



CANDIDATES DEBATE

Sandy Brown (left) and Patricia Crosby are running for the open school committee seat in Gill

Page 13



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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 9 - NO. 31

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 5, 2011

Gather Round the Maypole



Story Page 10

DETMOLD PHOTO

Write-Ins Win Big in Wendell



VON RANSON PHOTO

Dierdre Cabral (left) hands out stickers for her campaign to retain her present seat on the Wendell planning board. Dvora Coben and Chris Queen assist with lists of write-in candidates.

BY DAVID DETMOLD - It's not easy for a write-in candidate to beat the nominee on the ballot, but Wendell showed how it can be done - not once, but twice - on Monday, as Amy Simmons turned incumbent Martha Senn out of office, 148 to 102, for a three year term on the board of health, and two-term incumbent Deirdre Cabral, running as a write-in for another five-year term on the planning board, upset the nominee on the ballot, Marianne Sundell, 180 to 59.

In the run-up to the elec-

tion, as many as a dozen residents made phone calls to get out the vote, and eight or nine people stood on the town common - more than 150 feet away from the entrance to the polls - and held signs and handed out slips of paper with the names of some of the write-in candidates, as people headed to vote, in Monday's election.

Of the 682 registered voters, 265 showed up at the polls (39%).

Town clerk Anna Hartjens, who has been serving in that post since she stepped up to fill the

vacancy created when Joseph Barry resigned in August of 1973, was defeated by political newcomer Gretchen Smith. Both their names were on the ballot - Smith emerged victorious with 148 votes to Hartjens' 110.

Road commissioner William Clough was returned to office for another three years, besting Richard Mackey 149 to 74.

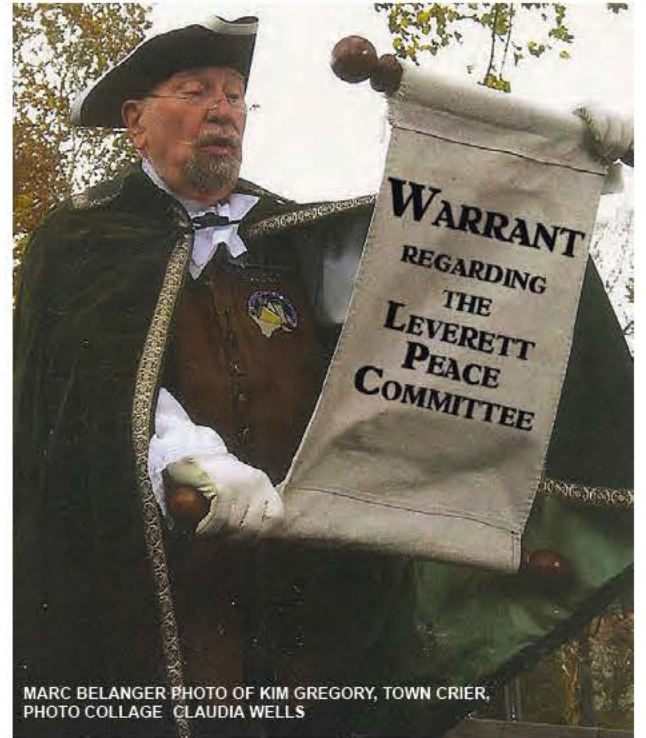
One write-in candidate who did not fare as well as the nominee on the ballot was Sarah Chase, who lost her bid for a one-year term see **WRITE-INS** pg 12

Peace Declared in Leverett

BY DAVID DETMOLD - On a weekend when America celebrated the death of Osama bin Laden at the hands of U.S. forces operating on an undeclared front, in Pakistan, of America's longest war, in Afghanistan, the town of Leverett came together to offer a resounding affirmation of the cause of peace.

After months of debate in selectboard meetings and private homes, packed public forums considering the underlying causes of war, and other presentations, the Leverett peace committee won an overwhelming endorsement from annual town meeting to continue its work for another year, as the town considers whether to set up a branch of local government to be called a Leverett Peace Commission.

During the impassioned hour long debate at the end of the 26 article town warrant, Cheryl Howard stood up at the back of the hall and said, "Leverett, like all towns in the Commonwealth, has been called upon to be proud and offer its citizens and money in war. We have a huge tradi-



MARC BELANGER PHOTO OF KIM GREGORY, TOWN CRIER, PHOTO COLLAGE CLAUDIA WELLS

tion of supporting war, including the Wall of Honor in town hall. I think the first thing the committee should do is de-polarize the discussion of war and peace to include the concerns of veterans, and others."

Howard spoke in response to a number of citizens, like combat veteran Dawn Hall, who asked, "Do I like war? No.

Peace? Absolutely. But I feel this should be done outside of town government. Soliciting [for peace] should be done by individuals."

George Drake opposed the warrant article during the discussion leading up to the vote, when he said, "I also am a veteran, having fought through one of the more stupid engagements see **PEACE** pg 8

Goodwin Cruises to a Second Term; Dubay Returned to Planning Board 'by a Whisker'



William LeMieux (center) cast the last ballot in Erving's annual town election on Monday, as poll warden Bruce Cromack (right) and Joyce Newton (far left) and Carole Lyman check the numbers.

BY DAVID DETMOLD **ERVING** - Andrew Goodwin cruised to a second three year term on the Erving selectboard Monday night, with a convincing 208 to 93 victory over challenger and former selectboard member Jeff Dubay. "I'm excited," said Goodwin, hearing the news in the selectboard meeting room that night, "and I'd like to thank the citizens of Erving for electing me."

However, it was Dubay by a whisker in a race to claim a seat on the planning board. Dubay had served as chair of that board for many years, before being ousted in the wake of last year's battle over zoning changes affecting the ability of Ralph and Eric Semb to build a gas station and drive through convenience store on their property abutting the French King Entertainment

Center on Route 2. Dubay, who had opposed the zoning changes sought by the Sembs to the town's aquifer protection and drive through business bylaws, was ousted from his long time seat as chair of the planning board in the election preceding last year's annual town meeting, which upheld both those bylaws.

see **GOODWIN** pg 8

PET OF THE WEEK

Out of My Lamp



Genie

My name is Genie and I'm an 11-month-old short hair spayed female cat in need of a good home. I'm an indoor only cat with only one previous home. I'm shy around strangers and children, but quite affectionate to my human. I have experience with other cats and dogs, so they are no problem, I can handle them. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at info@dpvhs.org.

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Choruses from The Rock
~ T.S. Eliot

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CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Crabapple Blossom Festival Continues

BY LINDA HICKMAN
TURNERS FALLS - The first crabapple trees have opened their flowers on Third Street, the ornaments on Avenue A are close behind. Many events are happening in beautiful downtown Turners Falls. On Saturday, May 7th, there are at least five fun things to do. These include *Flower Fairies and Root Children*, a children's program at 10:30 a.m. with Dawn Marvin Ward at the Carnegie Library. At 1:00 p.m. is the Crabapple Blossom Festival Concert with the *Greasy Cuffs Song Tour*. Musicians Zak Kirwin, Jamie Matson and Sasha Pearl are on their bicycles, with guitars, ukes, toy xylophones and tambourines in tow, circling around New England playing their sweet music, unplugged. Regularly solo performers, they have joined together for this tour to form one collective band. Their first show

is in Hudson, NY. Then they are gearing up, getting their thighs tuned up to ride, and taking off for a three week tour that will include Montague. This tour is to promote love of life, and how music can inspire a good work out. The Spring Used Book Sale is Saturday, May 14th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Carnegie Library. An Edible Plants of Spring Walk with Blanche Derby will start at the beginning of the Bike Path near Unity Park on Sunday, May 15th. These are only some of the highlights of the Crabapple Blossom Festival. For more listings and info, go to www.riverculture.org or call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214. Postcards with most of the events are available in many downtown locations, including the Carnegie Library and Town Hall. The Festival is sponsored by the Montague Public Libraries and RiverCulture.

LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

Author Visit by Martha Ackmann

Martha Ackmann, author of *Curve Ball: The Remarkable Story of Toni Stone, the 1st Woman to Play Professional Baseball in the Negro League*, will speak at the Leverett Library on Thursday, May 19th, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

According to the Negro League Baseball Players Association, Toni Stone may be one of the best ballplayers you never heard of. Called "the female Jackie Robinson" by baseball historians, she played with

such stars as Ernie Banks, Willie Mays, and Satchel Paige during an astonishing 20-year career.

A professor at Mount Holyoke College, Martha Ackmann has been heard as a commentator on NPR's *All Things Considered* and *Only a Game*. Her writings have appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Boston Globe*.

For more information, go to www.marthaackmann.com/ackmann-curveball-overview.htm.

For directions to the library visit www.leverettlibrary.org.

WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

Film Showing *Robinson Crusoe on Mars*

Robinson Crusoe on Mars is another film in the monthly series of Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies at the Library. Special-effects wunderkind and genre master Byron Haskin (*The War of the World*, *The Outer Limits*) won a

place in the hearts of fantasy-film lovers everywhere with this gorgeously designed journey into the unknown.

For more information about the Wendell Free Library visit www.wendellfreelibrary.org or call (978) 544-3559.

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – May 9th - 13th

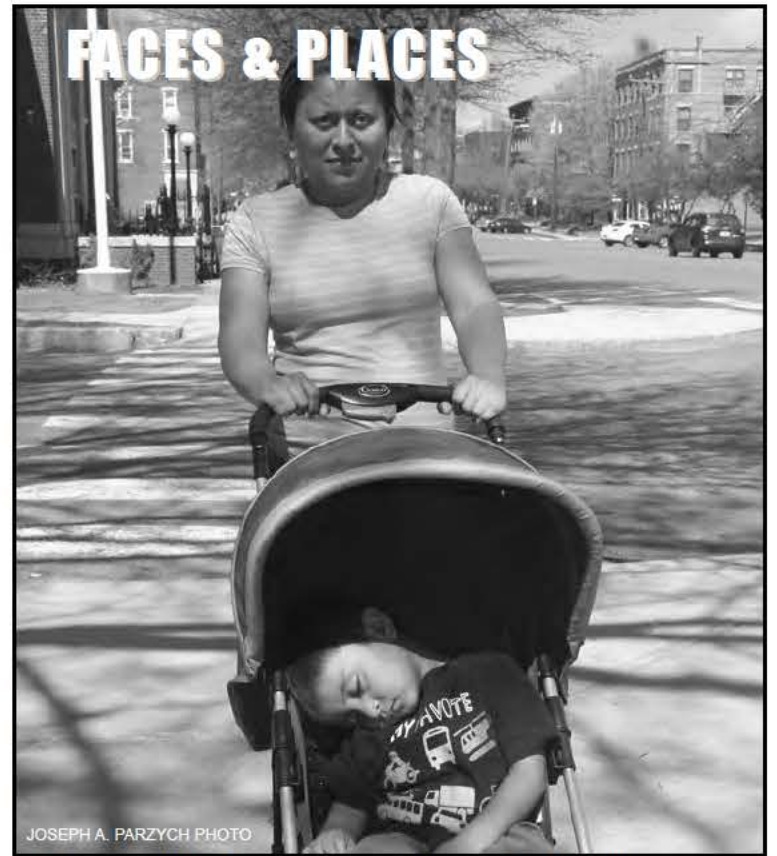
GILL-MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 a.m. The meal site manager is Kerry Togneri. All fitness classes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

Monday, May 9th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday, May 10th
9:00 a.m. Walking Group
10:30 a.m. Yoga
1:00 p.m. Canasta Lessons
Wednesday, May 11th
9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment

10:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:45 Bingo
Thursday, May 12th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation
1:00 p.m. Pitch
Friday, May 13th
10:00 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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

Monday, May 9th
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Osteo-exercise



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Three year old Max Mariela snoozes on Avenue A as his mother pushes him along in a stroller on a sunny Sunday afternoon in Turners Falls.

Historic Bridge Facts

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

- On May 13th, 1872 a pair of selectmen, William Keith and L. G. Barton of Greenfield, were allowed to cross the new span of the White suspension bridge between Turners Falls and Greenfield in a carriage.
- However, all is not well. Greenfield viewed the report of the crossing with some trepidation. On May 27th, it was reported: "The free bridge across the Connecticut at Turners Falls is completed, all but the painting, and also the road on the Greenfield side, but there is no getting off" on the Montague side, as through some neglect somewhere the approaches to the bridge in Montague have not been built."
- This proved only a temporary delay. On June 3rd, 1872, this report was presented in the *Gazette & Courier*. "The road at the Montague end of the new Turners Falls Bridge has now been so built that carriage communication is established over the new route. It is a pleasant ride of only 15 or 20 minutes from our village, and makes Turners Falls almost a part of our community, a union that no doubt will some day be consummated by building along the road between."

More bridge facts next week!

As You Write It Travels Coast to Coast

As You Write It is enjoying success across the country. The anthology was compiled and edited by poet and journalist, Laura Rodley. The book is now in local libraries from Plainfield to Millers Falls, in local schools including Buckland, Conway and Montague, and in local historical societies including Montague, Gill, Greenfield and Buckland.

The Franklin Medical Center has copies as well as doctor office waiting rooms in the area. The book is now in the hands of readers in Concord, MA, St Louis, MO, Georgia, California, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Albany, N.Y.

As You Write It has inspiring stories from the Great Depression era and beyond; about going to the fair, working in the circus and enjoying life to the hilt. Writers include Rosalie Bolton, Estelle Cade, Patricia Carlisle, Lillian Fiske, Frances Hemond, Dorothy Hmieleski, Joseph Parzych and Harry Stafursky. Parzych is the author of *Jep's Place; Hope, Faith, and Other Disasters*. Both he and Hemond write for the *Montague Reporter*.

The book is for sale at World Eye Book Shop and at the Gill-Montague Senior Center.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Grade 6

Haleigh Paulin

Grade 7

Jalen Sanders

Grade 8

Jessica Gaines

Hayley Black

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Local Briefs

COMPILED BY DON CLEGG – May Baskets! Help recreate this custom from yesteryear, when baskets filled with flowers and possibly small gifts were left anonymously on the doorstep of a special person or family on May Day. Drop off Welcoming Baskets, boxes or bags filled with household items or personal care items between 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., at the Bernardston Unitarian Meetinghouse, Route 10, Bernardston on Saturday, May 14th. There will be full day of activities on the 14th at the Meetinghouse, around the theme of Shelter – Dreams of Home, sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Franklin County, including children's events, a panel discussion, a multi-media art exhibition, live music and more. For the full schedule visit bernardstonunitarian.org or call Joan Vander Vliet at 413-665-3203 for more info.

The **Leverett Historical Society** will be holding its annual plant and garden book sale on Saturday, May 21st, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Leverett town hall, rain or shine. Master gardener Dawn Marvin Ward will be available to assist in choice of plants and care.

If anyone would like to donate

plants or books please drop them off at town hall by Friday hours on May 20th. Please label all plants, and contact Ward for further information at 367-9562, or dmward@crocker.com.

Ten Franklin County High School students will be honored on Thursday, May 12th for their efforts for peace and justice in their schools, communities and the wider world. Sponsored by the Franklin County Interfaith Council and Traprock Center for Peace and Justice, the program will be held at the Franklin County Technical School beginning at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Beginning Sunday, May 15th through mid October, the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, in Turners Falls will be **open 7 days a week** from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Check out spring and summer programming on www.greatfallsma.org.

The **Peskeomskut Park Music & Arts Festival**, a benefit sponsored by the Shea Theater, will support the Performances for Young People Series at the Shea. This series offers live theater, music and dance for public school children across Western Massachusetts. The festival will be held in the downtown Turners Falls park, Avenue A and 6th

Street, on Saturday, May 14th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"Walk for Meals on Wheels" on Saturday, May 7th from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the Franklin County Tech School in Turners Falls. Funds raised by new walkers and teams will be doubled. There will be free FRTA bus service from Athol, Orange, Deerfield, Greenfield, and Shelburne Falls, along with fun, music, prizes, and refreshments. You can get walk packets or reserve bus space by calling 413-773-5555 ext. 2226.

On Saturday, May 14th, the fourth annual **Ride for Schell Bridge** will take off on a 35-mile and a 17-mile loop. Children under 12 can take a two to three mile tour in the village for free; the whole family goes for \$25. The longer tours will cross the CT River via the Route 10 bridge and travel on country roads in Massachusetts and Vermont. The 35-mile tour will continue to Brattleboro and return through Hinsdale, NH. Healthy snacks will be provided at the kick-off; other food and drink will be available throughout the day. Register at 8:30 a.m.; leave at 9 from the Green Trees Gallery on Main Street in Northfield. Proceeds from this benefit will support the Friends of Schell Bridge in their mission to restore the Schell Memorial Bridge as a hiking and biking path. For more info, contact: Barbara Richardson at 413-498-5931.

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

Are You the Next

"Valley Idol", a Karaoke Singing Contest with a grand prize of \$1000 will take place May 6th, 7th, 14th and 21st at Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A in Turners Falls. Auditions will be Friday, May 6th, 6:00 p.m. for the first 100 applicants. A \$35.00 registration fee applies to all contestants. Registrations will be accepted at the door on May 6th. Contestants must be at least 18 years old to audition.

Valley Idol, Jr. grand prize is \$300 for each of three age categories and will take place May 7th, 14th and 21st at Shea Theater. Auditions will be Saturday, May 7th, 9:00 a.m. for the first 100 applicants only. \$20.00 registration fee applies to all contestants. Contestants must be between 8 and 17 years old to audition.

Singers for both contests will need to prepare a 90-second

musical selection for audition. First night cut will be to 25 singers. Go to www.theshea.org to download the registration form and view contest information or leave a message at (413) 863-2281. Winners will also perform at the Grande Finale of Valley Idol on May 21st.

Audience tickets for the audition night are \$3.00 and tickets may be purchased only at the door. Tickets for the three nights of the competition are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Tickets may be purchased in advance at The World Eye Books in Greenfield, The Wagon Wheel Restaurant in Gill or via PayPal at www.theshea.org. Major sponsors for Valley Idol are Greenfield Savings Bank, Berkshire Insurance, Florence Savings Bank and McCarthy Funeral Homes. All proceeds, after prizes, benefit The Shea Theater.

Montague Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots are now available at the Town Clerk's Office for the May 16th Annual Local Election. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is Thursday, May 12th. To vote absentee you must be out of town on the day of the election, have a religious belief that prohibits you from being at the polls or have a physical disability that prevents you from going to the polls. All absentee ballots must be returned to the

Town Clerk's Office by the close of the polls on May 16th. The polls will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Town Hall hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 am to 5:30 pm and Wednesday, 8:30 am to 6:30 pm. Town Hall is closed on Fridays. The Town Clerk's Office is located at the Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls. For more information call 413-863-3200, ext 203.

New Community Garden in the Works

BY DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS - is about to get a new community garden, pending approval from the conservation commission.

Last Thursday, the Montague parks and recreation commission voted to approve the use of a 3,000-square foot parcel of town-owned land at the corner of 1st Street and the former Williams Way, adjoining Unity Park and within view of the Connecticut River, for use as a community garden.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said the conservation commission would meet next week to consider the proposal, which will come to that board as an amend-

ment to the notice of intent for the renovation of Unity Park. The plot under consideration is within 200 feet of the river.

But the town highway department did not wait for conservation commission approval to remove accumulated bricks, wood, and scrap metal debris. DPW workers had the rubble removed and the plot cleared less than 24 hours after the parks and rec voted to approve the proposal.

The proposal came from the Great Falls Community Garden committee, the grassroots community group that has been responsible for developing two larger community gardens

downtown - one on the corner of 4th and L, the other on the corner of 3rd and L. A testament to the lack of available private garden space downtown, where residents are in the habit of growing tomatoes in containers on their porch stoops, both those community gardens are now fully subscribed, with a waiting list of interested residents.

Garden committee spokesperson Dawn Montague said the new plot by 1st Street, "because of its central location and high visibility, is ideally situated for use as a demonstration garden that would raise local awareness about the feasibility of growing crops in small spaces.

The soil is being tested at UMass. Montague said for this

Wendell Annual Litter Pick-up

The annual litter pick-up along Wendell roads will take place on Saturday, May 14th, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Volunteers are encouraged to meet at the highway garage, or pick up your own section of roads and call Ann at 978-544-6111 or Ted at 978-544-3329 to let them know where to pick up bagged litter along the roads.

season, it may be feasible to grow cover crops like pumpkins or flowers, which could be sold at the Great Falls Farmers Market to support the work of the community garden committee.

Ramsey noted the new plot is close to a residential area - 2nd and L Street - and would help bring more people down to the riverfront.

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Food You Need from the Land You Love

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Make it Local

One rationale repeatedly advanced in favor of the proposed 135,000-square-foot Big Box store an out of state developer plans to build on the French King Highway in hopes of raking in an estimated \$60 million in annual sales is the need of lower income residents to buy cheap goods.

We have argued before that this amount of money in annual sales, in a county already surrounded by WalMarts, can only come from the tills of existing merchants and grocery stores in our own communities, and will very likely result in putting some of those local stores out of business for good. The end result will be more people out of work and seeking part time, low wage employment in chain stores like WalMart, fulfilling the prophecy that more low income residents will soon be in need of cheap goods in our county.

It seems to us the time is coming when America will wake up to the predation of local economies and standards of living from global retail giants like WalMart – but judging from the deliberations of the Greenfield planning board, that time is not yet come.

In the meanwhile, supporters of sustainability, Green energy, and local food might want to consider organizing a parallel movement to promote the local manufacture of durable goods, so that we are not forever held in thrall to throw away commodities mass produced in foreign sweatshops by workers paid far less than low paid Americans who now – if they are able to find a job at all – are all too likely to be selling those same

cheap, disposable commodities in Big Box chain stores throughout the land.

New England once led the way in the development of small scale industry and manufacturing, with an emphasis on quality, craft, and workmanship, and the utilization of local resources. Small factories and larger mills lined the river valleys, turning out everything from cutlery to paper to straw brooms, shoes, and textiles. Workers were able to earn a decent living, and supported the local merchants in turn who sold those goods. Planned obsolescence was a concept yet to be invented, and if it had been, it would have been scorned. What company would want to be identified with a product so inferior it would have to be thrown away in a short period of time, forcing the customer to purchase another, of better quality, from a rival whose reputation and business would thereby gain?

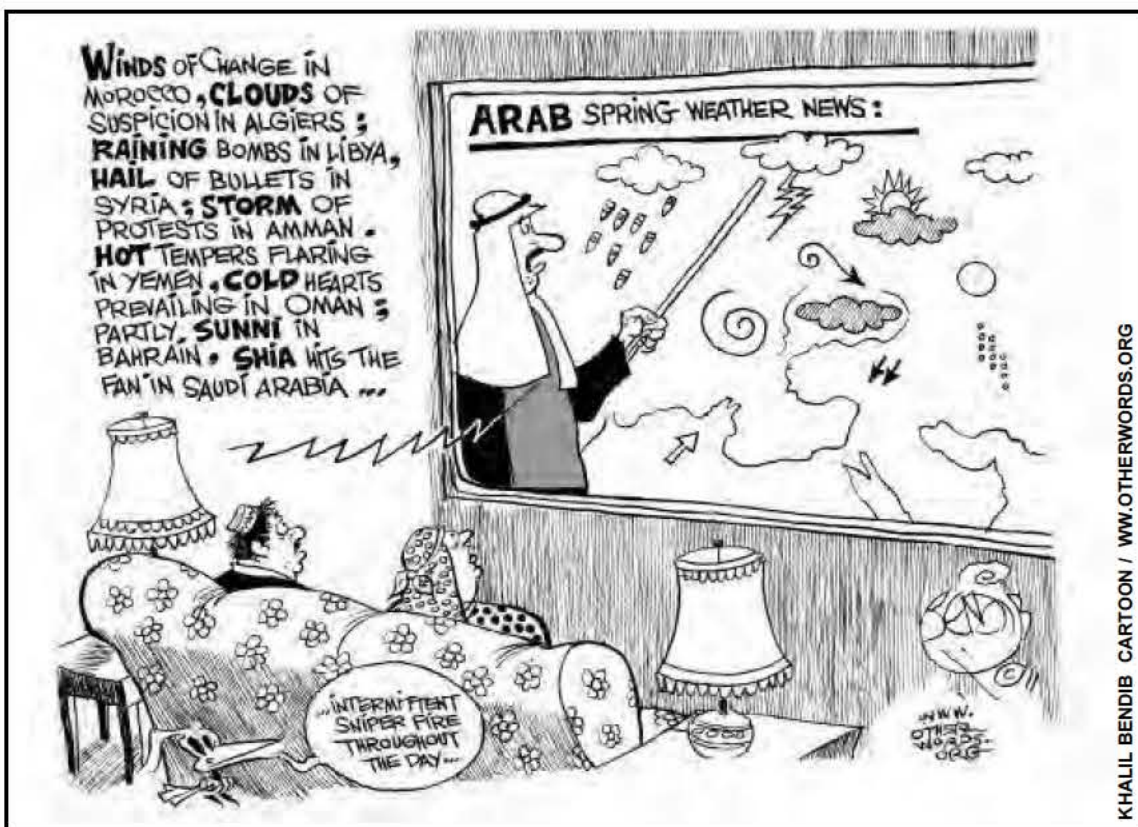
But now our economy has become so debased and colonized by global corporations that few choices remain for consumers to buy anything worth owning for any length of time.

With millions of unemployed workers lying as idle as the empty mills, brooding next to their former power sources, America seems like the proverbial pitiful, helpless giant, bound by Lilliputian supply chains to overseas export nations, force fed a fattening diet of faraway food and soon to be worthless products.

A recent trip to the chain hardware in Turners in search of a floor mop that would not fall apart on the second use produced this response from the long time store manager. "We used to sell a better one – but we don't carry that brand anymore. These are just crap."

Yankees were once known for self reliance. How long will it take for our towns and villages to throw off the chains of their corporate bondage, marshal their own resources, get the factories running once again, and put their underemployed labor force back to productive work?

Eat local? Sounds good. How about dusting off that 'Make it in Massachusetts' slogan too.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Steady Erosion of Workers' Rights

I found Jeff Singleton's op ed (MR IX #30 Support Sensible Reform on Public Employee Health Care) on the merits of eliminating health care from the collective bargaining process to be really quite stimulating, if not provocative. I am surprised that Singleton would so readily join the chorus of those seeking to chip away at what few crumbs fall from the table of the privileged in this society.

The right to collectively bargain was not won without considerable pushback from those forces that would rather all economic and political power remain in the hands of a few. There are many of us today, at least in my generation, who

can attribute their tenuous middle class status to the fact that many of our grandparents and parents were members of labor unions that sought to assure workers some degree of leverage with the forces of capitalism for the rewards of middle class life.

At the core of these historically hard fought gains are the rights to bargain wages, hours and working conditions. Since the administration of that political deity, Ronald Reagan, and his assault on the air traffic controllers, we have witnessed a steady erosion in respect for workers, workers' rights, and the collective bargaining process. As we continue this slide towards a growing gap

between the top .1% and the rest of us in terms of wealth and income, it strikes me as odd that so much of our attention, energy and intelligence would be directed towards the victims of this economic retrenchment rather than those who benefit from their ability to manipulate both the political and economic handles of our society.

Surely, we can be more creative and imaginative and arrive at a solution for at least one problem that does not seek more sacrifice from those who have already seen over the past thirty years their wages and income remain stagnant at best.

- Kip Fonsh
Leverett

HONORING YEARS OF DEDICATION TO GMRSD

As a parent, and as a school committee member, too seldom do I find the opportunity to sit with faculty and administrators and see their world as they do, if only a small bit of it. That opportunity came on Tuesday, as a dozen retirees from GMRSD, from custodial staff, to teachers, kitchen staff and administrators were honored for dedicating anywhere from eight years to over four decades of service to

Break-in at the Country Store

At 3 a.m. Tuesday, May 3rd, someone broke the door window and entered the Wendell Country Store. The alarm sounded and they fled before any neighbors witnessed anything. If by any chance anyone was driving by at that time and saw any suspicious activity, I

would appreciate hearing about what you saw.

Luckily, nothing seems to have been taken. Thankfully, the alarm did its job this time. Hopefully they won't return!

- Patti Scutari
Wendell

the children of our district.

One after another, colleagues and friends provided a glimpse of life in the classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and offices, speaking of the dedication, humor, compassion and energy of those who were moving on to retirement, grandchildren, or other educational opportunities.

It was an all too rare glimpse into the world of those with whom we entrust our children and their education. Despite the difficulties the district faces, last night left me feeling fortunate that our family is part of this vibrant community.

- Emily Monosson
Montague

Avenue A Streetscape Needs Volunteers

BY ANNE JEMAS
TURNERS FALLS - Do you enjoy gardening? Do you love downtown Turners Falls? Do you have a bit of free time? If you answered "yes" to these questions, then the Streetscape program wants you!

For the past several years,

volunteers have worked with the town to beautify downtown Turners Falls. While the Streetscape committee has spearheaded various efforts such as the recent annual downtown cleanup day, the main project is the "Adopt-a-Planter" program, where each planter on the Avenue is tended by volunteer gardeners, some with help from business sponsors, all of whom are recognized on handmade wooden signs placed in each planter.

If you took a stroll down the Avenue A several years ago, you would have found many planters

with waist-high weeds. But today, you would see planters that reflect the different styles and personalities of the people who have adopted them.

This year, Streetscape is looking for more people to participate in a variety of ways. The program is looking for people with gardening knowledge to answer questions and offer advice. A couple of the planters may still need adopting, and back-up help with weeding, watering and sign making are always needed.

Please call 413-863-2730 for more information.

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Casualties in Iraq as of this date
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NEWS ANALYSIS

BY JONATHAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

An atomic bomb survivor like Morikawa, standing there alive, dressed in a suit, with a tumor of uncertain origin in his right lung, provided a peep-hole into the hell of 20th Century atomic war... a gentle taste of what current nuclear stockpiles promise, globally. But our empathy as listeners couldn't help but contain a whiff of paternalism. Sitting in the lecture hall in our jeans and plaid shirts, slacks and blouses, it almost seemed as if we were whistling in the dark. The PowerPoint slides had informative labels in quaint, translated English that bespoke the fervor behind them, but something compartmentalized the subject and chastened it slightly: the academic setting... the projected images... conscience fatigue? Our best questions sounded fragmentary next to the great totality one will never make eye contact with, the ensconced military-nuclear establishment. It's a fraternity at the confluence of pure science, mad technology and our fears. The mystique is deep and cherished. Mere conscience seems puny next to it.

Once he did talk, he recalled

Thoughts on Hiroshima Survivor's Story: What Supports the Bombs?

the sight of a woman carrying a baby with its skin burned off. He saw people blinded by glass fragments when they turned to look at the blast.

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

My cousin, his classmates were all killed, but he survived. He had the school building fall on him. He lost his left eyeball. He said that hibakusha - social discrimination - was more painful than dying.

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

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

does our daily economic activity need to align with a non-hierarchical understanding and expression? In answering we may finally gain the world-changing power of the missing truth.

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

A WW II US Air Force veteran was in the audience. He said Hiroshima had been selected because it was a "clean" target, without prior war damage, and the effects of the bomb would be easy to assess. He also said Nagasaki wouldn't have happened if the Japanese had acted quicker to capitulate. Morikawa agreed with the first statement, but corrected the second, in a firm, but polite, Japanese way: Japan had already signed away its power. There was no need to drop the A-Bomb. I have

seen the papers. But the US would have had no justification for its big expenditures if it didn't drop the bombs.

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



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

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REPORT FROM THE LEVERETT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Leverett Votes to Buy a New Fire Truck

BY DAVID DETMOLD – The vote was unanimous to buy the town of Leverett a new fire truck. Pleased, fire chief John Moruzzi responded to town meeting voters after the applause died down, “Thank you. I’ll still come to your house.”

More than a hundred registered voters turned out on a beautiful spring day, April 30th, to take action on the 26 items on the warrant, with the \$375,000 purchase for a new fire engine topping the list of special articles.

Firefighter Stewart Olson led a Powerpoint presentation detailing the current condition of fire engine number #3, which is 23 years old, and features a failing electrical system that has caused the headlights to go out on more than one night call, a defunct defroster, a heater that stays on all the time, jump seats exposed to the weather, corrosion, and pump problems.

“This particular engine does have some issues,” said Olson, with his understated manner. “Most likely, the money we’re asking for is not enough to buy a new engine. That’s sad they’re so expensive. We may try for a demo engine.”

But after the vote, Olson insisted the \$375,000 (\$240,000 from stabilization; the remainder to be subject to a debt exclusion vote in the coming weeks) would be sufficient to purchase a new fire truck that will be able to meet the town’s needs. “You don’t need a gold leaf paint job, exterior bells and exterior sirens,” said Olson.

He said new models are equipped to be operated more easily by fewer firefighters, which Olson thinks will be important as changing demographics in

town lead to fewer firefighters on the force. He said the town is now filled with academic types, people with less hands on, mechanical experience, and many who work outside of town. He said three of the senior members of the fire department are nearing retirement age (including himself and Moruzzi), while the single junior firefighter in Leverett has now turned 18.

In other action, voters spent just 20 minutes to approve the \$5,148,863 million operating budget for the town and schools.

After the \$1,712,167 request (a .09% increase) for the elementary school was passed, school committee chair Farshid Hajir said, “In 2007 we had a 0% increase; in 2008 we had a 0% increase; in 2009 we had a 0% increase. The \$15,519 increase we are asking now is largely due to the increase in the price of fuel. The quality of programs and services at the elementary school remains very high. However, I need to prepare the town; we may have to see an increase next year. Our enrollment is not going down; it’s going up.”

Town meeting also approved spending \$31,703 to purchase a new police cruiser, \$11,492 to bring the kitchen hood at the elementary school up to code, \$9,397 to purchase a new computer server for the elementary school, and \$30,000 from stabilization as a down payment toward a newly established trust fund to pay for future retiree health benefits. The town transferred \$89,082 from free cash to stabilization to fund the town’s capital plan for equipment replacement.

All articles presented by the Community

Preservation Committee were approved, including \$14,000 to hire a consultant to prepare applications for the town centers of North Leverett, Moores Corner and East Leverett to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (\$7,000 to be reimbursed by Mass Historic), \$11,450 to purchase and conserve under the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust the last undeveloped acre of land along the south shore of Leverett Pond, contiguous to other conserved parcels, and \$150,000 to replace and paint the siding of the historic town hall. When this final measure passed, the selectboard cheered and shook hands – the proposal had been years in the making.

In order to comply with the final criterion to become eligible for state funding under the Green Communities Act, voters approved by right siting for a solar electric overlay district to allow photovoltaic production on two acres of land or less, between 10 kilowatts and 1 megawatts, anywhere in town other than streams and wetlands, high elevations, conservation land, or in residential village zoning. A larger area of land may be used for the same purpose on the former town landfill.

For the second time, the town approved the formation of a municipal lighting plant, paving the way for Leverett to join with the Wired West municipal coop, or take other steps necessary to bring final mile fiber optic cable to town residents who want it. The town also approved aggregating residents and businesses to receive electricity supplied by the Hampshire Council of Governments, presumably at a cheaper rate than elec-

see FIRE TRUCK pg 12

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Another Hearing Held on Herrick Property

BY JOSH HEINEMANN The Wendell selectboard has scheduled a special town meeting for the evening of Monday, May 16th, the earliest legal date possible given the need to post the warrant for two weeks in advance. Articles on the warrant include rescinding the vote taken at the annual town meeting to take \$500,000 from stabilization to pay down the town office and new library building loan note. Also on the warrant will be an article to raise and appropriate \$608,782 for replacing the boiler and other renovations at the Swift River School; under the state’s Green Repair program, 51% of the cost of the project may be reimbursed by the Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA). An article for \$2,000 for a scope of work for playground reconstruc-

tion is also on the warrant.

On April 27th, ten citizens, including Joe Coll and Pam Richardson, co-chairs of the historical commission, attended a hearing the selectboard had scheduled for public input on the request for proposals for the town owned Marion Herrick property. Some came just to hear what other citizens were thinking about the reuse of this early nineteenth century house on Wicket Pond Road.

The selectboard has been talking about placing a conservation restriction (CR) on the majority of the acreage, leaving room for no more than two dwellings, and if possible saving the house. The house, close to 200 years old, is one of the oldest in town, and is still structurally sound, but in need of repair if it is to survive

another century. The out-buildings, an attached breezeway and barn are falling down.

Associate conservation commissioner Mason Phelps, speaking as a citizen and acquaintance of Marion Herrick, said one thing he is sure of is that she would want any CR to forbid hunting.

Bob Schulman said the back of his land abuts the back of her land, and he knew Herrick had a strong respect for all living things. She was allergic to bee stings, yet she kept bees.

Kathy Becker was not at the hearing, but she submitted an email opposing a hunting restriction on the CR, but supporting a CR on the bulk of the property. Neighbor Maggie Houghton wanted to keep the land open.

Near the end of the hear- see WENDELL pg 15

Tentative Steps on Strathmore Mill

BY DAVID DETMOLD TURNERS FALLS – Heading into a town meeting this Saturday where voters will consider a petitioned article to cut off any future use of town funds for maintaining the town-owned Strathmore Mill, planner Walter Ramsey will announce a number of small but significant steps that may combine to make it easier for the town to interest a developer in the 244,482 square foot, 140-year-old arson-damaged mill complex.

“There are a number of studies coming that we’ve been working on,” said Ramsey. Using funds left-over from a \$100,000 state grant for priority permitting of the Strathmore (which made Preservation Massachusetts’ list of the ten most endangered historic properties in the state in 2007), the town contract-

ed with Tighe and Bond to produce a cost estimate for removing the asbestos tainted debris pile left over from the May 26th, 2007 arson fire that burned Building #10 to the ground.

Although earlier estimates for removing the debris ranged from \$400,000 to \$600,000, Ramsey said the Tighe and Bond study showed the actual cost of removal would be much lower – \$221,000. “That’s very good news,” said Ramsey.

Now, Ramsey said the town is busy, “lining up to get a sub-grant from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments’ regional Brownfields program, from the federal EPA. “We’re very close to getting funding to completely remove that debris pile. It’s a positive step.”

Speaking of positive steps, the footbridge which

once connected the Strathmore site to parking areas on Canal Street is now the subject of ongoing (if private) negotiations between the town of Montague and First Light Power, which owns the condemned footbridge. The hundred year lease that enjoined the utility company to maintain the structure expired last month.

“We’re still negotiating our rights to the footbridge,” said Ramsey. “We’re also investigating other canal access possibilities. Fuss & O’Neil did a traffic analysis for upper end of the island to see if a loop road could be designed,” using the 5th Street canal bridge as point of egress and the IP bridge by the Discovery Center as a point of entrance. In order to make this loop possible, Ramsey said the truss

see MILL pg 12

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Leverett Reaffirms School Choice

BY DAVID DETMOLD - The Leverett school committee voted 3-1 on Tuesday night to continue the school choice policy, which over the years has resulted in a rolling balance of tens of thousands of dollars to augment the operating budget for the elementary school, from a surplus of state aid that follows students who attend Leverett Elementary from other districts. The state pays receiving schools \$5,000 to educate each school choice student who attends from outside the district, but Leverett has not needed to expend this amount to educate school choice students.

The school committee has drawn down the balance in the school choice account in recent years, as openings for school choice students have dwindled due to the rising population of children from Leverett attending LES. Now, about \$50,000 remains in the account.

Last month, principal Anne Ross reported two openings for school choice students in the third grade, which has just 13 students. The school committee has maintained a policy of allowing school choice students into the elementary school if class sizes from kindergarten to third grades fall below 15 pupils, or if class size falls below 18 pupils in grades

four through six. On Tuesday, school committee chair Farshid Hajir voted with the majority to continue the school choice policy. Although a year earlier he had asked the school committee to consider, "Is it possible to look forward and have a plan to eliminate our dependency on school choice?" Last April he also said, "I want to explore the possibility over the short term for our school committee to not have some communities benefitting and others suffering any more from school choice."

This week, Hajir said, "I am still troubled by the effects the school choice program has on neighboring school districts, most notably Montague. The trouble I have with not continuing our school choice program is this was possibly the worst revenue year we've had. I'm not happy about it, but I do think it's the best thing for the Leverett school. It would be difficult to see how we could continue offering the programs we have without school choice."

This year, Gill-Montague superintendent Carl Ladd reported a preliminary net school choice loss for his district for FY'12 of \$476,531.

Of the other school committee members, Dawn Sacks said she felt

the community in Leverett was very supportive of the school choice program, and she wanted to represent her constituents, while Pam Stone said some parents viewed the school choice program positively for allowing LES to increase diversity among the student body, according to Hajir.

Hajir said Kip Fonsh, the sole vote against the school choice program, "continues to give this issue a lot of thought and listens very carefully to arguments for continuing the program. For him, it's a moral issue."

Last year, Fonsh called school choice "a drug, and an intoxicating one."

Hajir said, "The administration enrollment data shows we have two open seats in third grade, and we authorized the administration to apply the policy as they see fit to fill them."

The school committee also decided to approach the selectboard about holding a joint meeting to discuss the selectboard's recent motion calling for the school committee to conduct a review of the administrative efficiency of Union-28, and also to discuss the April 21st meeting held in Shutesbury, that looked at the possibility of regionalizing elementary schools in Leverett, Shutesbury and Pelham.

REPORT FROM THE ERVING TOWN MEETING

Open for Drive-Thru Business

BY DAVID DETMOLD - Drive through restaurants will now be allowed in the central village districts of Erving, by special permit, after a 137 - 20 vote of annual town meeting easily topped the two thirds majority required for the bylaw change. Last year, a similar measure, first introduced by petition from Eric and Ralph Semb, owners of the French King Entertainment Center failed to pass by just one vote. The Sembs have planned to construct a drive through quick stop and convenience store on land they own on Route 2, the site of the former Countree Living Restaurant.

Planning board chair William Morris told town



Newly re-elected town moderator Rich Peabody (right) dedicated the annual report to former selectboard chair Andy Tessier at the start of Wednesday's Annual Town Meeting. Tessier said there were others in the room who deserved recognition more than he. "It isn't one person; it's everybody working together," said Tessier.

meeting the bylaw change, "gives consideration to the voices of the people of Erving, who want the town to move forward with the

times. We can preserve the rural character and balance growth versus no growth, change versus no change."

see DRIVE page 9

Montague Town Meeting Saturday

BY JANEL NOCKLEBY Montague annual town meeting will be held this Saturday, May 7th starting with a brief special town meeting at 8:30 a.m. at the Turners Falls High School Theater. Some highlights of the annual town meeting articles include:

- Article 6:** a request of \$7,311,792 for the town of Montague's operating budget;
- Article 10:** a request of \$7,576,183 for the operating budget of the Gill-Montague Regional School District;
- Article 12:** a request for \$9,000 in funds to repair the entrance ramp to the Sheffield School, so that it is ADA-compliant;
- Article 13:** a request for \$7,000 to repair Sheffield's auditorium steps since they are a safety hazard;
- Article 14:** a request for \$3,000 to temporarily fix the Sheffield employee parking lot by patching potholes;
- Article 15:** an allocation of funds to fix the Water Pollution Control Facility's roof at a cost to the town of \$50,000 (\$80,000 will also

- be used from the sewer retained earnings fund);
- Article 20:** a request for \$54,055 for two six-wheel dump trucks;
- Article 21:** a request for the purchase of a \$222,951 street sweeper;
- Article 24:** a request for \$58,000 for pre-development and site engineering for a solar energy generation and industrial development on 163 acres of municipal land (a.k.a. a solar park) off of Turnpike Road;
- Article 25:** a \$20,000 request for bullet-proof vests, tasers, computers, firearms, and radios for the police department, since grant funding for these items has dried up;
- Article 26:** by petition, a request for the town to stop spending money on the Strathmore Mill complex effective ten days after the May 7th town meeting;
- Article 27:** a request to reduce the number of voting precincts in town from six to three and to reduce the total number of town meeting members from 126 to 72;
- Article 28:** by petition, a

request that a committee be appointed to study how many voting precincts should be in town, and whether the makeup or form of town meeting should be changed;

Article 30: a resolution to seek lower electric rates in a competitive market via the Hampshire Council of Government's municipal aggregation of electricity project.

Town meeting members should have received detailed information on each article for the town meeting warrant in the mail, and residents can also get informed by visiting town hall, post offices, and libraries. A representative from the state will be on hand at town meeting to help explain the proposed re-districting in Montague, and a representative from the Hampshire Council of Governments will also attend to explain the full details of the municipal aggregation of electricity proposal, as needed.

Any registered voter of Montague may speak at least once on any matter on the warrant.

PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS INVITED

Coffee with the Superintendent

TURNERS FALLS - Superintendent Carl Ladd will be hosting a "Coffee Chat" on Thursday, May 12th at 3:30 p.m. in the Montague Senior Center. Parents and grandparents and community members are invited to come have coffee with Dr. Ladd and give him your impres-

sions of the district - what the Gill-Montague schools are doing right and what they could be doing better to educate our children. This is part of the district's ongoing efforts to reach out to parents and care providers and community members to gather their feedback, so we the district schools

can become more responsive to community needs. Refreshments will be provided for the afternoon chat. There will be other sessions in various locations around the district, with upcoming sessions being scheduled in Gill and Montague Center. For more info: call 413-863-9324.

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WHEREAS life is rare and precious, existing in this fathomless universe only on this tiny blue planet, Earth, as far as we know; and

WHEREAS human beings are a wonder of creation, beautiful, intelligent, powerful, capable of joy, wonder, wisdom, and compassion; and

WHEREAS without war, the Earth and its peoples would have a better chance to prosper; and

WHEREAS war does grievous damage to human bodies, minds, hearts, and spirits; and

WHEREAS the energy of war deepens the divisions and exacerbates conflicts between peoples; and

WHEREAS the domination, humiliation, and injustice that come of war often cause people to strike out in acts of violence called terrorism; and

WHEREAS military preparations and operations are the foremost polluters and users of resources; and

WHEREAS war destroys natural habitat and agricultural land; and

WHEREAS solving the urgent and unprecedented problems facing humankind at this time requires all the human and material resources presently being expended on war; and

WHEREAS people are waking up to the fact that war is obsolete and unnecessary, and are learning techniques of resolving inter-group and international conflict by other, non-violent means; and

WHEREAS the survival of humankind and our familiar and beloved community of life require our generation to invent a world without war, and in so doing, overcome the feelings of weariness, powerlessness, cynicism, and despair that diminish us as human beings and threaten our body politic; and

WHEREAS the people of Leverett, acting through our annual town meeting, have a history, reaching back to the time of Shay's Rebellion and the Constitutional period, and continuing for over 200 years, of concerning ourselves with the great issues of the day, making our voices heard, and bringing to bear on them whatever influence, we can,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

We encourage ourselves and each other in our faith in humanity, and we proclaim our right, and accept our responsibility to imagine and work towards a peaceful future; and

We, the members of Leverett Town Meeting recognize and encourage the work of the Leverett Peace Committee, which in turn welcomes the wisdom of all the people of Leverett as we seek a path to peace. We support the effort to find ways that the town can move towards greater resilience and sustainability, and how our people and our town can be of assistance to humanity in its effort to move beyond war into a wise and harmonious relationship to the planet.

We urge our elected representatives to understand the moral and practical impermissibility of war, and to embrace the proposition that humanity can and must outgrow war. Based on these understandings, we urge our elected representatives to initiate and support efforts aimed at moving the United States and other nations to:

Withdraw, as quickly as possible, from current wars;

Drastically reduce military spending;

Rid the world of nuclear weapons;

Delegitimize war as a means of advancing perceived national interest; and

Support non-violent conflict resolution and peace-building studies and initiatives.

Copies of this resolution be sent by the Town of Leverett, the labor and expense to be borne by private citizens of Leverett and their friends who are supporters of this resolution to Steven Kulik and select members of the Massachusetts House; Stan Rosenberg and select members of the Massachusetts Senate; Governor Deval Patrick; Congressman John Olver and select members of the United States House of Representatives; John Kerry, Scott Brown, and select members of the United States Senate; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; President Barack Obama; local, state, and national news outlets.

Adopted by the Leverett town meeting, April 30th, 2011

from PEACE pg 1

this country has been involved in." Drake, who looks to be in his late 50s, said, "Towns don't vote. People vote." He said it would be untrue for the town to represent itself as opposed to war, or in favor of peace, when not all individuals in town could be reasonably construed as favoring those positions.

Dick Nathorst said, "It is not appropriate for town government," to formally take up the cause of peace. "I see nothing in the Massachusetts Constitution, or town bylaws, that speaks in any way to a peace commission. I don't think it's an appropriate function of town government."

Among the articles in the *Declaration of the Rights of the Inhabitants of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*, penned by John Adams, Sam Adams and James Bowdoin in 1779, are articles such as Article V: "The people of this commonwealth have the sole and exclusive right of governing themselves, as a free, sovereign, and independent state; and do, and forever hereafter shall, exercise and enjoy every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not, or may not hereafter, be by them expressly delegated to the United States of America in Congress assembled," and Article XIX: "The people have a right, in an orderly and peaceable manner, to assemble to consult upon the common good; give instructions to their representatives, and to request of the legislative body, by the way of addresses, petitions, or remonstrances, redress of the wrongs done them, and of the grievances they suffer."

Betsy Douglas, chair of the historical commission, urged voters on town meeting floor to consider the good work accomplished by the historical society, and the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, as volunteer boards outside the bounds of town government, and to use them as a model for pursuing peace work in town. "The peace committee should not be representing town government," she said.

Instead of forwarding the prepared statement of the peace committee (reprinted at right) to elected representatives as the will of the town, selectboard member Julie Shively suggested peace committee members take up a petition of like-minded individuals in town, toward the same end.

But peace committee member Tom Wolff said, "Town meeting has a very long tradition of voicing concerns for the town. I don't know why we are not going to do that." After hundreds of people attended the peace committee's forums in Leverett this winter and spring, to "go back in the hole and do a petition - that doesn't feel like the direction where we're heading."

Ken Kahn asked how the town's position on the peace committee's warrant would be determined, and peace committee member Jim Perkins answered, "By majority vote."

Fenna Lee Bonsignore said, "I almost had dreams about it - it's like a change of vision." She recommended forwarding the statement of the peace committee to Leverett's elected representatives "from those present at town meeting," to make clear the distinction between those present and the rest of the people of town. She added, "We've done this a million times, and never had an issue."

"I see this as an important statement of values," said peace committee member Pat Fiero. She voiced her hope that the world could move "beyond the horrible things we are doing to the environment, so our children and grandchildren have a future."

Hall, who earlier identified herself as a combat veteran, stood again to speak. Given the floor, she bowed her head for a few moments, with her hands pressed together, as if in prayer, or gathering her thoughts. "We're talking about pollution," she said thickly. "We're talking about peace. Part of my job in the military was environmental. Believe it or not, the military is extremely environmentally sound. There are regulations about every drop of gasoline that falls on the ground. Those are the things that bother me: when someone is talking about something they don't know about."

In a dramatic turn, long time town moderator Gary Gruber stepped down from the podium and addressed the hall from in front of the stage. "I've been a citizen of Leverett for 33 years," he said. "More often than not, the final article on town meeting has been about national politics. My personal feeling as a citizen of town: Let's vote on it. If the vote is Yes, send it off to our government officials: 'This is a resolution passed by the town of Leverett,' just like we have done in the past."


Town clerk Lisa Stratford, choking back tears, got up from the table of town officials and stood in front of the hall to speak next. "I do not want to offend. On behalf of my dad, a Vietnam veteran and also a founding member of Veterans for Peace, we are sadly missing the mark. The kind of things that happen in war, happen every day. It would be absurd if a few people opposed [to the resolution] said, 'People do not agree.' Certainly people do not agree with war, yet it goes on in perpetuity."

Selectboard member Peter d'Errico, who had leveled a sharp critique in March of the original proposal - to establish an elected town peace commis-

sion, said, "The key to my thinking about that, if we could find something the town could effectively do to end war, I'm very much in favor of it. I would go that route. I'm aware of the increasing disillusionment of 'Change We Can Believe In,' that hasn't amounted to any change, much less than change we can believe in. I don't want to add to that false promise."

The committee earlier amended the resolution to remove any statement about forming a peace commission as a part of town government, preferring to work for another year as an ad hoc committee whose work is endorsed by town meeting instead.

D'Errico continued, "If town meeting takes a vote on a resolution, then that's the voice of town meeting. This is a statement of our philosophical values, as expressed through town meeting. This resolution is understandable. There is no unrealizable goal. It encourages people engaged in cultural and political activity."


The question was called, and of the roughly 75 people remaining in the room, all but a small handful voted in the affirmative. 

from GOODWIN pg 1

On Monday, Dubay eked out a victory over a strong write-in candidacy from Winniphred Stone, defeating her 111 to 100, with ten other write-in votes recorded for a variety of "one-off" candidates, according to town clerk Richard Newton. William Morris easily reclaimed his seat on the planning board, with 230 votes in the three way race for the two seats up for grabs.


In another race rumbling with aftershocks from last year's votes on the Sembs' thwarted zoning proposals, long time town moderator Rich Peabody was returned to office with 58% of the vote, 170 - 122, besting challenger Matthew Janus, who had criticized Peabody's handling of the zoning change votes in last year's annual town meeting.

Goodwin said his top priorities in his coming term would be to refine the budget process, complete infrastructure improvements, and get demolition underway at the former Usher Mill. "The real question there," said Goodwin, referring to the Usher Mill on Arch Street in Erving Center, "is whether we save some of the structure or not." Goodwin said he was looking forward to the report of the Usher Mill committee - which, coincidentally, Dubay serves on - before taking action on that project.

Poll warden Bruce Cromack described turn-out as "very good," as 306 (29%) of Erving's 1066 registered voters turned out for the annual town election. 

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ELEVEN WAYS TO WALK *Second in a Series of Walks around West Gill*

BY P.H. CROSBY

VIA HICKORY HILL – On this warm, sweet morning I am taking off from the west end of Center Road. This morning all is still bare and brown, though stirring somehow – moist and alive – you can almost hear things growing. The swamp willows are the only things actually budding and leafing out, creating a hazy, lemon-lime spray along one of the meadows.

Center Road is not so different from when my family moved here from Greenfield in the early 60s. Gill hasn't really been "the country" for a long time, but it isn't a suburb either, just a pleasant, semi-rural neighborhood, with most houses at convenient distances from each other, and lots of grass, meadow, woods and swamp between. Nice swamp, with colorful shrubs and wonderful birds and interesting animals. (Well, maybe a few mosquitoes and snakes, too.) Our houses are all close enough to be neighborly, but most are not so close to make you feel uncomfortable going out to get your morning paper in your pajamas.

This first part of the swamp is protected, not that anyone could build on it anyway, wet as it is. Still it's somehow nice to know its six acres of small woods, animal paths, pooled water, moss, hillocks of swamp grass, downed tree trunks, prickles and thorns, reeds and a few cattails are officially recorded somewhere as a conservation district. The swamp connects all the way over to that open pool at Ben Hale, where the peepers make their frenzy, and

ducks and geese raise their families.

The next section is protected, too, by a neighbor who lovingly mows paths through it, but leaves much of the scrubby meadow next to the swamp intact for birds and rabbits to sport in. An American bittern lives there, I think, a ground bird my father first alerted me to 40 years ago, and which I listen for each spring. It makes a sound like a pump.

I stand now, listening for it, while I survey my neighbors' hillside garden of yuccas, which they must have spent Easter Day raking out and cultivating because they look grand — their round, spiny, green-fronded bases harboring the wonderful surprise of the strong white-belled stalks that will soon shoot up.

No bittern call. Not yet this year, that I have heard.

A hundred yards further, I pass another protected meadow, this one used regularly by a tenant farmer for hay. Three deer are poised at the back of the meadow near the swamp, alert to see if my terrier will notice them. He doesn't.

There is a great commotion in the swamp behind them, where at this time of year the water broadens into an actual pond, almost a tiny lake. There are Canada geese chasing each other around on the surface, probably mating. There is a lot going on in this swamp!

We continue on our way, past a few small homes and trailers, or houses that maybe once were trailers, and up the steep incline of Hickory Hill. (I have never understood what people have

against trailers. I think Gill is doing a good job of protecting those too.)

I don't think Hickory Hill is the real name, or at least the official name, of this abrupt ascent-and-descent. I think the neighbors who bought the kennel in the woods at the top of that hill named it that, but the name has caught on as a convenient way to locate folks, to give directions. At the top of Hickory Hill, one can look south across yet another protected field, this one lined with comrows, to a path in the woods on which the landowner could walk all the way through another woody Gill interior and out to Main Road.

Once I thought I saw deer in this pasture, too, coming backwards out of the far woods in my direction. My glasses were misted over, so I couldn't see well, but there was definitely a herd of animals moving in my direction, with the white flash ahead of each that I had come to associate with the fleeing behind of white-tailed deer. I was so startled at the time, I spoke out loud to myself in the early dawn, "What the...?"

It took a number of bewildered swipes of my glasses on my sweatshirt to finally figure out that what I was seeing was a herd of white-faced cattle, Herefords, emerging from the trees and headed steadily my way. This was only a little less confounding, because this isn't a grazing pasture, it's a cornfield, and there's no fence. Turns out they were a neighbor's cattle, and had plunged through the fence of their Main Road pasture to take a



ROB FARROW WWW.WIKIMEDIACOMMONS.COM

stroll through the forest to Center Road. I expect their owner was eventually located to come around and convince them to reverse direction.

Over the top of Hickory Hill and down a bit is one of my favorite trees. I think it's an eastern spruce. It's a tall, narrow conifer, with a smooth, tapered, slightly reddish trunk and a marvelous silhouette.

Only a little farther from here to the turnaround point of this walk, the mouth of a snowmobile trail through the woods, this side of an auto body shop. A few yards into the woods, in a gully, there is already a tremendous selection of greenery – I only wish I knew all the names – as well as the strange, twisted, purple-mottled eruptions that are skunk cabbage.

On the way back I am looking for dog-tooth violet, with little expectation that I will find it. The town did construction here last year, replacing a culvert or some such, and a whole bank was dug up, with a swath of gravel put down in the wet spot left behind.

The spotted leaf of dog-tooth violet is very hard to see, and the yellow flower – closed and drooping in the mornings before the sun hits it – so shy, you can walk right by it. Which I almost did. But then, there they all were, somehow saved from the backhoe: the drowsy little parade opposite the end of Ben Hale Road I look for each year.

A cardinal is whooping it up overhead and the geese are calling as I make my way back home. Trees all along their way are "setting their fruit," if that's the right term; few have leaves yet. When leaves happen, they will happen quickly. As Galway Kinnell wrote in this excerpt from his beautiful short poem, "Spring Oak":

*"...A dry-rooted, winter-twisted oak
Revealed itself slowly. And one morning
While the valley underneath was still sleeping
It shook itself and was all green."*

DRIVE from page 7

Morris said any proposal for a drive through restaurant in Erving Center or Erving side will have to meet specific criteria regarding noise, times of operation, safety, water usage, and number of drive through lanes, among others, in order for a special permit to be granted.

Following a strong straw vote in favor of expanding the drive through business zone by special permit to include the

area known as the French King commercial district, essentially the stretch of Route 2 closest to the French King Bridge, Morris said the planning board would take steps to expand the zone to include that district.

In other action, the town approved spending \$3,595,245 on general government; \$92,414 on elected official salaries; \$2,134,800 for the Erving Elementary School budget; \$1,038,951 for tuitioning upper school students to the Turners

Falls Middle School and High School; \$237,026 to send 16 students to the Franklin County Tech School; \$31,846 from a special stabilization fund to replace 24 computers at the elementary school; \$679,575 to operate the Erving side wastewater treatment plant; and \$40,000 to purchase a new SUV for the police department, to replace a 2003 Expedition.

The town also approved the hiring of a fourth full time police officer, to work night

shifts and provide double coverage during the busiest call volume on weekend nights. Blair said property crimes, larcenies, breaking and entries and domestic violence calls were already equal to 2010 levels, in just the first four months of this year.

Winniphred Stone asked why Erving's police logs were not printed in all the local papers. Blair replied, "If they call me, we give it to them. Police logs are public record." But he added, "Sometimes citizens of

Erving make mistakes. Good people make bad choices." (Erving logs are

printed regularly in this paper.) Voters approved \$100,000 for continuing road work on River Street, Moore Street, North Street and High Street, including sidewalks, catch basins, grinding and paving. Erving will also buy a new plow blade for \$5,000, and three sets of turnout gear for \$6,000. To reline and replace sewers at both ends of town, voters approved spending \$353,9000, taken from free cash. An additional \$250,000 was set aside to pay for future retiree health benefits.

About 170 voters turned out; all 30 articles were approved.



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BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE CENTER
 Spring comes but once a year, and in Montague that day fell on the first of May, as it should, when the May Day revelers once again raised the Maypole on the common in the Center amid a vast throng of merry-makers, Morris dancers, children with awestruck, upturned faces, lissome lasses and jaunty swains. All nature bloomed in harmony as the sun splashed sky smiled down on the proceedings, which began with an art show on the second floor of the old Town Hall at 10:00 a.m., built to a fever of expectancy at the post office parking lot where the Morris teams and musicians gathered and the children hoisted the ancient, flower bedecked symbol of fertility to parade to the common (how did anyone get a let-

ter posted through the thron?) and culminated with dancing in the street to the tune of fiddles, drums, penny-whistles and squeezeboxes. Then there was dancing round the maypole, with mothers guiding the steps of their eager young, each clutching a prized piece of ribbon attached to the crown of the central pole, topped with forsythia, rhodendron flower, and shad bush bloom. The Green Man was there, covered head to toe in luxuriant Spring green, as ancient a pre-agrarian archetype as ever sprang to

Gather Round the Maypole



Welcoming in the May, O - on the Montague Town Common life in our town. He stood to one side of the Maypole declaring, "I am here!" as children climbed and cheered on the bulldozer and paving machines parked at the north edge of

asphalt. But on Sunday, spring was in her glory, and the ritual bond between Earth and sky, Ceres and her children was once more renewed. The scent of burning sage swirled down Main Street. There was no way to count the number of Morris teams, male and female, young and old, that got in line for the procession from the post office to the common. The musicians struck up an old Swedish 'March to the Summer Farm.' Kip Williams wore a hat that looked like he might have been summoning extra-ter-

restrials, or recently returned from the wedding of Kate and William. Men wearing skirts and women with sticks beat time with clogs and bells, and tossed hankies in the air. The actors preparing for the Renaissance Faire essayed forth from the Grange to impress the crowd with their fine period costumes and Old English speech, but succeeded mainly in blending in with everybody else in period costume, singing: *Hal-an-tow, jolly rumble-o*
We were up long before the day, O
To welcome in the summer sun, to welcome in the May, O
For summer is a coming in and winter's gone away, O
 Just another May Day in Montague Center.



Kip Williams, Phone Home!



Children Carry the Maypole



The Green Man marches on Main



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PIVOT MEDIA PHOTO

Illustration: "Red Dahlia", oil on board

BY RICHARD BALDWIN - The Wendell Free Library is proud to present an especially beautiful exhibition of recent paintings by Heather Lenz. These ten oil paintings present the viewer with an unusual combination of beautiful, rich imagery and stimulating content. While Lenz's earlier work focused on abstract painting, here she combines abstraction and realist imagery in ways that result in both energetic and contemplative experiences for the viewer. It is

perhaps this combination of apparent opposites that makes the exhibition so special.

The focus of the work is the process of transformation, regeneration, of time passing; living entities evolve, emerge from mysterious backgrounds and move into the light, into the viewer's space. These paintings are like movie set pieces, each with stages or sets of actions that evolve.

In the painting "Calling Time", the life cycle of the Luna moth is presented from pupa to adult, with moths swirling out of a flower-like organic form near the center. The title refers to the brief period of time when a moth releases pheromones to

attract a mate. Here a large moth takes center stage as if it were about to fly out of the painting altogether.

The painting "Red Dahlia," part of "the Body" series, though clearly painted by the same hand, is quite different. Here the image of the flower is boldly thrust in front of the viewer like an emblem or shield. A large red dahlia is contained by a loosely brushed white rib cage against a textured green organic ground. The result is powerful and unsettling, the tension between blossom and rib cage creating a dramatic moment where the flower hovers between being imprisoned or protected.

Lenz describes her work in these terms: "Oil paint lends itself

to working in transparent layers. Each layer is one kind of truth. Together, superimposed upon each other, they create an ambiguous whole where many things are true at the same time. To me this represents the world as it really is. Some layers are light and some are dark. Each layer is a veil, obscuring and adding to the layers beneath. The finished painting is a merging, a diagram of the way things are."

Lenz is a graduate of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston where she majored in painting and anthropology. After a decade of painting, Heather spent many years illustrating books and magazines and as a preparator setting up

exhibitions at the deCordova Museum and Smith College Museum of Art. She returned to painting a few years ago. We are very fortunate to host the first exhibition of recent work.

These paintings are the work of an artist who combines a great deal of thought and reflection with years of experience in handling paint and imagery. The exhibition presents the viewer with another person's investigation into the process of living. It will reward patient inspection.

The exhibition runs from May 1st to June 30th in the Herrick Room at the Wendell Free Library. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, May 7th, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

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Turners Falls Firefighter David Annear sits in the right hand driver's seat of the American La France fire truck, Turners Falls' first motorized fire truck. Firefighter John Annear rides as co-pilot.

BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH - Turners Falls is represented at the Western Mass New England Antique Truck Show with fire truck # 3, on Sunday, courtesy of the Fireman's Relief Association. President of the antique truck association, Fred Chase of Gill

held the show in Hardigg's parking lot in South Deerfield.

The 1927 American LaFrance truck was the first motorized fire truck in the Turners Falls Fire department, powered by a 40 HP American La France six cylinder engine. The truck served the department into the 1970s according to firefighter David Annear, who added, "It had some valve work done, but the engine was never rebuilt."

The engine sports four spark plugs per cylinder, and has conventional battery ignition as well as a magneto to supply the spark. With a magneto, the

see TRUCK pg 12

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from **MILL** page 6
members of the IP (headgate) bridge would have to be strengthened, and the 5th Street canal bridge redesigned to allow for a better turning radius off the mill access road.

The town has put up a website (www.strathmoremill.com), prepared a list of local and national developers who might be interested in the property,

and is getting ready to issue a request for proposals for the Strathmore, Ramsey said. The parcel is in an historic industrial zone, with the benefit of expedited (180 day) streamline permitting, and has been granted by right siting for Green energy research and development or manufacturing, as well as flexible zoning for mixed used development, Ramsey said.



from **FIRE TRUCK** page 6
tricity supplied by WMECo. Residents may opt out of the new supply arrangement, if they so choose.

The meeting began with the election of town officers. Stepping down after 15 years as moderator, Gary Gruber said, "It's been an honor to serve the town for the past 15 years as moderator. Leverett town meeting is the purest form of democracy." While he has enjoyed his role, Gruber noted that as moderator, he has frequently had to bite his tongue during debate. "If I bite my tongue one more time it might just fall off. What good is a speechless lawyer?"

Voters elected another

lawyer, Larry Farber, to take his place, or at least to attempt to.

There were no races for any of the seats up for election. Rich Brazeau was elected for another three year term on the selectboard, and a three year term on the school committee remained unfilled at meeting's end.

Still, Gruber was moved to say, "Leverett remains the maverick in this Commonwealth, much to the dismay of [Secretary of State] Bill Galvin. We are still the only town that holds its nominations and elections from town meeting floor."



from **TRUCK** pg 11

engine can be started with a dead battery by hand cranking. Ordinarily, a couple of turns of the crank has the engine percolating, but priming cups on each cylinder allow a little gasoline or ether to be administered during a reluctant start. Annear does not remember that ever being necessary.

In its retirement, the truck is a familiar sight at fundraisers, parades, little league games, schools, and events like the pumpkin festival.

The show drew antique truck enthusiasts from New England and New York states. About 150 trucks showed up at the show,

the same as last year, according to Fred Chase, president of the chapter. Trucks were arriving all morning, and some who had a long drive left early. While the number was about the same, the variety was different from previous years, with many newcomers showing their pride and joy.

Skip McKean, Heating Contractor and Petroleum Transport Company, drove a convoy of six antique trucks, including a Farmall tractor on a trailer, down the Main Road of Gill over the G-M Bridge to South Deerfield.

Richard Kurzontkowski of Millis displayed a 1920 Mack chain drive model AC 3 1/2 ton dump truck. The Mack started

off as a fire truck in Keene, NH. Its next stop was Bellows Falls, VT, from 1946 to 1965. Somewhere along the line, the truck was cut down to dump truck length, and Kurzontkowski commissioned a custom dump body, built to measurements of a 1923 Mack AC dump truck owned by collector Steve Puffer of Amherst.

The Mack engine also sports dual ignition of both battery and magneto ignition feeding two sparkplugs per cylinder, common in early Mack Trucks.

Spectators toured the display, and filled up at a concession stand, as they met old friends and made new ones.



from **WRITE-INS** pg 1
on the school committee to Jayme Dwan-Clem, 78 - 141.

For the planning board, Cabral had first declined to run, and then changed her mind, citing a desire to complete projects such as the board's current review of subdivision regulations and the implementation of the town's new conservation development bylaw.

After a strong organizing effort by supporters, the voters decided to reward her with another term to do just that.

One of the biggest upsets of the topsy turvy election day came in the race for board of health, where another candidate without prior political experience in town, Amy Simmons, running as a write-in, decisively topped two-term incumbent Martha Senn.

Simmons campaigned with a

promise to look favorably on the so-called 'simple living' proposal put forward last year by Jonathan and Susan von Ranson, who had hoped to build a non-electric apartment, using a composting toilet, wood heat, and propane lanterns, on the second story of their barn on the town common.

The von Ransons said they made the proposal as an attempt to demonstrate a way of life that would have less impact on the environment, and a lower carbon fuel footprint - but living without electricity or running water is not presently allowed by the Massachusetts sanitary code.

Last year, Senn joined the unanimous vote of the board of health in rejecting the von Ransons' special permit request, although it had garnered the backing of hundreds of town res-

idents who had signed petitions in support.

The selectboard and town meeting had also passed resolutions supporting the concept of simple living in Wendell.

Simmons said she was fully in support of the von Ransons proposal, which she said would give the town an opportunity, "on a small scale to tackle issues in an experimental way that could affect the whole world."

Reacting to Simmons' victory, Jonathan von Ranson said it gave him "incentive to go back to the board of health now and talk about how the proposal might work."

He added, "This election and the results had a lot to do with the town embracing our local power - to be more of an agent of our own destiny."



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Loose Dogs, Larceny Arrest, Stolen Bike

Tuesday, 4/19
10:50 a.m. Report of two loose rottweilers at North Street, chasing a woman walking. Bylaw citation issued to owner.

Wednesday, 4/20
9:29 p.m. Report of fireworks at North Street area. Checked area. Unable to locate.

Thursday, 4/21
3:15 p.m. Report of disturbance on Moore Street. Verbal altercation only. Subjects separated, one left residence.

Friday, 4/22
11:30 a.m. Report of a possible breaking and entering attempted at a River Street address. On arrival, found to be a family disturbance.

2:00 p.m. Report of an unwanted female subject at River Street address. Same was advise to leave property.

9:30 p.m. Report of unwanted subjects at a High Street residence.

10:45 p.m. Assisted Northfield police with a large bonfire off of Old Wendell Road. Northfield fire department put out the fire.

Sunday, 4/24
7:02 p.m. Larceny reported at a River Street residence. Under investigation.

Monday, 4/25
1:30 p.m. Past disturbance at Pratt Street. Report taken.

3:40 p.m. Report of larceny from Strachen Street residence. Under investigation.

4:10 Report of larceny from Park Street residence. Report taken and under investigation.

Tuesday, 4/26
12 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for larceny \$250.

Wednesday, 4/27
2:30 a.m. Report of possible missing subject.

2:45 a.m. Report of possible suicidal subject. Found subject at French King Bridge. Transported to Franklin Medical Center.

10:52 a.m. Noise complaint on West High Street. Male subject revving his engine. Advised him of complaint.

1:50 p.m. Report of illegal dumping on Dorsey Road.

Friday, 4/29
7:30 p.m. Report of bicycle stolen from a West Main Street residence.

7:19 a.m. Report of line down on Prospect Street. Found to be Verizon Line. Same notified.

4:45 p.m. Report of a male subject attempting to climb down embankment at French King Bridge. Checked area. Nothing found.

Sunday, 5/1
5:17 a.m. Report of upset female subject at Gunn Street. Checked same, was OK.

Monday, 5/2
4:34 p.m. Report of female subject at the French King Bridge. Same was transported to Franklin Medical Center.

Saturday, 4/30

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Brown, Crosby Face Off for Seat on G-M School Committee

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL-MONTAGUE - All four candidates for the three seats up for election on May 16th for the Gill-Montague regional school committee agree on some things. They backed the idea of creating a Horace Mann in-district charter school, to help stem charter school and school choice losses that are costing the district more than \$800,000 annually. They support the part of the regional agreement that allows voters in Montague to vote for representatives from Gill, and vice versa.

But when it comes to the budget compact worked out by the towns, the district, and state representatives last year, there was a significant difference of opinion expressed by the two candidates running for the single open seat in Gill - Patricia Crosby and Sandy Brown.

Asked if they support the compact, which sets budgetary goals in an effort to bring sustainability to the district budget over the next four years, Crosby said, "The starting place is not what



Sandy Brown

the towns can afford, it's the quality of education we want our children to have. Start there, and then cut [the budget] down if you can. Whether the towns can afford it or not is not the job of the school committee. The school committee's job is to support the school budget; the towns can vote it down if they so choose."

Brown said, "I support the compact. All of us on the past school committee remember when former superintendent Ken



Patricia Crosby

Rocke offered a two year plan and told us, 'Then we go over the cliff.' The towns were not supporting the budget because after two years they knew it became unsustainable." Brown added, "I don't think we would have supported the budget this year without the compact."

Mike Langknecht, who is running unopposed for another term in Montague (as is school committee chair Emily Monosson, who came late to the debate

because she was attending a retirement party for GMRSD staff), said, "I support the compact. I'm OK with starting with what the towns can afford. I wouldn't mind if the school committee brought the budget before the finance committees. There's no difference between the schools and the towns - we ought to be collaborating."

Crosby, a former G-M school committee chair who attended Gill Elementary School, graduated from TFHS and GCC, and now works as director of the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board, said she is running for the Gill seat being vacated by retiring school committee member Sorrel Hatch (Crosby's daughter) because she is "a passionate believer in the concept of public education," and she wants to "ensure the young people in our area have access to a quality education."

She added, "The success of all children is our business. We need to keep an eye on the child and support quality education in the

classroom, choose the best person in the field for superintendent and let them lead." She also said the school committee is setting an example by their own behavior for children and parents in the district, "including adults with different views, and I would like that tone and demeanor to reside in the school committee."

Brown said she, too, was running because, "My passion is education." A former chair of the Gill finance committee and a former school committee member, Brown said the district took a "major step forward," by agreeing to the budget compact with the towns and state last year, and now is "moving forward toward academic excellence." She said she supported art, music and theater as components of a well round curriculum, and would make parent involvement in the schools a top priority if elected.

"We have excellent teachers and are fortunate to have a new and strong superintendent who refuses to make excuses. We need to expand on our strengths, rec- see **FACE OFF** pg 14

REMEMBER CAMP ANDERSON



LINCOLN BARNES PHOTOS

The boys' picture above is from the 1930s.



The girls' picture above is from the 1940s.

LEVERETT - Remembering Camp Anderson is the theme of a Leverett exhibit of more than 300 old group photographs of campers and staff from the 1930s through the 1970s, on display through interactive charts, posters and a slide show. Most campers were from

Amherst, Pelham, Leverett and Shutesbury. The photos were found in private albums, dusty boxes, Jones Library special collections and the Leverett dump; they are all taken by long-time Amherst photographer Lincoln Barnes, who was also a camp trustee.

The exhibit, organized by former campers Edith Oleson Field, Denzel Hankinson, and Judith Hankinson Ricker, of Leverett, and Jerry Condon of Holyoke, pays tribute to Rev. Herbert Dixon, camp manager, 1933-1962, who died in 1964. A website offers candid snapshots

and personal reminiscences: www.campandersonmass.org. The organizers welcome visitors who can recall old stories and identify years and people in the photographs.


The Shutesbury camp is now operated as Pine Brook Camp and Conference Center.

The exhibit is free, and open to the public on Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., in May and June, at the Leverett Family Museum, 1 Shutesbury Road, on the common in Leverett Center.

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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

BY LESLIE BROWN
MONTAGUE CITY –

Nothing Gold Can Stay

*Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.*

– Robert Frost

Two years ago when the idea of retirement began to come to mind, I mused about more time for things I'd often thought about pursuing. I signed up for a water color painting class and learned I was poor at drawing but I have an uncanny knack for matching color. The following

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

*Spring's
Hardest Hue*

summer I eagerly took my paints to the Maine shore and ran smack dab up against the transience of light and color.

As I tried to capture the early morning light as the heat of the sun reduced the fog, I learned why many painters take photographs and then work in the timelessness of their studios. I sat in awe for a half an hour watching light and color change over the surface of the salt water.

Holding spring in your hand is as elusive as capturing a moment of light, shadow and color on paper with running colored paint.

First the daffodils were mere hints of yellow in the buds amidst the green. The next day it seemed half the yard blazed with yellow, orange and white blossom. Many flowering plants and bushes trembled on the verge of bloom. Then we had two days in the 70s. The apricot blossoms changed from pink buds to the white stars of tiny flowers to browned off beauty in 48 hours.

This beautiful season is like that. It gives us the gift of some

of the year's most fabulous blooms and scents, but none of them last long. Too short the season of the deafening chorus of the nighttime peepers and the tentative first songs of the white-throated sparrow as it passes through on its way to the North woods. Too ephemeral that time of soft warmth and gentle breezes. Only briefly can we open the windows to a shining world of wonder before it's time for the screens.

The tiny tomato transplants have shot up days after being planted in real soil and fed a mild spring tonic. The true leaves have appeared and it won't be long before these baby seedlings will need even more growing space. The second wave of lettuce seedlings stagnates in the sunroom. These plants beg to be put out in the garden soil.

We travel to Whately to collect the asparagus roots, twenty-five in all. A bed was prepared with green sand and lime applied heavily, because sweet soil is what this plant demands. As we prepare to plant, I feel daunted by the additional requirement of eight inch deep trenches dug a yard apart. The roots of these plants are at least a foot long, so even though it wasn't mentioned, it's clear that the planting trenches had better be seriously wide as

well as deep.

This plot will require persistent tending as the roots are initially covered with only two inches of soil, and then covered as the developing tips appear. Not only that, the selected plot will accommodate at best about two-thirds of the roots we have purchased, and there is no time to prepare another one. I guess we'll plant an unprepared 'control' bed and see what happens.

Short of starting retirement immediately instead of at the end of the school year, there's no way this gardener can get it all done. Projects need to be prioritized and others set aside for another season. I choose to turn over the old strawberry bed rather than trying to invigorate a tired crop one more time. Instead, I'll get on to planting the early peas that should have been put in a couple of weeks ago.

I consider buying sweet pepper plants this year and trying the new varieties of seed next season. I let go of the idea of designing a new lily bed, and instead plan on adding some miniature summer lilies to a perennial bed that is already a jumble of daffodils, iris, day lily, an offcast peony or two and a spectacular rose bush. On the other hand, the more plants, the

less room for weeds to find space.

I let go of the major project of cutting back an original beach rose grown from seed, and choose to let it ramble one more year in favor of weeding and feeding the leek and garlic plants. The grass can wait for its first haircut until next weekend.

If you'd like to do so, there's still time to reseed the barren patches in your lawn, prune out the dead stems on flowering shrubs, start squash and melon seed indoors, clean and store the bird feeder, cut out the persistent bittersweet shoots in the flower beds, set up supports for the peony plants that are already a foot high, and cover the bed for the tomatoes with black plastic, both to keep down the weeds and heat the soil.

All of these chores are a productive pleasure that leave the gardener muscle tired but relaxed and happy ready for the comforts of bed.

Still, heed the poet. Allow time also to sit and watch the clouds float by, really hear the birdsong, take in the transient beauties of light and color around you. Too quickly this light-hearted season moves into the heavier warmth of summer.

As the poet says, "Nothing gold can stay."

FACE-OFF from page 13

ognize our weaknesses and solve problems. With the superintendent's leadership Gill-Montague will continue to expand those programs that work and do away with those which have not proven to be effective. I strongly support our superintendent," added Brown.

Regarding the recent state review of the district, that left Gill-Montague in Level IV "needs improvement" status along with just three other districts in the state, Crosby said the report found the current school committee is "dysfunctional," and "not behind the leader they hired." She said, "There is no school improvement plan in place at the high school," and said the district tried several times to get a strategic planning process in place to solicit parent input, "and nobody showed up. These are things to attend to right away."

Brown said, "I would find out exactly what will take us out of Level IV. It's clear we are spend-

ing more per pupil than other districts." She said comments in the district review about the school committee, indicating there are three groups on the nine member board – "fiscal conservatives, those who support school programs, and those who are still moaning about closing Montague Center School" – are "just wrong." She said what the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) calls fiscal conservatism is more like "fiscal realism."

On labor relations, Langknecht said, "There has to be some collaboration," between the teachers and the administration. "In our district, we have a very strong union. What distresses me, on our school committee, some really advocate more for the teachers. Management has to look at the whole position. It distresses me to see the school committee advocate for teachers instead of the district."

Crosby said, "I did see the raises the teachers agreed to for the next three years. They were

really modest."

Brown said, "I believe in collective bargaining. I know the school committee did vote to back the legislature to have some control over the percentage of health benefits [paid by employees]."

Langknecht added, "This is one place where factionalism on the school committee is really problematic. You go to negotiations, and you've got to negotiate with the teachers and with the school committee."

Coming in late from the retirement party for a dozen GMRSD staff on Tuesday night, Monosson said, "I wish that everything wasn't such a give and take trade when there are things that seem clearly beneficial to the students. I wish there was more room for flexibility."

Talking of the strengths each would bring to the job, Monosson said, "I listen to what everybody has to say. We all should have that strength." She also brings a background in research to such policy matters

as the recent controversy over whether to ban nut products from school cafeterias. Monosson advocated for more time for the school committee to meet together outside of the view of television cameras, in periodic retreats, "to give us a chance to know each other on a different level."

Crosby said, "I believe in the power of public education to bring a diverse community together. That's what you're going to experience in the real world. I have experience on boards, and also as a board director. So I know when to step back and allow the person they've hired to do the job they were hired to do."

Brown said she would support dialog on the school committee. "Everything is so polarized. It's about listening, not just talking to each other." She added, "I have a background in finances, and I helped start a nursery and kindergarten. My son graduated from Turners Falls High. The school committee should have a vision

that every child comes to school with talents. The object is to have those talents develop – the arts, music and theater is part of every child's well rounded experience." She quoted Nick Waynelovich saying, "The arts can touch a child the way no other program can."

Langknecht said, "I'm a process person. You can't come to a bad conclusion with a good process. I bring that attention to the school committee." He said there was no need to reinvent the wheel; the school committee should try to use the policy manual it already has developed.

Polls will be open on Monday, May 16th, in all six precincts of Montague, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and in Gill at the fire station from noon to 8 p.m.

The race for the Gill seat on the Gill-Montague school committee is the only contest on the ballot in either town that day; voters from Gill and Montague vote for candidates for school committee from both towns.

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Character Witness for Neighborhood Dog

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL - The Wendell selectboard met again on Saturday, April 30th to hold a dog hearing so the complainant, whose name is not, apparently, known with certainty by any town official, could attend. But that person failed to show.

Dog owner Phil Stowell attended with dog officer Maggie Houghton, and neighbors Morgan and Nan Mead.

Stowell said he has two dogs at his house, a little black one that belongs to his daughter Dana, and a larger blond dog, Sammy, that is legally his, but belongs to his son Tim. The complaint was about Sammy.

Stowell said the complainant called to yell and threatened him about his dog, and then hung up. The complainant said that Sammy, unlicensed, had impregnated his female dog outside and on a run, and had been in the henhouse and killed several chickens in the yard. He wanted \$2,000 to compensate for the impregnation, and more for the chickens.

The complainant contacted Houghton, and she picked up Sammy. She came home after work soon after, and Sammy had been released with no note, no telephone message or other explanation. Stowell said his son Tim, who lives in Orange now, had brought the dog back to the

house in Wendell, but as legal owner of the dog, Stowell took responsibility. He said he had sent a check in to license Sammy a month ago, and had not yet gotten the license back in the mail. (A quick look through papers in the town clerk's office located the check still in its envelope.) He said he has kept chickens, turkeys and cats in his own yard and Sammy has never bothered them.

Stowell has since made a run for Sammy.

Morgan and Nan Mead vouched for Sammy's personality. Morgan said Sammy has been roaming the neighborhood for 11 years without hurting any chickens, has shown no aggression,

and has friends all around the neighborhood. Sammy follows children to the bus and then goes home, with maybe a stop at one house or another. Mead said she would hate not to have him continue to visit, and offered to help Stowell by taking Sammy for walks.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said this was the first time he had heard a character reference for a dog.

Houghton agreed that Sammy was a great dog, but the state has a leash law, and Sammy was seen in the chicken house with dead chickens in the yard, at least according to the complainant's account. She also did not appreciate the fact the dog was released from her custody with-

out her knowledge.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser called that an issue of trespassing.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard told Stowell the leash law is a state law, though the town accepts that some dogs are under their owner's voice control. Once a complaint has been made, the town must insist the dog be restrained. With a second complaint, the selectboard can order the dog out of town.

As for the trespassing, she told Aldrich to send Stowell's son Tim a letter telling him he may not do that again.

from **WENDELL** page 6
ing Myron Becker came in and said he did not see how Herrick's love of animals should transfer to a hunting ban on the undeveloped land. He called the acreage prime grouse habitat, improved, if anything, by the 2006 tornado that knocked down the tall trees around Herrick's home and encouraged the ground cover grouse need.

When Herrick was alive she allowed him and other hunters to pass through her property, Becker said. He added that land for hunting is being closed off all around the state.

The Herrick property is bordered on three sides by state forest.

Alistair McMartin said he and his partner Judy Hall were interested in building an energy efficient house on the property, separate from the existing house, and would like to use Hall's fundraising experience to seek funding to restore the original house.

Dennis Hudson and Joy Gorzocoski said their hope was to save the house and bring it up to modern code for a rental property. Hudson said he has had experience and success with other seemingly hopeless projects, and Gorzocoski nodded in agreement. She said, "We would do the work."

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said there seems to be a consensus to keep most of the 30 acre property undeveloped, with some kind of CR. The property has two assets, the historic build-

ing, and the land. The historical commission is concerned mainly with the building.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said the conservation commission wants a total of one house on the property. He added the state is so interested in the land around the building lot that it would pay for a survey to subdivide the land, to separate a house lot from conservation land.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard asked town coordinator Nancy Aldrich to write up the request for proposals (RFP) with one house allowed on the property, the rest of the land protected by a CR, and submit it to town counsel for review. If the town decides to reject all proposals, the selectboard can write another RFP, to seek acceptable proposals.

In other news, highway commission chair Harry Williston requested that three of the traffic counts taken this year be on the west side of town: two on Montague Road - one to the east of West Street, the other to the west of West Street - and the third traffic count on West Street itself. Traffic on that side of town is increasing, Williston said, and members of the highway commission want to find out which way vehicles are traveling.

The playground committee met the selectboard with their proposal for improving and renovating the playground that was on the library grounds when that property held the town office

building, and earlier when that property held school. An insurance inspection last year has prompted the drive for improvements, but the playground committee has gone far beyond what insurance regulations require.

The proposal would cut the basketball court in half, since no one can remember full court games ever being played there. One half would remain a basketball court, with some low hoops for children. The other half would contain a cross-shaped skate ramp, also suitable for bicycle tricks, with the surrounding pavement being a good place for learners to practice riding skate boards or bicycles. Pavement would have hopscotch and other games painted on it.

Outside the court, the existing slide would be moved to the southwest corner and leveled, keeping it out of the sun so it does not burn tender legs. Two new structures are proposed, an open-sided playhouse with a front suitable for puppet shows, and a tree fort built around the multi-trunk tree by the basketball court. The south wall would be rebuilt to include a wrench-i-phone and other stations that can be added in the future. The opposite side would feature monkey bars, a balance beam, and fitness stations. The rear of the playground would hold a living maze, also with play stations and music stations.

The exact cost of the playground renovation has not been nailed down. Some volunteer work is possible, although com-

mittee member Charles Bado said the two play structures might be better if built professionally. He said the playground would become the town's showcase, and should be well constructed.

Committee organizer Kathy Swain relayed the estimate of insurance inspector Bob Marinelli, saying the playground as designed could be delivered, with a bow, for \$30,000.

Keller said police chief Ed Chase has some community policing money and is willing to be flexible in spending it. Friends of the Library member Helen Haddad said the Friends want to improve the playground, and would support it to a point.

Bado recommended a scope of work to get an accurate idea of the cost, and Heard said for the purpose of the cost estimate all labor should be calculated at a professional rate.

Endorsing the proposal, an unnamed teen who missed the meeting said, "I get bored, and when I get bored I get my friends in trouble."



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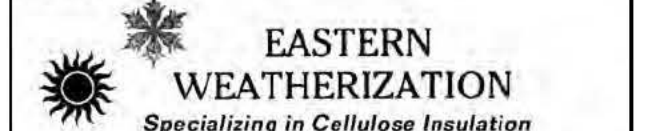
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Attorney General Martha Coakley Seeks Relicensing Delay for Pilgrim Nuke

BOSTON – On May 2nd, Massachusetts attorney general Martha Coakley filed a petition urging the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to not issue a final relicensing decision regarding Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant (Pilgrim), pending consideration by the NRC of new and significant information raised by the

Fukushima accident in Japan. Entergy, the owners of Pilgrim have requested a 20-year operating renewal license from the NRC. A decision from the NRC on relicensing may be imminent.

“Over the last five years, my office has consistently raised serious concerns about the storage of spent fuel at Pilgrim,” said Coakley. “The accident in Japan shows there are many outstanding issues and concerns the NRC needs to fully consider before Entergy is given a 20-year license extension at Pilgrim. Today, we formally ask the NRC to suspend relicensing until it considers these issues.”

In 2006, as part of the relicensing process, the attorney general’s office asserted that an accident involving the spent fuel pool at Pilgrim would present a significant risk to public safety and the environment and that the NRC should revise its regulations to address these risks. The NRC refused, claiming the risks of spent fuel pools were insignificant. In her filing today, the attorney general’s office notes that the accident in Japan involving spent fuel pools appears

consistent with the accident scenarios and risks raised by her office five years ago.

In its petition, the attorney general’s office notes that the NRC task force created to look at the lessons of Fukushima is reviewing a number of issues that are relevant to the relicensing of Pilgrim, including technical issues related to spent fuel pools. The task force should complete its work before Pilgrim is relicensed. The attorney general’s office also asks the NRC to grant the Commonwealth an additional 30 days, until June 2nd, 2011, to submit expert testimony in support of this request for relicensing suspension.

In mid-April, various public interest groups asked the NRC to suspend adjudicatory, licensing and rulemaking actions for more than 20 nuclear power proceedings across the country. These petitioners made the request to ensure that new and significant information regarding the safety and environmental implication of the ongoing catastrophic accident at Fukushima would be considered in licensing proceedings.

Solid Waste Transfer to Local Boards of Health Heading for Repeal

GILL - Franklin County Solid Waste Management District director Jan Ameen informed town administrative assistant Ray Purington in Gill this week that she had heard from Representative Steve Kulik’s office that the House had passed Kulik’s amendment to repeal the 2010 change in site assignment and transfer station permitting from the Department of Environmental Protection to local boards of health. The Senate is lined up to pass the amendment as well, Ameen reported.

Based on the support in both houses, the DEP has already cancelled all future transition

task force meetings on this issue. “This is great news for municipalities,” Ameen said. “It won’t be official until the governor signs the budget, but I’m confident this issue will not be a deal breaker.”

“Kudos go to representative Kulik, who spearheaded the repeal effort, senator Stan Rosenberg, and Gill’s own Arthur Cohen, who made dozens of calls to state officials and others to support repealing the 2010 change.

“Franklin County towns truly rallied to create successful change,” Ameen said.

Kulik Renews Effort to Control “Robo-Calls”

BOSTON - State representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington) testified Wednesday at the state house in support of legislation he has filed that would create a “Do Not Call List” for automated telephone calls from political campaigns.


Kulik filed House Bill 870, “An Act Restricting Use and Connection of Automatic Dialing-Announcing Devices” based on the unprecedented high use of automated “robo-calls” in the special US Senate election in 2010. “I received many complaints from constituents during that special election cycle” he said. “Many voters were receiving ten or more calls per day, often beginning early in the morning and continuing well past 9:00 p.m. These recorded calls came from the campaigns of all candidates, and constituted an annoyance and an invasion of people’s privacy. As such, I believe the practice must be reasonably controlled, so people can opt-out of receiving such calls.”

Kulik’s legislation would expand the state’s ‘Do Not Call

List’ to cover such calls, giving consumers the option of registering their number with the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulations. It further restricts these calls by requiring a live operator to disclose the nature of the call, receive consent from the subscriber to play the message, and refrain from calling between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. These measures are necessary to ensure the public receives the same privacy protections from political automated calls as from commercial ones.

The bill does exempt certain types of messages from these restrictions, such as those from schools, municipalities, a person’s employer, and others who may use automated calls for emergency notifications and updates.

“I hope that the legislature will support this bill as a reasonable way to both allow free speech in political campaigning, but also provide people with a way to avoid receiving repeated unwanted and annoying phone calls,” Kulik said.



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HITCHCOCK CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, Amherst -

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• **Saturday, May 14th** - Annual Northfield birding trip, led by Bob Coyle and Mark Taylor. Meet at the Center at 6:30 a.m. or in the Northfield Country Club parking lot at 9:00 a.m.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Party in the Woods, Accidents on Rte. 2

Saturday, 4/16

2:08 p.m. Stolen camera - Mt Hermon.

Sunday, 4/17

1:15 p.m. Breaking and entering call for cabin by the river.

8:50 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with domestic disturbance.

Tuesday, 4/19

2:30 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle in Factory Hollow, assisted with a tow.

7:00 p.m. Subject arrested on an outstanding warrant.

Wednesday, 4/20

3:35 p.m. Domestic situation dealt with at police station.

Thursday, 4/21

10:30 a.m. Wires down on South Cross Road, weather related.

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1:00 p.m. Accident on Main Road at Mt Hermon, no injuries.

5:00 p.m. Animal complaint on the Riverbank, sick goose.

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8:25 p.m. Summons service at Old Long Plain Road residence.

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9:00 a.m. Officer took report of a break into a motor vehicle on Montague Road. Purse taken. Break-in occurred overnight on 4/21/11. Under investigation.

BORDEAUX WHINE

by denis bordeaux

"DING DONG, THE WRETCH IS DEAD"



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

TOWN OF WENDELL PLANNING BOARD

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Article V Access, Density & Dimensional Regulations, Section B. Other Dimensional Requirements – To be changed to read: "FRONT YARD: The minimum distance between the front lot line and any principal building shall be 25 feet." Remove: "The minimum distance between the front lot line and any building or structure that contains more than one(1) dwelling unit shall be 100 feet."

Remove Article XII Large Development Review.

Add the following text in Article VI Section B, under "Site Plan Review" as the second paragraph: "The construction or renovation of one or more buildings on a single lot or contiguous lots under common ownership that will result in 10,000 square feet or more of enclosed floor area shall be subject to a Site Plan Review, provided the development or activity is not subject to a

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atop nearby Crag Mountain where we'll enjoy a picnic supper in the sunset. Participants should be in moderate condition and comfortable with a small amount of rock scrambling on steep slopes. Wear shoes that can get wet or muddy and bring supper, water, and flashlight. Register by calling 800-859-2960. This event is free and suitable for adults and children ages 8 and older.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, 9-11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ameranouche*, The trio features two French acoustic Gypsy jazz guitars and upright bass, and is a winner of "Best of New Hampshire" awards, as well as being veterans of the famed Newport Jazz Festival. The group tours nationally, year-round, and has released two albums of largely of original music inspired by the legendary Gypsy guitarist, Django Reinhardt. 9:30 p.m.

Elks Lodge, Turners Falls: *RiverCulture Feast for the Arts*. You are invited to choose and fund Turners Falls' next public art project! For a minimum donation of \$10, you will have the opportunity to vote on submitted proposals to the Turners Falls Producers Series, while meeting your community, enjoying a fabulous meal provided by local venues and hearing music from local musicians! The evening will consist of a cocktail hour with live music by Caleb Wetherbee and Shag the Band, followed by dinner and a short presentation of proposals, after which you will be able to informally discuss the ideas and vote on your favorite. Votes will be tallied by the end of the evening and a winner announced. Your dinner fees will go directly to funding the winning proposal. One week before the dinner, summaries of submitted proposals will be up on the RiverCulture website for review. They will also be at the dinner on the voting ballot. Info and tix here: www.shop-westernmass.com/riverculture. 6 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Le Chéile*, An Irish session with Amanda Bernhard, Jonathan Hohl Kennedy & Friends. 8-10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Le Chéile*, An Irish session with Amanda Bernhard, Jonathan Hohl Kennedy & Friends. 8-10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m. Free.

Tuesday, May 10th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Planet of the Apes* on the big screen.

Brick House, Turners Falls: Showing of *Ciclovida, lifecycle*, a pedal-powered movie-theater... pedalers wanted! Film and live music, and discussion with filmmakers and activists from Brazil. *Landless Movements in Brazil* workshop at 6 p.m. and film at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 12th
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Golden Elk, Loring Miller, and hotbox*, 9:30 p.m. Free.

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

Friday, May 13th

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

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

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

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

Saturday, May 14th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Eyes on Owls- Live Owl Presentation* 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. See live owls up-close, discover how to find wild owls, and learn how to hoot. Two sessions. And 1:30 - 2:45 p.m. will be offered- the first will be held indoors and the second will be outside, weather permitting. Pre-registration is required due to limited space. Call 413-863-3221 for more info or to register.

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

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

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

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

Sunday, May 15th
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Edible Plants of Spring Field Walk*, take a walk along the Canal-side bike path with Blanche Derby to locate and learn about edible plants that emerge in Spring. The walk will depart from the bike path entrance in Unity Park at 1 pm. In the event of rain, the program will be held in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center. -1:30 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, Acoustic Trio - Warped Americana, 8 - 10 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 19th

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Third Thursday Speakers Series presents *Lamar Gore on Birding*, Join biologist Lamar Gore to learn some beginning birding skills. Lamar has been bird watching for well over a decade while working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Vermont, Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware, and Massachusetts. During the program, you will learn how to identify birds by look, behavior, and sound. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

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

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT
Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic*, every Thursday night, *Dan, Kip and Shultzzy from Curly Fingers DuPree* host. All are welcome. Instruments provided or bring your own. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

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

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

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

THROUGH SUNDAY, JUNE 5th
Hallmark Gallery, Turners Falls: *I Was There: Stories of War and Homecoming*, Public Reception - Friday, April 8th 3 - 7 p.m.

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THURSDAY, MAY 5th
Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Cinco de Mayo Children's Festival*. Bilingual Concert with Laurie Davidson and Tom Carroll and children's activities. If the weather is unpleasant, it will be held inside the Carnegie Library. 10 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*, 7:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics*, Brian Mallet and Lefty Cullen playing all your favorite oldies from the 50's & 60's. 8-10 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Jo Henley Band*.

FRIDAY, MAY 6th
through SATURDAY, MAY 21st
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Valley Idol karaoke contest!*

FRIDAY, MAY 6th
Montague Grange: *Benefit for Community Farm Initiative*. Contra dance with Donna Hebert & Max Cohen. 7 - 10 p.m.

SIT International Center, Brattleboro: Theater: *Ambush on T Street*, theater performance. 8 p.m.

Greenfield High School Auditorium: The Dance Department of Greenfield Community College presents *Spring Student Dance Concert*. A variety of dance styles will be featured, including ballet, contemporary, jazz, hip hop, tap and Middle Eastern. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *A Ton of Blues*, 9-11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Arthur Holmes Blues Band*, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Suitcase Junket* (Matt Lorenz of Rusty Belle) and *Azwan and the Savages*, (folk-hop), 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 7th
Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Free Concert with the Greasy Cuffs Song Tour*, 1 p.m.

Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center: *Spring Sunset Super Hike*, Join Northfield Mountain Naturalist Beth Bazler for a spring evening hike, 5:50 to 8:30 pm. The "high point" of the evening will come



Scottish singer/songwriter, *David Ferrard* will play at the Echo Lake Coffeehouse in the Leverett Town Hall, Saturday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.

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

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Chipping Sparrows Join the Breakfast Club



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find dandelions good eating. And it seems to be sparrow time. The American tree sparrow has gone north for the summer, but a couple of little chipping sparrows have returned. They used to clean up scattered seed on the ground, but this year have become regulars at the breakfast club feeding stations.

A grandson asked who the little orange headed chap was, and I realized how very rusty his head is in bright sunlight. The chippies share the bounty at the feeder with white-throated sparrows, and the usual titmice and chickadees, woodpecker, the goldfinch, and his handsome cousin the purple finch and cardinals. There must be a pecking order, but they do not squabble.

The bigger song sparrow makes the chippies look small, and along with white throats at the feeder, it's easy to check out who's who.

**BY FRAN HEMOND
MONTAGUE CENTER -**

Welcome sweet springtime. The daffodils cover the lawn, seeming to bloom in order when they have their quota of sun. Shadbush in their short time of glory find it extra beautiful on the bank. Even the marsh marigolds on the marshy edge are adding their yellow glow.

After a winter of storm and snow, which blew down a stur-

dy hemlock tree and destroyed a tobacco barn, the sturdy plants are greeting spring with vigor.

I never thought I would like to see a dandelion, but the little yellow plant that is always available to show little kids starting out was bright and early this April. It has a delightful little leaf that gives the plant its name: dande (tooth) of a lion. And just as with ostrich fern and fiddleheads, some folks



JOSEPH A. PARZYCH PHOTO

Lineman Roman Kubacki is part of a Verizon crew stringing a 216 strand fiber optic cable, supplementing an existing 12 strand fiber optic cable, running office to office.

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Meanwhile, the mail delivery driver (rear) driving north in the left-hand lane had obviously been watching too much coverage of the royal wedding.

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