speeding Cars

Wednesday 5-10

5:40 p.m. Report of a child locked in a car at a Warner Street address. Door was opened, child was ok.

Friday 5-12

5:30 p.m. Report of a customer/owner dispute at

Fit Figures at the French King Entertainment Center. Matter was settled between the two.

Saturday 5-13

1:25 p.m. Report of a larceny at the state fire headquarters on Route 2A.

Sunday 5-14

1:30 p.m. Report of a dog walking on Route 2. Found to be in Gill near Wagon Wheel. Contacted Gill Animal Control Officer.

Monday 5-15

8:40 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop a criminal application was issued to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for operating with rights suspended in Massachusetts and speeding.

Tuesday 5-16

8:45 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, a juvenile was arrested and charged with speeding, driving to endanger, and possession of marijuana.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

12 Inches of Water

Friday 5-12

6:56 p.m. Report of a larceny from a 2nd Street address. Caller states her daughter's cell was stolen. Found out later daughter had loaned it to someone.

9:01 p.m. Report of a safety hazard at a Ross Avenue address. Caller states there is 12 inches of water in the basement. Fire Department responded with pump.

Saturday 5-13

4:13 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at an L Street address. Found to be verbal only. Male subject left for the night.

Sunday 5-14

2:01 a.m. Report of a suspicious vehicle on Millers Falls Road.

[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor and marked lanes violations.

7:42 a.m. Report of tree limbs on cable wires on North Taylor Hill Road. Comcast notified.

11:06 p.m. Report of a traffic hazard on Bridge Street. Caller states a road cone was in the middle of the street and when she tried to move it someone yelled at her. Officer removed it.

Monday 5-15

1:30 p.m. Report of a black lab running loose on Greenfield Road. Animal Control Officer located, identified, and returned it.

5:58 p.m. Report of a one-car motor vehicle accident by Yesterday's on 3rd Street. No personal injuries. Damage to motor vehicle under \$1,000. Motor vehicle towed from scene.

Tuesday 5-16

10:21 p.m. Report of a loud noise disturbance at an Avenue A address. Caller states there are loud drunk people on the back porch. Gone on arrival of officer.

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TFHS Bands, Chorus Excel at Virginia Competition

BY ALI URBAN

TURNERS FALLS - Turners Falls High School band and chorus students are trumpeting their awards earned at the 2006 Music Showcase in Yorktown, VA, May 6th. They set a record this year for the number of awards won: eleven.

"This was a big year in terms of recognition," said Steve Ciechomski, band and chorus director, and longtime TFHS music teacher. "The kids did an

excellent job and brought great honor to our school and our towns. This was a great trip."

The awards were: First Place Class A Mixed Chorus, Concert Band and Jazz Band; Baritone Saxophone Section in Jazz and Concert Bands; Percussion Section, Concert Band; Championship Overall High School Choral Award and Championship Overall High School Instrumental Award.

Individuals also were recog-

nized for their musical achievements there. Trish Richotte, a junior, received an Outstanding Section Award for jazz alto saxophone solo and Chelsea Isles, a junior, for her jazz baritone saxophone solo. Sophomore Aaron Cappucci received recognition as Outstanding Section Accompanist for chorus and Outstanding Section Soloist for jazz piano.

"I play jazz piano a lot in my spare time," said Cappucci, who

credits Ciechomski for his positive influence. "To receive recognition for something I am so passionate about was really exciting."

According to Ciechomski, the music department has taken such trips, generally tied in with a theme park, for the past 12 or 15 years to such places as King's Dominion, VA, Cedar Point, OH, and Hershey, PA.

There are nearly 50 students involved in the music depart-

ment currently, although not all attended the competition.

"Everyone had a great time," said Isles. "This year's awards were huge accomplishments for our music department. Receiving a soloist award was something I really hoped to do. Mr. C. has helped me to improve so much; I would really like to thank him. I know when he looks back, he will be very proud."

SALVAGE

continued from pg 1

said Kosuda had recently hired a structural engineer and paid for a roof plan and stabilization plan. "I'm putting a lot of work into getting the project up and running. Hopefully, we'll have more news soon," said Kosuda, reached by phone this week.

Meanwhile, Belchertown developer Mark Kislyuk, appears to have put together financing to proceed with a plan to renovate the building into 88 market rent apartments and street level commercial office space. Kislyuk received zoning board of appeals approval on October 27th, 2004 for this plan, contingent on his completing a traffic study for the property, (located between the power canal and the Connecticut River), a structural engineering study, 100% containment of runoff, and completion of the commercial space prior to rental of the residential units. The ZBA also placed a \$500,000 performance bond on Kislyuk, to insure the town would have funds to demolish the building, should the project fail to reach completion.

Jensen called the ZBA's move to place a performance bond on the project "unusual." ZBA chair Ernest Brown agreed, "We don't do it that often, just to protect the town. He had a great plan; it would have been a great use of that land. I guess it was just too good to be true."

Kislyuk was not reachable by phone prior to deadline, but former Montague selectboard member Ed Voudren commented on the project, which his company, First Source Financial, for which he works as a Senior Mortgage Underwriter, appears to be ready to back. "We're satisfied the market is there for the project," said Voudren. "It's definitely doable. We're hoping to get going soon."

Soon, from the building's point of view would be a good thing. Jensen said another winter without a roof would likely spell total collapse for the 110-year-old, 126,890-square foot property. Since February, the town has had Power Street, the abutting roadway providing one of two access routes to the residential

neighborhood of the Patch, closed off for fear the exterior brick walls might fall on passing traffic.

Another factor that might be fueling Kislyuk's desire to move forward on the project now is the approaching expiration of the ZBA permit, which is good only if acted on within two years. But there is a dispute about the pur-

lic safety, after construction ground to a halt in August 2005. Twin mounds of rubble rising from a cinderblock foundation mark the high point to date of what had been heralded as the first new building on the Avenue in decades. Subcontractors complained of being stiffed by Kislyuk, including A&D Sewer Drain of West Springfield,

connection.

Highway superintendent Tom Bergeron said he billed Kislyuk \$1402 last fall for the repairs to the road and sidewalk. Kislyuk paid that bill yesterday, according to Dion.

On April 6th, the selectboard ordered Kislyuk to erect a safety fence around the property within 10 days, due to concerns about open trenches, boards with nails sticking out of them, and projecting rebar. Jensen said the fence was yesterday as well, following a threat of court action by the town.

Voudren said his investment company was also ready to back Kislyuk's project on Avenue A.

Records on file with the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds and the archives of Hampshire County dailies show that Kislyuk is no stranger to controversy. The sale of one partially-completed project, a 60-unit development called the Oaks on Burt Pitts Road in Florence, for \$1.5 million in January of 2004 to Amherst developer Douglas Kohl, allowed Kislyuk to settle lawsuits totaling \$350,000 from a contractor, subcontractor, and an architect for that job who said they had not been paid. And the division and sale of a 44-acre parcel at the intersection of Route 202 and Route 21 in Belchertown, for at least \$3.5 million, in the fall of 2005, allowed Kislyuk to avoid a September '05 foreclosure on that property, on which he had planned to build a shopping center. It will now house a Pride gas station, and the Eastern Hampshire County District Courthouse.

Voudren said Kislyuk's plans for renovating the partially col-

lapsed Railroad Salvage Building might include erecting a metal frame on the interior walls, a technique he called "elephant framing." He said he had inspected the building recently, and said, "There's a lot of things that can be done," to save the structure.

Meanwhile, several residents of the Patch, calling themselves the Ad Hoc Property Owners Association, have sent letters to the Montague selectboard, Jensen, the fire and police chiefs, and Kosuda, detailing their safety concerns with the derelict building, an adjoining mound of illegally dumped garbage, and the curtailed access to the Patch due to the closure of Power Street. Their concerns will be heard at the next meeting of the selectboard, on May 22nd.

In February, the building inspector had reported to the board that the property had been secured against intruders. This week, a door to the rear of the building was found wide open. A brief examination of the interior revealed extremely dangerous conditions, including buckling and caved in flooring, hanging beams and ceiling materials, and open pits to the basement.



DETMOLD PHOTO

A developer's dream or a neighborhood nightmare? This shot of the collapsed roof and five demolished floors - leading to a dangerous drop to the basement - was taken through the unsecured rear door of Railroad Salvage earlier this week.

chase and sale agreement between Kosuda and Kislyuk, according to numerous sources, which could lead to legal wrangling, and further delays.

Kislyuk's performance on another high profile project in town, a proposed eight apartment, twin storefront building on Avenue A, across from the post office has prompted the town to intervene to insure pub-

lic safety, after construction ground to a halt in August 2005. Twin mounds of rubble rising from a cinderblock foundation mark the high point to date of what had been heralded as the first new building on the Avenue in decades. Subcontractors complained of being stiffed by Kislyuk, including A&D Sewer Drain of West Springfield,

Come visit the Friends of **The Montague Reporter** table Saturday during Arts & Blooms, in front of the MCTV studio at 34 2nd Street. Stop by to chat or buy a Reporter T-shirt!

Override Steering Committee Meets

The next meeting of the Montague Override Steering Committee will be held at the Northeast Foundation for Children, 85 Avenue A, in Turners Falls, tonight, (Thursday, May 18th) at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, call Sue Lapan, committee chair, at 863-2559, or to make donations call, Ann Ambo, treasurer, at 863-9024.

The Holocaust, as Told by One Who Survived

BY PAMELA HANOLD - TURNERS FALLS - History became intensely personal for the students at Turners Fall High School on Wednesday, May 17th, as they listened to Joseph Korzenik's story of his life as a Jewish boy in Poland and Germany during the years of the Holocaust.

The forum began with students from Lisa West's World History class sharing some of what they had learned in class, with the help of UMass student intern Stephanie Trilling. Their remarks included a specific list of genocides, past and present, and the statement that genocides are important to understand because of their effect on the lives of all people.

Korzenik, like the students, started with a focus on the people affected. "Why," he asked, "was this group singled out? Why did I survive when so many gifted people died?"

Without answering those unanswerable questions, he explained why he felt it was important to tell his story.

The America he came to 59 years ago was full of people living a "very sheltered, quiet life," and so he remained silent. He "snapped" out of his desire to seek revenge and his yen to "go to Korea and die in combat," when he became engaged to a "Connecticut Yankee" girl, who told him six years was enough time to give to war.

Thirty-five years ago he was asked to speak about his youth, and did so when the same Connecticut Yankee insisted he had "no right to refuse to speak." As books continue to be published denying the reality of the Holocaust, Korzenik feels the need to keep reminding the world of what really happened, hoping to help build the consciousness needed to stop the continuation of genocides.

In 1939, Korzenik was living in a small Polish town about the size of Montague. The youngest of three children of an uneducated, Orthodox Jewish farmer, by 14 he was attending three schools, and feeling the beginnings of the restrictions by the Germans.

Over the next three and a half years, the oppression and terrorizing of the Jewish population in his town and countryside intensified. Early on, Polish Jews were restricted to the ghetto, denied schooling, required to work three days a week for the Gestapo to receive food rations, and forced to wear a Star of

David armband or be shot on sight. In fact, his 12-year-old friend forgot to wear his one day and, when a classmate taunted him loudly in front of the guards, the boy was shot on the spot.

Korzenik was almost 18 in April 1943 when the journey from camp to camp began. His family had been herded into a train earlier and taken to a concentration camp. He never saw them again.

teenagers. Passionately he spoke of the "stupidity and failure of hate" exhorting them to "Live without hate! You may dislike someone, but don't hate them." Don't even say you hate someone or some thing. "Living a life without hate is a tremendous favor you do yourself." To parents, Korzenik said, raising children without hate is an important act, to prevent war and genocide. "We have to be taught to hate."

To the students, he said, "You have probably heard your parents complain about taxes at home," but he urged them to think differently about taxes. Asking what they thought had built this fine school in which they sat, and what paid these fine teachers, he declared, "Taxes are a small price to pay for freedom in this wonderful country."

For more details of the forum, I suggest you ask the nearest teenager. They were listening intently and could tell you all about it.

For me, I took home a lesson. History is at its best when the details of the past are told by one who was there, heard in the company of your community, and understood as relevant to the happenings of the present. Our behavior of today is the history of tomorrow.

Thanks to the students and the history teachers at Turners Falls High for sharing this experience with us.



Holocaust Survivor Joseph Korzenik (center) with students from Lisa West's World History class at Wednesday's assembly at TFHS

Under the dehumanizing command of the Gestapo, Korzenik said those "years in the ghetto were harder than the later years in the camps." Many of the jobs he was given involved witnessing murders, and behaviors he felt he needed to keep from his family to shield them from the horrors. So alone, he lived with the images and knowledge of what was happening and tried to get some sleep in his increasingly haunted night hours.

after years of surviving irrational acts, such as being saved from being gassed by being taken randomly out of the line for a new work order, or not being one of the "every tenth" counted off to be shot that day, or just not being with the group singled out for sport and death at any given time, freedom cannot be comprehended. You must "learn new ways of thinking about who you are."

Korzenik's most important message was directed to the

ARTS

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Twenty five artists whose studios are not downtown will have tables at the Great Falls Art Fest to benefit the Brick House Community Resource Center. This outdoor festival will include art, live music, food, children's activities and more on the grounds of the Great Falls Discovery Center at 2 Avenue A.

Inside the Discovery Center, children can enjoy craft activi-

ties from 11 a.m. to noon about migratory birds, and then embark upon a walking geology tour led by Steve Winters from 1-2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography at 85 Avenue A, consistently shows the work of world famous photographers of the last quarter century. Currently, the work of Jay Maisel is on view with works from his career as an advertising, corporate and editorial photographer.

The bright yellow building at

38 Third Street is David Weiner's Great Lighting where you will find optically engineered lighting with an emphasis on aesthetics. His is an alternative to conventional lighting showrooms and a source for energy-efficient antique, vintage, and custom lighting.

A new addition this year is the work of Carlyn Saltman in the Brick House at 24 Third Street. With her business, "Your Story Matters," the award-winning filmmaker will show samples of how family lore and a

loved one's signature stories can be preserved. Personal family recordings can be made in an adjacent studio at a special discount.

Downtown merchants participating in Arts and Blooms are the Shady Glen, Chinatown, Jake's Tavern, Books and More, Cup O' Joe, Turners Falls Pizza House and Ristorante DiPaolo.

Supporting contributors include the Wagon Wheel Restaurant and Four Directions Healing Arts Accupuncture.

"Arts and Blooms" is a part-


ner in the Turners Falls RiverCulture Project, a community and economic development project designed to promote and sustain Turners Falls and the Connecticut River area as a great place to live and to enjoy the arts, nature and outdoor recreation.

Lisa Davol is the Cultural Coordinator of the RiverCulture Project. She can be reached at riverculture@montague.net or 413-230-9910



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WEST ALONG THE RIVER

Spring Almanac

BY DAVID BRULE

MILLERS FALLS - The way I see it, the Romans had it wrong. They named January after the two-faced god Janus, blowing both winter and spring anytime he felt like it.

That may be fine for those who dwell along the Mediterranean, but here in New England, we know where we stand in January alright, it's March and April who are the hypocrites. Often it's warm enough to coax out the early mosquito and frog in the warm evening rain, but it also freezes us solid at 18 degrees many a night. It keeps the maple sap pumping but freezes it into sweet icicles that hang from the branch.

With the increasing light, birds are encouraged to tune their pipes, and the song sparrow earns his name, by piping sweetly from the bare lilac. Even the shrill jay tries his nearly musical yodel, but he's no match for the redwing and his oak-a-lee. The yard is still frozen and gray, but fills with music in spite of the icy wind and coming snow squall.

The frigid feast of St. Patrick comes and goes with the March wind but nature seems to take no heed of the Celt, and vice-

versa. One week later, sun brings out the first green from the ground, spears push up through the early morning crusted earth. The birds who have depended on us all winter for daily sustenance reward us with song. Those same sparrows have tunes that are becoming more clear and liquid as they call from several places around the yard at once, their cousins the tree sparrow and the white-throat add their notes to the March chorus. The blue jay clan, once 30 strong during January has thinned to 10 or 12, but they still crowd the feeder, cheek by jowl as they work on the seeds they've chosen. Geese trumpet in the marsh, crows pump their call from the tallest pine, head and shoulders stretching. Red-wings huff their scarlet shoulder epaulets to impress the others. By mid-April, sparse flowers appear. Tree swallows are moving north over the river, goldfinches changing from drab faded green to gold, with a jaunty black beret over one eye. The Osprey is coming along the river, pivot-



ing on one wing when a fish rises to the surface. In the dusk a pair of wood ducks pass in slow nuptial flight over the house and through the trees.

But oh my, when May arrives! Especially this year! The mild winter brought the spring birds up while the winter visitors were still sticking close to the feeders. Tree swallows and rose-breasted grosbeaks

telling their winter cousins: no rush, you stragglers, but here's your hat and there's the door!

Make way for spring! As everyone can see, this May has been exceptional in the simultaneous flowering: forsythia and daffodils still linger while crabapple, cherry, peach, dogwood, lilac, quince, azalea, shadblow, violets, trout lilies and trillium have all come into bloom at once. We won't see this happen too often in a lifetime. The Baltimore oriole and blue jay are sporting about in "them baseball clothes" of theirs, the wood thrush is fluting in the glen near the frog pond, the catbird is meowing from the burning bush. Titmice have come right up on the back porch to gather tufts of shedded Siberian husky fur to line their nests, the phoebe is already incubating under an eave of the cabin in the woods.

This is also becoming the year of the Jack-in-the-Pulpit. This quiet woodland plant is popping up all over, with Jack the pistil quietly surveying his patch of earth from under the

graceful curve of the hood of his pulpit.

So far however, the greatest gift this spring has been a pair of wood ducks who have decided to nest in a hollow tree between the yard and the pond, and visible from the living room. From time to time we see them, perched in a tree and peering at us duck-like as we move around the yard. We take care not to look at them directly, preferring to let them feel they are invisible, perched high up on an oak branch. The male is a stunning dandy with reds, blues and greens, stripes, spots and bars, and a demure crest at the back of his neck. This brilliant and gentle duck was driven to the edge of extinction during the last century, but 50 years of restricted hunting has brought it back. Any day now, ducklings will climb their way up out of the hollow of the tree and make the thirty foot jump down to the ground, to scramble off to the pond with their mother, and later to the wider Millers moving slowly just the other side of the trees. In the meantime we wait patiently for more migrants that should be moving in after this rainy spell, bringing bright song and exotic rainforest color to the glowing emerald woods.

Local Pitcher Back With the Sox

BY LEE CARIGNAN

TURNERS FALLS - Local pitcher Brad Baker is back in the Red Sox organization.

Baker is a resident of Leyden, and pitched locally for Pioneer. He was a dominant pitcher for the school in the late '90s. He was known for his 95-mph fastball and sharp curve ball and had scouts from many major league baseball teams visiting Pioneer games.

He was a first-round draft

pick of the Boston Red Sox in 1999. He was traded away in 2002 to the San Diego Padres organization for major league pitcher Alan Embree. The left-handed Embree pitched for the Red Sox for three years before being released in 2005.

Baker was a starting pitching prospect for the Red Sox, but the Padres moved him into the bullpen and were grooming him as their closer of the future. Baker excelled in his



new role and made it up to the AAA level.

Last year he was traded to

the Atlanta Braves organization. He was 1-0 with a 2.40 ERA in 9 games for the Richmond Braves this season. The Braves traded Baker back to the Red Sox this week, as a player to be named later from a previous trade.

Baker will pitch for the Red Sox triple AAA team at Pawtucket. He is now one step away from pitching for the team he grew up rooting for. The 25-year-old right-hander

could be a late season call-up this year if he excels at Pawtucket. It's unclear how the Sox plan to use Baker. The Sox already have promising prospect Craig Hanson as their triple AAA closer.

Baker has to be excited about the trade. Being back with the Sox has to be a dream come true for the Leyden hurler. It may not be long before we see him pitching at Fenway Park.

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Gardening in Community

BY RUTH WITTY

GREENFIELD, GREAT FALLS - Lots of people love to garden and lots of people love to meet people and get together with others around a common interest. Community gardens bring these two loves together and also help people with no access to land benefit from growing healthy organic vegetables. I talked to two people who have been involved in the community gardens in Greenfield and Turners Falls from their beginnings.

Eveline MacDougall had always been interested in gardening. She came from a farm family and unlike some daughters or sons of farmers who head for the city at the earliest opportunity, she remained true to her agricultural roots. She had also been a community organizer, organizing college students around social and political issues like the campaign to end apartheid. In 1989, MacDougall sought to unite these avocations by organizing a community garden in Greenfield. However, the only land she could find was a tiny plot on Devens Street.

Her search for land took her to the Department of Public Works. She looked at thirteen plots owned by the town, but unused but for one reason or another. Each was unsuitable. One was filled with old tires, one was overgrown with poison ivy. A friend suggested she try asking to use the grounds in front of the school administration building. This involved getting the permission of the selectboard and the school committee, which took some time. In 1999, a group of dedicated community gardeners finally broke ground on the present garden by the school administration building on Davis Street. There are presently forty plots in cultivation there, approximately ten by twenty feet. From the start several social service organizations have had plots, at the moment



Vegetables, flowers and herbs are growing at the Great Falls Community Gardens in Turners Falls.

Even Start (part of the Literacy Project), FCAC youth services, and Service Net all have plots. There is also a plot in which volunteers grow food for the free food pantries.

When Jean Hebden lived in Turners Falls in 1995 she saw a depressing sight on a daily basis - an empty lot on Fourth Street where a nine apartment building had burned to the ground several years previously. The lot was full of garbage and dog droppings. "That would be a great place for a community garden," thought Hebden.

It seemed several people had the same idea, but it didn't come to fruition until Joyce Annear bought the land and donated it for use as a community garden. A volunteer helping to turn the soil broke his rototiller on the tough ground, so a committed group of neighborhood residents used pickaxes and shovels to dig out tires,

rocks, bricks and other debris, which was generously hauled away by the Montague highway department.

The group secured a small amount of start up funding from the selectboard of Montague to pay for a delivery of loam. They solicited donations of manure from local farmers. David Detmold got the idea of using

in 1998 entered a contest sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for the best community garden in the state - and won, beating out gardens in Newton and Wellsley and classy burgs like that! A few years later a second community plot was opened on Third Street, with a donation of land from the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority.

This spring, the Great Falls garden has seen one of the biggest responses ever with a large number of new gardeners. Hebden said the problem is getting people to commit to looking after their plot for the whole gardening season, rather than forgetting about it after the first rush of spring enthusiasm.

I talked to a few community gardeners to find out what they get out of the experience of gardening with neighbors. Sally-Ann Smith cultivates a plot in the Greenfield garden. She said she likes meeting people, and the

sense of achievement of growing vegetables herself. "It makes you feel good when you see people's vegetables and flowers." She enjoys having fresh vegetables, and it saves her money, as the price of food is so high. The low point was when someone stole her prize cabbage.

Nadine Taylor has a plot in Turners Falls. When she sold her home, she moved into an apartment for the elderly and had no land. She was frustrated by that as she is a keen gardener. Taylor really enjoys the community aspects of gardening with others, sharing ideas about growing things and solutions to problems such as pests. She knows quite a bit at this point about organic gardening and is happy to share her knowledge with others. She feels the community garden helps a lot of people with economic challenges still achieve good nutrition. This year she is growing heirloom tomatoes, broccoli, Brussels sprouts and leeks.

Sarah Meyers has a plot in Greenfield, which she shares with her friend Rick Scrivner. She enjoys growing food, which she couldn't do in an apartment. She likes the community aspect of people coming together and also getting an awareness of what it takes to actually grow food. It has also helped her to learn about group process, for example at work groups, and what it takes to facilitate people really working well together.

Both the Greenfield and Turners Falls plots are organic, that is, no artificial fertilizer or pesticides are used. So gardening sometimes takes more time than it would with conventional methods, (for example, hand squashing potato beetles rather than just spraying them). But the gardeners realize the extra time is worth it to eat food that is really healthy and does not contribute to pollution of our planet.



ILLUSTRATION: RUTH WITTY

bricks from demolished buildings to build raised beds, which neighbors transported to the site using shopping carts.

The Great Falls community garden got started in 1997, and

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER

I'm Losing My Hair

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *I've been losing some hair, which is no surprise for an old lady, but I was wondering if there's anything I can do to hold on to what I have.*

Alopecia is the medical term for hair loss. Androgenetic Alopecia, or pattern baldness, is the most common type of alopecia; it affects about one-third of us. I'm in that third with you.

Men start to get pattern baldness at the hairline and crown. This can lead to complete baldness. Women's hair loss is usually limited to thinning; they rarely go totally bald.

There are a few steps you can take to preserve your hair:

1.) Avoid tight hairstyles that pull on the hair. So, forget

braids, ponytails, cornrows and tight hair rollers. The pulling causes some hair loss, especially along the sides of the scalp. This type of hair loss is called traction alopecia. If the pulling scars the scalp, it can cause permanent hair loss.

2.) Brushing or combing too much can break hair, so keep them to a minimum. Use combs with wide teeth and brushes with smooth tips. Wet hair is more fragile than dry hair, so show care when you do your hair after a shower.

3. Shampooing too often is bad for your hair. Use a cream rinse or conditioner after shampooing to make it easier to comb. And don't dry your hair by rubbing it with a towel.

4. Don't use hot-oil hair treat-



ILLUSTRATION JESSICA HARMON

ments or chemicals in permanents. These may cause inflammation of the hair follicles, which can lead to hair loss.

There are about 100,000 hairs in the average scalp. About 100 hairs are lost from your head every day. Each individual hair survives for an average of 4 1/2 years and grows about a half inch a month. In its

5th year, the hair usually falls out and is replaced within 6 months by a new one.

We lose hair as we age. Pattern baldness affects many more men than women. About 25 percent of men begin to bald by the time they are 30 years old, and about two-thirds have at least a balding pattern by age 60.

Androgenetic alopecia is caused by heredity; a history of it on either side of your family increases your risk of balding.

Medicines may help slow or prevent the development of common baldness. Rogaine is available without a prescription. It is applied to the scalp.

Both men and women can use it. Propecia is available with a prescription. It comes in pills

and is only for men. It may take up to six months before you can tell if one of these medicines is working.

Hair transplants and scalp reduction surgery are available to treat androgenetic alopecia when more conservative measures have failed. During transplantation a dermatologist or cosmetic surgeon takes tiny plugs of skin, each containing one to several hairs, from the back or side of your scalp. The plugs are then implanted into the bald sections.

Scalp reduction, as the name implies, means decreasing the area of bald skin on your head.

If you have a question, please write to fredcicetti@gmail.com

FINDING BALANCE: HEALTH TIPS FOR A HAPPY LIFE

Lean on Me

BY JENNY CHAPIN

MONTAGUE CENTER - Someone once asked me, regarding an entrepreneurial venture, if I wanted to be a racehorse or a donkey. He meant it as a sort of character evaluation, with the patent assumption that the racehorse, geared for high stakes, speed, and sleek lines, pointed to success, whereas the donkey - patient, gentle, humble - was destined for the sidelines. This man himself was bigtime, and I don't think it occurred to him that someone might consciously select the less well-heeled route.

My idea of the donkey is much different than his, however, due to a concept from the bodywork field called Zero Balancing, first developed by Dr. Fritz Smith thirty years ago. Here, the Donkey is like the subconscious, or the deeper part of our awareness and inner knowing. It is our Donkey that responds to people and situations at an instinctual level.

Everyone's donkey is differ-

ent: one is shy and moves slowly into connection with others, another moves enthusiastically, without hesitation; one likes a firm grip, while another feels more comfortable with a soft touch; one enjoys large gatherings, another prefers hanging out at home with a few good friends. Each donkey is unique, worthy of respect, recognition, and acceptance.

Regardless of the differences, the point is to find the kind of contact that is right for each of us. We know it by how it feels: safe, comforting, nourishing. We are able to relax into it, let down our guard, and trust that we are well cared for.

"Donkey/Donkey touch" describes that place where you and I meet each other in mutual esteem. It is an acknowledgement, an affirmation that we see one another - beyond the masks we wear to hide our vulnerabilities, below the fears that we're not lovable. We make a donkey/donkey connection by opening our hearts and paying

attention at a deeper level; we make that connection by having no expectations, no need for someone to be anywhere or anyone other than where and who they are at that very moment.

The phrase "donkey lean" came from observing how two donkeys, each carrying loads on their backs, lean into each other while they walk along, usually up hill. (Aren't the hardest burdens to carry those that feel as if we're not only going it alone, but also toiling up a steep slope?) Sharing the burden lightens it for each of them. The weight of the loads doesn't have to be the same, nor does the size or personality of the donkeys; it works because they register each other's needs, accommodate them, and find a mutually comfortable point between them where each feels evenly supported.

When I was young, I thought I would work with animals - wildlife biologist, or veterinarian - mostly because I consid-

ered them less problematical than humans. It was only when the twists of life took me to northern California in my mid-20s to study herbs that I began to want to work with people. All my studies in alternative health since then have shown me how intimately tied we are to each other, and what I understand from that is this: we are not meant to do this life on our own, but rather to help each other fully express our hearts.

Humans are like donkeys: we like to be supported, but we have to trust what we're leaning against. I believe our most basic need is to lean on each other, to



share the ups and downs. When, as Fritz says, we "hold each other in the highest personal regard," that donkey lean is one of the best things we've got going for us.

Jenny Chapin is an acupuncturist, bodyworker, and yoga teacher in Greenfield. Suggest a topic or question for her column at jgchapin@crocker.com

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Montague Parks and Recreation Department Summer Playground Staff Director & Counselors
The Montague Parks and Recreation Department is currently seeking reliable, responsible, and enthusiastic individuals for their Summer Playground Staff. We are accepting applications for Playground Director and Counselor positions. The seven-week Summer Play-ground Program serves children from the ages of 5 - 12, and is held Mondays through Fridays from July 3 through August 18, 2006. Application Deadline extended to Friday, May 12. Certification in First Aid and CPR preferred, but not required. Individuals must

Help Wanted

provide proof of legal working age. For more information, please contact the MPRD Office at 863-3216. The Town of Montague is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Montague Parks & Recreation Department Certified Lifeguard
The Montague Parks & Recreation Department is accepting applications for a P/T lifeguard position for the summer. This individual is needed for both indoor pool and waterfront guarding. This position involves morning and afternoon hours. Certifications in Basic and Waterfront lifeguarding is required, and must be current and valid throughout the employment period. Applications are available at the Montague Parks and Recreation Department, 56 First Street, Turners Falls, MA. For more information, you may call us at 863-3216. Position opened until filled. The Town of Montague is an EOE.

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Timing is Everything (a Little Luck Won't Hurt Either!)

BY LESLIE BROWN

Hot and sunny in April; cool and damp in May. These are the vagaries of New England weather. So tonight the heady fragrance of the extraordinarily heavy-blooming lilacs is mixed with the sweet scent of burning maple. I am once again enjoying both the floral proclivities of this incredible spring and an evening stove fire to keep off the damp.

Luck and timing are everything in New England gardening. Because the onions and leeks were getting leggy, and the season was especially mild, I put them out the first weekend in April, earlier than usual, my fingers crossed. Soon followed a late snow and two early morning frosts. Luckily, the plants were not killed. They were however, arrested in growth, waiting sulkily for a subsequent warm spell.



ILLUSTRATION: MARY AZARIAN

My peas went in during that hot and sunny third week in April and thus had their roots well established before we went into monsoon season. Had they been planted a couple of weeks later, the seed might well have rotted before it germinated. This is what I think happened with my spinach seed. While spinach thrives in cool weather, the seeds I belatedly planted at the end of April have now been over-watered and have germinated only half-heartedly. I expect I'll have to wait for a late season spinach planting in order to have a hefty crop.

Spinach seems like an easy crop, but it is actually quite finicky. It loves cool weather and good moisture, but wants some warmth for good germination. It is also a heavy feeder, so if you have been luckier than I in your planting of this delicious crop, don't forget to side-dress it with compost, manure or a liquid fertilizer. This will accomplish two things: a heftier crop and a crop which you can happily harvest before its short season is over.

Once we move from early spring to summer, you can forget about growing spinach until August or early September when the heat of the day is followed by

chilly nights.

Now the tomato plants are tall and strong, about six inches in height, ready to be planted outside. However, I am waiting out this rainy season because so many tomato problems derive from dampness. Soil-borne diseases are encouraged by wet conditions. Tomatoes love heat and can wait for it. Like my leeks and onions the tomatoes can go on hold until conditions improve.

I had been hoping to put the First Lady tomatoes out in the "Wall of Water" containers I found at a tag sale at the end of last year's growing season. I thought that the combination of an early plant plus the boost of warm water conditions might for once allow me to beat my neighbor, the first tomato on the block guy, but probably this season, by the time the soil dries out, it will be time to put those lovely plants in the ground in the ordinary way and just let them thrive, competition or no.

So, this is the key: sun-warmed soil, moist but not wet. Your tomato plants, and peppers if you have them, need to go out before this month is over. Traditionally, gardeners plant these delicate treasures over the Memorial Day weekend. But watch the weatherman.

Timing is everything. Go out to the garden space and talk with Mother Nature. If you can grab a handful of soil, squeeze it in your hand and if it holds its shape before crumbling back to the earth, conditions are ripe for planting. It's time to take your chances. After all, if gardening were easy, where would the challenge be?

Good luck, and as always, happy gardening!

Montague Community TV (MCTV) - a small public access TV station serving Montague, Gill and Erving, is seeking two candidates with excellent organizational, technical and people skills. (1) **Administrative Director**, 15 hrs: outreach and community liaison; fundraising; general office management; oversee volunteers. (2) **Technical Director**, 25 hrs: program channel(s) and community board; liaison with Comcast; maintain/inventory equipment; tape public meetings; implement training sessions. Submit cover letter, resume and references by June 5th to Michael Bosworth, MCCI Business Support, 24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376. Please see www.MontagueTV.org for more info.

Mabel Zobel
By **Sandra Facto**

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FRIDAY, MAY 19

Tara Jane O'Neil at The Bookmill, Montague Center. 8 p.m. Experimental folk chanteuse Tara Jane O'Neil has been crafting her unique brand of finely tuned solo albums for years now. And being the indie rock pioneer that she is, she continues to plow forward in the name of experimentation, refinement and self-realization. Hinging on beautiful acoustics and barely-there personal ruminations, her most recent full-length "You Sound, Reflect" is an understated yet ambitious record. \$8

Rt. 63 Road House come dance to Turn It Loose Rock. 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 19TH & 20TH

"Free Spirits" at the Media Arts Cinema in the Green Trees Gallery, Nfld. The incredible story of the Massachusetts' Brotherhood of the Spirit/Renaissance Community and its controversial founder, Michael Metelica Rapunzel. Q&A with the Director after Fridays film. Written/Directed by Bruce Geisler - Tickets available by phone (413) 498-2100 or at the door. Reservations strongly suggested! \$8 general admission.

Pothole Pictures presents King Kong Classic version of the beauty and the beast tale. This original version is still the best. Directed by Merian C. Cooper and Ernest B. Schoedsack. 1933. NR. b & w. Friday 7 p.m. Abdul Baki & family, Saturday 7 p.m. The Ambiguities-rock. Movie starts at 7:30, \$6, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls.

"Valley Idol" competition at The Shea. Continues May 27th and June 3rd. For information or tickets call (413) 863-2281 or www.theshea.org. All proceeds benefit the Shea Theater in Turners Falls, a non-profit organization.

SATURDAY, MAY 20TH

Rt. 63 Road House, come dance to Strange Brew, 9:30 p.m. Ethan Miller & Kate Boverman will perform their original fiery songs of hope, justice and struggle at the Echo Lake Coffee House,

SATURDAY & SUNDAY MAY 20TH & 21ST

Arts and Blooms in Turners Falls Open Studio & Downtown Walking Tour, 10 - 5 p.m. Nestled in the bend of the Connecticut River, a vibrant and funky arts



Tara Jane O'Neil plays at The Bookmill, Friday, May 19th 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. with Samara Lubelski

Leverett Town Hall. Singer-songwriters, Ethan & Kate have hard-hitting analysis, high-energy acoustic guitar and rich vocal harmonies. 7:30 pm, \$10/\$8 seniors. Contact: Diane Crowe, (413) 548-9394, diacrowe@yahoo.com

Bridge of Flowers Annual Plant Sale 9 a.m. until noon at the green between Main and Water Streets in Shelburne Falls (rain or shine). For more information, contact Julie Petty at (413) 625-9830.

The Juice Pops at The Belly Bowl, 104 Fourth St., 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. You don't want to miss this "Brunch n' Dance" featuring delectable cuisine served cafeteria-style at this hip & comfy Turners Falls restaurant. Buy your brunch by the pound, to accommodate both full- and pint-sized appetites. PLUS, the Belly Bowl is kid-friendly and has a great playspace. The show is during the Arts & Blooms Walking Tour, so you can have your art and eat it too! For more information, please call Michelle at the Belly Bowl, (413) 863-4064 or www.thejuicepops.com.

enclave is opening its doors to the public. As the planters bloom along the streets of this reinvented industrial village, downtown artists of Turners Falls will open their working studios and galleries to reveal the blossoming creativity behind the historically preserved facades.

NMH Dance Program Distills Drama from Daily Life. Spring dance performance at Northfield Mount Hermon, gathers moments from our daily lives and distills from them music and movement. The dance companies of NMH will put on a show each night beginning at 7 pm in Grandin Auditorium on the Mount Hermon campus in Gill. Tickets cost \$2 for NMH students, faculty and staff, and \$5 for all others. Reservations can be made by calling 498-3017. For directions, go to www.nmhschool.org or call (413) 498-3000.

SUNDAY, MAY 21ST

'zine Reading: Orpheus at The Lady Killigrew Cafe 7 - 10 p.m. Orpheus is the latest in the Pocket Myths series of handmade zines, each offering diverse interpretations of a Greek (sometimes Roman) myth, curated by Andrea Lawlor. As is only fitting, the Orpheus 'zine also includes an audio CD, curated by sound artist EE Miller, a Holyoke resident. Confirmed readers/performers for

the Bookmill event include: Andrea Lawlor (Philadelphia), My Invisible (Providence), Sara Jaffe (Northampton), more info at www.pocketmyths.com

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

MAY 26 & 27TH

Media Arts Cinema shows "Free to Fly" by Northfield filmmaker Mike Schena. One show each evening at 8pm in the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main St., Nfld. Friday (12th) is sold out. Tickets still available for Saturday at either Mim's Market or the Green Trees Gallery in Nfld. or by phone reservation at 498-2100.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31ST

Dorothy Porada Hayden, local Poet, Educator, Performer, and Author of LAKE MATTAWA ODES in Orange, MA will present POETIC REFRAINS a unique and enchanting visual, musical, and poetic journey at 7 p.m. at the Athol Public Library. This program is definitely a celebration of life's passions, joys, and a blissful existence!! Free to the general public.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH

1794 Meeting House, New Salem presents Southern Rail. Heart stopping Bluegrass! 7:30 p.m., \$10/\$8 (978) 544-5200 or www.1794meetinghouse.org for more information.

ONGOING

Jay Maisel at Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Hours, Thurs.-Sun. 1-5 p.m. Free. (413) 863-0009.

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Bring Your Children to the Fish Ladder

BY FRAN HEMOND

TURNERS FALLS - The fish ladders are open. Right now, up until June 18th, the fish ladders at Turners Falls and Holyoke will be open to the public 9 - 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. We can watch the anadromous shad, lamprey and salmon return from the Atlantic Ocean to propagate in the streams where they started life.

At Turners Falls, the fish swim upward from pool to pool, each a foot higher than its predecessor. We see them as they pass by an underwater window. The entrance is off the Unity Park parking lot behind town hall. The Discovery Center as well as the fish ladder site has pamphlets that help you understand the goings-on in the river.

The Holyoke fish ladder is situated by the site of the old South Hadley Falls bridge, just south of the falls. It is an elevator type lift, perhaps designed after a Western model.

My recollection of the days before fish ladders includes the yearly efforts of the president of the Holyoke Water Power Company, Robert E. Barrett, for whom the fishway is named, to assist some of the anadromous fish to maneuver the falls. His 'line gang,' the men who maintained the electrical distribution system for his company, had the added spring duty of carrying fish (in buckets, as I recall) up over the falls. It was not a popular operation with the workmen, as my father, whose job it was to oversee their efforts each year, reported.

Barrett was a foresighted man. In his operation to promote conservation he sent men to the Columbia River on the



Rough current ahead, after five days of rain. Wednesday was the opening day for visitors at the Fish Ladder, but the viewing windows were empty. Warmer weather will bring a steady increase in fish using the ladder: shad, sturgeon, lampreys, and the occasional salmon!

materialize. Anadromous fish spend their adult lives in the ocean and via instinct return to their fresh water place of origin to lay eggs and produce young, who repeat the cycle. With access limited and pollution rampant, the salmon cycle was broken.

Our river, the Connecticut, was abused by a century that used it indiscriminately as a source of water and power, as a dump for its industrial and residential waste, with no concern for swimmers, fish or people. Clean up and ladder building were expensive. If we bring our children up appreciating and protecting our resources of land and water and air, and teach them to think and use common sense, the next generations will not permit misuse that denies a viable ecosystem. As adults they will have the knowledge to make balanced judgments about our fragile home.

The fish ladders are a dramatic way to tell them some of the river's story.

West Coast to take note of how they assured their salmon access to their spawning grounds.

Salmon and shad were once a prime source of food and fertilizer to folks along the river. A tremendous harvesting of fish in a seine in the Haddam, CT section of the river one evening in the nineteen forties, shad glistening in the moonlight, was an

unforgettable sight.

Shad are a bit 'boney', but a prized delicacy, particularly among those who treasure the seasonal foods, perfect with the May offerings of asparagus and rhubarb.

The great hope that salmon would once again find the Connecticut River happy spawning grounds is slow to

Great Falls Middle School Students Create a Fish Quest

GREAT FALLS - The 8th grade science teacher intern, Jessica Greene, and some of her 8th grade students of Great Falls Middle School have created a quest, called the Turners Falls Fish Quest. A quest is an educational scavenger hunt that commonly teaches visitors about local environmental issues or history. The Turners Falls Fish Quest is taking place in downtown Turners Falls starting at the Great Falls Discovery Center. The Quest has been created to help people learn about fish migration in the Connecticut River.

The Fish Quest is available for participants Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4

p.m. from May 19th through May 31st; and then Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., June 1st through June 18th. To participate in the quest, visitors will start at GFDC to get a pamphlet with the map and the first clue. Visitors then will follow the clues around town to learn more about fish in the Connecticut River.

The GFDC is located across the street from the Shady Glen Diner and the Town Hall at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

The making of this quest has been a semester-long community service learning project. Seven students of Great Falls Middle School (Kayla Breor,

Megan Beauregard, Ashley Sears, Amanda Carlisle, Tim Belanger, Tyler Hobbs and Elena Rushford) volunteered to participate in this project.

Over the past couple of months the students have made a map of Turners Falls, thought of a theme for the quest, researched the topic of fish in the Connecticut River, made clues, made posters and pamphlets, asked for places to put the clues and recorded the process in journals.

The community service learning project has been part of Greene's masters program, "Bridges to the Future" at UMass Amherst.

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