



### SCHOOL CANDIDATE'S DEBATE

Watch it on Channel 17

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### OBJECTION!

On Williams Way Closure

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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 7 - NO. 31

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 7, 2009

## Three Vie for Selectboard in Montague

BY ANNE HARDING -

With the withdrawal of Joshua Gammon from the selectboard race, three candidates remain in the running for the three-year seat up for grabs on May 18th. They are:

### Mark Fairbrother

Mark Fairbrother is truly the most local of the candidates running for the office. He was born and raised in Montague and attended the local schools from kindergarten until he graduated high school. He is well known in town largely because of his involvement in local government for so many years. When asked why he was running for office, Fairbrother said he felt it was the logical next step in a life of public service.

His involvement with local governance began in the early 1990s when he was invited to be an associate member of the conservation commission. In about 1996, he became a voting member of the commission and has served as the chair for the past ten years. He's also served on the last two search committees for the town planner position, and was on the committee that solicited the 43-D study of the Strathmore Mill, assessing its potential viability for development.

A self-taught naturalist, Fairbrother's passion for birds and butterflies is also well known in town, and one might



Mark Fairbrother



Ed Golrick



Jack Nelson

expect him to be anti-business. However, he supports expanded development through the proposed second industrial park on Millers Falls Road, even though he acknowledges a "perfect world" would keep the Montague Plains intact. Fairbrother believes appropriate safeguards can protect the environment, while supporting new businesses. To that end he joined the Turners Falls airport commission around 2000, because he wanted to work toward a balance between the property's unique environmental aspects and the economic viability of a small airport.

With almost 20 years experience in the town hall, Fairbrother emphasizes that the fat has already been trimmed from town budgets. He is keenly aware of the nuts and bolts of the maintenance business, and the frustra-

The Montague selectboard candidates will meet for a live debate in MCTV, Channel 17, live at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 7th.

tions of managing a maintenance department with a dwindling budget. He worries that decreased staffing at the town hall already makes it difficult for both residents and employees, and worries that budget difficulties may necessitate further staffing cuts.

Fairbrother is concerned about the town's economic viability, given the recent trend toward spending reserve funds to support the operating budget. It concerns him greatly when budget issues pit friends against friends, and he is cognizant of the fact that all factions in town are good people trying to do the right thing. He believes reserves should be spent for extraordinary circumstances, like the recent decision to roof and secure the

Strathmore Mill pending the outcome of the land court case.

Fairbrother recognizes the financial burden of the town's struggle to meet unfunded state and federal education mandates. While town meeting members actually make the budget decisions the selectboard administers, Fairbrother is worried that responsible 2009 and 2010 budgets may need overrides voters will not support.

In spite of budget concerns, he believes the town can prosper by maintaining its business-friendly attitudes and further growing the tourism generated by the RiverCulture project, the Discovery Center and the recent completion of the canalside bike trail. Fairbrother is hopeful the redevelopment of Ste. Anne's and the Strathmore Mill will be successful additions to the

town's revitalization.

### Ed Golrick

Twenty-three year old Ed Golrick is a self-professed jack-of-all-trades who takes pride in being himself. His family moved from Palmer to Montague when he was about 10 years old and within a short time was involved in the local cable television station (MCTV). This provided his first introduction to local government, and he was soon videotaping the selectboard meetings, which he did for several years. He has also volunteered from time to time with other civic groups, and most recently was involved with planning the Millers Falls downtown party.

Golrick decided to run for selectboard because he is not happy with the direction the town is taking, and wants to be involved in making a change. He would like to bring change in a positive way - and believes the key is more community involvement. He likes the idea of having an informal "mini-mayor" in each of the five villages in town, who would host a series of rotating meetings to get feedback and input from community members, to help come up with solutions for some of the larger town issues.

Like the other candidates, he feels the resolution of the town's daunting budget issues is critical see MONTAGUE pg 10

## Bottles and Cans and a Boost for Ste. Anne's

BY DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE - Town residents will have to start putting out recyclables on a new schedule come June, and the contractor who will be handling the curbside pick up for the town will take paper and cardboard one week, bottles and cans the next.

MCTV will enjoy five more years of serving Montague, Gill, and Erving's cable access needs.

Jordan Quinn's plans to turn the former Ste. Anne's French Canadian parish church and rectory into a tapas bar, bed and breakfast and 700-seat music hall for A-list jazz, blues and folk acts took another step towards realization, as Montague approved a motion to rezone those properties from neighborhood business to central business.

And, after 40 minutes of waiting around, Montague's special town meeting finally reached a quorum Thursday night when a lallygagging reporter who happens to be a town meeting member finally showed up at 7:10 p.m. for a meeting that should have started at 6:30.

see BOTTLES pg 7

## Open for the Season!



The Great Falls Farmers Market opened with ten vendors and a beautiful variety of plants and produce this week. Edie Bourbeau and Bob Johnson were among them. The market continues Wednesday afternoons on Avenue A and 2nd thru October; new vendors - and customers - are welcome!

## Maple Valley School to Close in June

BY DAVID DETMOLD

WENDELL - Maple Valley School will be closing, as of June 30th of this year, due to declining enrollment, according to J.C. Consadine, spokesperson for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Maple Valley School, a residential treatment school established in 1988 on the corner of Mormon Hollow and Wendell Depot Road, serves a population of adolescent boys demonstrating social and emotional problems, sexualized behavior problems, and firesetting behaviors, according to the school's website.

Neighbors of the school have frequently complained to town officials and police about Maple Valley students going AWOL and appearing on their property at all hours, without warning from the school's phone tree.

More recently, the school has been praised for helping out the community during the December ice storm by making their generator-powered facilities available to those in need.

Consadine said the DESE had received see MAPLE VALLEY pg 7

**PET OF THE WEEK**

More than a Beauty Puss



**Mr. Grey**

My name is Mr. Grey and I am a four-year-old male cat in need of a good home. You know, some of us just don't take a great picture and that's sort of how I am! I have the most beautiful stripes and light grey paws and a wonderful dark gray necklace curving around my chest.

There's more to me than just beauty, though. I'm friendly and affectionate. I like to play, especially with catnip mice and I do think that kitty treats are wonderful. For more information on adopting me please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or via email: leverett@dpvhs.org.

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**CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS**

**Bees, Butterflies and Blooms**

BY LINDA HICKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – Young children and their families are invited to learn about Bees, Butterflies and Blossoms with Dawn Marvin Ward at the Carnegie Library on Tuesday, May 12th at 10 a.m. The fun

hands-on science program is part of the Crabapple Blossom Festival, which runs from May 1st to May 17th. The event is sponsored by the Gill-Montague Community Partnerships for Children. For more information, call 863-3214.

**Fun Bike Tour**

BY LINDA HICKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – On Sunday, May 10th, a fun bike ride and tour will start at the beginning of the Turners Falls Bike Path in Unity Park at 1 p.m. The leisurely paced ride will last approximately six miles and will cover the new bike path from Unity Park to the railyard in East Deerfield

and back. Librarian Linda Hickman, author of the *Turners Falls Historical Walking Tour* brochure, will lead the ride and provide commentary. The bike ride is sponsored by the Montague Public Libraries and is one of the Crabapple Blossom Festival events. For more information, call 863-3214.

**WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS**

**Genealogy Workshop**

Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned researcher of your family tree, this workshop will interest you. Janis Duffy from the Massachusetts State Archives will give a power-point presentation on Saturday, May 16th, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., covering such topics as

- Naturalization and probate records

- Passenger lists
- Census records
- Revolutionary and Civil War records
- Organizing and preserving your family history
- Overview of the archive's holdings and online databases.

The workshop is free and open to all. For more information call: (978) 544-3559

**Natural Treatment  
for Childhood Illnesses**

Dr. Emily Maiella, a naturopathic physician practicing at Montague Integrative Health, will present the first in a series on Holistic Approaches to Your Child's Well-Being on Thursday, May 14th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Maiella will discuss many of the common childhood ailments, including signs and symptoms of illness, as well as treatment options. Using a triage approach, Maiella will walk participants through the steps of treating children, and when it is appro-

appropriate to contact a physician. The workshops will focus on how herbal medicine, homeopathy and nutrition can build strong immune systems. Various preparations will be described, such as baths, teas and poultices. Please bring all your questions; there will be a time for Q&A following the lecture.

Please pre-register by calling (413) 423-3337, and ask for Naz, or email: mohamed@erving.com A pizza dinner begins the evening at 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – May 11th to May 15th**

**GILL/MONTAGUE** Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities. Council on Aging Director is Bunny Caldwell. Congregate meals are served on Tuesday through Friday. For information or to make reservations, call 863-9357 or 863-4500. Meal reservations need to be made a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

**Monday, 11th**  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Foot Screening for Gill and Montague residents. Advance registration required. Fee \$5.00.  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
**Tuesday, 12th**  
9:00 a.m. Walking Group  
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1:00 p.m. Canasta  
**Wednesday, 13th**  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Foot Screening for Gill and

Montague residents. Advance registration required. Fee \$5.00.  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11:15 a.m. Mealsite Meeting  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 14th**  
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 15th**  
10:00 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Easy Aerobics  
1:00 p.m. Scrabble

Gill/Montague Senior Trips, Call 863-9357 or 863-4500 for more information: Cape Cod Canal Cruise Tuesday June 16 \$69 per person

**WENDELL** Senior Center is located at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Kathy Swaim at (978) 544-2020 for hours and upcoming programs.

**ERVING** Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Friday

**FACES & PLACES**



Corbin Leh at the Montague Elks Lodge Annual Fun Night, playing Bingo.

**Unity Park  
Enhancement Project  
Planning Committee  
Meeting**  
The next meeting for the Unity Park Enhancement Project Committee is planned for Thursday, May 7, at 6:00 p.m., at the Unity Park Fieldhouse in Turners Falls. The public is welcome.

**EXCAVATING**  
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**Great Falls Middle School  
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Alaisiah Russell  
**Grade 7**  
Jason Thompson  
**Grade 8**  
Kory Ryan

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from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For info and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director, at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations 24 hours in advance. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or medical necessity:

**Monday, 11th**  
9 a.m. Exercise  
12 noon Pitch  
**Tuesday, 12th**  
9 a.m. Aerobics  
9:30 a.m. C.O.A. Meeting  
12:30 Painting  
**Wednesday, 13th**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
12 noon Bingo  
**Thursday, 14th**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:15 a.m. Pool  
**Friday, 15th**  
9:00 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Lunch, soup and salad.

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# De Christopher Objects to Williams Way Discontinuance



Tim De Christopher

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** – A proposal to discontinue Williams Way to allow room for the construction of a permanent concrete skate park as part of a renovated Unity Park was sidelined at the Montague special town meeting on Thursday, April 30th, after the Turners Falls Sk8 Park's former landlord, Tim de Christopher, raised objections to the plan.

If the town closes off Williams Way, de Christopher said, he would no longer be able to use the curb cut from that one-block connector between 2nd and 1st Streets to access his lot behind Williams Garage.

"I'm generally interested in the current curb cut to Williams Garage," said De Christopher, who owns the garage and a number of abutting lots and buildings. "It impacts the value of that property."

De Christopher told town meeting that his plan to sell Williams Garage to the current tenant, Ron P. Kelly, owner of Eagle Automotive, had fallen through. So his ability to sell Williams Garage in the future will be impacted by the town's decision on closing Williams Way. "I may sell the back lot. The access issue is important."

He said the town had created Williams Way some decades ago "out of consideration for the owner of Williams Garage," when they discontinued the end of 2nd Street to enlarge Unity Park. He asked for "the same consideration now," as the town weighs dead-ending 2nd Street

by discontinuing the one-block Williams Way to make room for a permanent skate park.

De Christopher also said, "I was never notified as an abutter for any of these meetings," concerning the plan to discontinue Williams Way. "It's all been word of mouth."

Town planner Dan Laroche responded, "No public hearing before the planning board," was required to discontinue Williams Way. "It's a town meeting action."

Following a presentation from skate park committee member Ruth Nervig, parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz told the town meeting, "One thing is clear. There is a very strong contingent in this community in regards to keeping the skate park."

But the only way the skate park could fit into the Unity Park redesign is by closing Williams Way and adding the land beneath it – along with a 20-foot-wide strip of town-owned land on the Williams Garage side of the road – into the boundaries of Unity Park, Dobosz said.

However, on the suggestion of town counsel Rich Bowen, a majority of town meeting members voted to reject the discontinuance of Williams Way on Thursday night, to allow more time for negotiation with de Christopher about access to his back lot before bringing the motion to the floor again at the annual town meeting, on Saturday, June 6th.

After the meeting, Laroche disputed de Christopher's comment about never being notified of meetings about Williams Way.

"That's not correct. Tim and I have spent hours here in my office discussing Williams Way. He's had concerns, but it wasn't going to be a deal breaker. He's been invited to the meetings at the parks and recreation commission where this has been discussed, and he's attended some of those. The town's been negotiating skate park stuff with him for the past six months."

De Christopher said email problems had led to his being unaware of the date on which the proposal to discontinue Williams Way was finally approved for the special town meeting warrant by the selectboard. "Now that the skate park is no longer on my property, I've been left out of the loop," he said.

On April 11th, the Turners Falls Sk8 Park was moved temporarily to 11th Street and Avenue A, to a lot owned by James Capen, after several months of negotiation between skate park committee members, de Christopher, and the town failed to reach an acceptable agreement to continue leasing de Christopher's lot behind the former Chick's Garage, where the skate park had been located for ten years.

Nervig, an Americorps worker at the Brick House, said the committee had offered to pay de Christopher \$750 a year to cover his insurance costs for the skate park at the lot behind Chick's, and though she said he verbally agreed to that arrangement following a committee meeting at the Brick House, he later reconsidered and wanted the skate park

see OBJECTS page 6



Thanks to All Who Went the Extra Mile for Meals on Wheels! The 2009 Walk Raised \$41,000. Read more at www.fchcc.org

## Barking Dog Complaint Will Be Heard, Again

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**GILL** – Jim Diemand, a resident of Hickory Hill Road, will return to the Gill selectboard on Monday, May 11th, at 5:30 p.m., for another hearing on his ongoing complaint about the barking of dogs from the Hickory Hill Kennel, owned by Duncan and Jackie Elliot. Diemand brought his complaint to the board on March 30th, and the board told him to address the subject to the Zoning Board of Appeals instead, since there was little they could do to alleviate the situation.

Also on March 30th, selectboard chair Nancy Griswold told Diemand she was a customer of the Hickory Hill Kennel, which she finds to be, "an extraordinarily good business. It's clear they take good care of their dogs. They have every right to have a business there. We can't tell Mr. Elliot to shut down his kennel because it disturbs you."

Later in the meeting she told Duncan Elliot, who was present for the discussion between the board and Diemand, "I wouldn't bring my dog anywhere else."

Subsequently, Diemand, a Catholic priest and retired pastor of St. Mary's Church in Orange who has lived next to the kennel for 35 years, through three successive owners, said he did bring his complaint about barking dogs disturbing the peace and quiet of the neighborhood, from newly installed exterior kennels and a play area, "where the dogs are allowed to bark from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m." back to the ZBA. Last year, he told the ZBA that the Elliots had expanded their business without a permit to do so, but the ZBA ruled then he had not provided proof of that allegation.

Diemand also filed a complaint with the state ethics commission that Griswold should not see BARKING page 16

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# The Montague Reporter

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## Thank You, Ted

After serving the town of Wendell in a variety of capacities – road boss, assessor, member of the board of health, and constable – Ted Lewis was elected to the selectboard in 1970. He served thirteen consecutive three-year terms, a record for the town of Wendell, most of those years as chairman of the board. His knowledge of the town is vast and practical, involving everything from how to keep pipes from freezing in the town hall basement, to how to manage miles of dirt roads in mud season, how to structure government loans for new town buildings, and how to get the maximum payments possible in lieu of taxes for state forest lands.

On Monday, in a generational upheaval that mirrored the changing political currents of the nation as a whole, the voters of Wendell elected a relative newcomer to town to take Lewis' place on the selectboard. Congratulations are due to Jeff Pooser, a computer consultant and organic farmer who had never served on a Wendell board or commission before tipping his hat into the ring for the selectboard race. He outpolled Lewis 177 to 139. Lewis began his tenure on the selectboard the year before Pooser was born.

"I have no regrets," said Lewis. "Other than the people who say they're too busy to vote. When I first got on, we were meeting in private homes and working out of shoe boxes." Lewis insisted the meetings and minutes be open to the public, and the selectboard soon switched their meeting place from Anne Hartjens' living room to the top floor of the old fire station, so the public could attend.

Lewis has always been philosophic about his service to the town of Wendell. "I want people to get out and vote, even if they don't agree with me," he said three years ago. "That's what people are losing their lives for, the right to vote. If I get beat,

that's the voters' wish. But when only 20 to 25% of the people turn out to the ballot box, that's terrible."

Forty-seven percent (319) of the town's 682 eligible voters turned out for the contest on Monday, and competing signs in support of Lewis and Pooser lined the main roads of town, an unusual sight in Wendell.

Back in May of 2003, when he was running for his twelfth term, Lewis said, "Of course you will not agree with every decision I have made in the past 30 years, but in giving my time and energy to the town of Wendell, I have always done what I have thought was the best for the people."

Sometimes, looking back, Lewis did not always agree with the positions he himself had taken in past years, and he was not too proud to admit mistakes. He cited his opposition to zoning, which he called "infringing on the rights of your neighbors," when the idea was first introduced in town in the 1970s, and his opposition to the formation of a finance committee as examples where he had erred.

He later came to credit the work of the finance committee, under the leadership of Ann Zak, Lee Trousdale, and Dan Keller, who continually socked away free cash in the town's stabilization fund, as the main factor enabling the town to afford the construction of the new town buildings and septic system, the highlight of his final term.

One of the major unfinished goals Lewis cited the last time he ran for selectboard – hooking up the households in the center of town to a sewer system tied into the Erving side wastewater treatment plant – will have to remain on the selectboard's to-do list for his successors to deal with. Lewis felt the burden placed on homeowners to spend "\$15,000 to \$30,000 to meet septic requirements, and in 20 or 30 years when the systems fail,

see **TED** pg 5

**BORDEAUX WHINE**

by denis bordeaux



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Thanks, and Farewell

On April 30th I attended my last Montague town meeting, after deciding not to seek another term during the upcoming May elections. Father Time has caught up with me. After viewing the many younger members participating in the debate on the articles with more enthusiasm than I could muster, I decided to take a walk.

As I looked up on the stage where the selectboard members were seated with the members

of the finance committee, I thought it only appropriate that I offer my thanks to these people who offer so much of their time in an attempt to solve the problems facing our community.

Special thanks go to Allen Ross, who has chosen not to seek re-election to the selectboard. Whatever your thoughts are on the decisions made by this board, we should all be grateful for the enormous

amount of time they put in our behalf.

To all the town meeting members, I wish you the very best in dealing with the many tough financial problems facing our community. From what I have witnessed, I know you will make the very best decisions on behalf of the villages you represent.

– Art Gilmore  
Millers Falls

## MCTV x 5 = Great Public Access... with Your Help!

MCTV would like to thank the town meeting members who supported the five-year renewal of our contract to be the town's public access television provider last week. We would also like to thank everyone who has stopped in our doors, dropped off a tape or DVD, watched Channel 17, called in, or contributed in any way to the content and the continued life of the station over the past three years. Public access TV is nothing without the producers and the audience.

It took a leap of faith back in December of 2005 by town meeting to strike GCTV from the warrant article and write-in MCTV instead. We were excited and grateful for the chance to serve, and we hope we have lived up to your expectations. The MCTV board and staff have done a lot of good work over the

past three years, and we look forward to new accomplishments in the next five under our renewed contract.

As is expected, the board has changed a little over the three years. We now have board members from Greenfield as well as Erving. If you are at all interested in working with a small, steady, funded, technology-based Montague non-profit, MCTV has a few seats open on our board and we'd love to talk to you. We are currently looking for people with fundraising, outreach and legal skills. Please call the station at 863-9200, or stop in any weekday between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

I would also like to acknowledge our staff, Dean Garvin and Robin Mide, and the volunteers who take the time to shoot many of the programs you see and who help us during events such as town meetings. Being a volunteer is a fun way to learn about TV technology and digital video

production.

In addition, MCTV is putting out a call to all local organizations and community groups and residents for content. If you host regular events, whether they be arts related or sports or poetry or canoeing or music or ranting, or pretty much anything you can think of, please stop in to learn how you can get training or recruit volunteers to tape these events and have them air on MCTV. Training is free. Borrowing equipment is free. Airing your shows is free. We get money from Comcast to serve you and make this all available. It's free, and it's all here for you. Really.

Thanks again and look for more good things to come from Channel 17 in the next several years. Please stop by the station to learn how you can participate in your town's very own public access TV station.

– Michael Muller  
Montague

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## 'The Chop' Represents Community Values

BY JOSHUA GAMMON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – The recent discussions surrounding the fight song at Turners Falls High School – “the Chop” – has created a mild storm in our community. With the Gill-Montague school committee set to decide on the issue on May 12th, time is running short for anyone who would like to voice their opinion. I feel it is important to once again repeat the feelings of many students and community members throughout our district.

Societies are recognized and identified by the customs, practices, and traditions they partake in. These actions are the bridge between the generations of a society, and act as bonds for their sense of community. Our town is no different, and has developed over many years customs and traditions of our own.

Inspiring hope, inducing passion, and instilling pride, are but a few choice words to describe

what “the Chop” produces whenever the Turners Falls High School band plays this song. Students, fans, and players all comment on the euphoric qualities this song induces, and their attachment to the simple hand gesture associated with it. Whenever the song is played in the gymnasium, or in the stadium, or on a parade route, onlookers become connected with everyone around them; united in solidarity with their fellow friends and community members. Together they form something almost impossible to replicate anywhere else, a group of individuals together and acting as one, in a single and simple action. Together they show support for not only the players involved, but for both the school and the towns it represents.

Being a senior in the high school, and president of the student council, I was able to participate in two meetings the school

committee held with the entire student body. Students were able to voice their opinions on the issue and comment on the way the process was handled.

On both days, a small group of students spoke in favor of “the Chop” and a few students supported the school committee’s “indefinite moratorium.” The defining moments however occurred not during passionate speeches between the students, but when a single student who spoke only once at each meeting posed a simple question, “Will all those who support ‘the Chop’ and want it back please stand?” With no hesitation a sea of students stood up from their seats and the entire auditorium was filled with

standing individuals. This occurred both days, and both days there was the same response. A “silent majority” for a brief instance allowed their presence to be heard in actions that spoke louder than any speech. Let there be no doubt, the students at Turners Falls High School support “the Chop,” and on those two days they allowed the school committee members present to understand their positions.

The interactions I have had with community members has confirmed to me their support and affirmation of the students’ position. With this knowledge I believe it is the responsibility of the school committee to act with

the utmost regard to the feelings of those they represent, and I trust they will.

In a past editorial, interim superintendent Kenneth Rocke stated our community will have to consider whether or not “the Chop” is reflective of the values we hold; and I could not agree with him more. Promoting the unity of one’s community, and pride in one’s school is something I believe all citizens of our towns can agree we should continue.

### Gammon Out of Race

Joshua Gammon, on the ballot as a candidate for Montague selectboard, has dropped out of the race. Gammon has decided to attend college next fall at George Washington University in DC. Therefore, he said, “I cannot commit to running for selectman with good conscience. I hope those who signed my nomination papers, and other citizens of the town understand.”

## Help Neighbors Recover from Fire

BY SALLY PICK

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – As many of you know, Montague neighbors Ruth Helmich and Kathryn Simon are piecing their lives back together after lightning struck their home on Union Street early on April 22nd, starting a devastating fire. They would like to express their gratitude and thanks to everyone who has offered support and helped them through this crisis.

On Monday, their insurance company delivered the trailer they requested. They will live in the trailer, next to their house, while the house is being rebuilt. When they move to the trailer, they could use prepared dinners. They request the following, in small servings: tuna casserole, baked chicken breasts, mac and cheese, and please, no fish.

To find out when meals are needed, you can email me at [SJP@crocker.com](mailto:SJP@crocker.com); I will keep a schedule.

Otherwise, if you would like to make a donation to a fund for the Helmich and Simon family, you can send it directly to the bank where the fund has been set up, TD Banknorth in Greenfield. They will have plenty of expenses to cover as they rebuild their home and lives, since most of their belongings were lost to the fire or to smoke and heat damage.

If you send a donation directly to the bank, it will be available to them immediately. To send funds to the bank, mail them to:  
TD Banknorth  
Attn. Helmich & Simon  
Family Fund  
324 Main St, Suite 1  
Greenfield, MA 01301

Make checks payable to: “TD Banknorth”, and be sure to write in the check memo or in an attached note that it is a donation to the Helmich and Simon Family Fund.

TED from pg 4

they have to do them all over again,” was onerous, and the town should just, “Lay the pipe.” Check that stimulus funding, Mr. Pooser.

When Lewis first came to town in the ‘30s, his family owned one of two houses on West Street, now one of the most populated roads in town. He used to walk to the movies in Orange. Once a week, he’d walk to the Center to check out a library book. Each year, his family would give him a dollar to go to the fairgrounds in Athol. He walked there.

He got to know the roads and people of Wendell pretty well, and he has never ceased in his efforts to better their lives and

community. With the influx of newcomers in the ‘70s blending with the older families in town committees and in the schools, Lewis said, “I really think the town is working together.”

“I’ve enjoyed it,” said Lewis, reflecting on his decades on the selectboard. “I’ve met some nice people. I’ve been able to help some people out, and that’s good.”

As he joined the annual Earth Day clean-up of litter along town roads (as he does every year), Lewis continued to set the example for a younger generation of Wendell citizens to follow. They owe him a great debt of gratitude for his hard work, and selfless service.

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**NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD**

**Complaints on Tree Removals**

BY DAWN MONTAGUE

**TURNERS FALLS**—After canceling last week's meeting so the selectboard could attend a public hearing on the report of the Commission on Education in Gill, a mostly routine selectboard meeting took place on Monday, May 4th in the Montague town hall. Patricia Pruitt, Allen Ross, and Pat Allen were present, along with a handful of other officials and townspeople.

Resident Joe Janikas raised concerns about the cutting of trees on town property by utility companies. He pointed to recent examples of trees being taken down without tree hearings or public notice. Roberta Potter also expressed frustration at the lack of public tree hearings, saying that she planned to "talk to the town planner, about the social and economic value of trees."

Retiring selectboard chair Ross, looking forward to two more weeks on the board before his second third-year term expires, promised the town will be more consistent about enforcing the scheduling of formal tree hearings in the future.

Mark Allen of the Turners Falls Fire District reported that the Prudential Committee had approved the signing of a contract with One Communications for new systems and equipment, including a T1 line, to be installed in the Fire Safety Complex. Allen said the fire and police chiefs will

identify areas of shared services, work out how to divide the bill, and will bring suggestions to the board in June.

The Brick House Community Resource Center was granted permission to use Peskeompskut Park for a Family Fun Fest, to be held on June 20th.

Lisa Davol, representing Turners Falls RiverCulture, requested permission to place a bike rack on Avenue A, to be located on the sidewalk near the Shea Theater. There will be a contest for local artists to design the bike rack. Details about the contest are forthcoming from RiverCulture. The selectboard approved the concept of the bike rack, and gave Davol the go-ahead to begin the design contest. The board also permitted Davol to place a banner across Avenue A announcing the upcoming Block Party on August 8th.

On Saturday, May 9th from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m., the Montague police department is hosting an auto glass etching event at the Turners Falls Fire Station on Turnpike Road. Vehicle identification numbers will be etched onto all glass panels. Bring the vehicle's certificate of registration, and \$10 fee (cash only) to defray the cost of materials. Call officer Bill Doyle with any questions, at (413) 863-8911 x 177.

Next week's selectboard meeting will be held Tuesday, May 11th at 7:00 p.m.

**OBJECTS from pg 3**

to pay rent, as well. Last fall, de Christopher sought \$300 a month to continue leasing the 6,000-square-foot lot behind Chick's to the skate park.

When the skate park committee organized a large crew of volunteers, including the Mohawk Rambler motorcycle club, sculptor Joe Landry, and a boom truck from Shanahans, to assist in moving the ramps to 11th Street last month, they had to leave behind the new eight-foot chain link fence that surrounded the skate park.

"That's not the skate park's fence," said de Christopher, on Friday. "It says very clearly in the lease, anything that gets permanently installed on the property becomes part of the property."

Former Brick House director Nancy Emond, who received a \$5,000 donation from an anonymous skate park supporter in March of 2006 — money later used to purchase and install the chain link fence behind Chick's — took issue with that interpretation.

"Morally, that's not right," she said. "I remember when the check came in, and how excited the kids were. They couldn't believe someone would be that generous. That fence belongs to them."

In order for the town to limit liability for any injury that may occur at the skate park, town administrator Frank Abbonanzio told town meeting, a fence is required to limit access to the park at night, along with a sign saying "Use at Your Own Risk" during the daytime.

Last month, the selectboard provided \$4,000 in program



Joe Landry uses his front end loader to arrange the ramps at the temporary skate park location on 11th Street last Thursday. The lot has been paved, at town expense, but still needs to be fenced.

wound up spending \$600 of his own money to pay for several months of plowing there. De Christopher said he and his tenants at Williams Garage had been using the town-owned strip of land for about the last ten

income funds to pave and fence the temporary skate park at its new location on 11th Street. The skate park committee is now attempting to raise funds to repay \$1,000 to the town.

As for the discontinuance of Williams Way, de Christopher said on Friday, "I think a curb cut," to Williams Garage, or the back lot of that property, "is a minimum starting point for a conversation. Dan Laroche makes a point of saying in actuality I don't have frontage on Williams Way, which is technically true, because I don't own that property." The town owns the 20-foot wide parcel of paved land all along the north side of Williams Way, closely abutting Williams Garage. But De Christopher insisted, "I maintain it, and I foot the bill for maintaining it."

Asked what he meant by maintaining it, de Christopher said he had never repaved the strip of town-owned land next to Williams Garage, but he had plowed it.

But Eagle Automotive's Kelly said he had been engaged in an ongoing dispute with de Christopher over the past winter about plowing that property, and

"I've used it with caution," added de Christopher, a sculptor. "I'd store stone as close to the garage as possible, no more than five feet [into the town-owned lot]. "But the tenants have used it," for overflow parking for the garage.

Laroche said de Christopher has been invited to another meeting with the park and recreation commission on May 7th, at 6:00 p.m., in the Unity Park fieldhouse, to discuss the plans for discontinuing Williams Way and incorporating the skate park in the upcoming community development block grant application to renovate Unity Park. Laroche also made a few other points about de Christopher's curb cut request.

"He certainly has lots of access to his property [Williams Garage and the lot behind it] off 2nd Street. The rear parcel has plenty of frontage on 1st Street," and a property owner with frontage has the right to petition the DPW for a curb cut. Provided adequate sight lines exist, the DPW routinely grants such requests, at the petitioner's expense, Laroche said.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Vandalism Arrests**

**Thursday, 4/30**  
6:55 p.m. Report of burglary / breaking and entering at a Fifth Street address.  
**Friday, 5/1**  
5:47 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Griswold Street address. Investigated.  
**Saturday, 5/2**  
12:04 a.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted]. Charged with operating a motor vehicle

while under the influence of liquor, marked lanes violation and speeding.  
7:07 a.m. Report of vandalism at a Griswold Street address.  
**Sunday, 5/3**  
1:15 a.m. Following a traffic stop, arrested [redacted]. Charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of liquor, operating

to endanger, failure to stop for police, marked lanes violation, failure to use care starting, turning, backing, etc., failure to use signal and malicious destruction of property under \$250. Also arrested [redacted]. Charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.  
**Monday, 5/4**  
8:27 a.m. Report of vandalism at Shanahan Construction Supply Company, Avenue A.  
10:40 p.m. Report of a suspi-

cious auto at Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Turners Falls Road. Arrested [redacted]. Charged with two counts of vandalism or defacement of property, trespassing, trespassing with a motor vehicle. Also arrested [redacted]. Charged with two counts of vandalism or defacement of property, and two counts of trespassing with a motor vehicle.

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**NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**

**Date Set for Annual Town Meeting**

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN** – The selectboard confirmed Wednesday, June 3rd, as the date for the annual town meeting.

As the Wendell selectboard began its April 29th meeting, Janet Swem introduced Brian Morton, who will be her replacement as town accountant, courtesy of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). Morton has just finished his training at the University of Massachusetts, and his job will involve filling the large gap left by Swem's departure.

Selectboard chair Ted Lewis, finishing off his 13th consecutive term on the board, will be leaving some pretty big shoes to fill himself. "I hope you do more than she does," he told Morton. "I had to carry the whole load myself."

Swem kept the town accounts straight through the move from the old schoolhouse office building to the trailer offices, through the tornado, and then the move to the new office building.

Board members reviewed the warrants, and signed bills the town owes. They also reviewed a revision of zoning bylaws the planning board forwarded for their inspection, before they come up at the annual town meeting. Selectboard member Dan Keller questioned the provision for an adult entertainment district. He also said, "There's a lot of words (in the bylaws)."

Citizens may view the proposed bylaw changes in the entryway to the town office building, and comment on them at the planning board hearing on Tuesday, May 12th at 7:30 p.m.

The ZBA and the planning board are both short one member.

Two members of the cemetery commission, Richard Mackey and Alex Lankowsky, brought a complaint about a town employee who they said was abusive to them during the course of their performance of their duties. The selectboard said they would investigate the incident.

During recent rain and snowmelt, water came into the

assessors office, where the ground slopes toward the building. Two excavators are scheduled to give estimates for altering the grade so water drains away from the building and down the hill next to it.

Keller sent an email about the problem to Steve Mason, who designed the town septic system, and learned that Mason had died in the last week.

FRCOG has grouped a number of Franklin County towns and school districts together and contracted with Siemens Technology to perform energy audits and upgrades to town buildings, to be paid for by energy savings over a 10- to 20-year period. The first audit is free, and gives an outline of what can be done to save energy in town buildings. The second audit has a cost, but if the town decides to do the work, Siemens guarantees that over a given amount of time the town will save more than it spends on the improvements.

Board members agreed to accept the first audit.

Wendell and New Salem have begun talks about installing a generator at the Swift River School so that it may be used as an emergency shelter for people in Wendell or New Salem, and both selectboards agreed in principle that the school makes a sensible place for people to go for general immunizations if a pandemic strikes.

Plans now in place call for New Salem residents to travel to Orange for immunization and for residents of Wendell to travel to the Route 63 Roadhouse by their own means, and then to be bused to the Turners Falls High School for shots.

The selectboard took no action because the members felt it might not be a good time to change plans, with news stories circulating about a possible flu pandemic, but they referred the idea of changing sites to the board of health.

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is see **WENDELL** page 16

**BOTTLES** from pg 1

In other news, the meeting agreed to pay two back bills for the Montague police department, one to cover the cost of hiring police details for outside contractors who hired them for road projects in town, and then defaulted in about \$16,000 in reimbursements to the town. An additional payment of \$8,413 was approved to cover the cost of Montague's drug task force deployments, after funding for those joint departmental raids ran dry.

"The task force is going to be kind of slowed down, due to loss of community policing funds," said chief Ray Zukowski.

Town meeting members approved another article backed by Chief Zukowski to institute a graduated series of fines for false alarms to which police respond. He told the meeting the department had received 1150 false alarms in the last four years.

"The schools are the biggest offenders," the chief said, especially after sporting events.

Under the new bylaw, after three false alarms, repeat offenders will be charged \$50 for the

fourth offense, \$75 for the fifth, \$100 for the sixth, and so on, up to \$200 for the eighth infraction.

Sheffield parent Steve Ellis asked the town meeting to consider exempting the schools from paying fines for false alarms, because the town should be encouraging maximum use of school buildings by town residents, and, for example, volunteer coaches, who may inadvertently set off the alarms. But building inspector David Jenson supported the measure as justified compensation paid by the person or institution requiring extra town service.

"One business downtown had 27 false alarms in one week by owner error," said Zukowski.

Town meeting added \$10,000 to the town's legal services budget, partly to pay for the extra costs associated with taking Railroad Salvage building owner Gary Kosuda to court to get him to deal with that derelict property.

Meeting members placed \$300,000 from the assessors overlay account in an education stabilization fund, intended to provide town support for one-time school expenditures. The

remaining money available in the assessors overlay account – \$900,000 – was placed in the town's regular stabilization fund.

Capital improvements committee chair Les Cromack said his committee had made no requests for capital improvements this year, and had received no requests from departments for capital improvements either, due to the town's bleak financial situation. But the list of capital projects awaiting town funding remains a long one, he said.

Town meeting also approved a sale of 174 acres of landlocked land on Dry Hill Road to the Massachusetts Fish and Game Department, for the sum of \$104,000, which will provide seed money for remediation projects for endangered or rare species on land along Millers Falls Road the town hopes to acquire in order to build a second industrial park.

In a departure from past town meetings, the motion to extend the cable access contract for MCTV for five more years passed with no discussion, and only one dissenting vote.



**MAPLE VALLEY** from 1

required written notification of the school's planned closure from Chris Ezzo, executive director of Maple Valley School, in a letter dated May 1st. Consadine said the school presently had about 30 Massachusetts students in attendance, and about a dozen from out of state.

He said the Franklin Perkins School in Lancaster, which serves a similar population of students, was planning to contact Maple Valley to see if they could be of help.

Consadine said, "We will work with [Maple Valley] to make sure there is a transition plan in place for the students who are currently enrolled."

Selectboard member Dan Keller said, as of June 30th, when Maple Valley School ceases being a school and loses its tax exempt status, "Whoever owns that school will have to start paying taxes, so there could be a positive tax benefit to the town."

He added, "There are people who live in Wendell who are employed there. We have sympathy for them, having to find another job in this economy. They've enjoyed working in town."

"Aside from that," Keller added, "it does represent a large piece of property in town that is suited for institutional uses. A lot of possibilities have been discussed, such as senior living. That might be a project we could get the state involved in."

Library director Rosie Heidkamp recalled that a recent change of administration at Maple Valley School has led to a thaw in community relations with the school.

"There was a lot of misunderstanding based on the old administration," she said. The new owners held an informational session at the library last October, to which as many as a dozen administrative staff came to talk to about an equal number of local

residents, answering their questions and concerns.

Heidkamp said the new administration shifted the population of resident boys away from sex offenders to boys with anger management issues. Boys from the school who were transitioning back into the community would come to help Heidkamp with grounds maintenance at the library, and she toured the school's facilities to become more familiar with staff and students.

"There was a sense that after years of being at odds with the school, finally here was an organization that wanted to work with us, and that we could work with. What really impressed me was how much the staff believed in these kids and wanted to work with them, and wanted our community to believe in them as well."

Ezzo did not return repeated calls for comment by press time.



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# Did Town Meeting Voters Approve a New Senior Center?

## Maybe Not....



Stanley Gradowski (center) casts his ballot in favor of a new \$2.3 million Erving Senior Center at Wednesday's annual town meeting. The motion either carried 57 to 35, or fell four votes short of the required two-thirds majority needed to pass. Lawyers will be consulted to determine the outcome, and a revote is likely at a special town meeting in the months to come.

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**ERVING** – Confusion reigned following a 57 to 35 vote in favor of borrowing \$1 million, transferring \$900,000 from free cash, and raising \$445,364 to design and build a new senior center at Erving's annual town meeting on Wednesday.

The vote was taken by paper ballot, following speeches in

favor of the new center from seniors, including Annemarie Gilbert, who said, "What about your mothers and your grandmothers, and you yourself when the time comes? Where is there a warm and welcoming place to go when there's no place else to go?"

The town warrant had not specified a two-thirds vote would

be required, and when the speeches were done town moderator Rich Peabody failed to instruct voters that a two-thirds majority would be needed before telling them to cast their ballots. But as voting was in progress, selectboard chair Andy Tessier mentioned to Peabody that since bonding was involved for \$1 million of the \$2.3 million total cost of the project, it would take a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

This point raised much confusion, as Peabody led the voters through the next two articles, (which also involved wording that did not pass legal muster) about changing the town's zoning bylaws to allow a drive-through restaurant and a gas station to be constructed in the town's aquifer protection zone. Meanwhile, Peabody carried on whispered consultations with town clerk Richard Newton and the selectboard about the legality of the senior center vote, and whether it had passed or failed.

Town counsel Donna MacNicol was not present at the meeting to guide town officials through the legal maze.

Collis Adam, who had spoken in support of the Senior Center, made a motion to declare the vote illegal, since Peabody had not

warned voters that a two-thirds majority would be required to pass the measure. But Peabody said only someone from the prevailing side could move to reconsider a vote, which caused further headscratching, since no one was sure which side had prevailed.

Adam deepened the anxiety in the room by pointing out that no one could be sure which side he had voted on, since the ballots were secret.

A suggestion was made to call MacNicol by cell phone, but her number could not be found.

Peabody said he had never been in such doubt as to how to proceed as moderator.

Since he had to make some declaration on the article, he asked Adam to withdraw his motion, and ruled that the senior center article had passed by a simple majority, leaving it to the lawyers to sort the problem out later, and promising voters would have a chance in the next months to vote on the senior center again if, as expected, the lawyers declared a two-thirds vote would have been required to pass it.

The voters overwhelmingly approved amended articles asking the selectboard and planning board to work together to enact zoning changes called for by citi-

zen petitions circulated by Eric and Ralph Semb, owners of the former Countree Living restaurant. The Sembs plan to build a quick stop convenience store, drive-through restaurant and gas station on that lot, next to the French King Entertainment Center, which is within the town's drinking water protection zone.

Beverly Stone stood up and said, "Do we want it in Zone II of our aquifer? We have excellent drinking water in Erving. We'll be putting at risk the continuance of the quality of our water for future generations."

Stone called for a paper ballot on the motion to amend the original articles, (which were illegally worded and would not have passed muster with the attorney general's office, according to an earlier ruling by MacNicol). But no one seconded her motion, and the amended articles, calling for the selectboard and planning board to bring correctly worded zoning changes back to a town meeting for action in September carried unanimously.

Earlier in the meeting, an article to raise and appropriate \$3,732,031 for general government was approved unanimously, without a single comment.

## GMRSD Passes New Budget

BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

The school committee for the Gill-Montague Regional School District met Wednesday evening and passed a FY'10 budget of \$16,854,053. This budget reflects a slight increase in percentage to 1.37% but no actual changes in operating budget or town assessments over the original 1% budget. The increase reflects a change made by the state legislature to "pass through" funding for charter schools in the district. This funding will come to the district and then go out directly to the charter schools. The town assessments remain as they were in the 1% budget passed earlier in the year, at a total of \$8,572,145.

## Clean Up Day in Turners Falls



Elizabeth Nash

BY DAVID KOTKER – More than thirty people, including Massachusetts Commonwealth Corps members from ACT Volunteer Center in Greenfield, the Martin Luther King Jr.

Center of Springfield, and Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, as well as members of the Turners Falls Community Gardens, the Brick House, and RiverCulture's Woven River project, joined together on Saturday, April 25th to give parts of Turners Falls a thorough spring cleaning. The clean up was coordinated by Alaena VanderMost, a Commonwealth Corps member at ACT, as part of a statewide day of service.

Meeting at Great Falls Discovery Center at 10:00 a.m., volunteers focused on the bike path and grounds of the Center, the community gardens on L Street, the 3-D Sculpture Park on 3rd Street and Canal, and

the Woven River project on the walkway connecting Seventh Street to High Street.

Turners volunteer Elizabeth Nash was found picking up trash at the bottom of the walkway, in a triangle of wooded land where Park Street intersects with 7th Street. She had filled part of a garbage bag with discarded plastic bottles, alcohol containers, and a variety of cast-off household objects.

"It makes me angry," she said, pausing to survey her work. "If people didn't litter, none of us would have to spend a sunny day this way." She expressed hope that a younger generation, educated in recycling and environmental aware-

ness, might change the world for the better.

Over in the community garden on 3rd and L, neighborhood gardeners worked with volunteers from ACT to rebuild compost bins, prune raspberry canes, and bag up litter.

At 4:00 p.m., local heroes the Ghost Quartet and the Orange-based band Thaddeus Hands provided a free concert at the Peskeomskut Park band shell for all the volunteers.

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**MONTAGUE** from pg 1 to Montague's future. Golrick believes the budgetary process should be more transparent, and the taxpayers should know exactly where dollars are being spent. He would like to see a line item budget available for review.

Golrick said he is concerned about the number of proposed overrides the town has faced in recent years. Knowing the two biggest departmental budgets within the town hall are the DPW and police department, he would seek to eliminate unnecessary items from their budgets and find

the best value for dollars spent to avoid additional costs by "doing things right the first time."

Golrick acknowledged the size of the school budget is daunting but believes that a good educational system is paramount to a healthy town.

**Jack Nelson**

Jack Nelson has long been fascinated by Montague and in particular the downtown area of Turners Falls. He has a lifelong passion for historic buildings, which might explain why he feels so at home living in a turn-of-the-century building in a mill town that is busy reviving its economy.

A long-time resident of Franklin County, Nelson spent more than 20 years in Northfield, first teaching art and later opening Carriage House Designs, a business he runs with his wife

Eileen Dowd. They have expanded the business, which fabricates personalized urns, stone nameplates, and pet memorials at their Canal Street workshop in Turners Falls, which seasonally employs primarily Montague residents.

Since his arrival in 2002, Nelson has been very involved in the efforts to revitalize the town through fostering a healthy creative economy. One of the founders of the Turners Falls Arts Walks, Nelson has also served on the RiverCulture steering committee, the Brick House board of directors, and has been a town meeting member since 2005. He is hopeful the town's history and unique geology and geography will continue to grow the promising arts economy into a more well-rounded tourism industry that includes all the town's

unique aspects.

Nelson has a bachelors degree in special education and art along with a masters degree in fine art. He has had many interests and careers in addition to his avocation as an artist - he's served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, taught in public and private schools, raised a family, led group homes, and started a ceramic design and product business.

Recognizing the significant budget gap between the towns and the schools, Nelson pledges to lobby the state for more assistance but hopes to work with the school district administration on inter-district collaborative efforts to reduce costs. It is his belief that collaborative efforts could extend to shared teaching, rather than simply operating expenses such as transportation and energy

costs. This type of approach could expand student education opportunities across many districts and potentially lead to savings for all.

Nelson believes one of his great strengths is to see possibilities where others see obstacles. As an artist, he says he knows the importance of flexibility and creativity when rising to meet financial challenges. He feels he has a knack for communicating with diverse groups of people, and believes that gift will serve the town well in the continuing efforts to establish Montague as a regional tourist destination. He believes a second industrial park would foster growth and improve the town's economic stability. In short, Nelson believes the town can and will rise to the occasion to meet the needs of these challenging times.





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## Newly Elected to the Selectboard Hackett Emphasizes Community Traditions



DETMOLO PHOTO  
*James Hackett*

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**ERVING** - James (Jamie) Hackett, 37 years old, grew up in Erving, and has lived there all his life. He enjoyed the strong sense of security and community the town provided him growing up, and now that he is the newest

member of the selectboard, he wants to work to preserve those same small-town values for the next generation of Erving youngsters.

Hackett, waiting for the votes to be counted in the election on Monday night, where his name was the only one at the top of the ballot for a three-year seat on the selectboard, (he pulled in 151 of the 155 votes cast) reminisced about growing up in a family of four children behind his father's gas station, within view of town hall. A newly hired security guard at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, Hackett worked for the last 13 years at Pliant Corp, the plastic film manufacturer in South Deerfield that recently packed up shop and headed south. He is a

part-time member of the Erving police force, a first responder, and he coaches Erving's children on the recreation department's soccer team. He served eight years in the Army Reserve, Fort Devens.

He said his only goal in serving on the selectboard is to work for, "the things the town can provide for its citizens: security, safety, sports for the kids, and the fantastic education our school provides."

Hackett, who came up through the Erving Elementary School and graduated from Turners Falls High, has a ten-year-old daughter of his own now, with his wife Laurie. His family still lives on High Street, where he moved from his child-

hood home behind his dad's service station, Bill's Sunoco. The station was a stone's throw across Route 2 from the Erving Paper Mill, where his mother worked as an operator and packer.

Hackett said colleagues on the recreation commission and other friends in town urged him to run for the selectboard when Linda Downs-Bembury decided not to seek re-election. But the town should not expect to see big changes in direction under his leadership, Hackett said.

"Up to this point, the town has been very well run. I hope I can continue on with the traditions my predecessors have set forth. I would like to see the town remain deeply rooted in community, like it was when I grew up here."

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Day/Time	Incident Description
<b>Tuesday, 4/28</b>	10:05 a.m. Picked up a loose dog on Maple Avenue. Brought to the pound, Wendell owner contacted to pick up same.
	10:25 a.m. Returned loose dog to Forest Street owner.
	10:30 a.m. Report of past vandalism to town property at Ziilinski Field. Equipment and building damaged.
	12:45 p.m. Report of a dog bite on Forest Street. Verbal warning issued for not registering dogs with the town, dogs vaccinated.
	3:30 p.m. Assisted Erving fire department with brush fire on the railroad tracks near East Main Street.
<b>Wednesday, 4/29</b>	8:30 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for four counts of attempted dissemination of obscene matter to a minor and four counts of enticement of a child under 16.
<b>Thursday, 4/30</b>	1:30 p.m. Report of a barking dog complaint on River Street. Spoke with dog owner who agreed to bring dog inside. Owner received verbal warning for unlicensed dog.
	2:30 p.m. Report of illegal dumping on Old State Road. Mattresses piled up next to the roadway appeared overnight.
	6:20 p.m. 911 hang up call from Warner Street found to be child playing with the phone, otherwise no problem.
<b>Friday, 5/1</b>	3:45 p.m. Report of a subject attempting to sell meat from a white box truck on Old State Road. Checked area, gone upon arrival.
	6:45 p.m. Report of subject riding a dirt bike on Central Street. Citation issued to [redacted] for operating an unregistered and an uninsured motor vehicle, operating a motorcycle without a helmet, and operating to endanger.
<b>Saturday, 5/2</b>	5:00 p.m. Report of illegal dumping of a dishwasher on Ridge Road.
	8:55 p.m. Passing motorist report of a bear crossing the road in the area of North Street.
<b>Sunday, 5/3</b>	1:25 a.m. Report of a loose pig in the Mountain Road area.
<b>Monday, 5/4</b>	10:28 a.m. Barking, loose dog on Mountain Road. Left message for owner to call when at home.
	11:10 a.m. Report of illegal dumping at the end of Ridge Road.
	11:25 a.m. Officer to an Old State Road residence regarding licensing of dogs.
	2:45 p.m. Report of illegal dumping on Paper Mill Road. Large amount of boxes and foam items from purchased goods. Under investigation.

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**Notes from the Mahar Regional School District**

BY KATIE NOLAN

**ORANGE** – After beginning their meeting on May 5th with a 50-minute executive session to discuss personnel negotiations, the Mahar regional school committee discussed the process for hiring future administrators.

The swift hiring of Michael Baldassarre as superintendent at the March 3rd meeting, an action not included on the advanced meeting agenda, had been criticized by several school committee members and officials from Wendell, New Salem and Orange. The committee reaffirmed Baldassarre's appointment at their April meeting.

Richard Baldwin, Wendell's school committee representative, said he had a "concern for larger processes, how the committee makes decisions." He said the committee needed a mechanism "to flag when we need to slow down and reflect" on motions.

Superintendent Reza Namin told the committee, "It depends on the matter, the issue and the time. It's difficult to make a general procedure for all issues."

When informed by Dana Kennan of Petersham that, under Roberts Rules of Order, the committee chair makes the decisions

on how to proceed on motions, Baldwin replied, "The chair making decisions is a vertical process. Reflection doesn't work vertically; it must be horizontal." Kennan responded, "We don't need anything to slow us down," and recommended that members familiarize themselves with the agenda before coming to the meeting, and that all business items be placed on the agenda.

According to Michael LeBlanc of Petersham, the agenda is important for informing the community as well as committee members. Peter Cross of Orange supported the importance of including all issues on the agenda, noting that, "We're having a very thoughtful discussion of this because it's on the agenda."

The motion to address hiring and decision-making processes was unanimously referred to the policy and planning committee for further consideration.

The committee voted unanimously to revise the mission of the Mahar regional planning board, the board investigating expansion of the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District to pre-kindergarten through grade 12. The revised mission would include the towns of Wendell,

New Salem, Orange, Petersham and other towns, such as, but not limited to, Erving.

The Mahar district recently received a grant of approximately \$25,000 from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to investigate regionalization; approximately a quarter of that has been spent.

The finance and facilities subcommittee reported that superintendent Namin, Baldassarre, and subcommittee members will be discussing the FY '10 budget with the Wendell finance committee on May 13th, at 7:45 p.m. in the town office building, open to the public.

The policy and planning subcommittee presented policies on electronic correspondence records retention and a water bottle policy and information on building lockdown procedure, dress code, and the volunteer policy. Discussion of the proposed water bottle policy dominated the subcommittee's presentation.

The policy states that students will be allowed to consume water during the school day as long as it is contained in clear plastic containers, but that their use should not disrupt the learning environ-

ment. Cara Deane of Orange reported that students have asked to have bottles in the classroom in order to have water available during the entire day, instead of just periodically from water fountains. Mahar principal Paul Goodhind said that student athletes felt they could not hydrate sufficiently at water fountains and wanted to bring personal water containers into classes.

High school science coordinator Mike Roche said some teachers had issues with the proposed policy, because the presence of 25 to 30 water bottles in a classroom could be a distraction, and enforcement of the policy could be an additional burden on teachers. Baldwin observed that the New York state government had just proposed a prohibition on plastic water bottles in state buildings, contending the state has spent large amounts of money to provide good tap water.

Deb Habib of Orange stated there is no evidence that bottled water is better than tap water, and that disposable clear plastic water bottles present environmental concerns and possible toxicity concerns. Habib proposed that students should be allowed to use appropriate non-disposable per-

sonal water containers.

Despite Kennan's earlier remark about the committee not needing "anything to slow us down," the proposed water bottle policy was referred back to the policy and planning subcommittee, which will have a public hearing on the matter during its regular meeting, scheduled for May 28th at 5 p.m. in the Mahar library.

Chair Maureen Donelan announced that Baldassarre will be discussing collaboration between Mahar and its feeder elementary schools on special education programs at the office of Orange elementary school superintendent Paul Burnim. According to Donelan, the Swift River, Petersham, and Orange school systems were asked if they were interested in collaborating on special education. She said that Petersham and Orange expressed interest in collaborating; Swift River has not.

The committee proceeded to the search process for a special education director to replace Baldassarre. Donelan said she was seeking input for a list of committee and community members who want to be on the search

see MAHAR pg 13

# Mahar Discusses Future Hiring Practices Bottled Water Policy Also Debated

## Gill Votes to Study Regionalizing with Pioneer Will Keep Riverside Municipal Building

BY ALEX GOTTSCHALK

The Gill town hall was crowded on the night of Monday, May 4th as residents came to deal with the first half of a 30-article warrant for the annual town meeting. Despite sensitive issues like the potential sale of the Riverside Municipal Building and a motion to begin the process of leaving the GMRSD, the meeting ran smoothly and civilly.

The meeting opened with conservation commission chair Anthony Mathews reading a dedication to the recently deceased Ed Pogoda, a lifelong Gill resident and former commission member, who passed away at the

age of 89.

After this it was right down to business. Of particular import were Articles 6, 7, and 8, which concerned the educational future of Gill's K-12 public school students. Commission on Education in Gill co-chair Dorothy Storrow introduced and explained the articles to all in attendance, including acting Gill-Montague superintendent Ken Rocke and his successor, Carl Ladd.

"A lot has changed since 1981, when the GMRSD was originally formed... [there] are some wonderful ideas for innovation, that meet the state's objectives, but also hold onto local control...

However, there is no slam dunk, easy answer," Storrow said. A report on the commission's findings is available on the town website. Article 6, to establish a study committee to recommend possible changes to the Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD), passed unanimously.

Regarding Article 7, suggesting a study as to whether Gill should join the Pioneer Regional School District, Storrow assured the crowd, "This doesn't mean this will necessarily happen, but when you have 30% of a town's children going elsewhere, that is something we should study." This

see VOTES pg 12

## Web Investigation Results In Arrest

**ERVING** – According to a press release from the Erving police, on April 29th, officer Ryan Doherty arrested Timothy Pickard, age 47, of 338 Dalton Avenue, Pittsfield, for four counts of attempted dissemination of obscene matter to a minor and four counts of enticement of a child under 16 years of age.

Officer Doherty, a trained member of the Massachusetts (ICAC) Internet Crimes Against Children unit, began a five-month investigation last December, posing as a thirteen-year-old girl. He was approached by Pickard on a teen website. Pickard then began conversing with Doherty using an instant-

message service. Pickard allegedly exposed himself through the use of a web cam and performed lewd acts directed at officer Doherty posing as a child. Officer Doherty was able to identify him and requested assistance from the ICAC unit and the Massachusetts State Police detective unit.

A search warrant was obtained and a large amount of computer hardware and software was seized during a search of Pickard's residence.

On April 30th, Pickard was arraigned in the Greenfield District court and is being held on \$20,000 cash bail.

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**VOTES** from pg 11 article also carried unanimously. Article 8, calling on the GMRS school committee to set forth terms and conditions for Gill to leave the Gill-Montague

district, was passed over unanimously. "It's too early to ask, we don't know where we are going, and it's difficult and expensive," Storror concluded. Article 9, regarding amend-

ments to the cell tower bylaw, carried, despite concerns from a handful of residents about what Ted Castro-Santos called the "relatively unstudied" effects of electro-magnetic waves. The amend-

ed bylaw will allow modifications, including the addition of more antennae or communication dishes, to previously approved cell towers without a special permit.

Article 11, proposing to change administrative assistant Tracy Rogers' title to "town administrator," was the subject of some discussion. Some felt that it set a dangerous precedent, giving anyone who takes her place more clout than the office was formerly intended to have. Selectboard member Nancy Griswold assuaged these concerns by saying, "This gives Tracy more authority to act on our behalf. If Tracy were to leave, it would go back to administrative assistant." The article carried.

It was Article 13, to designate the Riverside Municipal Building as surplus property and give the selectboard the authority to sell it, that seemed to stir the most emotion. Riverside resident Patricia Conway spoke eloquently about the former public school and grounds, suggesting there were many practical uses for the property and that it was one of the only areas in Riverside where children could gather and play. Conway urged her fellow residents to pitch in and help restore what she called "...a wonderful community resource."

Another resident likened the idea of selling the property to pawning a wedding ring to pay for an electric bill: "...Two weeks later, you have a new electric bill, but you don't have a wedding ring anymore". The article was defeated unanimously, and, for the second time in five years, a committee was established to study the future of the building.

Similar concerns were raised with Article 14, regarding the Boyle property, a 2.5 acre field on Center and Lyons Road, which the town was also considering selling as surplus. Finance committee chair Tupper Brown worried such a move could discourage potential future donations to the town. Echoing what had been said about Article 13, Tony Mathews stated, "[Selling this property] might get us out of a temporary financial crisis, but what about our resources?"

Article 14 was defeated unanimously.

Town meeting will continue on Tuesday, June 16th, at 7 p.m.



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JESSICA HARMON ILLUSTRATION

**BY FRED CICETTI**

**LEONIA, NJ – Q** Are cosmetics safe?

Cosmetics include makeup, hair dyes, perfumes, skin creams, lotions, nail polishes, toothpastes and deodorants. Unlike drugs, which are used to treat or prevent disease, cosmetics do not affect the body's structure or functions.

In 1938, Congress passed the U.S. Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act to protect consumers. Under the law, cosmetics must be made and packaged in clean factories; cannot contain poisonous, rotten or harmful ingredients; may only use color additives that are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; and must have a clear, truthful label.

The FDA does not test cos-

metics before they are sold in stores. The FDA can take action against companies who break the law.

Some products are both cosmetics and drugs. For example, an antidandruff shampoo is a cosmetic because it cleans hair, but it is also a drug because it treats dandruff. These products must meet the standards for both cosmetics and drugs.

Some cosmetic makers use the term "cosmeceutical" to refer to products that have drug-like benefits. The term has no meaning under the law.

You can tell if you're buying a cosmeceutical by checking the container to see if the first ingredient listed is an "active ingredient." The active ingredient is the chemical that makes the product effective, and the manufacturer must have proof that it's safe for its intended use.

Hypoallergenic cosmetics are products that manufacturers claim cause fewer allergic reac-

**THE HEALTHY GEEZER:**

**Never Apply Mascara in a Moving Vehicle**

tions than other products. There are no federal standards for using the term hypoallergenic; it can mean whatever a company wants it to mean. Cosmetic makers do not have to prove their claims to the FDA.

Some products that have "natural" ingredients can cause allergic reactions. If you have an allergy to certain plants or animals, you could have an allergic reaction to cosmetics with those things in them.

Some cosmetics can cause acne. Choose "non-comedogenic" make-up and hair care products. This means they don't close the pores in your skin.

Serious problems from cosmetics are rare.

The most common injury from cosmetics is from scratching the eye with a mascara wand. Never apply mascara while in a moving vehicle.

Sharing make-up is a no-no. Cosmetic brushes and sponges pick up bacteria from the skin.

And if you moisten brushes with saliva, the problem could be worse.

If mascara flakes into your eyes while you sleep, you might wake up with itching, bloodshot eyes, infections, or eye scratches. Remove all make-up before going to bed.

It is dangerous to use aerosol hairspray near heat. Until hairspray is fully dry, it is flammable. Aerosol sprays or powders also can cause lung damage if they are inhaled deeply into the lungs.

Here are some more tips for the use of cosmetics:

- Keep make-up containers clean and closed tight when not in use.
- Wash your hands before you put on make-up.
- Do not add saliva or water to make-up.
- Throw away make-up if the color or smell changes.
- Don't store your make-up above 85 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Stop using a product if you

get a rash, itching, redness, sneezing or wheezing.

• Do not keep mascara too long. Some companies say three months is long enough.

• Do not use eye make-up if you have an eye infection. Throw away eye make-up you were using.

• Do not use cosmetics near your eyes unless they are meant for your eyes. For example, don't use a lip liner as an eyeliner. You may spread germs from your mouth to your eyes.

• Kohl – also known as al-kahl, kajal, or surma – is used in some parts of the world for enhancing eyes. Kohl is unapproved in the United States. Kohl has been linked to lead poisoning in children.

• Don't dye eyelashes and eyebrows. No color additives are approved by FDA for permanent dyeing or tinting of eyelashes and eyebrows. Permanent eyelash and eyebrow tints and dyes have been known to cause serious eye injuries.

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

**DEBATE** from page 9

and Montague schools, if the district expands, and he said Gill and Montague have had a "good marriage," for many years, and should do whatever they can to maintain the relationship.

Patrick Pezzati has two children at Sheffield school – one in first grade and one in third grade – who have had excellent experiences there. He serves on the PTO as treasurer for Hillcrest and Sheffield, and found it difficult to get parents involved in educational aspects of their schools, but easy to get them involved in extra-curricular activities like sports. He thinks a lot of the fiscal problems the district is experiencing is due to school choice, and he said the past infighting and instability about Montague Center School contributed to that loss. As a business owner and entrepreneur, Pezzati said he's survived and thrived through two recessions and knows how to meet a budget, and the importance of fiscal responsibility.

Garry Earles emphasized that the district needs more fiscal

restraint. He expressed frustration that the school committee spends too much money for outside services that could be done in-house, as in the special education program, which he said has recently made a switch he recommended some time ago to in house counseling services. He said the contract for the superintendent at \$128,000 was more than the district could afford. He also objected to the 3% cost of living increases in the new teacher contract. He said he tried to bring budget issues to the school committee and was "shut down" as soon as he brought them up. Earles said the school committee needs new people to bring change and he's running to bring about that change.

Incumbent committee member Kristin Boyle is a mother of two teenagers in Turners Falls High School. Responding to criticism that the school committee hasn't tried hard enough to lobby for additional support from the state, Boyle said they go every year to Boston to lobby for more state aid. Regarding the school

committee's agreed-upon plan to move Hillcrest students into Sheffield, she said the committee had agreed to do it if it were feasible economically, but that such a move would cost \$12 million. She agreed with Pezzati that parents seemed more likely to get involved with their students' extra-curricular activities than in their studies, and questioned how to involve parents more in the educational process.

Jeff Singleton emphasized the importance of creating a sustainable budget that involves bringing the state to sit at the table with the towns and the schools. He wants to see substantial changes in the way the state and district

**MAHAR** from page 11  
bers who want to be on the search committee.

Superintendent Namin and Baldassarre recommended that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus bill) funding of \$107,600 approved for Mahar be used for funding the middle school alternative model. Baldassarre and curriculum coordinator Judith Curley

work together, so the schools gain real fiscal stability. As for the past issues around closing Montague Center School, he said we need to move forward and create a more exciting school at Sheffield. He said we need to work with the governor's Readiness Project and create a Horace Mann or a Pilot School at Sheffield. With regard to the new superintendent, he said Ladd "seems like a very nice man," but pointed out, "We've had four or five very nice superintendents during the time he's served on the Montague finance committee. We need stability."

Linda Kuklewicz emphasized her position that the school committee will be attending Department of Education (DOE) training on acceptable ways to allocate stimulus funds. Baldassarre said the DOE is requiring a very high level of accountability for stimulus spending.

In other business, the committee accepted a bid for copier paper, approved establishment of a revolving fund for funding drivers education at the school,

mittee needed to be more open and responsive to the public. A current member of school committee running as write-in candidate, she said she's tried to bring about that kind of inclusive approach. This goes for the budget process, where she says her sympathies are with the taxpayers. "It's your money and my money." She didn't think we should be making any changes to school configuration now while the district is looking at regionalization with other districts. She also felt there is a problem with the turnover in superintendents, and hoped newly hired Carl Ladd would stick around "for at least five years."

approved a cooperative ice hockey program with Greenfield High School and Smith Vocational School, noted the DOE had approved the school technology plan and coordinated curriculum review, and recognized Hannaford Supermarket for a \$2800 donation to launch a recycling initiative at Mahar.

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# JEP'S PLACE: Part CXXI

## Car Dealer



**BY JOSEPH A. PARZYCH GILL** – Now that Pa was not asking me to turn my money over to him, my pockets were jingling. I found I could pick up extra money buying and selling used cars with my newly acquired riches.

I was 15 when I bought my first car. It was a 1936 Studebaker. "Mac" McDonald, who sold the car to me, said he'd

driven it behind the barn where it was parked. His wife, Elsie, said she'd pushed it there, herself, and his father-in-law said his faithful horse had towed it there.

I dragged the car home with our tractor and tried to get it running.

When all attempts to start it failed, I took off the cylinder head. The valves and seats were burned beyond repair. I figured the entire family had been telling the truth, and that it had taken the three of them, along with the horse, working in concert, to get the car moved to the spot behind the barn.

I sold the car to a junk dealer for about what I had paid.

The next car I bought was a

1931 Chevrolet Cabriolet, a convertible club coupe with leather upholstery and a top that only leaked when it rained. The connecting rod bearings sounded like a flock of woodpeckers on steroids and the car wouldn't go over 50 miles per hour downhill with a tailwind, but I loved that car.

With WWII on, gas was rationed. It was summer, I was still 15, had no license, and the car wasn't registered. Without registration I couldn't get gas ration

stamps. The ration board gave Pa plenty of stamps for his car, the farm tractor, and the saw rig.

"Louis," I'd say, "siphon a couple of gallons of gas from the saw rig and drain a gallon of kerosene from the 55 gallon kerosene drum, and dump it in the Chevy. After supper we'll go for a ride."

Louis followed my instructions. The Chevy ran a bit sluggish on the mixture, but it ran. We draped the top down over the

empty number plate bracket, but the canvas top billowed out behind us, probably attracting more attention to the lack of plates than if we'd stowed the top properly.

Driving that car, hanging onto the steering wheel and pressing on the gas pedal filled me with excitement – my very own car, carrying me wherever I wanted to go. It seemed like a dream.

- Continued Next Week

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### REDESIGN OF MUNICIPAL WEBSITE

#### TOWN OF WENDELL

The Town of Wendell seeks a redesign of its municipal website ([www.wendell-mass.us](http://www.wendell-mass.us)) to more adequately meet the needs of town boards and committees and to serve the public by providing relevant and timely information, while projecting a 21st century image of the town. The town seeks a vendor experienced with municipal website design; experience with the challenges and considerations of servicing the web needs of hilltown communities of Franklin County would be beneficial. A sum of \$4,500 has been allocated toward website design. Proposals must also include estimates of expected yearly maintenance costs, which will be an important factor in proposal consideration.

Deadline for notice of intention to submit a proposal is May 15th, 2009 at 5 pm. Proposals are due by 5 pm May 22nd, 2009.

The full time line and Request for Proposals are available at the Town of Wendell website at [www.wendellmass.us/offnotice.cgi](http://www.wendellmass.us/offnotice.cgi).

Inquiries, notices of intent to submit a proposal, and final proposals may be submitted to the Wendell Website Committee at [websitecommittee@wendellmass.us](mailto:websitecommittee@wendellmass.us). Inquiries may be made by phone at (978) 544-3395.

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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

#### Suspicious Activity

<b>Tuesday, 4/28</b> 8:25 p.m. Assisted Oak Street resident with legal advice regarding unauthorized use of a vehicle. 9:48 p.m. Medical assistance rendered on Boyle Road with Gill EMS.	<b>Friday, 5/1</b> 1:27 p.m. 911 hang up call on Main Road, all checked OK. <b>Saturday, 5/2</b> 7:45 p.m. Suspicious activity on Cove View Lane. 9:36 p.m. Criminal complaint sought against [redacted]	<b>Sunday, 5/3</b> 12:01 a.m. Assisted Main Road resident retrieving property from residence. 12:35 a.m. Welfare check on Main Road. <b>Wednesday, 5/5</b> 1:37 p.m. Report of erratic operation of motor vehicle on French King
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### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

#### TOWN OF WENDELL • PLANNING BOARD

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40, Chapter 40A Section 5, Section 9 and Chapter 41 Section 81Q of M.G.L., the Wendell Planning Board will hold a public hearing on May 12, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Offices at Morse Village Road to consider changes to the Wendell Zoning Bylaws as described below:

- (1) The addition of Article XIV. and change to Article VI. Adult Entertainment Facilities, which defines such facilities and provides details for the issuance and conditioning of special permits for such facilities including application, location, signage and management requirements.
- (2) Amendment to Article XIII. Wireless Communication Facilities, Section I, 14(a) regarding the setback from dwelling units of the construction or installation of a Wireless Communication Tower or Personal Wireless Service Facility and limiting the setback to no less than 650 feet.
- (3) Amendment to Article II. Administration, to include a new section, Section F which provides for the use of outside consulting services for the Planning Board and Special Permit Granting Authorities as provided by M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53G
- (4) Amendment to Article XII. Large Development Review, which renames the Article to "Large Development Site Plan review" and changes the review from a special permit to a site plan review under the Zoning Bylaws, and references such in Article VI.
- (5) Amendment to Article V. Access, Density and Dimensional Regulations, to add a new section, Section D. Hillside and Hilltop Development, which requires that on slopes of at least 20%, the high point of a structure is not taller than the top of the hill.
- (6) Amendments to Article VI. Special Permits, Use Regulation and Site Plan Review and to Article XIII. Wireless Communication Facilities to reassign Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA) assignments. The amendments would remove the Board of Selectmen as an SPGA, assign the secondary dwelling, triplex (conversion, construction or conversion to a duplex where a secondary dwelling is on the lot) and guest cabin special permits to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an SPGA and assign the remaining business, institutional and industrial permits to the Planning Board as an SPGA (including wireless communication facilities).

On or before April 28, 2009, the proposed text of the bylaw changes under consideration will be posted outside the Town Offices for review and are available from the Town Coordinator and the Town Library during their regular business hours.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## FRIDAY, MAY 8th

**Nifty Nature: Buds & Blossoms** with Rachel Roberts, 10 to 11:30 a.m. For ages 4 and older. Free. Pre-register by calling 800-859-2960. Join educator Rachel Roberts at Northfield Mountain for this program exploring the parts and processes of springtime plants.

Friends of GFDC Coffeehouse present **Katie Clark** and friends! Heavenly vocal harmonies with guitar, banjo & dobro, offering original material mixed with old-time country & bluegrass! 7 to 9 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Baked goods available, donations welcome.

2009 Valley Idol Karaoke Contest: Auditions begin 6 p.m. at The Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Who will be this year's Valley Idol? Come and root on your favorites. Competition on May 9th, 16th at 7 p.m. and May 23rd at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$10 (\$12 at the door), Children 10 and under \$5.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Instigators**, classic, modern, funk, dance, rock & roll covers, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **The Equalites**. These Valley legends are back again by popular demand. 9 to 11 p.m.

At the Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **Paleo** and **Ampersand Amps**, 9:30 p.m. \$3.

At The Bookmill, Montague Center: **Thinguma\*jigSaw**, a Norwegian duo playing banjo, musical saw, flute, and melodica. Their music is influenced by British folk, Appalachian murder-ballads, art/cult/horror-films, and the literary musings of Samuel Beckett, Edgar Allan Poe and James Joyce. With special guest Nathan Blehar (*Whistler and Mongrel*) and short animation by Scout, 8 p.m.

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*"Chocolate Country", Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary at the 2007 Seattle International Film Festival showing on Saturday, May 9th at the Garden Cinema, Greenfield at 9 a.m. The documentary "Chocolate Country" tells the story of the Loma Guavanejo cooperative, an alliance formed in the backcountry of the Dominican Republic to secure better profits for farmers while protecting the local rainforest. FREE. Coffee and chocolate served post viewing.*

## FRIDAY to SUNDAY, MAY 8th to 10th

Greenfield Community College presents: **An Evening of One-Acts** in the GCC Sloan Theater. Irreverent and irregular theatrical fare with *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You*, a classic, scathing satire by Christopher Durang and directed by Kimberley Morin. Next *A Day For Surprises*, *The Loveliest Afternoon Of The Year*, and *Something I'll Tell You Tuesday*, three strangely sweet, comic morsels written by John Guare and directed by Jodi Baker. 5/8 and 5/9 at 8 p.m., and 5/10 at 5 p.m. Continues 5/15 to 5/17. \$7 at the door. Mature content.

## SATURDAY, MAY 9th

World Fair Trade Day. Free documentary film *Chocolate Country* at the Greenfield Garden Cinemas, 9 a.m. Producer Joe Blotnick will be present for Q & A about the making of the movie & fair trade. Free Pierce Brother's coffee & chocolate.

Children's Flower Planting Program at the Carnegie Library, Turners Falls, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Participants decorate a planting container and plant a flowering plant to take home in time for Mother's Day. Part of the Crabapple Blossom Festival, May 1 to 17. For more information, 863-3214.

2009 Valley Idol Jr. for Kids and Teens: A Capella Singing Contest, 9:30 a.m. At The Shea Theater, Turners Falls. Come to see contestants compete to become this year's Valley Idol Jr. A \$300 savings bond will be awarded to the winner of each of three age categories: 8 to 10 years, 11 to 14 years, and 15 to 17 years. Tickets: \$5. Continues 5/16 & 5/23.

Car Show at Franklin County Technical School, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (rain date 5/16) Classics, trucks, muscle cars, motorcy-

cles, sport compacts and imports. Trophies, music, food & raffles. Free admission, \$5 registration fee. Info. (413) 863-9561 x 142.

**Early Bird Birding** with Jeff, explore the North Quabbin area for spring migrant birds. Meet at the Athol Bird & Nature Club/Millers River Environmental Center at 7 a.m. Severe weather cancels. Jeff Johnstone, (978) 249-9052

At The Discovery Center, Turners Falls: **Migratory Bird Day!** 11 to 12:30 p.m. Join Great Falls Discovery Center interpreter Sarah Martell for a bird walk and family craft activity celebrating Migratory Bird Day!

At The Bookmill, Montague Center: Rob Skelton's *Pitchfork* featuring poet Mike Mauri, 8 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Heroes**, rock & roll covers, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Nexus**, Harmonic Eclectic Rock, 9 to 11 p.m.

At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **Darby Day**, race on the big screen, then at 9:30 p.m. **Lonesome Brothers**,



*FOUND Magazine's Denim and Diamonds Tour 2009! Celebrating the release of FOUND's brand-new book, Requiem for a Paper Bag, our intrepid FOUND road warriors Davy and Peter Rothbart are climbing back in the tour van for a 55-city cross country odyssey. They stop at The Rendezvous in Turners Falls on Monday, May 11th for two shows. 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.*

\$5 cover.  
**SUNDAY, MAY 10th**  
At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **Slope Poetry**: L. Griffin & C. Schmidt & T. Mathys & Chris Martin! 3 p.m. free. Later the big screen, then from 8 to midnight **TNT Karaoke**.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: **Second Sunday Comedy**. Three comics, lots of laughs, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick**, Acoustic Trio, Warped Americana, 7:30 to 10 p.m.

**MONDAY, MAY 11th**  
At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **Found Magazine's Denim and Diamonds Tour**. Two shows at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. \$5.

**TUESDAY, MAY 12th**  
At The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: **Knit & Craft Night**, free juke box, 7 p.m.

**Accessible Birding** with Joe Superchi on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Open to birders of all abilities. Meet at the Athol Bird & Nature Club/Millers River Environmental Center. 8 to 10 a.m. Wheelchair van access. For info call (978) 248-9491.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13th**  
**Disco Ball!** Super Fun Bowling Club - Noncompetitive bowling club open to all abilities and ages. Get down and boogie oogie over to the bowling alley! 7:30 p.m. French King Entertainment Center, Erving. [www.superfunbowling.com](http://www.superfunbowling.com)

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Knitting & Crafts Night**, 7 to 10 p.m. Any craft/skill level.

**THURSDAY, MAY 14th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: **Black Bear Behavior** with Ben Kilham, 7 to 9 p.m. Join Ben for an exciting illustrated lecture with Q & A. Ben's popular lecture is based on firsthand experience raising cubs and observing black bears.

Deja Brew, Wendell: **Free Range**, Rock out with Betsy, Mark and Bruce to 60's & 70's Oldie Cover Tunes, 8 to 10 p.m.

2nd Annual Life Drawing Exhibit at Artspace, Greenfield. Opening reception for the artists, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Figurative works by 15 area artists who work in their chosen medium to express the essence of the human form. Exhibit on display through June 12th. Participating artists are: Alan Hopkins, Robert Bent, Roberta Perkins and Nancy Uchman of Greenfield; Barbara Milot of Turners Falls; Christopher Gendron of Hadley; Shali Sanders of Athol; Kevin Slattery and Jeanne Sisson of Northfield; Mari Rovang of Warwick; Maya Winfrey of Shelburne Falls; Sarah Jarman of S. Deerfield; Erik Sherman of Colrain, and Laura Garrison of Montague.

**SATURDAY, MAY 16th**  
Greenfield Zen Group: 1/2 day sitting from 1 to 5 p.m. Green River Yoga Studio, Greenfield. Led by Melissa Myozen Blacker Sensei, Zen priest and one of the three guiding teachers of Boundless Way Zen. Instruction in sitting and walking practice, a dharma talk and private interviews. Donations requested but not required. Info and registration, contact Jean Erlbaum (413) 773-9744 or [je88@comcast.net](mailto:je88@comcast.net).

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Showtimes for Friday, May 8th to Thurs., May 14th

- 1. THE GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST** PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 6:30 9 FRI, SAT, SUN 12 3
- 2. X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE** DAILY 6:30 9:00 PG13 in DTS sound FRI, SAT, SUN 12:00 3:00
- 3. STATE OF PLAY** PG13 DAILY 6:30 9:00 FRI, SAT, SUN 12 3:00
- 4. 17 AGAIN** PG13 DAILY 6:45 9:15 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 5. HANNAH MONTANA THE MOVIE** G DAILY 6:45 9:15 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:15 3:15
- 6. THE SOLOIST** PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 7:00 9:30 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30
- 7. STAR TREK** PG13 in DTS sound DAILY 7:00 9:30 FRI, SAT, SUN 12:30 3:30

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Friday, 5/8 9 to 11 p.m.  
Reggae Extraordinaire:  
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Saturday, 5/9, 9 to 11 p.m.  
Harmonic Eclectic Rock: *Nexus*  
Sunday, 5/10 8 to 10 p.m.  
Acoustic Trio: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*  
Thursday, 5/14 8 to 10 p.m.  
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Paleo and Sparse Paisley  
SAT: 5/09 | 9:30PM | \$5  
Lonesome Brothers  
SUN: 5/10  
Slope Poetry: L. Griffin, C. Schmidt, T. Mathys & Chris Martin | 3PM | FREE  
TNT Karaoke w. Ops Ops Beer Specials + Swag | 8PM - 12AM | FREE  
MON: 5/11 | 7PM & 9PM | \$5  
FOUND Magazine: Denim & Diamonds Tour w. Davy & Peter Rothbart  
**FOOD SPECIALS THIS WEEK:**  
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## Local Nature Notes



Large female Snapping Turtle searching for a nest site

BY JEN AUDLEY

**EAST DEERFIELD** – In May, look for:

- The full moon on May 8th, rising at about 8 p.m., and the new moon on May 24th.

- Migrating birds ... and fish! Many birds pass through our area at this time of year on their way to their breeding grounds further north. The best time to see and hear them is early in the morning. Some types of fish migrate, too, and they are easier to see. Starting in the middle of the

month, head to the fish viewing station in Turners Falls, Wednesdays through Sundays.

- Returning birds such as northern orioles, bobolinks, swifts, thrushes, and catbirds, who winter down south but nest here in the summer.

- Insects! They're back. Many insects (even mosquitoes!) are important pollinators of spring-blooming plants, and bats, birds, frogs, and fish all depend on a diet made up mostly of these invertebrates. Many of May's

## A Little Respect for Snapping Turtles

biting and stinging insects are newly hatched, having spent the colder months underground or underwater in egg, larval, or pupal form.

- Snapping turtle females, who leave the water at this one time of year to lay a clutch of eggs on land. If you come across one crossing the road (or the bikepath), treat her with respect!

- A few more frosty nights before it's safe to put tender plants started indoors out into the ground

- The sunset, right now at about 8 p.m., by the end of the month at about 8:20 p.m. Sunrise comes earlier each day – now around 5:30 a.m., by the end of the month at 5:15 a.m. Listen for new bird voices joining the “dawn chorus” throughout the month.

**Learn more:**

*Saturday, May 9th, 9 a.m. to noon*

**Second Saturday Hike**

A brisk walk along the

Canalside bike trail in Turners Falls from Unity Park to East Deerfield. Experience a landscape that contains clues to the fascinating industrial history of the village and still generates hydroelectricity to power local communities. For ages 12 and up. Sponsored by Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center; register at (800) 859-2960.

*Wednesday, May 13th, 7 p.m.*

**Bats of Massachusetts**

Learn about our local bats – what kinds we have, where they migrate to and where they hibernate if they stay. Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol

*Saturday, May 16th, 9 a.m. to noon*

**Backyard Farm & Garden Fair**

Bring plant starts, seeds, early produce, maple syrup, or whatever else of that nature you have

to sell, swap, or display. Plant starts from Brooks Bend, chickens & goats from Alice Armen, and more. Montague Grange, Montague Center. Call Becky at 367-9815 if you need more information.

*Saturday, May 16th, 11 a.m. to noon*

**Anadromous and Migrating Fish Life Histories**

Learn interesting facts about local species of fish that use the Connecticut River and its tributaries! Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls

*Saturday, May 30th; 10 a.m. to noon*

**Of Roots an' Rocks: A Natural History of Cabot Woods and the Rock Dam of Turners Falls**

Join naturalist Dawn Marvin Ward and geologist Steve Winters for a spring walk. Ward will share her expertise on the flora and fauna of Cabot Woods. Winters will explain the geology and history of the Rock Dam, as well as the significance of the mysterious iron-red seeps.

Pre-register by calling 775-1671. Meet at the USGS parking lot at the south end of G Street.

**WENDELL** from page 7 celebrating its 20th anniversary on June 11th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar at the Blue Heron Restaurant, and the selectboard is invited to attend.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency is close to sending Wendell the federal reimbursement for ice storm cleanup. Wendell pays 25% of outside contractor expense, and MEMA holds 10% until the work is complete. The

town is reimbursed for use of its own equipment, but only for the overtime of town employees.

Before Dan Bacigalupo passed away, the selectboard had decided to pay for materials and labor to have the road crew repair the fence around the basketball court. Keller said, “We should verify that Dan got the parts.”

At the next selectboard meeting on May 13th, from 7:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. the finance committee and superintendent Reza

Namin from Mahar Regional High School, will be present to discuss the Mahar budget.

Finance committee members Michale Idoine and Jim Slavas traveled to Malden on Tuesday to discuss the problem of the state's formula for assessing the

town's share of the Mahar Regional High School's operating budget. Presently, Wendell is slated to pay far more per pupil than any other town in the district, including Petersham, the wealthiest of the district towns.

Idoine said on Tuesday that

the DESE was not opposed to the Mahar district using an alternative method of assessment, if the four towns could agree to do so. However, the other member towns have shown little willingness yet to consider that proposition. 

**BARKING** from pg 3

have heard his complaint at the selectboard meeting of March 30th because of what he considers to be a conflict of interest, due to her being a customer of the kennel.

Since he met with the ZBA in April, Diemand said, the ZBA is consulting with their attorney on the matter.

Meanwhile, the selectboard granted Diemand a second hearing, and Griswold said she would recuse herself, though the state ethics commission has not ruled on Diemand's complaint about her possible conflict of interest in the matter.

The board has asked town attorney Donna MacNicol to be present on May 11th. Diemand said a number of other neighbors will attend to support his complaint about excessive noise from barking dogs affecting the peace and quiet of their homes.

In pressing his case, Diemand has cited a section of the Gill bylaws on Dog Control which reads: “No person shall keep any dog which by biting, barking, or in any other manner disturbs the peace and quiet of the neighborhood...”

However, selectboard administrative assistant Tracy Rogers said cooperative building inspector Jim Hawkins, the ZBA's enforcement agent, had indicated this section of the town bylaws applies to private dog owners, not kennels.

Hawkins, called for comment on this point, said, “If you have a permit for a kennel, that's what dogs do.”

On March 30th, Duncan Elliot told the selectboard, “It will never be satisfactory to him unless we close,” the kennel. This week he said merely that people should “be careful not to take [Diemand's] side of the story as fact.”

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