



## FENCING CLUB AT TFHS

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## ANTIQUE TRUCK SHOW

South Deerfield, May 6th/  
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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 5 - NO. 30

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 3, 2007

## Troubles Down the Road

### MAIN ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROMPTS ONGOING COMPLAINTS

**BY DAVID DETMOLD GILL** - Residents and business owners along the stretch of Main Road that has been most inconvenienced by lengthy and confusing detours from the ongoing three mile, \$3.7 million reconstruction of Gill's "Main Street" brought their complaints - once again - to the selectboard on Monday, April 30th.

Board chair Ann Banash told the group of

nearly a dozen residents, "Since we met the last time, we requested Mass Highway to meet with people on the road. They refused." Mass Highway is in charge of the road reconstruction project, from Wood Avenue to the Northfield town line, which finally got underway last year (after a lengthy delay caused by culvert design to accommodate passage for wood

see **ROAD** pg 16



PHOTO BY JOSEPH PARZYCH

*The scene on Main Road earlier this year, when construction began on the "turtle tunnel," an eight-foot wide culvert meant to provide preferred access to elusive Gill wood turtles. Wood turtles are a "species of concern" in Massachusetts. Two months later, the culvert is still under construction, and Main Road businesses are considering applying for endangered species status.*

## Film and Television School Proposed for Strathmore



PHOTO BY PETER CLARK

**BY DAVID DETMOLD TURNERS FALLS** - A film and television production company called the Swift River Group has signed a purchase and sale agreement for an undisclosed amount of money to buy the 244,482-square-foot, 136-year-old Strathmore Mill on the power canal in Turners Falls. A partner in the development company, John Anctil, of Burlington, MA said Swift River plans to close on the deal on Friday of this week, but rumors of closing dates have come and gone over the past

few weeks, as a purchase price and other details have been hammered out with the mill's present owner, Western Properties, LLC. Western Properties is managed by Jerry Jones, who has run a recycling business from the former paper mill since purchasing it in December of 2002 for \$40,000. Jones offered to sell the plant to the town of Montague in 2004 for \$300,000, but town meeting turned down that proposal after an extensive feasibility study, performed for the town by Finegold Alexander and

Associates of Boston, determined in May of 2005 that \$14 million would be required to rehabilitate the aging structure and bring it up to code.

This week, Anctil said he believes a combination of federal and state historic tax credits, state Public Works Economic Development (PWED) program funds, and incentives contained in the Massachusetts Film Tax Credit, passed last year, can combine to make the overall cost of the project feasible. He pointed out that the Massachusetts Film Tax Credit, offering

25% credit for production expenses on films made in Massachusetts, is one of the two "most aggressive tax credits in the country," making Massachusetts, in proximity to New York City film schools, a draw for film and television production companies like Swift River.

Anctil has big plans for the Strathmore. In addition to producing "four feature films with positive social impact" a year there, his company intends to start a film school, called the Swift River Institute, with

see **SCHOOL** pg 14

## A Night of Irish Music

### TOMMY PEOPLES AT THE BOOKMILL

**ALICIA MCDONALD MONTAGUE CENTER** - Fiddling legend Tommy Peoples brought a bit of County Clare with him to a sold out acoustic show on Monday, April 30th, at the Montague Bookmill. With the trees in blossom and the doors open to a gentle spring evening, the sounds of the rushing falls played background music to Peoples on fiddle and

Mainer Dave Corey on guitar and mandolin. Through his very humble countenance and humorous Irish brogue, Peoples delighted the audience not only with traditional Irish fiddle tunes, but also background stories accompanying original compositions.



PHOTO BY ALICIA MCDONALD

see **FIDDLER** pg 15

## 3rd Annual Great Falls Art Fest

MAY 19TH AND 20TH • 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

**KAREN STINCHFIELD TURNERS FALLS** - The Brick House Community Resource Center will present its third annual Great Falls Art Fest on Saturday and Sunday, May 19th and 20th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Avenue A in Turners Falls. Offering a wide variety of artwork and handcrafted items, two days of live music, kids' activities and entertainment, along with food options for every palate, this festival offers something for everyone!



The pottery of Lisa Blake will be featured in the festival.

Featuring more than 25 juried artists from throughout New England who specialize in a myriad of mediums, the Great

Falls Art Fest gives visitors the opportunity to purchase original hand-

see **ARTS** pg 12

**PET OF THE WEEK**

**Easy to Please**



**Tiger**

Tiger is a pretty five-year-old brown female tabby cat in need of a good home. Tiger is easy to please! This all round good-natured cat will greet you at the door, romp around and enjoy a nice dose of catnip, and also curl up contentedly. She's never been outside so it would be very wise to keep her inside and safe in her new home. This softie loves a good chin-scratching and she has such a cute face. For more information on adopting Tiger please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at leverett@dphvs.org.

**Downtown Spring Clean Up**

Sat., May 12th, 9 a.m. - noon  
Meet at  
Great Falls Discovery Center

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**CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS**

**Cinco de Mayo Festival**

BY LINDA HICKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** - On Saturday, May 5th, from noon - 4 p.m. the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries are running a Cinco de Mayo Library Festival at the Carnegie Library. Activities include a used book sale, a

bilingual children's concert with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson at 2 p.m. on the library lawn, games, refreshments, and arts and crafts for children. This program is part of the Crabapple Blossom Festival. For more information, call 863-3214.



PHOTO LINDA HICKMAN

*Baby emu chicks brought by Diane Mares and Geraldine Johnson of Songline Farm in Gill were a big hit on Friday, April 20th. Over 60 people of all ages came to see the two chicks and learn about emus.*

**Civil War Reenactors in Wendell**

BY JOSEPH COLL AND LINDA HICKMAN

Color Sergeant Joseph Coll of Wendell (left in photo) and Surgeon Major Glen DeMarsico were among the Civil War reenactors who camped out April 27th - 29th on Linda Hickman and Joe Coll's Hemlock Hill Farm in Wendell for their spring warmup drill. They are part of the Tenth Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, who are based on the Tenth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, a Western Massachusetts Regiment that served from 1861 - 1864.

"The Tenth Mass" is a group of reenactors formed in 1954 and reorganized in 1977. The 10th Mass performs in parades, reenactments, and monument dedications throughout Western



PHOTO BY LINDA HICKMAN

Massachusetts. Members have performed as extras in films such as *Glory* and *Gods & Generals*. The unit also participates in numerous living history events for schools and civic groups. This is the second year they have begun their season by drilling at Hemlock Hill Farm in Wendell.

**Pitch, Hit and Run Competition Results**

The Montague parks and recreation department held the MLB/Pepsi Pitch, Hit & Run Competition on Saturday April 28th at Unity Park in Turners Falls. The following individuals are moving on to the sec-

ondary competition: 7 and 8 year olds - Javoni Williams (All Around Group Champion), and Bryce Dobosz (Running Champion); 9 and 10 year olds - Sam Danford (All Around Group Champion), and Liam

Ellis (Hitting and Running Champion).

We wish all of our advancing players the best of luck, and we hope to see them in San Francisco, CA during All-Star Week, (July 9th - 12th).

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES May 7th to May 11th**

**MONTAGUE Senior Center,** Gill/Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. for activities and congregate meals. Council -on Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open. Mealsite Manager is Chris Richer. The Center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. A reservation is necessary and transportation can be provided.

**Monday, 7th**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
**Tuesday, 8th**  
9:30 a.m. T'ai Chi  
**Wednesday, 9th**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday, 10th**  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 11th**  
10 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
**GILL/MONTAGUE SENIOR CENTER TRIP** - "What's Cooking in Vermont?" On Thursday June 28th, the bus leaves First Street parking lot at 9 a.m.; returns at 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$65.00 per person, taxes and gratuities included. Deadline for this trip is June 1st. Call Jean at 772-6356 or 863-9357 to make reservations. Make checks payable to Montague Council on Aging.

**ERVING Senior Center,** 18 Pleasant St., Ervingside (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at 413 423-3308. Lunch

daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at 978 544-3898.

**Monday, 7th**  
9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library  
12 Noon Pitch  
**Tuesday, 8th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Painting  
**Wednesday, 9th**  
9:30 a.m. Line Dancing  
12 Noon Bingo  
**Thursday, 10th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
12:30 p.m. Shopping

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

**FACES & PLACES**



*This beautiful piece of rustic furniture has been lying on the tree belt in front of 61 4th Street since a departing tenant graciously left it there last September. Now in pieces, the beautiful laminated corkboard object has added value after aging months beneath the snow. Good for a myriad of uses, and free for the taking. Divide it up among your friends and family!*

**Fun Bike Tour**

BY LINDA HICKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** - On Sunday, May 6th, a fun bike ride and tour will start at the beginning of the Canalside Bike Path, in Unity Park at 1 p.m. The ride will last eight miles, and will cover the new bike path and Migratory Way. Librarian Linda Hickman will lead the ride and provide commentary. The ride is part of the Crabapple Blossom Festival and is sponsored by the Montague Public Libraries. For more information, call 863-3214.

**GFMS Students of the Week**

**Grade 7**  
Joshua Ruiz  
**Grade 8**  
Kelliann Humphrey  
Dan Skarzynski

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## It's A Small World

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL** - Chris Kovalchick, who lives in Gill, called to say her daughter, Laura, who now lives in the Atlanta, GA area, was in a sandwich shop when she glanced at an issue of the *Decatur Dispatch* on the counter. She nearly fell off her chair when she saw a storyline beginning, "I lived in the small town of Gill..." It was the story of the gasoline washing machine coming to Jep's Place.

When a Georgia woman named Mabel O'Connell, age 91, came to live with her daughter, Marge Heal, she gave her a

clipping of the gasoline washing machine story that she had been saving for years. How she originally came by it is a mystery, perhaps from when it ran in *Yankee Magazine*. Heal, who works for the *Decatur Dispatch* as their equivalent of Irmarie Jones, put the article in a column for Mother's Day. The paper received a lot of calls about the story, Heal said, and inquired as to the source. Heal is happy that she can now tell them about *Jep's Place*, and plans to run another piece for Father's Day. It's a small world, ain't it?

## Council Gathering Again

**JONATHAN VON RANSON GREENFIELD** - The second gathering of the Five Rivers Council, Saturday, May 5th, will offer a way for people to join up around specific ideas of what's to be done to 'turn this world around' - at least at the local level. Working from the theme "How to make our local community healthy, equitable and sustainable," participants will have a chance to offer a discussion on

their idea or 'passion,' and gather a group to further it.

The organizing committee's invitation reassures, "You don't need to be an expert, just willing to share your ideas with others who have a similar concern." It is the genius of this kind of from-the-heart leadership, the Council believes, that creates and sustains healthy community.

At its first gathering, last fall, nearly 200 people heard presen-

tations on half a dozen ongoing efforts, from agriculture to communications, being conducted from a belief in cooperation, including with the wild earth.

The gathering takes place at the Four Rivers Charter School, 248 Colrain Road, Greenfield (next to GCC). People are encouraged to arrive at 10:30 for an 11 a.m. start. The event concludes at 7 p.m., with optional supper and social time from 7-9.

## 15th Annual Meals on Wheels Walkathon Saturday

May 5th is the 15th Annual "Meals on Wheels" Walkathon. And for the past eleven years dedicated volunteer Marian Holbrook of Northfield has been able to win top prizes as the highest fundraiser for the walk. No wonder Franklin County Home Care Corporation made her this year's Walkathon Chair. But, will she do it again in 2007? Or will the prize go to Dot Black, Erving, age 87, who has a whole team of women working for her!

The Walkathon needs to raise \$20,000 to reach the goal of \$70,000. That will be enough to insure that Franklin County Home Care Corporation, the area agency on aging, will be able to supplement diminishing federal funds and provide at least one hot meal a day for any senior in Franklin County or

North Quabbin (Athol, Royalston, Phillipston, or Petersham) who requests it.

For Franklin County Home Care, this means cooking, packing and delivering about 3000 hot meals a week to the homebound. That massive undertaking involves a central catering facility creating menus (even special meals to meet individual medical challenges) planned by a dietician, eight sites with kitchens and cooks, a small army of dedicated Meals on Wheels drivers, and a lot of songs and hope!

The Walkathon is attended by many. Some run, some roll in wheelchairs. High-stepping crews with names like the "Petersham Hill Toppers," the "Bernardston Sneakers," "The Green Team" (from - you guessed it - Greenfield), or the

"Shelburne Falls Walkers," will be there, along with the boys from the Linden Hill School. Then there are the dedicated sponsors from Rice Oil, Renaissance Builders, Bete Fog Nozzle, NE Extrusion, Yankee Candle, Greenfield Savings Bank, Athol-Orange Rotary, the Cherewatti Family, or Baystate Visiting Nurses.

This year the walk is dedicated to the memory of beloved former board chair Frank Metivier of Orange. His minister, Rev. Julia Daily, joined by members of the Orange United Methodist Church, will provide delightful remembrances of Frank at the 9 a.m. Walkers Welcome, all held at the Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls. Directions and sources for pledge sheets are posted on the web site at [www.fchcc.org](http://www.fchcc.org).

## CORRECTION

### GFDC Annual Membership Drive June 14th

The Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center recently mailed out a flier to households in Gill and Montague.

Unfortunately, the Annual Membership Drive date was partially incorrect. It is being held on THURSDAY, June 14th from 5:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in attending, feel free to call the Friends at 413-863-3221, extension 3.

## Clarification

In the story on Mark Allen's victory in the Turners Falls Fire District Prudential Committee election in last week's paper (MR V#29), Joe Janikas, another prudential committee member, was quoted as saying he planned to introduce a motion at the next meeting of the prudential committee to reduce the hours the Turners Falls fire station is manned by shutting it down overnight, from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m.

tion should have read, he plans to introduce a motion to *form a committee to study the possibility of reducing the hours the Turners Falls fire station is manned by shutting it down overnight, from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m.*

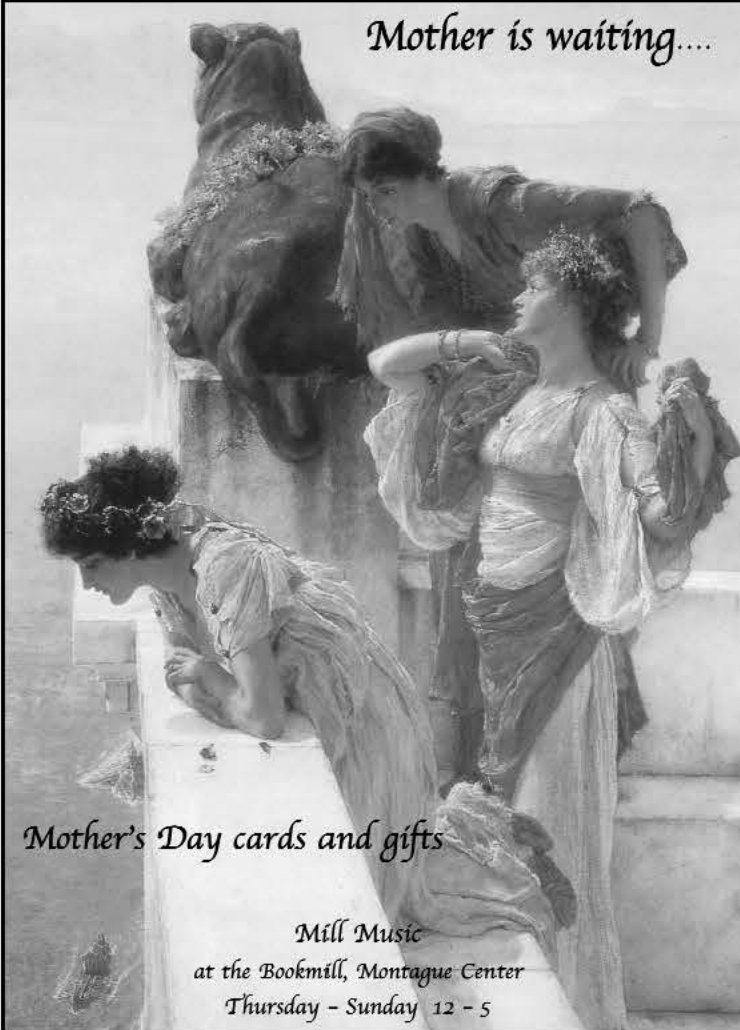
The next meeting of the prudential committee will take place on Monday, May 7th, at 5:30 p.m. at the offices of the Turners Falls Water Department at 226 Millers Falls Road.

## Spring Plant Sale

**BY DAWN WARD LEVERETT** - The Leverett Historical Society will be having their annual spring plant sale fundraiser on May 12th, 9 a.m. - noon at the Leverett town hall in Leverett Center, rain or shine. A master gardener will be on hand to help assist with plant choices and general garden

questions. All sales will help support the Leverett Historic Society programs and building maintenance. Plant donations before the day of sale can be dropped off at the Leverett town hall in the week prior to the sale. For more information or plant pick-up call: 367-9562.

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24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

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## Thoughts on the Second Amendment

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." That's the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, in case you didn't know.

Some people read the last clause as if it were sacred text delivered from on High: "The right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Other people, including judges in many American courtrooms, have interpreted the second part of the sentence as flowing from and indissoluble from the first: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State...."

This debate flares up from time to time, as when 32 people in Virginia are gunned down by a mentally unbalanced college student carrying two handguns - a 9 mm semi-automatic Glock 19 and a .22 caliber Walther semi-automatic - purchased from federally licensed gun dealers, after routine background checks failed to catch the fact that he had been involuntarily committed for mental

illness a few years earlier. Or when an armed man walks into a one-room Amish schoolhouse and executes five schoolgirls at pointblank range with a 9 mm handgun in Nickel Mines, PA. Then the debate subsides.

The fact is, gun violence claims the lives of nine young people in America every day. Since 1979, more Americans have died from gunfire than the number of soldiers who were killed in Vietnam. Firearms were used to commit 10,100 homicides in America in 2005; handguns were employed in three quarters of these murders. After dipping for several years, the murder rates in some major US cities are at their highest level in more than a decade, with New Orleans, Philadelphia, and places like Denver, CO leading the pack. If there is evidence of a well-regulated militia here, we fail to find it.

As we send our loved ones off to schools and workplaces and daily errands, we might remember that not one of us is safer, or freer, for having so many guns among us, or for allowing them to be so readily available.

## Fencing Students Demonstrate How to Cut the Budget



Someone's Got to Do It!

KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## Kudos to GMEF for Gala

Kudos to the Gill-Montague Education Fund for the wonderful Gala held Saturday night, April 28th, at TFHS. What a delight! Thanks to all the sponsors who donated the very tasty and beautifully-presented good-

ies during the "Sweet Beginnings" hour before the concert. The Greg Caputo band was absolutely top-notch, and very entertaining. The evening was facilitated by terrific student and adult volunteers, so

that the evening flowed smoothly and without a single hitch noticeable by us patrons. Again, my sincere thanks.

- Rose Burnett  
New Ipswich, NH

## Thank You for Help with Slide

Montague Parks & Recreation would like to thank the following people for helping us install a new slide and spring-rider at Highland Park Playground (Millers Falls) on Saturday, April 14th: Valerie and David Felton, Jeff Klepadlo, Don Klepadlo, Tim

Trask, Boyd Hunter, Harlen Harvey, Mike Burek, and Kevin McCarthy. Your sweat, muscle, and community spirit was greatly appreciated. There is no doubt that children and families from all over will enjoy the recent improvements that Highland Park has experienced.

We would also like to pass along thanks to Millers Pub for providing a donation that went towards installation costs.

Sincerely,

- Jon Dobosz, Director  
Montague Parks & Recreation Dept.

## Library Trustee Write-In Candidate

My name is Cynthia Tarail. I am running as a write-in candidate for library trustee.

I live in Montague Center at 24 Center Street with my husband, Mark Lattanzi, and my daughter, Bella. I have lived in the area since 1989, first in Turners Falls for several years on the Avenue. I have worked in early childhood education as a child care teacher, community organizer and social worker, although I have also worked with elders at risk. For the past four years, I have worked in Brattleboro as the director of the Early Childhood Council of Windham County. I have a Masters degree in Social Work from UConn in community organization and social research, and a Bachelor's degree from Vassar College in social and economic geography. I am skilled in board and membership development, meeting facilitation, legislative advocacy, grant management and writing, and needs assessment.

I know that so much is determined at the national and state level and that those determinations leave our towns with fewer and fewer resources. I know that it is hard for local communities to make reasonable budget decisions based on living within their means. It's hard to balance diverse needs when the means to provide the services we want are shrinking.

I love the town library system so much that, even though it could be difficult to serve the town in an elected position, it would still be a pleasure and an honor to serve as a trustee. As an avid reader, I have been well served by the library for years. As a community member, I find it to be the hub of activity, neighborliness, and democracy. As a parent, and in my past roles with the Community Partnership for Children and the Family Network, I have found it to be an incredible resource in town for children's literacy and cultural development. I have found the

staff to be knowledgeable, friendly to children and adults, and committed to serving all the villages, all of which are very important to me.

Please write me in, and remember to check off the box as well as filling in my name and address.

Thank you.

- Cynthia Tarail  
24 Center Street, Montague Center

## Civic Pride

We know John Carey as one of the good guys, but how many know that he's been seen, for quite some time now, picking up trash on his walks around town. He's not even deterred by inclement weather.

Too bad more of us don't have the civic pride exhibited by Mr. Carey.

- Theresa Ferland  
Turners Falls

## American Dead in Iraq as of 5/2/07



## We welcome your letters Montague Reporter

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

## Montague May Day

### Celebration

Sunday, May 6th,

10:30 a.m. all are invited to process from the Montague Center post office to the town common. The event is free of charge and participants are encouraged to bring along a blanket and picnic lunch. (413) 367-9923 for information.



## Sign Me Up!

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## The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

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# GUEST EDITORIAL

## A Contract with the Towns

Hoping this will be the first in a series of statements from the eight candidates vying for four seats on the Gill-Montague school committee, the Montague Reporter will make space available to each candidate who would like the opportunity to publish their own statements or remarks about the schools, between now and the town elections in Gill and Montague on May 21st. (Deadline for submissions: Tuesday, May 8th or Tuesday, May 15th. We encourage some candidates to take advantage of the earlier deadline.)

Readers may also wish to tune in to the live school committee candidates' debate, moderated by Montague town moderator Ray Godin, on MCTV, Channel 17, on Thursday, May 10th, at 7 p.m. Questions for the candidates in advance of that debate may be addressed in writing to "Candidates Debate" MCTV 34 2nd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376, sent via email to dean@montaguetv.org, or called in live at 863-9200 on the night of the debate, May 10th.

**BY RICH COLTON**  
**MONTAGUE CENTER** - After serving for six years on the school committee, I have learned a lot from teachers and administrators. Our students are enthusiastic, bright and caring. Our teachers and administrators are dedicated professionals. Members of the school committee and volunteers have devoted an enormous amount of time to improving the district.

But periodically we need to stop, take a breath and take a long look at how we are doing business. We are a \$16 million organization that faces a serious institutional crisis. The most obvious evidence of that crisis is a constant budget shortfall. This causes bitter conflicts within the district and between the district and member towns. Our scores on standardized tests are too low, causing the state to place us "on watch." The debate over the elementary schools has descended into anger and bitterness, harming our reputation in the region. We are losing far too many students (and money!) to school choice.

The following "Contract with the Towns" contains some ideas for reforming the school district. I encourage other candidates for school committee to present their own.

### A Five Year Plan:

We need to follow the lead of Montague and undertake a quick study of the origins of the schools' budget problem, with a five-year plan to deal with them. This should be done immediately, in time for town meeting, and not delayed by the formation of committees and subcommittees.

### 2. Focus on "Budget Busters:"

We need to focus much more on those factors that make our budget insupportable - wages, benefits, special education, and school choice. Our teachers deserve to be paid well, but we can no longer negotiate contracts that throw the budget out of balance (and cause teacher layoffs). To hold down costs, we need to join the state health care plan, if it becomes

available. We have made progress in the past year limiting the cost of special education. This must continue.

### 3. State Lobbying Strategy:

The five-year budget plan will not work without a strategy to force changes in state policy. We need to stop begging for small Chapter 70 increases each spring and then going to sleep for the rest of the year. Constant complaining about the education formula is a dead end. We need to encourage coalitions to put health care and special education financing on the state and national agendas.

### 4. Work Smarter - Not Harder:

School committee members currently work very hard, often attending meetings nearly every day of the week. At the same time, we often fail to exercise proper oversight on key policies. We need to reorganize the way we work, avoiding the tendency to proliferate the number of subcommittees, while at the same time exercising more

oversight on the big issues.

### 5. Oversight:

While leaving many of the details to our administrators, the school committee needs to exercise more oversight on key policies. The committee has not yet seen a line-item school budget this year. We sent a letter to parents concerning school choice and the "No Child Left Behind" mandate that was not reviewed by the school committee. Core policies must be reviewed by the school committee as a whole.

### 6. Accountability:

Several schools have been cited for low MCAS scores. We should take the recommendations of the state evaluation very seriously and implement them. But the whole district and the broader community should be accountable - and not just a few schools. Parents and other community members need to be part of this effort.

see CONTRACT pg 6

## Word on the Ave

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY KEVIN FOLEY

Recently, Brian Costa of Montague City came to the selectboard with a proposal to create a bylaw - with a fine attached - to prompt dog owners to clean up after their dogs. Do you think Montague should have a "pooper-scooper" bylaw?



"I have family in Worcester. They have (a pooper-scooper bylaw) in the parks there and people clean up after themselves."

- Alex Ocasio, Turners Falls



"I have a dog and when I walk him around I use a pooper-scooper. I go outside in my front lawn and all I see is other dogs' poop."

- Dawn Price Turners Falls



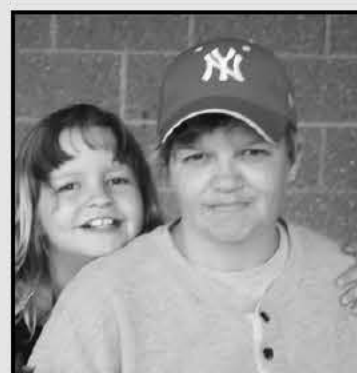
"If you have an animal, you should take care of it and take care of what it's doing."

- Joe Gregory Turners Falls



"In Greenfield, they supply the bags for people to put poop in. That's a good suggestion for Montague."

- Mary Rooney Northfield



"I'm tired of walking in dog poop. There's a lady down the street from us who doesn't clean up after her dog. It's tough, especially when you walk around with a walker like me."

- Sherry Lenois Turners Falls

### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

"I'm tired of stepping in dog poop when I don't even have a dog."  
- Candace Sutton, Turners Falls

"I don't know what it is about dog owners. They let their dogs do their business everywhere but their own."  
- Steve, Turners Falls

"I'm responsible for my own animal. It's disrespectful to let your dog crap in someone's yard."  
- Alan Smith, South Deerfield

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## CONTRACT

continued from pg 5

### 7. Elementary Configuration to Improve Education:

I stand by my vote of last December concerning the elementary school configuration. I believe the solution we approve needs to save money while at the same time improving education in the district as a whole. I am open to other solutions that will accomplish these goals, but I do not support a solution based on short-term budgetary considerations or on a narrow vision. This would violate the core values the committee established when it began the process.

### 8. High Expectations:


We need to expect more of our students, and they need to expect more of themselves. Too many of our students do not plan to attend college when they graduate - virtually a necessity in today's world. High-performing students tend to do very well in the district. There are also many programs for students with special needs. We need to do much more for the students in between.

### 9. Communication:

We need to explain our policies in written form to the community, not relying solely on verbal or Powerpoint presentations. A major change in policy, such as the reorganization of the elementary schools, should be justified in writing. We need to present a compelling budget with a written explanation to the towns. We should return to the old policy of presenting a written annual report.

### 10. We are ALL Educators:

Teachers and students in the classroom are at the core of education. But the way we as school committee members talk and act is also a key educational issue. We need to debate policies in a well organized and respectful manner. Important policies and decisions need to be explained in well written public documents. We have to work harder to show the integrity, attention to detail, professionalism, and critical thinking skills we expect in our teachers and students. Education is a community-wide effort.

Rich Colton is running for a three-year school committee seat from  Montague.

## GUEST EDITORIALS



# The Gift an Autistic Child Brings

BY STEPHEN COBB

TURNERS FALLS - Sincere thanks for the recent series by Lyn Clark - she beautifully conveyed to readers her personal relationship with her granddaughter Lexi in the context of a wider, pervasive condition called 'autism'. Her allusion to the canary in the coalmine, the sacrificial innocent that raises our awareness to potential dangers in our environment, is right on the mark for understanding the so called 'autistic spectrum disorder' as a modern phenomenon of our times. The amazing and valuable lesson is that each child has a particular life story to tell us, and our ability to listen and attend to their special needs is the beginning of the cure for the 'autistic' impulse to withdraw, shut down and tune out from our environment.

Clark names Lexi her "Master Teacher" and relates how 'autistic' children could be the great teachers of our times. My teachers, Rudi and Patty Verspoor, the founders of Hahnemann College for Heilkunst, would agree that they are pupils of the autistic children they treat and cure in their medical Heilkunst practice. Each child presents a

unique history of developmental challenges that are diagnosed and treated. As Rudi eloquently remarked at a recent autism conference sponsored by HCH:

*What you have with autism is a series of cascading causes. No particular case is the same, and yet most of the treatment out there is built on a limited kind of typology. We try to work with an interlacing series of typologies through a systematic approach. But if you have one given therapy or approach, then that particular typology becomes dominant and you try to fix everything with it. But you can't do that with most autistic conditions. It is not one thing that is going to make it work, rather it is a systematic approach that is going to make it work. But also, a systematic approach that takes into account the individualism of the child, and that takes us into the soul and spiritual levels (of the human). Because, without the individualism at all levels, you're going to treat the disorder but not the child. You want to get rid of all the diseases and imbalances, but ultimately you want to treat the child, not the disorder.*

We are besieged with the modern phenomenon of social disorders with the impulse to withdraw: autism, ADD, Alzheimer's disease, agoraphobia, and dementia are all examples of this pervasive phenomenon. Toxic environmental shocks from heavy metals (mercury, aluminum) in vaccinations, etc., may be significant triggers for these disorders, but there are many other predisposing factors that will not be detected by blood or genetic tests.

A social disorder must be discerned for its immaterial causes as well. We must develop a medical science that looks deeper than material agents affecting our material bodies and likewise discerns the immaterial agents of emotional and spiritual diseases that befall the whole human being. Such a complete medical system is "Heilkunst", developed by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, which means the "Art of Rendering Whole."

Lyn Clark and her granddaughter Lexi show us that the key to undertaking this journey of self-recovery is unconditional love, and that is the gift and the challenge that 'autistic' children present us in these times.

## MCTV Schedule Channel 17: May 4th -- May 10th

### Barton Cove Eagles:

\*Eagle Broadcast is dependent upon working Equipment at Barton Cove\*  
7 - 8 a.m. (Daily)  
12:30 - 5:30 p.m. (Friday, Saturday)  
1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Sunday, Monday, Thursday)  
11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Tuesday)  
9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (Wednesday)

### Friday, May 4

8:00 am There And Back Karen Adams  
9:00 am Listen To the River  
11:00 am Montague Music Train  
6:00 pm Nasa Destination Tomorrow #20  
6:30 pm Reconciliation Ceremony  
7:00 pm GMRSD meeting 4/24/07  
10:00 pm Montague Plains Walk  
11:00 pm Montague Music Train

### Saturday, May 5

8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #20  
8:30 am Reconciliation Ceremony  
9:00 am GMRSD meeting 4/24/07  
11:30 am Montague Plains Walk  
6:30 pm The Well Being: "Snoring And Sleep Apnea"  
7:30 pm Discovery Center: "Songs For Wee People"  
8:30 pm Montague Update: Karen Stinchfield  
9:30 pm Discovery Center: "Butterflies of Mass."  
10:30pm Coffee House Series: Katie Clarke Band

### Sunday, May 6

8:00 am The Well Being: "Snoring And Sleep Apnea"  
9:00 am Montague Update: Karen Stinchfield  
10:00 am Discovery Center: "Butterflies of Mass."  
11:40 am Coffee House Series: Katie Clarke Band  
6:00 pm Discovery Center: "Pop Rockets"  
9:00 pm Montague Update: Ray Zukowski  
9:00 pm Over The Falls: Stan Rosenberg 3/23/07  
10:00 pm Carnegie Library: "All About

### Emu's

#### Monday, May 7

8:00 am Discovery Center: "Pop Rockets"  
10:00 am Montague Update: Ray Zukowski  
11:00 am Over The Falls: Stan Rosenberg 3/23/07  
12:00 pm Carnegie Library: "All About Emu's"  
6:00 pm Montague Update: Chris Mason  
7:00 pm Montague Select Board (Live)  
9:00 pm Montague Plains Walk  
10:00 pm Farmers Market: Stephanie Marshall

#### Tuesday, May 8

8:00 am Montague Update: Chris Mason  
9:00 am Montague Plains Walk  
10:00 am Farmers Market: Stephanie Marshall  
6:00 pm GED Connection #39  
6:30 pm Reconciliation Ceremony  
7:00 pm GMRSD (Live Broadcast)

#### Wednesday, May 9

8:00 am GED Connection #39  
8:30 am Reconciliation Ceremony  
6:30 pm NASA Destination Tomorrow #20  
7:00 pm GED Connection #1 Orientation  
7:30 pm The Well Being: "Snoring And Sleep Apnea"  
8:30 pm Carnegie Library: All about Emu's  
9:30 pm Discovery Center: "Birds of Prey"  
10:30 pm Montague Village History

#### Thursday, May 10

8:00 am NASA Destination Tomorrow #20  
8:30 am GED Connection # 1 Orientation  
9:00 am The Well Being: "Snoring And Sleep Apnea"  
10:00 am Carnegie Library: All About Emu's  
11:00 am Birds of Prey  
12:00 pm Montague Village History  
7:00 pm School Committee Candidates Debate (Live Broadcast)  
9:00 pm Farmers Market: Stephanie Marshall  
10:00 pm Discovery Center: Curious About Creatures

## Moonlit Walk

BY DIANE LYN

MONTAGUE CENTER - It was 80 degrees today, so no surprise this evening was a rare beauty for spring. After gardening all day I showered and pulled on my favorite chill rags - rolled up sweats, tank and hoodie. The air was warm, with a gentle breeze as I strolled along the sidewalk into the center of town. John Aubrey - a familiar, friendly warm weather sight - was out cruising on his bike and had stopped by the town hall to chat with a couple walking their dog. Accordion and flute combo tunes were softly playing from the house next to the church. A hose from the Grange cellar window out to the drain in the street put in place during the rainy week we all endured, and the poster for the Talent Show - "Support for the Turns" - still standing were sure



signs that the warm temps had become a tempting lure of our downtime.

Passing the corner onto Court Square, I could hear the peepers at the school pond, realizing it was a treat indeed to be out tonight. As I approached, the volume of their song took over the space inside my head.

I wasn't the only visitor at the edge of the pond. A large brown tiger cat began to crouch down when he spotted me. Distraction was in the cat's favor for a hopeful evening catch. I took on the stance of the cat and we shared opposite sides of the pond.

We listened and watched until my ears were ringing so bad I had to leave. I never saw one peeper. A song with strength without being seen.

As I passed the old fire station, I realized just how long it's been since I strolled the town. The once very small old fire station was under construction and had a new face: a home! I flashed back to a visit while attending Montague Center School and taking my turn at sliding down the pole. That was over 40 years ago for me, yet at that moment it felt like yesterday. Nostalgic as it may be, I all of a sudden felt sad to realize how many years have passed since I was young.

My head fell slowly and my eyes were now focused in front of me on the street.

I was walking with two shadows . . . one from the streetlight, one from the moon. Guess we never really walk alone.

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# En Garde! Fencing Club Organized at Turners Falls High School

**BY ALI URBAN** - This winter, students at Turners Falls High School may have noticed sophomore Sam Colton politely asking their classmates if they would like to sign a petition. Occasionally, petitions make their way around the school, perhaps signed, but rarely ever mentioned again. Colton's petition, however, was different.

After finding that his Latin teacher, Jeff Lord, not only shared his interest in fencing but was also a fencing coach, Colton's mind was made up. He wanted to start a fencing club at Turners Falls High School. "I was never joking about starting it," he said of the club. "It is something I have always found interesting."

Lord said the light bulb went on for Sam, who is also a member of the tennis team, student council and band, when they discussed the idea of forming the club. "I really admire his tenacity," Lord said. "When he puts his mind to something, he gets it."

The petition circulated, and eventually 146 signatures were collected. "After I had the petition and knew there was an interest, I wrote a letter to the administration describing what I wanted to start," Colton explained.

He gained approval from principal Jeff Kenney and established a core group of members. Lord agreed to be the group's advisor, and they began the fundraising process. The club gained funds through a grant from the Montague Elks Lodge and by working concessions at University of Massachusetts sporting events. Overall, they raised more than \$1,200.

"We were really fortunate to be able to buy the equipment we need," Sam said. He explained the student club has purchased six sets of fencing equipment, which include foil, mask, suit and glove, and carrying case.

Under the direction of Lord, who is also head fencing coach at Amherst College and Hampshire College, and volunteer instructor William



PHOTO SHAYNA LANGKNECHT

Fencing instructor William Proal (left) works with sophomore Sam Colton, a member of the TFHS fencing club.

Proal, six to eight club members recently learned how to properly hold the foil, along with the basic footwork and lunges at their weekly Tuesday afternoon meetings in the TFHS dance room.

"This sport provides both an aerobic and anaerobic

workout," Lord explained. A fencer must both maneuver and produce great bursts of energy. He likened fencing to physical chess in which the player does not have to wait for an opponent to make the next move. "You're out-thinking and out-witting, always planning seven or eight moves ahead," he said.

Sophomore Lindsey Wilson enjoyed books she read featuring characters who were interested in fencing. "It made me want to get involved with it myself, if I had the opportunity," she said. When she heard from Colton

that a club was forming, she thought it was "the most awesome idea."

She also feels she benefits from the fitness aspect of the sport. "It really puts a great demand on the body," she said. "You have to be agile and flexible; it's very exacting."

Wilson said it is good to get high school students involved in fencing. "This is one of the oldest sports, one everyone should be exposed to," she added.

Colton agreed; he is interested in continuing fencing in college and appreciates the opportunity to hone his skills in high school. He also is interested in the historical and cultural aspect of the sport and its weaponry.

"People should get involved with fencing because it is a fun sport that involves reacting quickly, expecting anything. [It demands] physical and mental strength and awareness - all skills that can carry on to other aspects of life," he said.

Colton and Lord hope to see the fencing club continue and expand, perhaps allowing Turners Falls students to participate in tournaments. They are considering changing meeting times to accommodate students who also play after-school sports, and opening the club to a larger number of people.

"Groups like this thrive on inertia," Lord said. "As the word spreads, more people will be interested, and thus generate more involvement."

## Tech Students Learn About Non-Point Source Pollution



DETMOLD PHOTO

Environmental Educator Ivan Ussach, left, sprays water onto the Enviroscape to demonstrate the heavy rains that wash pollutants into waterways. Students in Jim Klaiber's (center) science class at Franklin County Tech look on.

**BY IVAN USSACH**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - "I learned a lot about water and how pollution gets into the system." That's what Peter Beatty, a student at Franklin County Tech School in Turners Falls, had to say after an "Enviroscape" a presentation I gave in my role as coordinator of the Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) on Tuesday,

May 1st. Jay Plant, another high school student in Jim Klaiber's science class, said he learned "how putting up barriers can help prevent pollutants from escaping."

Klaiber, a 29-year veteran of the Tech School science department, invited me into several of his classes over two days. "The students were engaged in a process that demonstrated the reduction of

pollution from various sources," he said. The 3-D "Enviroscape" Watershed/Non Point Source Pollution kit focuses on dispersed ("non-point") pollution sources -- such as farms, logging and construction sites, golf courses, roads, residential areas and parking lots.

Soil, fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil, and sand and salt are likely to be washed into waterways during heavy rains. These pollutants can contaminate drinking water and harm aquatic life.

The MRWC presentations highlight practical ways to reduce or eliminate these and other potential sources of pollution. Many of these "best management practices" are low cost and effective, such as carefully applying chemicals during appropriate weather conditions, and properly installing hay bales, berms and vegetative buffers around areas with vulnerable, loosened soils.

The "Enviroscape" presentations are the MRWC's newest project, offered free to all schools and community groups in the 17 watershed towns. The presentations can be tailored for audiences of any age. To contact the Millers River Watershed Council,

email: council@millersriver.net or call 978-248-9491. The Enviroscape presentations are partially funded by a grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts.



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# Gala Raises \$21,000 for Education Programs

**TURNERS FALLS** - The Gill-Montague Education Fund, in partnership with "Phil D." of radio station WIZZ 1520 AM presented the third annual Gill-Montague Gala, featuring the Gregory Caputo Big Band and his show "Velocity."

The April 28th event at the Turners Falls High School's state-of-the-art auditorium raised \$21,000 for educational enrichment programs in the school district.

Caputo, trained in classical, rock, swing, jazz and Latin styles, produced the big band show that highlights the Big Band Era. He served as emcee and drummer with the 18-piece band.

Caputo donated 20 autographed drumstick pairs to be

sold and the proceeds donated to the GMEF.

The show included three featured singers and delighted the near-capacity audience of more than 350 with music from big band greats including Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman and Count Basie.

Joyce Phillips, Gala producer, said Velocity gave audience members a rare chance to hear the history of the Big Bands and feel the excitement in the music.

Before the gala, Sweet Beginnings, the pre-show reception, was an opportunity for the GMEF board of directors to extend a special thank you to the underwriters of the gala and the many tier-givers whose contributions enable them to continue providing

enrichment opportunities for students.

Underwriters for the Gala were Hillside Plastics, Inc., the Montague Elks and Construction Monitoring Services, Inc.

Desserts and candies at the reception were provided by Cookie Factory, Elm Farm Bakery, Green Fields Market, Mirling's Bakery, Richardson's Candy Kitchen, Rose Ann's and Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters.

In the last two years, the Gill-Montague Education Fund has made more than \$30,000 worth of grants to the schools in the district for programs including robotics education, field trips, cultural enrichment and hands-on science learning.

# Great Falls Middle School 3rd Quarter Honor Roll

<b>Grade 7</b>	Colton Hallett	Katherine Kuklewicz
<b>First Honors</b>	Sara Hanley	Joseph Lafleur
Casey Banning	Kyla Kelly	Kelsey O'Brien
Jolina-Rose Blier	Corban Mailloux	Katarina Palso
Zacharie Boisvert	Quincy Ortiz	Daniel Skarzynski
Jane Booth		Andrew Turban
Samantha Caouette	<b>Third Honors</b>	Taylor Varilly
Daniel Colton	Corey Bassett	Natasha Vaughn
Megan Foster	Jenna Costa	Kayla Weller
Matthew Fowler	Patrick Huppe	
Stacy French	Jessica Keene	<b>Second Honors</b>
Christopher Gordon	Haley Laramie	Nina Dodge
Mark Hudyma	Aria Roberts	Jacob Eugin
Lily Kane	Caroline Sena	David Garcia
Jesse Langknecht	Kayleigh Turn	Yirka Mercado
Jeremy Markowsky		Elysia Ollari
Patrick Moretti	<b>Grade 8</b>	Illyana Perkins
Alyssa Nicotra	<b>First Honors</b>	Kelsey Waldron
Malik Odeh	McKenna Brunell	
Haley Ozdarski	Erin Casey	<b>Third Honors</b>
Iancu Placinta	Sarah Crowell	Rachel Ariel
Emily Pollard	Makayla Dolhenty	Jordan Bryant
Jailine Ramos	Kristy Dunbar	Jordan Charboneau
Angelica Renaud	Uriah Forest-Bulley	Julianne Fisk
Todd Richardson	Sarah Foster	Tyler Howe
Cameron Savinski	Nicole Fuller	Aubryanna Hyson
Samantha Shaw	Brooke Hastings	Emily Mailloux
	Vance Herzig	Ryan Pelis
<b>Second Honors</b>	Julie Howard-Thompson	Kenneth Rounds
Taylor Croteau	Taylor Howe	Derek Sicard
Haley Fiske	Jack Hubert	
Stephanie French	Kelliann Humphrey	

## Writers Wanted

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is looking for writers to cover news events, arts, features, etc.  
Please call 863-8666

# Antique Truck Show May 6th

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH**  
**SOUTH DEERFIELD** - On Sunday, May 6th, the Antique Truck Club of America will hold their 3rd Annual Western Mass Chapter Antique Truck show. Hardigg Industries will host the affair in their parking lot on 147 North Street in South Deerfield. There is something for all to see, with door prizes, raffles, and plenty of good food on-site. There's a large area of paved display and spectator parking. Dash plaques will be available for the first 100 visitors.

Last year's show had antique vehicles on display from as far away as the Boston area, and New Hampshire. This year's



1925 Mack dump truck with Katie Parzych waiting to take a ride.

show promises to be much bigger. The display entry fee is only \$5.00. For advance entry registration, call Fred Chase at 413-

863-8634, or Craig Gaudry at 413-863-2131. Admission and parking are free, though donations are welcome.

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# FirstLight Power Prohibits Camping on Riverside Sites

BY BETH BAZLER

**NORTHFIELD, MA** - FirstLight Power Resources, Inc., which owns and operates Northfield Mountain and its recreational facilities, is reminding residents that camping is prohibited on their land near the Connecticut River. This announcement comes after FirstLight Power Resources' (FLPR) staff discovered several unoccupied campsites during two separate visits over the last several months. The ban is in place because the debris and human waste that results from camping in close proximity to the Connecticut River creates serious water quality concerns.

In the autumn of 2006, FLPR staff went scouting for trash on its property during their annual Source to Sea Cleanup event and discovered an unoccupied multi-tent city with a dining fly, large gas grill, and a permanently posted

wooden sign proclaiming the site "Sunset Beach." This was in stark contrast to the several-dozen beer cans usually found scattered at this site. When FLPR staff returned in early spring, even more sites were discovered, including one with a rudimentary latrine - a five gallon bucket three quarters full - less than 50 feet from water's edge.

Signs stating, "No Trespassing, No Camping" were posted on some of the company's property in Montague with the long term goal of preventing trespassing and unauthorized camping on its properties.

FLPR staff would like to give campers the opportunity to remove their possessions from sites. Owners of camping equipment stored at any sites along the River on FLPR land should contact Northfield Mountain at (413) 659-4426 to arrange to remove their equip-

ment and waste. Because of recent ownership changes, these properties may appear on local tax assessor's maps as being owned by "Northeast Generating Company."

Northfield Mountain staff invites anyone who would like to reserve a riverside campsite at Barton Cove Campground, in Gill (auto access sites) or at Munn's Ferry Camping Area in Northfield (boat access sites),



PHOTO: WILLIAM GABRIEL

An illegal campsite on the banks of the Connecticut River

to call the Barton Cove Campground at 413-863-9300. Both sites have proper waste disposal facilities for campers to prevent contamination of the River.

## TFHS Junior Receives Honorable Mention in Massachusetts League of Women Voters Essay Contest

**BOSTON** - Ali Urban, a junior at Turners Falls High School, received honorable mention at the eighth annual Online Student Essay Contest Awards Event April 29th at Faneuil Hall in Boston. The event was sponsored by the League of Woman Voters of Massachusetts Citizen Education Fund and focused on "Making Democracy Work: Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities."

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino addressed the gathering at Faneuil Hall, encouraging the students to make good choices and to become well-informed and active citizens. "Be a leader," he said. "Be a part of change. Make change work for the betterment of America."

Keynote speaker Alan



PHOTO: CORI URBAN

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and Ali Urban, who received honorable mention for her essay on "Making Democracy Work: Citizens' Rights and Responsibilities."

In her essay, Urban said: "When taught that the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness apply to all Americans, . . . this means they have a duty to contribute to society and to work honestly for the betterment of their lives and the lives of others."

Khazei, co-founder of City Year, a national program of community service, civic engagement and leadership development for young people, encouraged the young people to get involved in their communities and to volunteer.

The speakers may as well have encouraged Urban to carry coals to Newcastle; she is already involved in a variety of

school and community activities including *The Montague Reporter*, the Gill-Montague Education Fund, the Student Advisory Council to the Gill-Montague Regional School District School Committee, the Turners Falls High School Student Council and class officers, and Montague Local Aquatics Program for Personal Safety.

## Montague's Kevin Wasielewski A Cappella Director at College

Kevin Wasielewski of Montague (right), a junior at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA, recently played the part of Officer Barrel in the college's production of *Urinetown*, presented by the F & M Players, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing student-produced musical theater. Kevin, a 2004 graduate of Turners Falls High School, is the son of Ted and Lynn Wasielewski of Montague. He is a Public Health major at F & M, has performed as conductor of the school's Philharmonic and Symphonic wind ensembles and is newly elected music director of the school's all male a cappella group, The Chessmen.



## MassBike Fundraiser at The People's Pint

Statewide Bicycle Advocacy Group Comes to Greenfield

**GREENFIELD** The Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition (MassBike), the statewide bicycling advocacy and education group, is coming west in May to help The People's Pint and Franklin County residents celebrate the joy of bicycling. The People's Pint is proud to be sponsoring a fundraiser for MassBike in support of the great work they do to help make Massachusetts a better and safer place for cyclists.

MassBike has been promoting the bicycle as a healthy, enjoyable, efficient, and environmentally-friendly means of transportation and recreation. You can help The People's Pint support this vital cause by drinking a pint of Sprocket Kolsch, a light-bodied summer ale brewed in the style of a lager. During the month of May for every pint of Kolsch purchased The People's Pint will donate \$0.25 to MassBike; \$1 for

every pitcher. To jumpstart this thirst quenching month, MassBike will be on hand at The Peoples Pint from 5-9 p.m. Friday, May 4th, to provide information on MassBike.

May is the perfect month to get on your bike and start riding again. The People's Pint will again organize a free lunch at Bicycle World during National Bike-to-Work week on Friday, May 18th. And on Sunday, May 27th join us at the Pint at 1 p.m. for a Tour de Farms Bike ride, led by Bob Perry of Bicycles Unlimited - part of MassBike's "Spins" series of bicycle tours.

For more information contact Alden Booth at The People's Pint at 773-0333 or ab@thepeoplespint.com. To get involved in MassBike and learn more about bicycling issues, visit [www.massbike.org](http://www.massbike.org).

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**NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**

**Warrant Ready for Town Election**

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**

The Montague selectboard held a brief meeting on April 30th, at which they signed the warrant for the upcoming town election of officers, and for a non-binding opinion question to close the Montague Center School. The election will take place on Monday, May 21st, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., at precinct polling stations.

In the knowledge that a few precinct seats for town meeting representative still have no candidates in the running, selectboard member Allen Ross gave voters a pep talk at the beginning of the meeting. "Town meeting members have a lot more power than you might think. People who are concerned about various controversial issues in town, they should pursue these issues a little more aggressively. Being a town meeting member is a very consequential position."

"We have at least three openings in our precinct," added board member Pat Allen, who lives in Precinct 6 (which includes Montague City, the west end of Turnpike Road and the Patch). It is possible to write in candidates for town meeting at the time of the annual elec-

tion.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said this year's Chapter 90 state aid for the highway department was up 25% from last year's amount, ringing up at \$386,400. In more positive financial news, Abbondanzio said the town had received a grant for \$410,000 from the USDA to help with the second phase of the town's combined sewer overflow remediation project. In combination with a previous USDA grant for \$450,000, the town administrator said the town was now in the position of bringing in the reduced scope second phase sewer remediation project at a cost \$860,000 under the amount of borrowing authorized by town meeting for the work, which had been price tagged at \$5.7 million.

Ristorante DiPaolo asked and received permission from the board to place tables and chairs on the public sidewalk in front of the popular Italian restaurant, located at 166 Avenue A. The board also agreed to send a letter of support for Ristorante DiPaolo's application to the Mass Historical Commission for the state historic rehabilitation tax credit program.

Abbondanzio noted that restaurant owner Denise DiPaolo had expressed an interest in returning to the board in the near future for permission to serve alcohol at the tables in the public sidewalk, a matter that would also require the approval of the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission.

In response, Ross said, "I'd be concerned about what sort of precedent we're going to be making."

The board awarded the bid for the Avenue A crosswalk and sidewalk improvement project to C&A Construction, of Ludlow, for \$227,410. The architectural barrier removal project will be paid for out of community development block grant funds. There was a math error in C&A's bid, which was corrected before the board awarded the contract. "Let's hope that is not an indication of anything to come," said board member Allen wryly.

The board approved a transfer of \$10,787.85 in funds leftover from the clean-up of the Dubois Garage on 3rd and Canal to the Unsafe and Unhealthy Building fund, where some of that money will enable town health agent Gina McNeely to pursue a clean-up of the property of Rodney

Beauchesne in Montague Center. Ross said, "If and when the Beauchesne property is cleaned up in Montague, there will be applause from passing vehicles equal to when the Dubois property was cleaned up." Program income money was also shifted to downtown beautification, to support the volunteer program to plant, mulch, and water the planters on the Avenue and other such efforts, (\$4600), along with \$600 for repair of the pump at the fountain at Peskeomskut Park, and \$500 to add new faucets to the water line along the Avenue. The board also approved an allocation of \$2600 in program income funds for a PowerPoint projector, software, and portable screen for the town planner's office.

The board thanked Precinct 2 town meeting member Mike Naughton for his generous contribution enabling Art Gilmore and the trustees of the Soldiers Memorial to purchase a portable PA system, which will be used at the Memorial Day ceremony this year. They reviewed a draft application form for use of the Peskeomskut Park bandstand. The bandshell will be available for public use, "contingent on having the park available for

use," Abbondanzio said. The park, which was the scene of a \$600,000 community development block grant reconstruction project last year, is still not open this spring, waiting on grass to grow and pea stone sidewalks to be resurfaced to meet ADA accessibility requirements. RiverCulture concerts scheduled for the bandstand in May, and Crabapple Blossom festivities in the park have been canceled or rescheduled.

Finally, the Great Falls Farmers Market received town approval to reopen at the 2nd Street location (in front of the former Cumberlands Farm building) on Avenue A, Wednesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. starting May 9th, through October. The farmers market had been looking forward to a permanent home at Peskeomskut Park, and had removed to the corner of 2nd Street during the park's reconstruction last year. But, with park construction nearly done, it appears the new curbing, planting, and location of handicapped access parking spaces on 6th Street will make it impossible for the market to return to their former location opposite the post office.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GILL POLICE LOG**

**Illegal Campsite Beneath Gill-Montague Bridge**

**Thursday 4-26**  
 11:35 a.m. Received report from resident regarding a death threat. Report taken.  
 3:02 p.m. Complaint issued for unregistered vehicle bylaw violation on West Gill Road. Too many unregistered vehicles in the yard.

**Friday 4-27**  
 9:55 a.m. Report of illegal campsite underneath Gill-Montague Bridge. Checked area; unable to locate inhabitants.  
 3:20 p.m. Assisted fire department with alarm on French King Highway.

**Saturday 4-28**  
 1:15 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with domestic arrest on Captain Beers Plain Road.  
 6:00 p.m. Report taken for two missing canoes on Set Back Lane.  
 8:20 p.m. Assisted fire department with alarm on the Mount Hermon campus.

**Tuesday 5-1**  
 5:01 p.m. Report of past suspicious vehicle on Munn's Ferry Road.

**Gill Wine Tasting**

**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH** - The Gill Wine Tasting on April 28th drew a surprisingly large crowd, considering the difficulties caused by the construction on Main Road. There were tourists from as far away as Michigan and Pennsylvania who made it to the event, during the ever-shifting road detours and obstacles.

The Gill Store has a new interior decor. Tables and seating now occupy the main room at the store. Visitors can eat, sample wine and cheese and socialize in a congenial atmosphere. Everyone liked the changes. Lissa Greenough introduced a new wine by Erik Banhi, Italian



*Changes at the store include Adirondack lounge chairs on the veranda. Archer Christian and Carol Anderson watch for wood turtles crossing the road. There were no turtles, and little traffic.*

race car driver, who has turned to wine production. Greenough maintains he does not sample his products while racing.

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**NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**

**Town Election Monday, Town Meeting Wednesday**

**BY KEVIN FOLEY-** The annual town meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the Erving Elementary School. The selectboard was busy finalizing the warrant and working out budget numbers at their Monday, April 30th meeting in order to prepare for the occasion.

The selectboard has requested an '08 budget of \$6,880,609, a six percent (\$409,125) increase from '07's appropriation of \$6,471,484. Predictably, this year's largest increase is the education line item, which came in at \$3,160,684, a nine percent (\$270,686) increase from last year's number of \$2,889,998. General government came in at \$1,536,536, about a one percent decrease from last year's number of \$1,554,975.

The elementary school budget, secondary school budget, and Franklin County Technical School budget will be voted on

as separate warrants from the rest of the budget, due to anticipated opposition to these large budget items.

**One warrant item seeks authorization to borrow \$6,400,000 for design and engineering costs for upgrades at the Erving Wastewater Treatment Plant.** Other warrant items include this year's elected officials' salaries (\$85,250), wastewater operations (\$140,040), the purchase of a marked police cruiser (\$35,000), turnout gear and protective clothing for the fire department (\$30,000), reauthorization of a revolving fund for Erving seniors, the *Around Town* newsletter (\$4,000), revaluation of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project - Hydro Electric Generating Facility (\$10,000), a transfer to the fire truck stabilization fund (\$415,000) and a revolving fund to reprint, publish and sell copies of the *History of*

*Erving.*

Town elections will take place on Monday, May 7th, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the town hall. Voters will cast ballots for selectman, assessor, tax collector, library trustee, moderator, two school committee members, tree warden, constable, two planning board members, two parks and recreations commission members and a board of health member to the meeting. Incumbent Andy Tessier is running unopposed for another three-year term on the selectboard. Three candidates are vying for an open three-year term as tax collector; incumbent Judy Collins is not running again. Richard Newton, Shirley Deane, and Elizabeth Sicard all took out papers for the position. Three names are on the ballot for two seats on the school committee: Melanie Burnett, Beth Lux, and Son Hui May, though May is withdrawing from the race for family reasons. She

thanked those who supported and encouraged her to run.

Selectboard member Jeff Dubay and police chief Christopher Blair support the idea of a littering bylaw that would allow police officers to fine people seen littering around the town. The bylaw, suggested by Dubay at the Monday, April 30th selectboard meeting, will not be voted on at the annual town meeting because the warrant was closed before the matter was proposed. The Massachusetts laws regarding littering are limiting for local police because they require a court date to determine a punishment, according to Dubay.

The bridge that connects Erving and Orange may be given a new name. The selectboard agreed to a suggestion from Leo Parent, director of veteran affairs, to support a bill that would change the name of the bridge to the Purple Heart

Memorial Bridge. Stan Rosenberg, member of the Massachusetts senate, and Chris Donelan, member of the Massachusetts house of representatives, will present the bill to their respective branches of the state legislature.

As the search for a town environmental supervisor to monitor activities at the town's wastewater treatment plant continues, the list of candidates has grown to seven. "I distributed the resumes to Linda (Downs-Bembury, selectboard member,) and Jeff (Dubay) on Monday night," said Tom Sharp, administrative assistant. Downs-Bembury will make a spreadsheet highlighting each candidate's qualifications to facilitate the interviewing process.

Erving water bills are due at town hall on Monday, May 10th. If you have not received a bill in the mail, contact town hall at 422-2800.

**4th Annual Rabbit Run**

**NEW SALEM -** New Salem's race through the Quabbin, the Fourth Annual Rabbit Run and Outdoor Fair, is scheduled for Saturday, May 19th at 10 a.m. Runners are encouraged to register early for competition in the fledgling 10K roadrace which is the only one of its kind to incorporate the protected lands of the Quabbin Reservoir into its course.

After the road race, runners and walkers can take in the all day

Outdoor Fair, or the enchanting Native American Folklore presentation by Triple Tribal at noon.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. race day and costs \$20. Start time is 10 a.m.

The registration form can be downloaded at [www.empire-onerunningclub.org](http://www.empire-onerunningclub.org). For more information contact the Rabbit Run Committee at [trconde@yahoo.com](mailto:trconde@yahoo.com), or [sdturner@netscape.com](mailto:sdturner@netscape.com).

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ERVING POLICE LOG**

**Missing Kayak**

**Wednesday 4-25**

2:45 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, Eric Masters of Phillipston was arrested and charged with possession of a class D drug and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

**Friday 4-27**

8:20 a.m. Assisted with a medical emergency at a River Road address.

**Saturday 4-28**

1:30 a.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Route 2, Amanda Duplessis of Athol was arrested and charged with operating under

the influence of liquor, d speeding.

**Sunday 4-29**

11:21 a.m. Spoke with family at a Prospect Heights Lane address about safety concern of a sign with a child's name in a bedroom window visible from street. Sign removed.

**Monday 4-30**

11:30 a.m. Report of a missing yellow kayak from Millers River in Erving Center on Saturday.

2:00 p.m. Report of deer legs at the intersection of Route 2 and Mountain Road. Found and removed.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Drunk Driving Rampage in Turners**

**Thursday 4-26**

1:38 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident on Chestnut Hill Loop. Single car into a tree. Operator reported minor head injury. BHS responded.

**Friday 4-27**

12:58 p.m. Report of vandalism at the Senior Center on 5th Street. Graffiti written on the building. Report taken.

**Saturday 4-28**

3:13 a.m. While conducting a follow-up investigation, [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

6:36 p.m. Report of a safety hazard at a 4th Street address. Kids were on the roof. Officer spoke with kids who advised they would never do it again.

7:32 p.m. Report of an accident in the alley between 4th and 5th Streets. A motorist hit a pole at the end of a parking space, hit a pole used for clothes lines, and then hit the back wall of the Survival Center, damaging several of the cinder blocks. Motorist continued on, turning onto L Street and making a left into the alley between 3rd and 4th Streets.

Collided with the green house on the corner and then tried to turn into a parking space behind 110 3rd Street. Collided with a parked van several times and then tried to back out. Two neighbors tried to pull the man from the car so he wouldn't continue driving. Montague Police arrived and ordered the operator from his car. He tried to back up again, colliding with and damaging the newest Montague police cruiser. One Montague officer drew his gun while the other helped the operator out of his vehicle.

[redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle, unlawfully attaching plates, and being a minor transporting alcoholic beverage.

**Sunday 4-29**

2:13 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at an East Main Street, Millers Falls address.

Found to be several people having a verbal disagreement. Several left. Peace restored.

4:35 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Avenue A at 11th Street, [redacted]

was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and operating without number plates properly displayed.

**Monday 4-30**

4:17 p.m. Report of a larceny at a Massasoit Street address in Lake Pleasant. Found to be a civil issue.

7:05 p.m. Report of a larceny at a 4th Street address. A bike was missing. It was later returned.


**Tuesday 5-1**

12:52 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at an Avenue A address. [redacted]

was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery and intimidating a witness.


9:38 a.m. Report of a larceny at an Avenue A address. Three bikes were stolen from a bike rack. Report taken.

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# A Race for Parks and Rec

BY KEVIN FOLEY

**MONTAGUE** - This year's annual town election on May 21st, offers a race for parks and recreation commissioner between incumbent Linda Ackerman and Brian Costa. Ackerman, a life-long Montague resident, believes her experience on the job makes her the qualified candidate while Costa, a frequent volunteer for parks and recreation projects and a local softball coach, is relying on his dedication to win the vote.

Ackerman has served as a commissioner for the Montague parks and recreation for 12 years - four terms - and feels her experience makes her qualified for what she said would be a fifth and final term. She first got involved as a commissioner of parks and recreation when her two daughters were students in elementary school. Her daughters

have been participants of parks and recreation programs throughout their lives. Raising two daughters while working and serving as a commissioner of parks and recreations hasn't been easy, according to Ackerman. As for dedication, "The energy I've put into this, while working a full time job, speaks for itself."

If elected for another term, Ackerman plans to finish some ongoing projects, including improving the parks in Lake Pleasant. She hopes to put grills and picnic tables in the park there, among other things. The residents of Lake Pleasant felt as though they weren't getting enough attention, and the parks and recreation commission decided to capitalize on some volunteer interest and address that concern, Ackerman said.

If elected, Costa said he

would bring the enthusiasm of a long-time volunteer for the parks and recreation department. "Whether I'm elected or not, I'm going to keep doing what I'm doing, which is improving the town's parks. If you want a nice ball field, guess what? You have to volunteer. I learned that when I was young." Volunteering is a huge part of Costa's life. "My wife keeps jokingly telling me, 'If you die young, I'm going to bury you at Highland Park.'"

If elected, Costa would like to set up a budget for each park in town. One thing he would like to spend that money on is making the parks more compatible for both young children and senior citizens by adding checker boards, chessboards and bocce ball to the parks. He also plans to get a park in his own village, Montague City, the only village in Montague without a park.

"Whether I get elected or not, I'm going to get us one. It might be five years from now or ten years from now."

"Unless there's a plot of land or someone is going to donate something, how's that going to happen?" asked Ackerman about the idea of a Montague City park. "There was a park in Montague City, and it went kind of to the wayside."

Ackerman and Costa both agree that getting people to donate their time is the key to improving the town's parks. Costa stressed that parents should be involved in the activities that their kids participate in. "I've coached some great kids and some of their parents didn't go to a single one of their games."

Ackerman has voiced her opinions about how to get volunteers numerous times. "There's a wealth of resources (for volun-

teers) in our backyard," said Ackerman. "Somebody has got to present a situation where we can use them." The resources she mentioned were the Franklin County Technical School, Turners Falls High School, the Montague Senior Center and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

At a recent selectboard meeting, Costa presented his idea for a pooper-scooper bylaw that would require dog owners to clean up after their pets, who often leave unwanted donations at town parks. "You see it all the time, owners walking their dogs, and they go anywhere they want. It's frustrating when you're volunteering and they do that." Costa has since presented his idea to Gina McNeely at the Board of Health. "They're doing a little legwork, finding out what laws other towns have implemented."

## ARTS

continued from pg 1

crafted art from the artists themselves. Returning artists include jewelry designer Mark Lattanzi; potter and photographer Claudia Teachman-Blocher; watercolorist Sheila Lyford; mohair weavers Cynthia Herbert and Bob Ramirez; potter Mary Ann Guerin; silk artist and jewelry maker Sigrid Sholz; Deb Salzarulo and Bob Weaver, creators of wood mosaics and door harps; porcelain clay artist Naomi Lindenfeld; Native American pottery and jewelry makers Dorothy McIver and Howard Clark; photographers Kip Fonsh, Brad Peters, and Jan Ross; potters and fused glass artists Lisa and John Krauss; and decorative painter Leslie Ann Wynne. New additions include Alan Young of the Sow's Ear, creator of wooden utensils; nature art from Polly French; silverware chimes and jewelry from Peter Gorham; hand-dyed silks from Two Friends' Silks; watercolors from Edith Hunsberger and acrylics from Linda Whiting; photography from Danielle

Carriveau, Keith Forbis, Bruce Kahn and Aaron Kahn-Bork; jewelry and tapestry from Susan Essig of Nature's Hues; cartoonist E.J. Barnes; potter Lisa Blake; garden adornments from Denise Muro; and 2D mixed media from Cheryl Rezendes.

Great Falls Art Fest also boasts two full days of live music from many local favorites such as the Ambiguities, Appalachian Still, Clay Jazz, Carrie Ferguson, Chris Scanlon, Fashionable Tom and the Crooked Hats, Michael Metevier, David Ramlow-Sachs, Walt Burnham & Jack Coughlin, the Fall Town String Band, and Liz Toffey & Old Time Music.

Children's craft activities will be offered throughout the weekend by Brick House staff members and teen volunteers, including face painting on both days. TeeVee the Clown will be visiting on Saturday afternoon, and the members of Deerfield Academy's Juggling and Clowning Around clubs will be dropping in on Sunday afternoon. Throughout the weekend, Shenandoah, creator of Hoopla Hoops, will be on hand



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN STINCHFIELD  
TeeVee the Clown will visit the Great Falls Art Fest on Saturday afternoon, May 19th.

Association will also be bringing along its beautiful antique fire engine, which is a work of art in itself.

The Great Falls Art Fest is one stop on the Arts & Blooms Turners Falls Open Studio and Downtown Walking Tour, which includes several perennial favorites like Tim de Christopher, who will be showing new work and offering opportunities to participate in future stone-cutting workshops; the Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, which is presently showing the

work of Tom Young and John Willis; Spencer Peterman's breath-taking spalted wood bowls and Mike Langknecht's gorgeous mirrors and frames; and David Weiner's Great Lighting, always an aesthetic treat. This tour also presents the opportunity to see the work of several artists who are connected to Turners Falls, but who do not have downtown studio or gallery space. Utilizing space at both Montague Catholic Social

Ministries and the Brick House, eight local artists have come together to present their work through a variety of mediums. Couture Bros. has also joined the tour as a stop, offering demonstrations in custom framing and 25% off all artist supplies. The Shea Theater will be presenting its second annual "Valley Idol" fundraiser. To obtain an Arts & Blooms brochure with map, please drop by the Brick House prior to the event, or any stop during the weekend of May 19th and 20th. This event is partially funded by the RiverCulture arts based economic development project in Turners Falls, which in turn is partially funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The Great Falls Art Fest is sponsored by Greenfield Savings Bank, Hillside Plastics, and New England Extrusion, and the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For more information about the art fest or Arts & Blooms, call 413-863-9576, or visit [www.the-brickhouseinc.org](http://www.the-brickhouseinc.org).

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# The Riddle of Iraq

**BY ALEX GOTTSCHALK GILL** - On Thursday evening, April 19th, professor Glen Swanson gave a lecture in the Rhodes Room at Beverige Hall at the Northfield Mount Hermon School on "The Riddle Of Iraq - the Search for Identity." Swanson is a Fellow of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, a U.S. army officer and consultant to the U.S. Department of Commerce. He received his Ph.D. in History from Indiana University.

He raised the possibility of re-instituting the draft, stating that current number of U.S. ground troops in Iraq were inadequate to maintain peace and security there. At the same time, Swanson made it clear the United States had gotten enmeshed in a highly complex situation in Iraq, a situation that has no easy answers, and one that cannot be remedied by force alone. He called on US policymakers to develop a better understanding of the volatile mix of players and passions in the region.

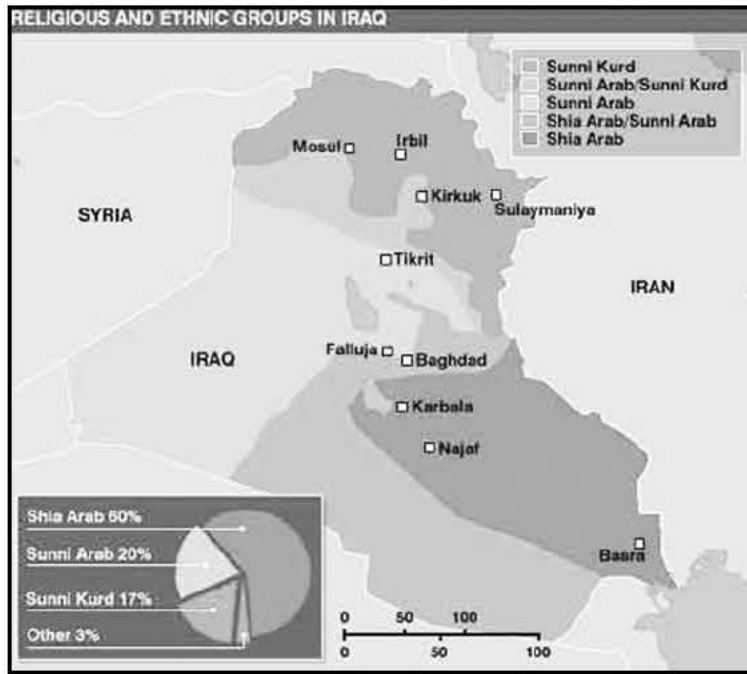
Swanson worked from a half-dozen guide questions for the lecture. These were the following: "What is Iraq? Who are the Kurds, Arabs, Turkomans, Shiites, and Sunnis? What is the nature of U.S. involvement in Iraq and the Middle East? How, where and why is oil a factor? What is democracy and is Islam compatible with democracy? Where do we go from here, and why?" But he warned there were no clear-cut guidelines in the Middle East. "Expertise on the Middle East is a phenomenon known to no one," Swanson remarked. He likened study of the region to viewing a mosaic through a kaleidoscope that has just been jarred.

Swanson remarked that the nation of Iraq is itself an "artificial union" and the country is a "crossroads or backwater, depending on your perspective." Swanson clarified this statement by discussing the way

in which the national borders of Iraq and several other Middle Eastern countries were drawn up by Western powers after the fall of the Ottoman Empire at the end of World War I. He traced the roots of United States involvement in the Middle East, following World War II.

Swanson addressed the issues between Iran and Iraq, and the recent sectarian violence in Iraq between Sunnis and Shiites. He explained the difference between these two groups in the region as "A straight political family situation [that is] ...at the heart of Iraq, in regards to the bombings," that remain a daily occurrence throughout much of the land, despite the increased presence of American troops. Sunnis, he explained, believed that the Four Caliphs, the successors of the prophet Mohammed, are the legitimate religious heirs of Islam. Shiites, on the other hand, believe that only Ali, the fourth Caliph, is the legitimate successor of Mohammed. The Shiites, Swanson added, see their struggle as one to uphold a bloodline, as Ali was Mohammed's cousin. The Shiites, historically, have favored what Swanson referred to as "a small, democratic approach of force, merger and diplomacy," likening them to the old American political machines of the 19th Century.

Historically, minority Sunnis ruled Iraq from the founding of the nation through the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in



2003. Majority Shiites, oppressed and persecuted during the dictator's reign, came to power with the support of coalition forces. Attempts at achieving a political settlement, sharing of oil revenues, and a new round of provincial elections to share power with minority Sunnis have been stalemated in the fractious Iraqi parliament. Instability in government institutions has been punctuated by an escalation of sectarian killings, bombings, and assassinations throughout the country, particularly in Baghdad.

During a section of the lecture delineating the differences between Kurds, Turkomans, Arabs and Christians in the Middle East, Swanson stressed the need for more education among U.S. policymakers in terms of cultural, religious and ethnic differences among Middle Eastern populations. "American education is weak, especially on culture and geography," he said.

In regard to the problem of developing democracy in the region, Swanson asked the audience: "Another riddle: What is Democracy? Where does it fit in regards to Iraq? What happens when, thanks to a plurality of vote, the wrong party gets in?"

He did not define what he meant by "the wrong party." He reminded the audience that the area now known as Iraq had traditionally been ruled by strongmen, either the Ottoman Empire, various military juntas or dictatorships such as Saddam Hussein's.

When discussing Turkey and that country's potential stake in the Iraq conflict, Swanson stated, "I am contending it is very possible, unless some deal is arranged, that Turkey will invade Northern Iraq." The reasons for such an action would be threefold, Swanson said: it would protect Turkish borders, it would give Turkey access to oil in the region, and it would help oust the Kurdish nationalist movement that has bases in Northern Iraq. Turkey has a substantial Kurdish minority, which it views as an internal threat.

Towards the close of the lecture, Swanson touched on his

personal views on the situation in Iraq. "We have to watch out for misinformation and be more culturally aware, because we are so ignorant about the world, if I may put it bluntly," he said. Swanson asked, "Is it clear in the minds of our decision makers, and is it clear in the mind of the public why we are there?"

After his lecture, Swanson answered questions from the audience. One was the possibility of an all Arabic intervention force. Swanson said it would be both possible and desirable to have military units from other Middle Eastern countries in Iraq, but that it would not necessarily be a panacea to the situation there, and could in some cases add to the friction, due to longstanding inter-ethnic rivalries.

Another question was in regards to the status of women in present day Iraq, which Swanson believes varies from region to region. He pointed out that under Saddam Hussein women had a certain amount of independence and autonomy not commonly found in Islamic countries, due to the manpower drain Saddam faced during the ten-year Iran-Iraq conflict.

Swanson's lecture was part of Northfield Mount Hermon's ongoing State of the World series.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG

### Hoax Call to RR

#### March 11

Anonymous call to railroad of explosives on tracks at Wendell Depot - proved to be hoax.

#### April 4

One-car accident on New Salem Road near transfer station. Gone on arrival ten minutes later.

#### April 6

Column at entrance to town hall damaged by unknown vehicle.

#### April 15

One-car accident on Depot Road, no injuries.  
 One car accident on New Salem Road, no injuries.

#### April 21

One-car accident on Stone Road. State Police arrested two individuals on MV charges.

#### April 24

Window broken on Locke Hill Road residence.

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## SCHOOL

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spring, fall and winter semesters, for 100 or more film students a year, and summer week-long workshops catering to "beginning film students and mid-level professionals," teaching upwards of 1400 students during the course of a summer.

Anctil, who runs the Lowell-based lighting and grip-rental company called Fast Lights, spoke of Swift River's commitment to incorporate green technology in the redesign of Strathmore, including the possible incorporation of hydro power and photovoltaic panels, and a willingness to "offer subsidies for green marketing campaigns" who may have need of film and television production studios. He said vice president Al Gore's Academy Award winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth* was an inspiration for Swift River Group, which intends to feature positive social impact films as their stock in trade.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio brought Swift River's proposal to the attention of the selectboard on Monday night, April 30th, when he asked the board to put Montague on a list of towns in the county interested in applying, through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (COG), to take advantage of the state's new expedited permitting program, under Chapter 43-D. Town planner Dan Laroche said he attended an information session at the COG on Wednesday, May 2nd, about getting Montague enrolled in that program, which would increase the town's eligibility to receive state grants for development projects over 50,000 square feet. "I think the Strathmore is an excellent candidate for this program," said Laroche.

Abbondanzio said, "There have been complaints about the cumbersomeness of our local permitting process." Now, with the advent of Chapter 43-D, Abbondanzio said the question will be, "Have you adopted streamlined permitting? Well, we're going to go a town where we don't have to wait two years to get approval."

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce president Ann Hamilton said Anctil had first contacted her about the Strathmore several months ago, and she had put him in touch with Artistlink, a Boston-based initiative formed last year to help



A panoramic view of the Strathmore Mill

artists, real estate developers, and communities develop work space across Massachusetts. "We're very interested in enhancing the creative economy," said Hamilton. "I'm always for the reuse of buildings."

Laroche toured the Strathmore for the first time with Anctil on Tuesday, and came away "impressed; a lot of the building is in very good shape." He said the mill, in the historic industrial district, would not require a site plan and environmental review for redevelopment, but would require a special permit from the zoning board of appeals. A COG-funded brownfields study of the mill came up clean, except for some asbestos and lead paint issues "you would expect to find in an old mill," LaRoche said.

Abbondanzio said Anctil's company had inquired about the possibility of a tax increment financing agreement with the town.

Parking and access are issues that have stymied the redevelopment of the mill in the past, but Laroche said the plan here is for "a car-free campus," with access via an upgraded pedestrian bridge across the canal. "All our students and staff would be on bikes or on foot," said Anctil, pointing out the beauty of the campus being located right on the canalside bike trail. Some parking spaces are available on Canal Street. In addition to these, Laroche said the town could make 67 spaces available for Strathmore parking in the lot behind the Great Falls Discovery Center, and up to 60 more if the former Dubois property on the corner of 3rd and Canal were turned into a parking lot. A proposal by a sculptors' collaborative to establish a sculpture garden on the Dubois lot would be "a complementary project," Laroche said, creating a backdrop to what could become one of the more elegant parking lots in the county.

The matter of upgrading the pedestrian bridge will take some negotiating, all sides agreed. Abbondanzio said that Northeast Generation, which owned the

bridge, had a clause in the deed obligating the utility company to provide safe pedestrian access to the mill. Presumably, the new owner of the bridge, First Light Power Company, assumed that obligation when it bought Northeast's holdings around the dam and power canal last year.

"They have responsibility for it. But how hard do we push them for it?" asked Laroche. Safe pedestrian access is one thing, and upgrading the bridge to allow for full accessibility under ADA requirements is another matter. If Anctil has his way, "a completely new bridge, with no steps, coming off Canal Street directly to the fifth floor of one of the eleven buildings in the mill complex," would provide a "grand entrance, and make the facility very usable for special events or conference space."

This is the type of project state PWED funds could be usefully applied to, Laroche said.

Though wary the deal is not yet signed or sealed, selectboard chair Patricia Pruitt sounded hopeful about the possibility of a film school and production company locating in downtown Turners Falls. "It would be a great thing. Between film and photography, it would begin to look as if we had something going on."

The Strathmore Mill got its start as the Keith Paper Company in 1871, the brainchild of industrialist John Keith. In two year's time, for a cost of \$400,000, he built one of the largest manufacturers of fine papers ever constructed. His mill employed 200 to 300 workers in its heyday. Strathmore Paper Company, a subsidiary of International Paper, bought Keith Paper in the 1950s. After IP shut down the mill and laid off the approximately 120 remaining workers in December of 1992, the neighboring Indeck cogeneration coal plant acquired a 15-year lease on the mill, and encouraged artists and small industries to subdivide the cavernous interior at their own expense, offering heated, unimproved space at the

irresistible price of \$2 a square foot. The number of tenants swelled to 35 by the end of 1996, when Indeck announced it would mothball its coal-fired cogeneration facility, cutting off the source of steam heat that had made the offer possible.

As a parting gift to the mill, IP installed two HB Smith cast iron boilers, each capable of putting out a half million BTUs to heat the building. The membrane roof is reportedly in good shape.

IP also subdivided the building's 950 KW hydro generators and sold the powerhouse to Turners Falls Hydro, which continues to use them to produce electricity on the ground floor. Those hydro generators have been supplying electricity to the grid for 85 years; the mill itself, of course, was originally located on the canal to take advantage of the ready access to hydropower.

Meanwhile, at the end of the peninsula, the Indeck coal plant is rapidly being dismantled and shipped in pieces for eventual reuse in Guatemala. When that process is complete, "the cement silo will be the only thing remaining," Laroche said.

Anctil said, "I've got a small army going through the [Strathmore] site this weekend. We'll do a 3-D model of the entire plant. The footbridge is a major component. If we could make that a grand entrance, it could serve as a conference area for groups from Greenfield or Turners Falls; it would be very inviting," with period lighting and railings. "A building of that character has to be brought back." Anctil said he plans to remove loading docks and include green space in the renovation. He said he was employing a team from the Conway School of Landscape Design to work up a plan for campus.

"We are excited to have the right use for this hidden jewel," Anctil said.



## Montague Center Park Work Bee

SATURDAY, MAY 5TH

The Montague parks and recreation department is coordinating a workday at the Montague Center Park (located on the corner of Station and School Streets in Montague Center) on Saturday, May 5th. We're looking to start at 9:00 a.m., and assistance is needed to help install a new climbing structure, teeter totter, and the spreading of wood-chips throughout the playground area. If you can only come part of the day, that's fine. Additional wheelbarrows, shovels, and landscaping rakes are needed, so, if you got 'em - bring 'em! For more information, call MPRD at 863-3216.

## Needlework Designer to Host Workshop

Kristin Nicholas, artist and needlework designer, from Leyden, will be holding a craft workshop at the Carnegie Public Library in Turners Falls on Tuesday, May 8th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Nicholas is an accomplished "knitwear, stitchery, and textile designer."

She has been featured in many magazines and is the author of *Colorful Stitchery*. The artist will interact with the participants and assist them with the construction of a felted wool bookmark. All supplies will be provided and refreshments will be served. Participation is limited to twenty and registration is required. Please contact the library at 863-3214. For further information about Kristin Nicholas please view her web site and blog at [www.kristinnicholas.com](http://www.kristinnicholas.com).



Five Alone, an a cappella band from Pioneer Valley Performing Arts, performed at the Great Falls Discovery Center coffeehouse on April 25th

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**MOVIE REVIEW**

**The End of Suburbia**

**REVIEWED BY ALEX GOTTSCHALK**

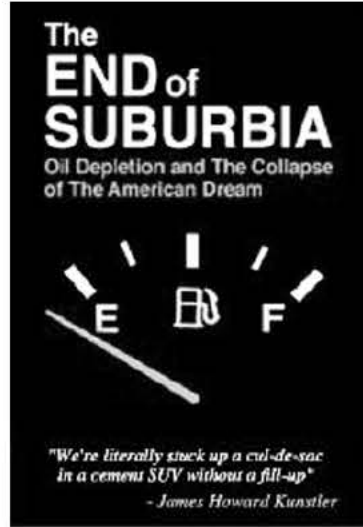
**GREENFIELD** - *The End Of Suburbia*, Gregory Greene's documentary about how oil depletion will affect the suburban landscape of America, seems even more prescient three years after its initial 2004 release. The movie is accessible, informative, and well-intentioned, but could have used a little more editing to get its point across.

I saw the film with a small but appreciative audience in the meeting room of the Green Fields Market on Main Street, where documentary films like this are shown for free on a sporadic basis.

The movie's thesis is that the American suburb, once a relatively small scale idea to bring gracious country living within commuting distance of urban industrial areas, has become an unsustainable, bloated monster that writer William Howard Kunstler (one of a half dozen talking heads Greene utilizes) refers to as: "The greatest misallocation of resources in the history of the world."

The movie posits that time is running out for the suburbs, since they can't effectively exist without the cheap oil that the world - mainly the North American continent - is depleting at record levels. Greene

hammers this idea home using statistics and a range of commentators, most notably the acerbic Kunstler, Matthew Simmons, who formerly sat on Vice-President Cheney's infamous energy task force and peak oil expert Richard



Heinberg. The conclusion they all draw is the same as far as oil depletion goes: not just the decline of the suburb, but the way of life as most Americans know it.

However, Greene wastes some time getting exactly to this point, which works against the general sense of urgency pervading the movie. The first 20 minutes of the 78-minute film are dedicated to the history of the suburb, depicted in a somewhat smug tone. Greene uses the now tired schtick of

splicing optimistic post-World War II commentary over shots from vintage newsreels and educational films. It's an approach Michael Moore used to advantage in *Roger and Me*, then beat into the ground with *Bowling For Columbine*. I wish

**A documentary by Gregory Greene, about how oil depletion will affect the suburban landscape.**

documentary filmmakers would give it a rest. Especially, as Kunstler states, since "Irony isn't a luxury we can afford anymore... It's time to get serious."

Another quail I had with the movie is the use of host Barrie Zwicker, who seems distinctly uncomfortable in front of the camera. A voice over from Zwicker to track the ebb and flow of the movie would have worked better.

However *End Of Suburbia* gets on track when it turns to the 2003 power outages that left fifty-seven million Americans in the dark. "That was a big red light, not a yellow one, and I don't think anyone learned a thing from it," lamented Simmons. From there, the movie takes a decidedly more down to earth approach, explaining the concept of peak

oil, and the consequences of depletion of non-renewable fossil fuel for the rest of us.

The film concludes on an appropriately sombre tone, but it didn't leave me feeling hopeless and depressed the way similar movies have. In fact, watching the *End of Suburbia* felt more like a galvanizing call to arms rather than another doomsday prediction: a call to arms to monitor our consumption, to take a critical look at our lifestyles and reassess what is important. "Do we need to eat Caesar salads that have traveled 3,000 miles?" asks Kunstler, with more than a hint of irony.

Despite a few flaws in its windup, *The End Of Suburbia* is a film that delivers a pitch we should all heed. I talked with members of the audience after the screening; they were uniformly chastened and thoughtful. A documentary can't get better critical acclaim than that. Next time, it should be shown at a regional planning conference.

**Montague Community Band Begins Rehearsal**

**New Members Welcome**

The Montague Community Band will hold its first rehearsal of the season on Monday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the First Congregational Church of Turners Falls at 148 L Street.

The band will be preparing for the Bandstand Dedication concert, which will be taking place on Monday evening, June 11th at 7:00 p.m. in Peskeomskut Park, conditions permitting. We are pleased to announce that the United States Marine Forces Reserve Band of New Orleans will be joining us for this concert.

We are extending a special invitation to all former members of the Montague Community Band to participate in this concert, and as always, we welcome new members.

For more info: please call Ellen Keech at (413) 863-4243.

**Wendell Town Election Monday, May 7th**

A reminder that the town of Wendell will hold its annual election Monday, May 7th, from noon to 8 p.m. at the meeting room of the new town office building. There are no contested seats on the ballot, but openings exist for write-in candi-

dates on the school committee and cemetery commission. Incumbent Christine Heard is running unopposed for a three-year term on the selectboard.

The new town office building is fully wheelchair accessible.

**FIDDLER**

continued from pg 1

Like an authentic Irish *seisun*, the show was less performance and more like an organically evolving jam session. In fact, the two performers met for the first time that night and only had 15 minutes to practice together before showtime. Most people in the audience were also musicians who play Irish music. So it surprised no one that midway through the set, Peoples asked if anyone had some rosin, and a bag quickly appeared from an audience member. That helpful Amherst College student, Colin Lindsay, later played along to a set of traditional reels, "Love at the Ending" and "Sally Campbell." When asked how he knew to be prepared, Lindsay said, "My teacher once asked me to join him up on stage during a show, but I

didn't have my fiddle with me. That kind of mistake only happens once." Rounding out the crew who joined in at the end of the performance was Dave (a visiting Irish music lover from Portland, OR) on banjo, and show promoter Brendan Taffe of Montague Center, also on fiddle.

As the rapt audience listened and relaxed with a nice cup of tea or a "jar" from the amazing microbrew selections at the Lady Killigrew Cafe, they heard hornpipe selections such as "The Rumour," "Father Daugherd," and "Memories." Peoples played



Tommy Peoples, left, performs with Dave Corey on mandolin at Monday night's worshipful *seisun* at the Montague Bookmill.

with a solemn reverence for the music, the people, and the place. He said, "This music is about more than its roots. It unites people, young and old alike. At a show it doesn't matter who you are or what you do for a living. When I was young, the older generation

took me under their wing, so it seems natural for me to do the same." This type of music seems inseparable from daily life. During intermission, a "pub" mood ensued on the patio of the café. While teenagers played hackey sack and young men (most involved in music while studying for graduate degrees) conversed in reverential tones with Peoples about all things in the Irish fiddling world, many of them spoke enthusiastically about their trips to Ireland. I overheard a woman fiddler in the

crowd using terminology like "We always have a good crack there," (meaning a good time).

David Lovelace, owner of the Bookmill certainly has it right when he speaks of the bookstore and the surrounding stores and restaurants as a community. He said, "This is a funny place, more of an art installation than a business." Right on cue, another young music promoter showed up with a nationally published article about his shows (one of which occurred at the Bookmill) in *Signal to Noise: a Journal of Improvised and Experimental Music*.

What's next on Lovelace's calendar? On May 12th the Electric Junkyard Gamelan will come from New York City and regale the Bookmill crowd with Indonesian music on fascinating homemade instruments. He said, "That should be a trip!"



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## THE OCCASIONAL DINER

## Come Home to Sunderland at the Bridgeside Grille

**BY ALICIA MCDONALD**  
**SUNDERLAND CENTER** - The opening of the Bridgeside Grille restaurant, serving lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday, and brunch on Sunday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., is a welcome return for this riverside community, at the intersection of Routes 47 and 116. Coming full circle, proprietor Rosemary O'Hagan details the building's long local history. Decades ago, she opened Steeplejacks with Joanne McGowan, then bought the building and sold the restaurant business. As she documents on the back of each menu, "A succession of restaurants followed. And now here I am, back with you at the all new, but historically documented, Bridgeside Grille. This Sunderland spot has nourished and supported me again and again; I met my husband and started my family, whom you'll see working about the Grille. It is here that I became part of a community. And now I understand that communities like this are rare and precious."

People have come out in throngs to support this "local hero." Reviewing the place was trickier than I thought. O'Hagan believes so wholeheartedly in serving the community, she chose to close the restaurant to the public last Thursday night, in its second week of business, for a packed house private party. The next day, Friday, while my parents joined me in a meal out, we encountered a waiting line by 6 p.m. This would seem astonishing for a new business, however the attitude of everyone in the place was natural and unassuming, as if they had always been hanging out with friends and family at the Bridgeside Grille.

The classic American fare



*The Bridgeside Grille is a good choice for families, in a homey and comfortable atmosphere.*

follows suit. My dining companions and I felt the food was serviceable, but appealing to the palette of meat and potato lovers. The menu ranges from locally ground "Millstone" burgers and sandwiches around \$7, to salads and seafood entrees, ending with pies, cake, and crisp for dessert.

Want to treat Grandma with a homestyle meal? Then offer her the baked haddock at

were nice and light, sweet Vidalias probably, but I thought the batter could use a pinch more pepper. (The accompanying honey-mustard sauce was missing the mustard and didn't really work with the crumbly rings.)

At the Bridgeside Grille baskets of handcrafted potato chips adorn every table, while yummy looking rolls and butter rounded out a complete meal

\$12.95. This will come with a salad in portion sizes she can handle. Want to bring a date for beer and wings? The Bridgeside Grille offers drafts of BBC Steel Rail and Lost Sailor IPA along with pub appetizers and local specialties with names like "Bridge of Onions" rings at \$4.95. These

from the dinner menu. However, Murphy's Law prevailed on our first visit, and these treats never made it to our table. Granted, we did arrive at peak rush hour, and the service remained cheerful throughout. The vegetable medley came in a fantastic variety, though I thought the cooking time a tad too extended. The house wine, a California Merlot "Lyeth" gave a nod to sweetness and fit just right with my "Carolina" pulled pork sandwich at \$6.50. But I'm sorry to say, for a place celebrating the potato, the french fries need a total overhaul.

But these are small complaints. It was clear from the get-go that many locals already seem committed to coming here to unwind. The Bridgeside Grille makes a good choice for families with its straight-up kids menu and familiar food. The friendly crew will take care of you in a comfortable atmosphere, like home away from home.

Thanks to O'Hagan for re-establishing a well-loved local dining spot.

## ROAD from pg 1

turtles) and is scheduled to wrap up next summer. Contractors for the project are F&J Construction, out of Ludlow.

Banash said she had driven the road lately (Main Road is generally open only to local traffic during the day, except when culvert work is going on at the so-called "turtle tunnel," when even local traffic is diverted over Boyle Road and North Cross Road). "The day I went through, they'd done the driveways, but the road was still horrendous."

By this, Banash meant that F&J had made an attempt to smooth out the grade at which residents' driveways met the temporary subsurface of the roadbed. Doug Edson, who owns a local excavation company on Main Road, found the attempt to make his driveway accessible somewhat lacking. "We took care of our own driveway," he said.

Highway superintendent Mick LaClaire said he had spoken to Mass Highway numerous times about the condition of the road. He said they had been spreading gravel in the potholes. He said they had been "shooting the grades at Upinngil," in preparation for installing retaining walls there to return the farmstand's driveway and parking lot to a semblance of stability.

Most of the complaints centered on the length of time it has taken to install the eight-foot wide culvert beneath the roadbed to enable easy passage for wood turtles, a species of concern in Massachusetts. The culvert construction, which got underway in March, has dragged

on, and will extend for at least two or three more weeks, Banash said, as the concrete retaining wing walls are fabricated offsite, and allowed to cure. Until those wing walls are set in position and the roadway backfilled against them, F&J will hold off on grading the road and putting down a surface coat.

"Why did it take such a long time?" asked Edson.

"Because it got screwed up by GPI," (Greenman Peterson, Inc. the engineer for the road project) said Banash. She later amended her statement to say GPI had sought a change to the wing wall design, and had handled the change order as expeditiously as possible.

Selectboard member Phil Maddem said, "The whole road project is a work in progress. Until you finish it, you're going to have some deals like this that are not convenient to anyone." LaClaire said since progress on the turtle culvert ground to halt some weeks ago, F&J has had to improvise with daily work details, advancing construction northward without finishing the section that has caused residents the most trouble.

Gill Store manager Vicki Van Zee and Opening Gaits therapeutic riding stables' owners Sarah Rury and Erika Heilig spoke of the negative impact the confusing and time consuming detours have had on their businesses, while Upinngil farmstand owner Cliff Hatch nodded in agreement. Talk of tilted mailboxes and blowing roadside trash from construction crews paled in comparison to the economic impact the construction snarl has caused to some of the town's mainstay businesses.

"I know our business has been affected," said Van Zee. "The communication has been a problem. People come into the store and want to know whether the road is detoured or not, and we don't know."

Police chief David Hastings said his department was often unable to advise residents which way to go to get home. The riding stable owners said disabled clients were forced to walk to the stables, a problem they termed "unacceptable."

"You've got small businesses in this town that are struggling because of this," Van Zee said.

"The wing walls killed 'em," said Hastings. "The only thing they can do is keep going north. I don't want to say it's making it worse, but there's no way to direct people any more."

Edson cited problems with the road construction itself.

"There are standard construction practices. When they work when it's wet, it starts 'pumping'. They were using the big loader instead of a dozer. That makes it 'pump' even worse."

He said in reclaiming the surface of the old roadway and crushing it up for use as the bed for the new road, F&J had wound up laying down "six inch minimums, two inches thick. It doesn't work. A subgrade should be the same as a finish grade contour. They should have used ¾ inch to 1½ inch crushed gravel, and spread that down through there." Edson said he had serious concerns with the quality of the subgrade, using the larger crushed material. "After it rains, you see muddiness, you see a sheen. Water should be allowed to drain through to the sides." As the construction crew has tried to smooth out the unevenness in

the subsurface, "You see them pick up six inches of dirt along with a mound of stones when grading, contaminating the whole product. I don't believe the subdrainage we're paying for is actually working."

Edson said he was worried about maintenance issues, including heaving during the freeze and thaw cycle, once Mass Highway's work is done. "I want to make sure we're not going to have issues 'down the road'."

"It's Gill's Big Dig," said Daniel Flagg.

Banash promised to bring the residents' concerns to Al Stegman, director of Mass Highway District Two. While construction continued, Banash assured the residents, "Mass Highway knows we want the road as passable as possible."

## The Edge Goes 4-0 for Autism Cure in Connecticut

**BY DAVID HASTINGS**

**BERNARDSTON** - The 17-and-under Edge Basketball team went undefeated en route to the championship of the double elimination tournament in South Windsor, CT on April 28th and 29th. The tournament was a Cure for Autism fundraiser, with 10% of all fees and t-shirt sales donated to the Autism Foundation in Hartford, CT.

Game 1: Saturday: Victory over the Albany Ruff Ryders 69-32

Led by Cody Snow - Pioneer Valley Regional School, with 18 pts

Jamie Bell - Frontier School

with 18 pts

Tyler Price - Smith Academy chipped in with 12 pts

Game 2: Saturday: Victory over the Middletown Bulldogs 69-58

Led by Cody Snow - Pioneer Valley, with 20 pts

Tyler Price - Smith Academy, with 13 pts

Tyler Kendrick - Smith Academy, with 12 pts

Game 3: Sunday: Victory over Southington Elite 80-49

Led by Jamie Bell - Frontier 18 pts

Tyler Kendrick - Smith Academy 16 pts

Tyler Lennox - Frontier 12 pts

Cody Snow - Pioneer 11 pts  
 Championship Game: Sunday: Victory over the Middletown Bulldogs, back out of the Double Elimination Tournament again: 56-40

Led by Cody Snow of Pioneer, with 15 pts

Alex Klepadlo of Pioneer, with 14 pts

Tyler Lennox of Frontier, with 11 pts

Tyler Kendrick of Smith, with 11 pts

Cody Snow was named the tournament MVP for the weekend. With these victories, the EDGE has run their season record to 17-4.



**A HOLISTIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE**

# Vegetables to Watch Out For

BY JENNY CHAPIN

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - There's a reason you're told to "Eat your vegetables," and it's not just to put color into your cheeks. Vegetables are a fundamental part of the daily diet, ideally chosen from what is available in your area.

The vegetable kingdom provides astounding benefits. To mention just a few: vegetables cleanse the body of toxins, purify and build the blood, and improve circulation. They can treat indigestion, blood sugar imbalance, ulcers, asthma, constipation, nearsightedness, and acne. They can lower cholesterol and blood pressure, clear ear infections, increase mother's milk, and alleviate pain. Some contain antibiotic, antimicrobial and antifungal properties. At times, vegetables are used topically, as poultices, for their healing qualities.

Raw vegetables or those grown in warmer climates have stronger cleansing properties, making them especially beneficial for those who eat animal

foods. These include mushrooms, peas, cucumbers, yams, okra, peppers, summer squashes, lettuce, and the nightshades (potato, tomato, eggplant, peppers).

Root vegetables, the cabbage family (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, collards, kale, rutabaga, radish, kohlrabi, mustard, horseradish, and watercress), and winter squash have milder properties. Grown in temperate-to-cold climates, they contain minerals and other elements that allow them to survive a harsh winter. Eating them helps build our own resistance to cooler weather and disease.

Onion family members - onions, scallions, chives, garlic, shallots - are considered by Eastern healing traditions too strong for daily use. Thought to "foster excessive emotional desire" and give rise to anger, they are not recommended for those seeking "mental and spiritual refinement." Rather, they should be used more specifically for their medicinal qualities of promoting warmth and thus mov-



ing energy in the body, resolving blood stagnation, reducing clotting, and expelling coldness.

It is important to note some cautions.

Oxalic acid, found in spinach, chard, beet greens, rhubarb, cranberries, and plums, should be avoided by people with calcic disorders (e.g. arthritis, heart disease, tooth decay), as it interferes with calcium absorption.

The nightshades also remove calcium from the bones. When people with arthritis, joint pain, bursitis, and bone spurs stop eating these foods, their pain and symptoms have been shown to abate dramatically after four to

six months.

If you've got weak digestion and watery stools, eat sparingly of cucumbers, summer squash, okra.

Too much asparagus can irritate the kidneys. Broccoli disrupts the body's ability to use iodine; avoid it if you have thyroid deficiency and low iodine. Regular overconsumption of carrot juice may weaken the kidneys; drink no more than four cups daily. Lettuce is not to be eaten if eye diseases exist; excess lettuce in the diet can cause dizziness. Mustard greens are not for those with inflamed eye diseases or hemorrhoids.

Eggplant (actually a fruit) should be eaten sparingly by pregnant women; in Asia, women are advised not to eat eggplant because it can cause miscarriage.

Garlic is contraindicated in conditions involving heat: red face and eyes, feeling hot, canker sores, dry mouth, fever, night sweats. Chinese herbology claims that too much garlic damages the stomach and the liver.

Green potatoes and sprouts are

toxic; be sure to remove the eye of the sprout from the potato. Vine-ripened tomatoes are best; green-picked tomatoes can weaken kidney-adrenal function.

Parsley dries up the milk of nursing mothers. Parsnip leaves are poisonous. Avoid radishes if you tend toward being cold or having low energy. Spinach, because of its sliding nature, should not be eaten by those with loose stools or urinary incontinence.

Too much sweet potato will cause indigestion and bloating. Watercress can exacerbate cases of frequent urination.

So eat your vegetables, taking in their many healing benefits as well as great tastes and rich colors and textures, just know which ones to avoid, and when.

*Jenny Chapin is an acupuncturist, bodyworker, and yoga teacher in Greenfield. For previous articles, and to offer topics of interest for this column, visit her website, [www.jennychapin.com](http://www.jennychapin.com).*

**THE HEALTHY GEEZER**

# Drinking and Snoring

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ** - Q. *Is it my imagination or does my husband's snoring get worse if he's been drinking?*

I'd have to listen to him snoring to give you an answer to that one. But I can tell you that drinking can intensify snoring.

As you fall asleep, your tongue, throat and the roof of your mouth relax. If they relax too much, they may partially block the flow of air to your lungs. Then the tissue at the back of your mouth vibrates, creating the sound of logs being sawed. As the airway narrows, the vibration intensifies and the snoring gets louder.

Alcohol relaxes throat muscles, so it promotes snoring. If you want to avoid snoring, you should stop drinking alcohol at least four hours before bedtime.

Here are some other causes of snoring:

A soft palate that is long and low restricts the opening from

the nose into the throat. That triangular thingy hanging in the back of the palate is called a "uvula." If your uvula is long, that creates wood-sawing, too.

Overweight people have bulky neck tissue. Extra bulk in the throat narrows your airway.

A stuffy nose or one that is blocked by a crooked partition (deviated septum) between the nostrils requires extra effort to pull air through it. This creates an exaggerated vacuum in the throat, and pulls throat tissues together.

Very loud snoring may also be associated with obstructive sleep apnea, a serious condition. When you have sleep apnea, your throat tissues obstruct your airway, preventing you from breathing. Heavy snorers should seek medical advice to ensure that they don't have sleep apnea.

About one quarter of adults snore regularly. Almost half of normal adults snore occasionally. Men snore more than women. And snoring usually gets worse as we get older.



JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

Here are some ways to counteract mild or occasional snoring:

- \* Sleep on your side. Lying on your back allows your tongue to drop into your throat where it can make you snore.
- \* Tilt the head of your bed up four inches
- \* Mouth-breathing during sleep can lead to snoring, so make sure your nasal passages are clear. If you have chronic nasal congestion, ask your doctor about prescription nasal sprays.
- \* Avoid alcohol, tranquilizers, sleeping pills, and antihistamines before bedtime.

- \* Lose weight
- \* Correct a deviated septum with surgery.
- \* Place adhesive strips on your nose. They can open your nasal passages and make breathing easier.
- \* There are more than 300 devices designed to cure snoring. Some of them work because they keep you off your back. A few stop you from snoring by waking you.

And here are some treatments for snoring:

- \* Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty (thank God it has an acronym "UPPP") is surgery to tighten palate and throat tissue..
- \* Laser Assisted Uvula Palatoplasty (LAUP) vaporizes the uvula and part of the palate.
- \* Radiofrequency ablation employs a needle electrode to emit energy to shrink excess tissue.
- \* Oral appliances are dental mouthpieces that help advance the position of your tongue and soft palate to keep your air passage open.

- \* Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) involves wearing a mask over your nose. The mask is attached to a small pump that forces air through your airway, which keeps it open.

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

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# JEP'S PLACE: Faith, Hope and Other Disasters Part XXXI

## Cleaning the Outhouse

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL - Pa considered the Depression as a time of hardship and sacrifice for everyone, viewing his sad financial state as humiliating, but temporary. Later, when times got better and he managed to get out of debt, he didn't collect the children's pay. But the memory of him taking my meager pay one day

forever sticks in my mind.

I had worked hard all day splitting and carrying wood, mowing the lawn, and cleaning out an outhouse for our distant neighbor Charlie Scheiding. The outhouse hadn't been cleaned for years. I dug a hole, about 50 feet away, to bury the accumulation. When I disturbed the heap of excrement, it seemed to release some sort of nausea gas. My eyes watered, my throat tightened up, and it was all I could do to keep from heaving. Old Charlie couldn't take the stink. He clomped away with his walking stick as fast as his unsteady legs would take him.

Charlie had a visitor that day. He and his guest watched at a safe distance as I carried away shovelful after shovelful of the repulsive slime. When disturbing the stuff, I'd hold my breath as long as I could, but it was never long enough. I would have to walk away to get

a breath of fresh air before I went back to the stomach-wrenching stench for another shovelful. Charlie paid me extra for that job, and praised me for sticking with it. To finish out the day, he asked me to fetch some water from a spring at the foot of his hill. His visitor also wanted some spring water to take home to the city. Charlie's well, at the top of the hill next to his house, was laid up with field stones with gaps that made it easy for bugs, mice, or snakes to fall in. The water had a terrible taste.

The spring at the foot of the hill bubbled with sweet-tasting water. A wooden barrel, sunk in the ground, served as a reservoir. Whenever I carried water from the spring, I first knelt to take a long drink of that cold refreshing water, especially after I'd been fighting thirst all that day, unable to bring myself to drink the brackish water from Charlie's well. I liked to pause there to rest a bit in the shade of trees growing in that quiet grove - no one to berate me or order me about. I enjoyed the peace and quiet, the bubbling spring, and the gentle breeze that always seemed to stir the leaves. Kneeling made me feel as though I were somehow

praying to the creator for this wonderful spring bubbling miraculously up from out of the earth. A clump of watercress grew at the edge. The crystal clear water flowed in at the bottom of the spring through a thumb-sized hole in the earth. That resting spot always seemed like an oasis in time and place. I'd drink again for the pleasure of it - there being no better tasting water in the entire world. But, then, I had to hurry or Charlie would ask what had kept me.

The water pails were equipped with cooking pot covers to keep out seeds from plants and weeds crowding along the path. That summer, weeds had grown so high it was hard to keep seeds from falling in - even with the covers. Scheiding's visitor paid me an extra quarter to bring two more pails with no seeds at all.

The next trip I held the pails high above the weeds, arms trembling from the strain. Thinking about the bonus money that would bring my total up to more than I had ever earned at Scheiding's, I was not mindful of the approaching car. I mused that I would add my earnings to my secret hoard. I was happily thinking about what I could buy for myself -

perhaps a pair of pants for school and maybe even a jackknife with two blades and all sorts of things like an awl, and a cork screw. And if there was money left, I could buy a mold to cast toy lead soldiers and.... Too late, I saw it was my father's car. There was no time to duck or hide. The car stopped.

"Did you get paid, yet?"

"Yes," I said, setting down the pails beside the road. I dug the coins out of my pocket and handed them over, not able to raise my head from a sudden tiredness that seemed to settle over me. From seeing Helen handing him her pay on Sundays, I knew it was the thing to do. But, still, it seemed unfair and I couldn't rid myself of disappointment and discouragement. None of my classmates had to turn in money earned. Some even got allowances, and most of them didn't even have to work, at all. But we somehow lived under different rules - rules that seemed so unjust it made me seethe inside. The only good thing about these rules was that it sometimes brought Helen home on Sunday to hand her pay to Pa.

- Continued next week

### Public Notice

Australis Aquaculture, LLC in Turners Falls will be applying fish manure from its fish farm on farmers' fields in Gill on several days between April 30th and May 4th as soil and weather conditions permit.

### Further information:

Tracy Helleman  
Operations Manager  
Australis Aquaculture, LLC  
413/863-2040 ext. 110

### www.turnersfallsriverculture.org

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## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE • Town of Wendell Planning Board

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A Section 5 and Section 9 of M.G.L., the Wendell Planning Board will hold a public hearing on May 15, 2007 at 7 p.m. in the Town Offices at Morse Village Road to consider changes to the Wendell Zoning Bylaws described in the details below. Proposed changes to the Zoning Bylaws include revisions to:

(1) Article III (Definitions) change definition of 'Dwelling, Secondary' from 600 sq ft to 800 sq ft;

(2) Article VI (Special Permits and Site Plans), Section F, 8. delete in its entirety to ensure extension of Secondary Dwelling provisions beyond June 7, 2007;

(3) Article VI (Special Permits and Site Plans), Section J, 2. delete in its entirety to ensure extension of Secondary Dwelling provisions beyond June 7, 2007;

(4) Article III (Definitions), and Article V (Lot density and Dimension), Section A, 6. and Article VI (Secondary Dwelling), Sections F, 1. and Section J, to keep the language allowing secondary dwellings consistent with the above proposed changes;

(5) Article III (Definitions) add 'Common Driveway' definition

(6) Article V (Density and Dimensions) change title to 'Access, Density, and Dimensional Regulations' and Section C,

Common Driveway Access;

(7) Article VI. (Special Permits, Use Regulation and Site Plan Review), Section D Special Permit and Site Plan Review Procedure: site plan appeals to be described and will be identical to special permit appeals so appeals of site plan decisions no longer go before the Zoning Board of Appeals and instead go to the District or Superior Court.

The proposed text of the bylaw changes under consideration are posted outside the Town Offices for review and are available from the Town Coordinator and the Town Library during their regular business hours.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

**THURSDAY, MAY 3RD**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Kellianna*, rock. 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. No Cover.

Greenfield Community College Spring Student & Faculty Dance Concert. Held at Greenfield High School, 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices: \$5 general; \$4 students and seniors. For information, contact Sharon Arslanian at 775-1262.

**SATURDAY, MAY 5TH**  
Route. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Milton Gabor* - Rush tribute band in their only area show. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 4TH & 5TH**  
Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls Spring & Summer series begins. Friday-*Lord of the Flies*, Saturday-*My Dinner with Andre*. 7:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, MAY 4TH TO 6TH**

Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts presents *Suessical the Musical* Continues **May 11th to 13th** Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls. *Suessical the Musical* boasts a cast of 250 performers in a program of entertaining dancing singing and acting that will leave you wanting more. Directed by Nick Waynelovich with Choreography by Kimberly Waynelovich and produced by Lisa McCarthy. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 12/under and 65/over. Reserve tickets by calling the Shea Theatre at 863-2281 Ext. 2. Tickets are also available at the World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield.

**SATURDAY, MAY 5TH**

Crabapple Blossom Festival: Cinco de Mayo Library Festival. Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson give a bilingual children's concert on the Carnegie Library lawn. 2 p.m.

Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: *Doug Hewitt Group & Same Old Blues*. Dennis Shapson opens with classic ragtime blues. Jon Lawless on harmonica. 8 p.m. \$7.

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House presents *Steve Chamey and The Amazing Harry*. 7:30 p.m. \$6 - \$12 Call(978) 544-5557 or visit [www.wendellfullmoon.org](http://www.wendellfullmoon.org) for more info. Partial proceeds to benefit the Swift River Elementary School. Wendell Full Moon Coffee House is located at the town common, in the Wendell Town Hall, Wendell.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *NdigoMoon* Jazz. 9 to 11 p.m. No cover.

**SUNDAY, MAY 6TH**

Deja Brew, Wendell: Classical Piano Improv with *Adam Bergeron*. 7 to 9 p.m. No cover.



*Pat & Tex LaMountain will hold a CD release concert at The Pushkin in Greenfield on Saturday, May 12th, at 8 p.m.. Area musicians presenting a cross-pollination of folk, country, swing, and original acoustic style join them. Classical cellist Mark Fraser, electric guitarist Craig Manning, bluegrass and swing mandolin & fiddle with Bill Reveley, drums by Tim Griffin and the Celtic vocals and acoustic guitar of Jennie McAvoy. Also native american wooden flute player Barry Higgins.*

*Amandla Community Chorus* spring concert "Celebrating Our Youth" at Temple Israel, 27 Pierce St., Greenfield. Songs of justice & hope from various cultures and featuring area youth singers. Info 773-8655. Sliding scale \$5-\$20.

**MONDAY, MAY 7TH**

Last call for artists for the 3rd Annual Great Falls Art Fest! Sponsored by The Brick House Community Resource Center, Turners Falls The jury for the Great Falls Art Fest, holds its final jury session. This fabulous 3rd annual event in the village of Turners Falls is on **Saturday and Sunday, May 19th and 20th**. In an effort to present a festival that offers quality artwork and handcrafted items, the organizers of the Great Falls Art Fest are seeking artists in a wide variety of media. The Fest is also a stop on the Arts & Blooms Turners Falls Open Studio and Downtown Walking Tour. Proceeds benefit The Brick House programs. Interested artists should call Karen Stinchfield at The Brick House 863-9576, [www.thebrickhouseinc.org](http://www.thebrickhouseinc.org).

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 9TH**

Great Falls Farmers Market opening day! Ave A & 2nd Street, 3 to 6 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 10TH**

Montague Mill Music (formerly Room with a Loom) at The Montague Mill exhibits the work of local mixed media artist Claudine Mussuto, continues

**HOT SPOT TEEN CENTER**  
**MONDAYS** - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m.  
**TUES & WEDS** - Ongoing Music Project, 3 - 6 p.m.  
**THURS** - Drop-in, 3 - 6 p.m. & Movie Night, 6 - 8 p.m.  
*Free (except some trips), open to local teens. Some require permission slips.*  
 Info: Jared at 863-9559.  
 Hot Spot Teen Center is in  
**The Brick House**  
 24 Third Street, Turners Falls, 01376

through July 8th. Mill Music is open from noon to 5pm, Thursday through Sunday.

**FRIDAY, MAY 11TH**  
Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Free Radicals* - covers from Dylan to Zeppelin. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Radio Free Earth* Acoustic Duo. 9 to 11 p.m.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 11TH & 12TH**

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls presents *An American In Paris*. 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 12TH**  
Downtown Turners Falls Spring Clean-up, 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at The Discovery Center.

CD release party at The Pushkin. Veteran Valley performers Pat & Tex LaMountain celebrate the release of their sixth recording over the span of three decades. Concert and dance featuring Tex on acoustic guitar and Pat playing rhythm guitar, with other area musicians. Sliding scale entrance fee of \$6 -10 at the door. CDs available. 8 p.m.

Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: *Electric Junkyard Gamelan*, original rhythm-driven music on invented instruments. 8 p.m. Food and drink available at the Lady Killigrew Pub and Café. \$10/\$12.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Euphemisms*, acoustic folk rock. 9 to 11 p.m.

Route. 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls:

*Love Bomb* - rock. Come to dance! 9:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 18TH**  
Concert at The Bookmill, Montague Center: *The Two Man Gentleman Band*, NYC duo swings Vaudeville, ragtime & jazz. 8 p.m. \$10/\$12.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 18TH & 19TH**  
"Valley Idol" is back! Karaoke singing competition, \$1000 for grand prize winner, cash prizes for runners-up. Competition takes place over 4 nights at the Shea Theater, Turners Falls (May 18, 19, 26 and June 2). Proceeds benefit the Shea. For info, call 863-2281. Auditions on **Friday, May 18th** at 6 p.m. for the first 100 applicants only. \$35 registration fee applies to all contestants. Contestants must be at least 18 years old to audition. Singers will need to prepare a 90-second musical selection for audition. First night cut will be to 25 singers. Go to [www.theshea.org](http://www.theshea.org) to download registration and view contest information or leave a message at 863-2281. Proceeds benefit Shea Theater.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 19TH & 20TH**  
Turners Falls Open Studio and Downtown Walking Tour - a tri-annual extravaganza! Tour artists' studios, museums, and scrumptious eateries. For more information call Karen at 863-9576 or Eileen at 863-9499

**THEATRE WORKSHOPS**  
At the Shea throughout the summer. Contact the Shea at 863-2281 or visit [www.theshea.org](http://www.theshea.org).

**Memorial Hall Theater**  
**POTHOLE PICTURES**  
**Friday, May 4th 7:30 p.m.**  
**Lord Of The Flies**  
 Harrowing savage schoolboy story. Special guest Gerry Feil who operated the camera on this stark, stunning b & w, 1963 film will be present for discussion. NR. 90 min.  
**Saturday, May 4th 7:30 p.m.**  
**My Dinner With Andre**  
 Unique, poignant 2-man show. Cinematographer Jeri Sopenan here to discuss the shooting. 1981. PG. 110 min.  
**Music before movie 7 p.m.**  
 Fri. Kwajmal-classic jazz Sat. Leo T. Baldwin & Some Old Hippies-folk rock  
 51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

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[www.gardencinemas.net](http://www.gardencinemas.net)  
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**Fri., May 4th-Thrs., May 10th**  
**SPIDER-MAN 3 MIDNIGHT THURSDAY, MAY 3RD!**

1. **THE CONDEMNED R**  
 DAILY 6:40 9:30  
 MAT. FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

2. **SPIDER-MAN 3**  
 DAILY 6:30 9:30 in DTS sound  
 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

3. **MEET THE ROBINSONS PG**  
 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

3. **BLADES OF GLORY PG13**  
 DAILY 6:40 9:30

4. **NEXT PG13**  
 DAILY 6:45 9:15  
 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15

5. **DISTURBIA PG13**  
 DAILY 6:45 9:15  
 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15

6. **SPIDER-MAN 3 PG13**  
 DAILY 6:00 9:00 in DTS sound  
 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00

7. **HOT FUZZ R**  
 DAILY 7:00 9:20 in DTS sound  
 MATINEE FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00

Join us for  
**KOSTUME KARAOKE**  
**MONDAY MAY 7**  
**FROM 9:30 TO 1 A.M.**

This month's theme --

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 Bicycle related songs to Celebrate National Bike Month

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**Friday 5/11**  
*Acoustic Duo-Radio Free Earth*  
**Saturday 5/12**  
*Acoustic Folk Rock*  
*The Euphemisms*  
*Music 9 - 11 p.m. Weekends*  
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**Upcoming at the Discovery Center**  
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**Groups by special arrangement, Tuesday - Thursday**

**FRIDAY, MAY 4TH**  
 Struggles of a Migratory Bird: A presentation about the challenges our colorful migrants must face in order to return to the CT River Watershed this Spring. 10 a.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 11TH**  
 Build-A-Bird: Learn about the anatomy of a bird & bird adaptations. Geared for young children and will include a craft. 10:30 a.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 12TH**  
 Crabapple Blossom Festival: A Sense of Wonder spring program, 1 to 2 p.m.

Also Linda Hickman leads a Historical Downtown Walking Tour beginning 2 p.m. at the Discovery Center.

**THURSDAY, MAY 17TH**  
 Bat Explore: Learn about & try to Detect Live Bats! Led by naturalist John Foster; includes slideshow on the natural history of New England bats. John Foster is an expert on the importance of local culture and the lore in relation to species protection and conservation. Please visit [www.nentc.com](http://www.nentc.com). 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 3RD - 30TH**  
 Nature Photography by JD Keating on display in the Great Hall. JD Keating has lived as a musician and artist in Western Massachusetts for over 20 years. He has produced an extensive body of photographs encompassing the Pioneer Valley.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 30TH**  
 Save the evening! Great Falls Coffee House, 7 p.m. Entertainer TBA.

**Great Falls Discovery Center - 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls - [www.greatfallsma.org](http://www.greatfallsma.org)**

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THIS WILD PLACE

# Spring Black



**BY KARL MEYER COLRAIN** - One of the first featured colors in New England's early spring is plain old black. I realized this when I stepped out onto the deck on a late April afternoon. The deck's up high. It looks across a spring-muddy stream to a narrow field and then onto a narrow river beyond, which is bordered by a wide, terraced field tucked against a steep hill. The view is lovely. But in late-April it's still mostly a dull brown landscape -though the promising patches of hay-field yellow are just waiting to roar into green.

Despite the blandness, that view was full of life. The air stirred in a south breeze. The still-swollen river's noise carried through bare trees for 150 yards. And the treetops, at eye-level, clucked out the half-sweet tunes of fistfuls of excited blackbirds about to start tending nests. A dozen screech-clucking common grackles perched in a spruce; a

pair of brown-headed cowbirds fluttered in an ash; and there was a background of bubble-sweet lilt from the red-winged blackbirds crowning a fat poplar at the riverbank. Taken together it wasn't a pretty chorus. It was full of scolds, scraped notes, and ticks. But it is one of spring's signatures here, and without that black-backed serenade I think New Englanders would be a bit lost.

What that chorus lacks in harmony, it doesn't make up for much in pageantry either - unless you look close. All the early birds are here and black-backed because it's cold in New England in spring. Head out on a chill May morning and you'll see they've turned their black, solar-paneled backs to a warming sun in the highest branches of the trees. As the morning warms, the male red-winged blackbirds will puff out their shoulders and broadcast flashes of magnificent red epaulets to poten-

tial mates. Once their wetland territories are established over grass and cattail-lined nests, you'll see males pummeling the air with flashing wings, landing on delicate branches puffed-out like soldiers in the queen's royal guard.

And the common grackles, longer, with those keeled tails, reflect a decidedly magnificent green-blue sheen when they sit facing away from the sun. Add to that their spectacularly icy, yellow eyes and you have creatures that are not spring dull at all. When grackles are gleaning bugs in a field or on a lawn they're not so much a flock of birds as they are a herd. Watch a group making its slow, deliberate roll across a lawn and you might be reminded of bison grazing the Great Plains.

Brown-headed cowbirds are stubbier, lacking the sleekness of grackles, and certainly the tunefulness of the red-wings. Cowbirds make a squeaky sort of cluck-sputter, hardly music

as far as a powder brown cap here. Yet, in full sun, the feathers glisten an iridescent green, making this much-maligned species rather handsome indeed.

Cowbirds have come to be seen as a 'detrimental' species, though, as is usually the case when a species is maligned, humans have had a hand in their proliferation. Cowbirds are a species identified with the prairie. They followed the bison herds, gleaning bugs and seeds in the wake of those mega-grazers. But once eastern forests were chopped to make farmland, the brown-headed cowbird moved in to feed in the new hayfields, happy to find more habitat among the Herefords.

Cowbirds are brood parasites, which means they cleverly lay their eggs in the nests of other species, sav-

ing themselves the energy and the trouble of raising young. A female cowbird will slip in to probably the nest of a finch, warbler or vireo, and lightning-quick toss out or even eat one of the eggs there, then replace it with one of her own in short order. Some species recognize cowbird eggs and remove them, but many don't. They raise the fast-hatching cowbird chick as their own, to the detriment of often smaller chicks of the host species. Only three percent of those cowbird nestlings survive to adulthood, but that's enough success to make the species a significant threat to native nesters. Female cowbirds produce as many as forty eggs in a season. They are known to parasitize the nests of some 150 North American species, reducing the nesting success of all, some to a dangerous degree.

All of these early, dark-backed arrivals are part of the spring landscape. Add to these the brown-gray feathers of tail-flicking eastern phoebes, the blue-green sheen of swooping tree swallows, and the hollow, rhythmic-rapping of dark-backed yellow-bellied sapsuckers, and you have a good representation of spring black in New England's early birds.

*Cooling thought - Global warming innovations in yard care: Noisy leaf blowers are being replaced by the simple elegance of rakes and brooms.*

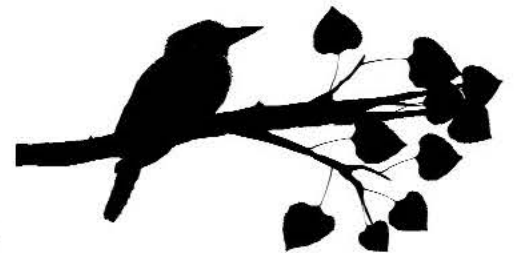


ILLUSTRATION BY ANJA SCHUTZ

## Wildflowers and Waterfalls: Explore Barton Cove

**BY BETH BAZLER RIVERSIDE** - Discover beautiful wildflowers and fascinating geology through a self guided adventure exploring the nooks and crannies of the wooded peninsula on Barton Cove, on Saturday, May 5th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Just across the river from downtown Turners Falls, the Cove has a surprisingly wild feel, and due to its unique geology, a wide variety of wildflowers.

Participants will use the *Wildflowers of Barton Cove* or the *Barton Cove Quest* brochures to find their way.

Naturalist Beth Bazler will be on hand to answer any questions about wildflower finds, or the location of the dinosaur track quarry and secret Quest box, with its hand carved stamp and log book. Anyone who would like to create a stamp to leave their special mark in the Quest box journal can pay a

\$1.00 materials fee, otherwise the morning is completely free of charge. Depending on your group's interest and stamina, plan to spend anywhere from one to three hours exploring, and if you're a real adventurer, bring along some binoculars to check out the bald eagle nest. This event is offered as a part of the annual Turners Falls Crabapple Festival. Pre-registration is required. Call 413-659-4461.

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