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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS GILL ERVING WENDELL

Year 3  
No. 5

50¢

# The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 11, 2004



## Wheelchair Parade

FRANK ABBONDANZIO PHOTO

BY STEVEN D. BROWN  
TURNERS -

On the drizzly Saturday of October 30th, a group of stalwart individuals gathered at noon in front of the visitors center of the Great Falls Discovery Center to begin a wheelchair parade on Avenue A and several of the intersecting streets of Turners Falls. But this was more than a mere parade. The brainchild of our own Sandy Facto, (Mabel Zobel's alter ego), the event was, in fact, a challenge to the town's selectboard to try to navigate their way around a route

Facto had mapped out, so they could encounter first-hand the obstacles she and other differently able people meet on a daily basis. All three members of the board, Pat Allen, Patricia Pruitt and Allen Ross accepted the challenge.

It was my job to guide Pruitt, who navigated the course in a manual wheelchair. The other two members of the board had the advantage of using battery powered chairs. It was soon apparent that the word "disabled" is an inappropriate term for people who rely

see **WHEELCHAIR** pg. 9

*The Oct. 30th Wheelchair Parade was a challenge to the town's selectboard to try to navigate their way around Turners Falls, encountering first-hand the obstacles differently able people meet on a daily basis. Patricia Pruitt (foreground), Pat Allen, and Allen Ross accepted the challenge.*

## Montague Veterans Remembered



DETMOLD PHOTO

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Today, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, veterans and residents of Montague gathered at the veterans memorial on Avenue A to observe Veterans Day. The holiday was set aside as a national holiday in 1938, to observe the end of the "War to End all Wars" (World War I), which came to an end 20 years earlier at 11:00 a.m. on November the 11th. At that time, the holiday was called Armistice Day, but it has since been renamed, as the litany of warfare has continued unabated through the years. The day offers a chance to reflect on the sacrifice members of the armed forces have made in all wars, including the one raging at the present day.

This morning, at the veterans memorial, members of the Oak Ridge Detachment of the Marine Corps League presented the colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and an opening prayer by Ken Miner. Master

Sergeant Larry Parker, of the 439th Maintenance Group, Westover Air Force Base, gave a speech, and then Cathy Allenby and Linda Wickline read the names of those killed from Massachusetts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Oak Ridge Detachment presented colors for the new flag; which Don MacPhail and his son Ian raised. Finally, Bruce Bezio and Chris Boutwell presented the American Flag and the POW Flag to MacPhail and his son, as Richard Loftin played taps.

Later, at 6:00 p.m. at the Montague Elks, a Purple Heart commemorative program will be held for all purple heart recipients, their families and friends in the town of Montague.

Those so honored will include:

Pvt. Francis E. Beaubien, United States Army World War II

Deceased. Dorothy Beaubien, Coolidge Ave,

Turners Falls will accept.

Pfc. Edward H. Cadran, United States Army World War II

Wounded on July 13th, 1944 & Nov. 27th, 1944

Sgt. James B. Cassidy (Sonny), United States Marine Corp Vietnam

Wounded, Feb. 28th, 1968 & March 4th, 1968 & March 13th, 1969

Pvt. Michael N. Crochier, United States Army Vietnam

Wounded, April 26th, 1968

Sp/4 Albert L. Cummings Jr. United States Army Vietnam

Wounded, April 25th, 1968

Lt. Col. Ernest L. DeFazio U.S.M.C.

2:WWII, 1:Korea Retired in 1969 Deceased, Nov 20th, 1982.

Elec. Mate 2C Ernest D. Gelinis United States see **VETERANS** pg 8.

## Turners Falls ... Mecca for the Arts?

BY DAVID  
DETMOLD

Ask people in Turners Falls whether they think their downtown is attracting visitors, and more than half of them are likely to say, "No." That's one result of a study conducted by UMass regional planning and landscape architecture graduate students, presented on Tuesday, November 9th in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center. The grad students interviewed residents of Turners Falls at polling places on election day last week to gain a local perspective on the potential for arts-related cultural



Meeting in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center residents and officials gathered to talk about the future of the arts in Turners Falls

tourism in the historic downtown dis- see **ARTS** pg. 8

**PET OF THE WEEK****Fall in love with****Autumn**

Autumn is an 8-year-old domestic short hair cat in need of a good home. This woodsie colored tiger was an unwanted stray, abandoned and living outside for a year but Autumn's been rescued as autumn sets in and she won't have to face another winter outdoors. She has honey colored eyes and the funniest sounding meow ever! She is purry and friendly, though she'll have to be an only cat because she doesn't like the company of other felines. To learn more about adopting Autumn, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or email [info@dakinshelter.org](mailto:info@dakinshelter.org).

# Master Gardener Training

BY SANDY BROWN

**GILL** - The Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association is a non-profit tax exempt organization whose aim is to educate the public on horticultural questions. The training course is offered every other winter, in odd-numbered years. The next course, which meets in Holyoke every Thursday for 13 weeks, will begin in January of 2005. There is a tuition fee of \$250, which includes the handbook and weekly handouts.

After completing the training course each intern is asked to complete 60 hours of volunteer time. Master Gardeners initiate or participate in a wide range of volunteer projects such as pH testing at local farmers markets, presentations for civic organizations, schools and clubs, and gardening projects at Grandmother's Garden, Hitchcock Center, Greenfield Public Library, Durfee Conservatory and Wisteriahurst.

If you would like more information, or an application, please call Bridget Heller at 665-6360 or email at [banne53@aol.com](mailto:banne53@aol.com).

## FACES & PLACES



*The Bailey bridge crosses the power canal to the former Griswold Mill*

### Library News

## Erving Library Awarded Prestigious Federal Grant

**ERVING** - The Erving Elementary School library has won a \$7,500 grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

The library will use the funds to assemble ten or more curricular kits to be used in the school's classrooms. Funds from this grant will also be used to assemble a number of mini-kits, which students will be able to take home and share with their families. These mini-kits will be available to the general public during the summer months, when they will be housed at the

Erving Public Library.

School librarian Robin Shtulman said, "We are so excited about this opportunity. I am really looking forward to working with all of our classroom teachers to make sure we have the materials we need to teach our students. This is our chance to be innovative and creative."

Under federal legislation, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, through the Library Services and Technology Act of 1996, provides funds to state libraries, which are distributed via competitive grants to public, academic, school, and other libraries. For more information about the IMLS/LSTA grant process, visit [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov).

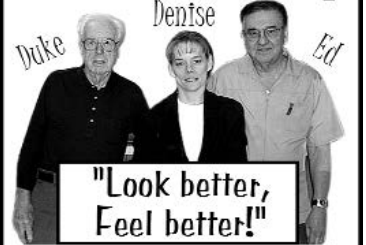
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## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES November 15th - 20th

**MONTAGUE** Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Advanced registration at many of our activities is necessary. We need to know how many people will be joining so we can prepare our space adequately. A suggested donation of \$1 per exercise class is appreciated. Lunch reservations need to be called in by 11:30 a.m. the day before. Call Bunny Caldwell at 863-9357 weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (Leave message on machine at other times.) Transportation to the center can be provided. Trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip. All Hawthorne trips leave from the Parking Lot on First Street across from the Police Station.

**Monday, 15th**  
1:00 p.m. Crafts

**Tuesday, 16th**

10:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
1:00 p.m. Painting Class  
**Wednesday, 17th**  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 18th**  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 19th**  
9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics

Please help support our **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** to be Saturday, November 27th. Non-food donations may be brought in any day between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Food donations may be brought in Friday, November 26th.

**ERVING** Senior Center, 18 Pleasant Street, Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can

be provided for meals, shopping (Thursdays), or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

**Monday, 15th**  
9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library  
12:30 p.m. Pitch  
**Tuesday, 16th**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 Senior Business Meeting  
12:30 p.m. Painting Class  
**Wednesday, 17th**  
10:00 a.m. Line Dancing  
12:00 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 18th**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
11:30 a.m. ERVING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS  
12:00 p.m. Shopping in beautiful downtown Orange  
**Saturday, 20th**  
8:30 a.m. SERVE PICK-UP DATE

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

### Sign up for New Programs Now at the YMCA in Greenfield!

Session II is starting now for youth and adult programs. Swimming, gymnastics, fitness, sports and strength classes for the whole family! Join the YMCA in Greenfield now and start taking advantage of all we offer!



We Build Strong Kids,  
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& Strong Communities

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## The Montague Reporter

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# Stone by Stone: the Magnificent History in New England's Stone Walls

BY BETH BAZLER

**GREENFIELD** - Old stone walls are everywhere, but only in New England do they rise above the level of architectural ornaments to achieve the status of landforms.

Kentucky has its caves, Florida its coral reefs, and New England its stone walls. This Thursday, November 18th, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the G.C.C. Downtown Center, join UConn geology professor Robert Thorson, author of *Stone by Stone: the Magnificent History in New England's Stone Walls* to learn how geologic and



human history that stretch farther than the distance from the earth to the moon.

These walls tell amazing tales of continent building, the advance and retreat of vast ice sheets, and the human story of Colonial farmers creating structures

*2003 Connecticut Book Award winner for nonfiction Robert Thorson will speak about the fascinating history of New England's Stone Walls at the GCC Downtown Center, on Thursday, November 18th; from 7:30 to 9 p.m.*

## ERVING ELEMENTARY PTA CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, Nov. 13  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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**Calling all Generous Folks in Montague!**  
"Toys for Tots" is up and running. Unwrapped new toys can be left at the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank.

**Roast Pork Supper**  
Saturday, November 20th  
Montague Congregational Church - 6:00 p.m.  
Menu includes roast pork, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable, applesauce and dessert.  
Adults \$9.00, children \$4.00  
367-2736 for reservations.

**Reminder from Local Letter Carriers**  
Your local letter carriers would like to remind you to keep the approach to your mailbox cleared of snow and ice. Your mail carrier must be able to pull up to your mailbox, deliver the mail and drive away without backing the vehicle. Letter carriers also ask that you keep the walkways to your door clean and sanded, in case they need to make a delivery to your door.

**Gem & Mineral Show**  
sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Institute  
Greenfield High School  
Saturday, Nov. 13th  
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for ages 13-17, free for children 12 and under accompanied by an adult. For more information, call the Pioneer Valley Institute at (413) 774-1254.

Writers Wanted: 863-8666  
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## Homecare Caregiver Grants Available

November is Caregiver's Month. Caregivers do their best work if they have time to rest and renew. Caregiver Respite Grants are available from Franklin County Home Care so caregivers can do just that. If

taking a painting class or yoga class is what will help, these grants can take you there. If you need care for a loved one while you take a break, these grants can help get you that, too. Caregiver Respite Grants are

designed with each individual caregiver in mind. For more information on the grants, call Franklin County Home Care Corporation at 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259. Or check us out on the web at [www.fchcc.org](http://www.fchcc.org).

### MORE LIBRARY NEWS

## Nature in the Library After School Series

BY LINDA HICKMAN

*Nature in the Library*, an eight-week after school series at the Carnegie Library recently ended. It was a fun program for the participants and the instructor, Dawn Ward. Ward teaches an environmental education after school program in Montague and at Northfield Mountain. She said the eight students who came weekly from Sheffield School were one of the best groups she has ever had. There were "no discipline problems and their creativity was amazing!" She is "sad that it had to end."

Themes included nature's colors and shapes, the forest, wooly bears and earthworms, seed scenes, fiber art, feathered friends, and weeds in winter. Each week she read at least one related book and the children

made crafts from natural objects.

Hands on activities included digging up earthworms in the Carnegie Library garden and pounding the pigment out of tree leaves.

During the feathered friends program, the children went on a walking tour of Peskeomskut Park and then used clothespins as beak substitutes to gather nesting materials.

The series was a very successful collaboration of various agencies and funding sources. The Sheffield after school program publicized the series and registered the students.

Their staff walked the children to the library on the six sunny days. On two rainy afternoons, the school provided a room for the programs. At the end of each session at the

library, a school bus transported the children back to Sheffield and then home. The Sheffield afterschool program is primarily funded by a 21st Century Schools grant administered by the Hampshire Educational Collaborative. Ward's salary and supply costs were partially funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Urban and Community Forestry Program and the USDA Forestry Service.

The series was also supported in part by the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

In these tight economic times, collaborations and partnerships are vital in providing services like these.

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# The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

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## Respect the Ancestors

In 1964, on Canada Hill, a bulldozer opening up a sandbank on the Mackin gravel pit near the French King Highway grazed human remains that were later determined to be those of a young Native American girl. Canada Hill, in Greenfield, is the site of the ancient village of Wissatinnewag. The village, which is listed on both the National and State Registers of Historic Places, has been dated by professional archeologists and anthropologists as having been inhabited for 10,000 to 12,000 years prior to the Turners Falls massacre of 1676. The discovery of the skeleton was major news locally, and was picked up by the Associated Press and transmitted across the country.

In 1999, the State Medical Examiner determined that Native American cremation remains were continuing to be disturbed on Canada Hill, and the state shut down sand and gravel operations there as a result. In addition, forensic anthropologists from the State University of New York at Albany have visited the Wissatinnewag site on Canada Hill, examined the disturbed cremation remains, and agree that the area is a Native American burial ground. We know that Native burials were disturbed by excavations on Canada Hill.

On Tuesday, November 16th, voters in Greenfield will cast ballots in a referendum that will help decide whether to preserve the White Ash Swamp - a site where Native remains are known to have been dumped during the excavating process. Claims have been made that the filled four-acre area within the 10-acre White Ash Swamp, on the west side of the French King Highway, was never swamp but was always solid land. In fact,

prior to 1964 the US Department of Agriculture categorizes the area, with the exception of a 50-foot strip along French King Highway, as "peat," which has an extremely high water table that keeps it saturated most of the time - another way to describe a wetland. The town of Greenfield's 2000 Open Space and Recreation Plan stated this area's Windsor/peat/Scarboro soils give it "severe development and agriculture limitations."

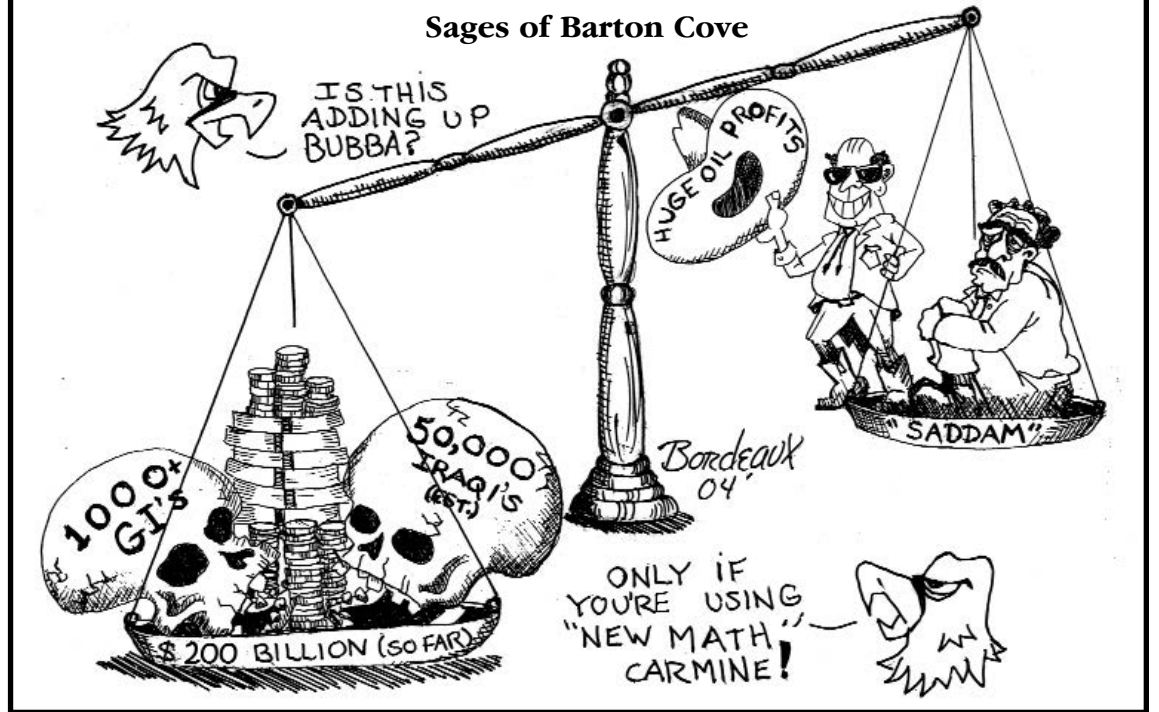
Regarding the discount store controversy, the Greenfield planning department has said the remaining 17 acres owned by Mackin Construction is sufficient room for a discount store and associated parking. It's clear we can protect the 10 acres and still have a discount retailer on French King Highway. The *Springfield Republican* reported on September 17th that if the "Yes on Question One" vote passed, the Greenfield town council could then "vote immediately" to rezone the remaining 35 acres as commercial land, quoting Council President Dan Guinn. We can have the store, and the 10 acres can be protected to ensure the safety of wetlands, to keep the entrance into Greenfield green and inviting, and to avoid any further desecration of the Native American remains that eyewitnesses and historical documents indicate were dumped there in 1964.

It is important for these many reasons to protect the 10 acres, and a "Yes," vote on Question One on November 16th is the step to eliminate the danger that they will be paved over for a parking lot. Despite the harsh words of the naysayers, we can have a win/win situation here in Greenfield.

- Howard Clark  
Friends of Wissatinnewag

## Bubba and Carmine

Sages of Barton Cove



DENIS BORDEAUX ILLUSTRATION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Thank You, Voters

I want to thank the voters of the First Franklin District for reelecting me as their state representative on November 2nd.

It is a responsibility that I take very seriously, and I promise to work hard to honor the trust and confidence you have placed in me.

The upcoming legislative

term will be a busy and challenging one. I will be working to restore local aid, education and human services funding, as well as to protect our environment, and build upon our strong quality of life in western Massachusetts.

I invite my constituents' input into the process and the

work ahead, and I am grateful for your support and the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN KULIK  
State Representative

## If Dogs Could Talk

Just wanted to tell you how glad I am my owners subscribe to *the Montague Reporter*. In case the readers might carry in their heads the picture of dogs as they once were in the good old days, remember how, docile, they brought the newspaper - "home delivery" - right to the feet of their master or mistress, holding it tight between their jaws, wagging their tail and all? I'd say this is a totally *passé* legendary image, as dogs nowadays have better things to do!

I, for one, make sure to read your jewel of a newspaper first thing when it comes. Front page to back page, even in between the lines, before they do. That's the way I've got them trained.

I got so excited by the article you wrote about "The Dogs of Montague!" I, too, know by heart that special place you mentioned. In fact, I could go there blindfolded, knowing the



great walks the conservation area offers for both two legged and four pawed.

Just think. Proposing a photographic record of our strolls by available instamatic cameras to catch us on film. It's the coolest thing to do I ever heard of, since Lassie or Rin Tin Tin. Next thing you know, we'll have contracts with Hollywood! Incredible, too, the way Sally

Prasch thought of it all. This is simply a terrific idea!

So, this is why I take the liberty to express myself, with leaps and somersaults, as best I can, when overjoyed. I am, also, yipping wildly, at the inventive talents on display. Ah, if dogs could talk, they'd vote you the greatest newspaper!

- Brunhilde  
for the dogs of Montague

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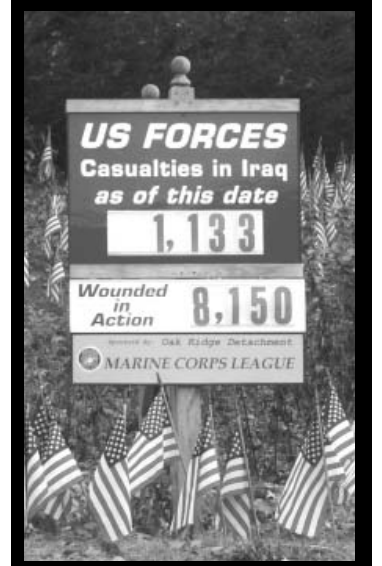
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All members of the community are welcome to use the pages of *the Montague Reporter* to print opinion, news, or commentary on any issue of public or personal concern, subject to the above requirements. *The Montague Reporter* attempts to be a community access newspaper, in every sense of the term. If we fail in that attempt in any way, we are happy to print criticism of our performance.

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## GUEST EDITORIAL



# Living in a Christian Nation

BY PAUL KAUFMAN  
MONTAGUE CENTER

I read today that according to a survey conducted by the University of Chicago in 2002, 52% of America's adult population are Protestants, 26% are Catholics, 3% are Christians of some other stripe, 1.5% are Jewish, 3% are of other religions, and the remaining 15% or so are undeclared or undecided, the swing voters of organized religion. Twenty-two percent of voters in last week's presidential election cited "moral values" as their main reason in choosing a candidate. These numbers were listed by way of explanation in an article about the recent re-election of George W Bush, an article meant to convey the almost sheer inevitability of the election results, an article maintaining

that the dots merely had to be connected.

Christian nation, Christian "values," and a self-declared born-again Christian candidate could only add up to one result.

I feel as though I was born sometime in the wrong century, mine being the next one coming, or some time on the wrong continent, mine being across the ocean, east of here. What am I doing living in a Christian nation? I know it doesn't sound good, this harping on other peoples' religion, and I do not and will not for one moment hold others answerable for holding truths which to me are not self-evident. I realize the Christians have not always had it easy, and any religious movement that has prospered as much as Christianity has no need for my paltry seal of approval anyway.

Most of my friends are Christians, as are my ex-wife and my current girlfriend, and they and I see eye-to-eye on most things, love and community values included. I've been to church a few times. It wasn't so bad, although I didn't seem to find the comfort in the rituals others around me did. I chalked this up to growing up in a Jewish family, the unfamiliarity, being surrounded by iconic symbols I was taught did not belong to me, the repetitive invocation of Christ's name, a man, a God I was taught did not belong to me either.

I have hardly given any thought to these religious differences over the years. Yes, I have been aware of the TV evangelists, the Billy Grahams, the Tammy Fayes, the Jerry Falwells and the Pat Robertsons

who have spellbound, on and off across the decades, significant portions of America's TV viewers, and I have wondered at the gullibility of their audiences, but no more than I wonder at the gullibility of used car buyers.

Now, the pundits are explaining away last week's election results in terms of religion, in terms of our Christian nationhood, and I have to wonder if it is I who has been asleep on the sofa too long with the windows all shut and the blinds pulled tight, or if this supposed analysis is more malarkey passed off as wisdom in today's easy-answer national civics lesson.

I never bargained on living in a Christian nation, at least not one where the majority of the Christians weren't content to celebrate their rituals in church and leave the secular concerns

of government as just that, secular and governmental.

The alternative, living in an activist, right-wing Christian nation, is about as nightmarish to me as any other future I can contemplate, and I can only assume the rest of the non-Christian American minority shares my fears.

### We welcome your letters.

Letters must be 400 words or less and must be signed. Please include your name, address and phone number. Deadline is noon on Tuesday.

## Montague Reporter

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

## Charette Scheduled for Mariamante Land

GILL -

The time has come for us - as a community - to take a careful look at the former Mariamante property and identify a shared vision for what we would like the area to look like in the future. We would therefore like to invite and encourage your participation in a "charette" to be held on Monday, December 13th, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Gill Town Hall.

Charette is a planning term for a public planning process, an open discussion between all of the stakeholders in a project. With the assistance of a nationally recognized planning professional, Dr. John Mullin, we will embark on the development of a community-based plan for the use of this property. Dr. Mullin is the Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Massachusetts and Director of the Center for Economic Development. He is also a Professor of Regional Planning and President of Mullin Associates, a private planning consulting firm. This meeting is designed to gather the community's understanding of the project and the process and to identify attributes and constraints.

We can't do this without you! You - as the local decision makers, residents, employees, business owners, and community leaders - have the insight, experience, ideas, perspective, interest, commitment, and leadership to move this project forward. The success of this effort clearly depends on your involvement and support.

If you care about:

- services and facilities for area residents,
- traffic in and around the Main and West Gill Road intersection, and
- the ultimate use of the Mariamante site, then we invite you to take part in this important process!

The future of the former Mariamante parcel is in your hands. Let's make the area a wonderful part of our community. Come share your ideas and insights. We want to hear from you before the sale, before design work begins.

For more information, visit our website, [www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org), or contact the selectboard's office at (413) 853-9347, or email [administrator@gillmass.org](mailto:administrator@gillmass.org).

- The Gill Selectboard

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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Flexibility on Fiske Pond Restrictions

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

The open space committee met with the Wendell selectboard on November 3rd, and indicated a willingness to be flexible about the details of the conservation restriction and management plan for the town's proposed purchase of Fiske Pond, approved at the September 29th special town meeting. Board members have heard from numerous citizens objecting to the open space committee's recommended restriction on hunting, fishing, and timber harvesting on the 125-acre parcel. Accordingly, the committee took a more relaxed approach to the restrictions in discussions with the board last Wednesday.

After the meeting, committee member Ray DiDonato said, "It is more appropriate to deal with hunting and fishing in the management plan, which can be amended by local boards, rather than in the conservation restriction, which can only be amended in Boston. There are multiple uses for the land. The town should have leeway

for managing the land in a way that will please everyone." But, DiDonato pointed out, "There are also people in town who have questions about hunting, from a public safety standpoint, in a joint use area, and so it should be something the town has a conversation about."

Committee chair Charles Smith said, "I realize if this is going to work as a purchase, people in town are going to have to reach agreement on it. One has to be flexible. If we leave the hunting restriction out of the conservation restriction and put it in the management plan, we can tinker with it locally."

"Not very many people talk about fishing at Fiske Pond," Smith said, although he noted one Wendell resident, Joel Sears, claimed Native rights to fish there. "I haven't even begun to think about that one yet," Smith said.

"My inclination is against

commercial logging," on the property, Smith continued. "If it were done with horses, then you wouldn't have such a hideous mess. One of the main problems with commercial logging is that it involves getting a skidder in and out, which means you have to practically bulldoze the place,

Conservation's Self-Help program to help defray the \$410,000 purchase costs. In a straw poll, the members of the selectboard expressed their continued support for the purchase.

Provided the grant is approved and the purchase moves forward, a public forum

Waste District and Joe Coll to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Selectboard member Dan Keller said Coll also wanted to join the historical commission, and he was so appointed.

The former selectboard clerk, Eliza Groton has resigned but

She reminded the board the agreed upon fee was \$50.

Aldrich had received only one response to ads for property appropriate for the new town offices within one mile of the town center. The one response was from Anne Marie Metzler, who owns a lot near the town common. The town owns two lots on Locke Hill Road, one of which might be traded to Metzler for her property near the center. The Locke Hill Road properties feature old trailers, cars and trash that need removal. Board chair Ted Lewis suggested road boss Dan Bacigalupo might be willing to haul the cars and trailers off those lots.

Town counsel Kopelman and Paige advised that any land transfer should be submitted to the town for a vote, and the board concurred. Keller said the town should pursue a purchase and sale agreement with Metzler. The board asked conservation commission member Charles Smith to walk the Metzler property to check for wetlands and to schedule a perc test with engineer Bob Leet on the Locke Hill Road properties.

Aldrich brought up a letter from the town accountant stating the selectboard must sign bills from every department. Keller asked Aldrich to invite the accountant to the next selectboard meeting to explain.

Lewis asked for approval for the road crew to take Friday December 24th off as their Christmas holiday, as other towns are doing, provided there is no snowstorm on that day.

Board of health member Andy Hamilton has not returned calls to a mediator, hoping to resolve an outstanding dispute, and the board asked Aldrich to draft a letter to Hamilton expressing the board's disappointment.

*David Detmold contributed to this report.*



*Fiske Pond*

like Fallujah. If you could do it without ruining the whole place, then it might be possible."

The current owners of the property, Claudia Scully and Nini Melvin, offered to sell the property to the town at a reduced price on the condition the land is permanently protected and, Smith said, they consider "what might be called the spiritual integrity of the place" to be very important. He noted Fiske Pond ranked high on a recent "Places of the Heart" survey in Wendell. Smith said the special quality of the area is evident to anyone who spends time there. "If you sit there quietly, you experience it as a very peaceful spot."

DiDonato presented the selectboard with a wildlife assessment of the property, as well as a copy of the grant proposal for the purchase. The town is applying for 70% reimbursement from the Division of

on Fiske Pond will be held on January 13th, at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. Smith asked the public for written comments on the conservation restriction and management plan by that date, noting the conservation restriction is a legal document filed with the deed that requires an act of the General Court to change, but the management plan can be adapted locally.

The open space committee nominated Jennifer Caron to join their committee. Caron, who was present at the meeting, has already been working with the committee, and the selectboard approved her appointment unanimously. Marianne Sundell has also expressed interest in joining the committee; her nomination will be acted on at the next meeting of the board, Smith said.

Other new appointees were Don Chappell, representative to the Franklin County Solid

has not yet submitted her letter of resignation; the selectboard is looking for a new clerk. Anyone interested should contact administrative assistant Nancy Aldrich during her office hours, Tuesday and Thursday, at the town offices.

Both the board of health and the planning board submitted papers with their concerns about the proposed Deja Brew pub at the Wendell Country Store, and the selectboard asked administrative assistant Nancy Aldrich to forward that information to store owners Vic and Pat Scutari. The selectboard is still waiting for a response from the police and fire departments to see what concerns they may have about the proposed pub.

Aldrich said she had received a written request from Marianne Sundell for the use of the town hall on December 4th and 5th for a craft and holiday fair, as discussed at a prior meeting.

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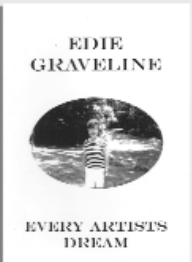


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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Combined Sewer Overflow to Cost Town \$3.5 Million or More

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**MONTAGUE** - On November 8th, acting police chief Gary Billings brought news of an \$8,4000 traffic enforcement grant, and wastewater treatment plant operator Bob Trombley warned the selectboard to expect an engineering report from consultants Camp Dresser McGee on the multi-million dollar combined sewer overflow (CSO) project within the next weeks.

For the uninitiated Trombley explained the basics of the CSO project as an effort to remediate the direct flow of sewage to the Connecticut River in two locations in town during heavy rainstorms. "Heavy rainfall will cause storm runoff from 10% of the curbside grates in town to overflow into the sanitary sewers. If the flow is heavy enough, perhaps 20 times a year, it will overflow a wall called a weir directly into the river." These combined sewer overflow locations include a regulator on 7th and L Street, and the two main problem areas in front of the parking lot of Food City on Avenue A, and at another location near the end of Sherman Drive, across Greenfield Road from the treatment facility. The Department of Environmental

Protection (DEP) is mandating corrective action for CSO's across the state; the least cost alternative for addressing the problem will involve constructing a large sewer line storage chamber at the Avenue A locale to manage the flow, and will include mechanical screening devices and chlorine pre-treatment of the combined overflow at the Greenfield Road plant. "It would be too expensive to treat all the overflow in the plant itself," explained Trombley, so the strategy will be to manage the rate of flow in a holding tank on Avenue A, screening the flow to remove "leaves, sticks, branches, false teeth, kids toys, and everything else that gets flushed down the toilet," and chlorinating the remaining effluent before releasing it to the river. Trombley said this approach will meet DEP approval, but will carry a likely price tag between \$3.5 and \$5 million.

Trombley has projected that the wastewater treatment plant's current debt load will peak in the next fiscal year or two. Once the CSO project gets underway, with construction likely to commence in '06 after final designs are approved next year, any rate relief sewer users might have

anticipated from the retirement of the treatment plant's current debt load will be erased by the added cost of this state mandated project, Trombley predicted.

The selectboard asked Trombley for a few weeks to review the engineering study prior to scheduling a public hearing on the CSO project.

Meanwhile, after three false tries, Trombley said his department had successfully recruited a new truck driver laborer to round out the treatment plant's required staffing. The board confirmed the appointment of John Dluhosz to the position, starting at \$10.44 per hour, to rise to \$12.31 after a probationary period.

Acting police chief Billings told the board he had received an \$8,400 grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety to provide for equipment and overtime hours for the "Click It or Ticket" and "You Drink, You Drive, You Lose," traffic enforcement programs over the holidays. The seatbelt awareness program will begin November 15th and run through the Thanksgiving weekend. The drunk driving awareness campaign will run over the Christmas holidays, Billings said.

He told the board he had to pull officer Mike Sevene from his police academy training course, due to an accident Sevene suffered following his first day of training. Sevene fell down a flight of stairs at his home, suffering a concussion, neck, and back injuries. Billings said 75% of Sevene's enrollment fee was being refunded, and the officer hoped to reapply to complete his training at the academy next spring. Sevene will return to work as soon as his doctor clears him for active duty, Billings said.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said the assessment center for the police chief candidates would be conducted on Saturday, December 4th at the high school, (these exercises will be closed to the public, and may be videotaped for future reference), and will be followed by interviews before the police chief selection committee on December 7th, and the selectboard that same evening. The Civil Service Commission has granted an extension for the town to choose a new police chief until December 31st, though Abbondanzio predicted, "We won't need that much time." The remaining candidates on the list for considera-

tion for the chief's post are sergeant Chris Williams, detective Ray Zukowski, and acting police chief Gary Billings.

In other news, Abbondanzio said the town had reached a settlement in land court with the previous owners of a property on Chestnut Hill Road, settling the outstanding claim, and repaying all back taxes (\$45,000). The property has reverted back to the owners. A house on Madison Avenue, taken for back taxes, will soon be sold at public auction under the auspices of auctioneer Bill Pratt. The brick building at 66 2nd Street, recently awarded to the Northeast Foundation for Children (NEFC) through an urban homesteading program the town is using to move tax title properties back onto the tax rolls, still has "tenants to deal with," before NEFC can take up residence there. Abbondanzio said the town would seek to resolve that impasse in housing court. He also noted Denise DiPaolo had been the sole bidder for a property on Avenue A known as the Power Town Creemee, and the urban homesteading review committee would be meeting to review her bid shortly.

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## VETERANS

continued from pg 1

### Navy World War II

Casualty in service on December 3rd, 1944 Accepted by wife, Aldora Gelinis

Cpl. John E. Golembeski, United States Army Korean War

Wounded on May 23rd, 1952

Sgt. Robert Hallett United States Army Vietnam

Killed in action, Dec. 31st 1967

Seaman First Class Arthur L. LaMountain, World War II

Died at the Japanese POW camp at Puerta, Palawan, Dec. 14th, 1944

Pfc. Edward Letourneau, United States Army World War II

Wounded on April 12th, 1945

Cpl. Martin C. Luippold III, United States Marine Corps World War II

Wounded on June 15th, 1944 Deceased Sept. 7th, 2003

SSG Don A. MacPhail, United States Army Vietnam

Wounded, date unknown

Cpl. Jonathan Rastallis, United States Marine Corps Vietnam

Wounded on March 10th, 1968

Sgt. Richard J. Rose, United States Army Vietnam

Wounded on May 15th, 1968 Accepted by Butch Rose

RM 2nd class Chester Saharceski, United States Navy World War II



Pfc Anthony J Sojka, United States Army World War II

Wounded on Dec 31st, 1944 Deceased.

Tec/Sgt Edward J. Sojka, United States Army World War II

Wounded on June 8th, 1943 Deceased.

Pvt Frederick H. Stanley, World War II Casualty on Sept 13th, 1944

Accepted by Mr. & Mrs Charles and Gertrude Woodard (his sister)

Sgt. Chester Stemple, United State Marine Corp. World War II

Wounded on Feb 23rd, 1945 Deceased.

SP/4 Robert M Tetreault, United States Army Vietnam

Wounded on November 7th, 1969

Cpl. James J. Treml, United States Army World War II

Wounded on July 11th, 1944.

T/Sgt. Stephen R. Tuminski, United States Army World War II

Wounded on Oct. 8th, 1944 Deceased. March 1, 2002

Niece, Mrs. Wanda Attesi, will accept.

Cpl. Joseph W. Warsawski, United States Army Korean War

Wounded on Oct 3rd, 1952

Pfc. Donald E. Wysocki, United States Marine Corps Vietnam

Wounded on May, 1st, 1967

Sgt. Raymond S. Yarmac, United States Army World War II

Wounded on October 22, 1944 Deceased.

Accepted by wife, Mrs. Mary A. Yarmac.

## ARTS

continued from pg 1

trict. A majority of the 117 respondents cited inhibiting factors to tourism in a downtown they view as a "dirty, run-down, unsafe environment," according to James Errickson, a regional planning graduate student taking part in a grant-funded team studying the economic potential of the arts in downtown Turners for the past two months. "Turners has a lot of assets," said Errickson. But, apparently, an excess of community pride is not one of them.

A minority of survey respondents, 32%, did feel the downtown was attracting visitors from a close radius of surrounding towns; only a few thought of the town as a magnet for tourists from further afield. As Errickson flipped through his power point presentation, the crowd of two dozen local artists, residents, town officials, and legislators who had gathered to hear the presentation laughed good-naturedly when they saw the Shady Glen listed as the top draw for visitors to the downtown. "This is not sur-

prising," said Errickson, noting that the popular restaurant was "a local icon with great name recognition," in the area. The Glen was picked as Turners' top draw by more than half the survey respondents. Lagging behind were a cluster of other attractions some consider the future strengths of a downtown that has enjoyed tens of millions of state and federal renovation dollars in recent years, leading to the restoration of entire blocks of handsome 19th century brick architecture in the historic business district. Among these drawing cards are the Shea Theater, the fish ladder, Unity Park, the Farmers Market, and the Great Falls Discovery Center itself.

"It's ironic that we are sitting here," said Montague Economic Development Industrial Corporation chair Jay DiPucchio, "in the at this point still undiscovered Discovery Center." He talked of the 20-year development process leading to this year's opening of the Discovery Center, and decried "the measure of commitment of our Boston partner (the state

Department of Conservation and Recreation) to fully fund this site." DiPucchio called for the state to provide funding to "put two or three interpretive staff here, so the facility can be open over the weekend, over the long holiday weekends, and for school and community group visits during the week. The state isn't living up to its commitment," said DiPucchio, "and we're doing what we can to work with that."

Errickson cited statistics showing the regional growth of jobs in arts-related businesses is stronger than the growth of the job market as a whole, providing 3.5% of the total regional job base, or 245,000 jobs. Among the strengths he pointed to for Turners as a destination point for cultural tourism and the arts were "a well-defined downtown where a lot of folks are actively engaged in the planning process," for redevelopment. He and his colleagues pointed to recent successes of nearby communities like Brattleboro and Shelburne Falls to capitalize on similar strengths, building strong community-business

partnerships to revitalize their downtowns with an emphasis on the arts and cultural tourism. Thirty-five thousand visitors a year come to see the Shelburne Falls Bridge of Flowers, for example.

Chris Janke, a Turners Falls business owner with a hand in numerous arts-related enterprises asked about the secret to those old mill towns' success. "It happened organically," replied Errickson, with local entrepreneurs taking the lead in Building a Better Brattleboro and the Shelburne Falls Business Association. Janke remarked on the "spotty history" of similar business association efforts in Turners, and, looking around the room at the gathered grad students and officials, said, "The whole model here is *inorganic*."

Errickson replied, "We are trying to provide you with tools that will help (such a movement) develop. The anti-Turners Falls self image - 'Why would anybody go downtown?' - is one of the localized hurdles to building an organic structure."

Others spoke of an incoming tide of artists moving to

the area, driving up property values, and transforming the downtown. Turners' resident Steve Ward proposed working with UMass to develop the Strathmore Mill into a natural history museum. He said, "This is a great location, with the Conte Fish Lab, the Discovery Center, Native lands across the river" at Wissatinnewag, and the soon to be constructed bike path. Town planner Robin Sherman said plans taking shape for the reuse of the old Cumberland Farms building at the Discovery Center as a tourist welcome and arts center may also incorporate a component about the Native heritage of the village.

Sherman asked interested residents to get involved in planning for the reuse of that building by contacting her office with ideas or suggestions. And she asked people to think, "How this specific location, at the bend in the river, has shaped the activity of the people who have lived here, from the Nipmucs, Pocumtucks, and Narragansetts, to the artists who are moving here today?"

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# WHEELCHAIR

continued from pg 1

rely on chairs to get around town. Just getting these vehicles to go in a straight line is a major accomplishment in itself. There were several times that Pruitt got stuck in the mud and I had to push her out. Perhaps it was fortuitous that it was a wet day, emphasizing the difficulties our citizens in wheelchairs have to deal with.

As the selectboard maneuvered over bumps, cracks, and steep grades along the way, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio photographed the problem areas.

He had this to say after the hour-long event. "I learned just what the handicapped members of our community experience when they use the sidewalks, and what they have to negotiate, particularly at the curb cuts. It gave us a chance to see exactly what the needs of the handicapped in town are."

At the next board meeting, on November 1st, Allen described the route as, "A pretty intimidating uphill and downhill course over every crack in Turners." Abbondanzio said the town hopes to dedicate a substantial portion of next year's Community Development Block Grant funds to address "all crosswalks in the downtown area, and make sure the curb cuts are pitched to meet current ADA guidelines."

After the wheelchair challenge, Facto said she came up with the idea for the event, "When I fell at the corner of Sixth Street and Avenue A. It was on August 7th, the day after my birthday." As the selectboard learned when they approached that intersection, the crosswalk leading from the Post Office to the other side of Avenue is positioned kitty-corner to the curb cut, making it easy for a wheelchair user to

make the mistake Facto did as she headed straight for the crosswalk and toppled over the curb. Facto said, "I believe the wheelchair challenge helped educate the selectboard to how hard it is for people who are handicapped to get around, and how much the streets and roads and sidewalks need repairing."

Unevenness in sidewalk pavement often makes it necessary for people using wheelchairs to back into the obstacle in order to continue forward. The slightest incline is a major physical challenge for those using a manual chair.

Facto cited Karen Bassett, of Doggie Dips and Clips, as a storeowner who has provided a model of easy access for her customers, with the new wheelchair ramp at her store. She offers this as an example of what other business owners in town should do, adding that there are a number of stores she simply cannot get into because of stairs.

During the winter when the sidewalks tend to be icy, many wheelchair users simply don't go out. "I am trapped at home," said Facto. "Lori Beaudette, who helped coordinate media coverage of the challenge, and Flower Hickey are also trapped. So I would say the majority of people in the position of being movement-challenged are really trapped by winter."



*Allen Ross negotiates a difficult dip in the Sixth Street sidewalk*

Since the awareness parade, the town has responded promptly, temporarily repairing some of the worst problem areas with asphalt flash patch.

"They did a good patch-job," said Facto. "But patching is not sufficient for the long-term. I'm hoping it's just a stopgap for the winter, and in the spring it'll be taken care of. But I am pleased they at least responded."

Sandy Facto would like to conduct future awareness workshops and would especially like to get high school students involved. Is she planning a victory parade when the sidewalk project is finally completed?

"You betchya."

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## NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

# Parking Fees at TFHS Questioned

BY KATE ARSENAULT

On November 9th, detective Doug Brown, school resource officer, shared concerns with the Gill-Montague school committee about parking fees charged to Turners Falls High School students who park on campus. Brown said he believed the annual \$50 fee was originally charged to help regulate the number of vehicles allowed on the limited parking spaces available while the Turners Falls High School/Great Falls Middle School were undergoing renovation. He noted reconstruction of the school grounds and parking lots is complete and ample student parking is now available. Brown said he did not see why the parking fee was still needed. Brown said he has

observed hardships caused by the fee, and wanted to speak up for the students. "I encourage (students) to utilize my presence in their community to question what they don't understand, and to receive support when they have brought logic into the conversation," he said. Brown said he could not see any useful connection between the parking fee and the students' ability to access parking at the school. The committee agreed to discuss the issue further at a joint meeting of the policy and budget subcommittees.

## Call for Public Hearing on VT Yankee Uprate

Montague committee member Tony Guglielmi read aloud a

letter written by Sally Shaw, Gill committee member. The letter expressed deep concern about Entergy Nuclear's request to increase power production at the 32-year-old boiling water reactor to 120% of original design capacity. As Shaw's letter notes, the Gill Elementary School lies within the 10-mile emergency evacuation zone of the reactor; all the district schools lie within 20 miles of the reactor. Shaw noted the fact that current evacuation plans have never been fully tested. The letter asked for a "full, open public hearing" to be held so all parties can confidently assess the pros and cons of a power uprate at the aging plant.

"I am very worried about the reactor. I'm worried about these children," said Guglielmi. The school committee approved the letter, which will be sent to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

## Raising MCAS Scores a Goal at Montague Center School

Bob Mahler, Montague Center School principal, reported that 65%-70% of the school's third grade students taking the MCAS exams in the past two years reached proficiency level. Mahler noted that under the No Child Left Behind Act, schools

across America are required to achieve a 100% MCAS proficiency rate. Updating the committee on his school improvement plan for Montague Center, Mahler said he has set a goal for 80% of students to achieve a proficiency rate in the coming year. Mahler said it is not just a third grade teacher on the line when looking at MCAS scores, and that low MCAS scores can reveal systemic problems beginning in Kindergarten. He said staff are already making changes in the classroom to improve scores.

## TFHS "Turkey Day" Fundraising Activities

Lauren Tela and Ari Urban of the student advisory committee highlighted student fundraising activities under consideration for the Turners Falls High School's Turkey Day celebration. Turkey Day, held on November 24th, marks the traditional Turners Falls High School - Greenfield High School Thanksgiving Day football game. One Turkey Day activity being considered, informally named "Tape a Teacher to a Wall," would have students donate money to various teacher "candidates." The teacher who received the most money would be taped to a school wall. The advisory committee is considering another fundraising event to

be held November 24th, to take the form of a talent show in the style of "American Idol," with students voting for their favorite act by donating money to contestants.

## Workshops

Superintendent Sue Gee reported on two workshops she attended in the last month. In one, participants learned about "90 - 90 - 90" schools. In these schools, 90% of the students receive a free or reduced priced lunch, 90% are minority, and 90% have achieved proficiency on the MCAS, or their own state's school examination. Gee said the strategies schools such as these use to achieve their goals have been distilled so that other teachers can adopt them. Another workshop featured a how-to-pass-a-budget plan in districts that have experienced repeated Proposition 2 1/2 override defeats.

## Powers Resigns, Peters Hired

Sue Gee reported Sara Powers has resigned as the treasurer for the Gill/Montague School District. The committee voted to hire Neal Shea Peters of Greenfield as the new district treasurer. Peters is a graduate of Turners Falls High School. "She has very strong ties to the community," said Powers.

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## Young Stage Production of "Emperor's New Clothes"


BY DEBRA J'ANTHONY

**TURNERS FALLS** - The Shea Theater will stage its first Shea Young Stage Company production with *The Emperor's New Clothes* on November 19th at 8 p.m. and November 20th at 2 p.m. The cast of fourteen includes young actors, ages eleven to sixteen.

The play, a Sharon Cole one-act dramatization of the Hans Christian Anderson story, provides a bright and fresh interpretation suitable for family audiences with young children. Two swindlers weave a jolly trick on Emperor Velvet (played by Colton Amadio-Wood), who is willing to sacrifice his castle, his friends, even his family in order to wear the most luxurious, most expensive new clothes to be found anywhere. The tricky tailors, Snip and Tuck (played by Erika Martenson and Gus Price), pull the wool over everybody's eyes by telling them the cloth they are weaving is so fine that fools can't see it. When the Emperor parades in his underwear, only a naive, homespun child named Patches (played by Fiona Wilson) has the courage to speak the truth, and all the real fools are uncovered at last.

This delightful, timeless tale will bring laughter to the whole family. Tickets are available at the door or by calling the Shea box office at 413-863-2281. All seats are \$5.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

# Erving Sergeant Retires

BY IVAN USSACH

**ERVING** - Police Chief Chris Blair stopped by at the beginning of the November 8th meeting to inform the board that Sergeant James Corbett had abruptly resigned on Thursday, November 4th, effective Saturday, November 6th. Blair had been expecting Corbett's resignation toward the end of the month. Corbett is a lieutenant in the National Guard, and there was speculation as to whether he had been called up for active duty deployment in Iraq. However, Blair said nobody on the force really knows Corbett's military status. Corbett served on the Erving force for five years, the last two full-time. Chief Blair called him a "good officer" and added, "I've never had a reason to say anything bad about him."

To fill the vacancy, Blair suggested increasing part-time officer Corey Greene's hours to 24, making him eligible for health insurance and vacation benefits. After some discussion, the board approved the move. Officer Greene is currently putting himself through the Police Academy in Agawam. "Anytime I've called him to

pick up a shift or help out, he's always been there," Blair noted. "He's solid."

The town's three-member board of health met with the selectboard to discuss running sewer lines to areas in town that presently lack town sewers. "This is more of an exploratory discussion. We want to get projects going now, before there is any change," in the town's ability to finance them, said board of health chair Leo Parent. The board of health put the following questions before the selectboard. What areas are sewered now? What areas of town are likely to see increased, denser building? What areas of town are experiencing septic failures?

The board of health does not see an apparent pattern to the failures, but noted there have been some on Mountain Road and North Street. Selectboard member Bert Dubay agreed that Mountain Road is a candidate for more septic failures, because it has lots of houses. The selectboard agreed to work on compiling an inventory of the town's sewered properties to help address the board of health's questions.

Bryant Stewart came before the board with photographs and drawings for the new "Welcome to Erving" sign he is producing. The sign, which will replace the existing one by the Erving side of the French King Bridge, will show an attractive image of the bridge and Connecticut River. Stewart is using photos to ensure accuracy in detail. There was some discussion of the slogan to accompany the large image, which will be eight feet wide. Stewart hopes to have an unveiling ceremony for the new sign next year on Memorial Day.

The selectboard also held a preliminary interview with a possible candidate for the town accountant position. Town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp mentioned the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is continuing their development of a proposal to offer accounting services to various towns.

**In other business:**

Concerning the complaints over kennel conditions at 15 Prospect Heights Lane, it was noted that Chief Blair had vis-

ited the scene and was impressed with how things were being handled there. The board of health also noted that conditions at the kennel were very clean.

Duseau Trucking has asked the board for guidance about picking up old shingles from a construction project at 29 River Street. The board decided to inform the company not to remove the waste, which is considered "municipal debris."

The board approved two water abatements involving double billing.

Board members received an invitation to attend a Thanksgiving luncheon at the Erving Senior Center. The annual event, which is open to the public, will be held November 18th at the center and will feature a traditional dinner of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, peas and onions, and pumpkin pie. Center director Polly Kiely requested that folks intending to come call (413) 423-3308 in advance.

Board member Linda Downs-Bembury shared highlights from the November 4th meeting of the Route 2 Task Force. The update on Mass

Highway projects is as follows. The Erving Paper Mill project has an expected completion date of August 5th, 2005 (cost: \$7.8 million); bid openings for the Athol project are expected at the end of December, 2004, with work expected to proceed in March of 2005 (\$17.4 million). The Orange section of the project has reached the 5% design stage, and has an expected advertising date of December, 2005 (\$12.3 million). The project on the "status of bridges" in Erving was advertised in September, and the expected advertising date for its design work is spring, 2005 (\$4.2 million).

Downs-Bembury noted that the task force seemed "receptive" to the idea of "taking" the abandoned property at 15 East Prospect Street, which is in tax title; the house was recently boarded up. She also mentioned that task force chair Dennis Rindone said he is considering stepping down from his role as chair, and that the idea was not particularly well-received. Rindone has been chair since the task force's inception some ten years ago.

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## THEATER REVIEW

# Crazy in Love at the Shea

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** - For those who complain the Shea Theater offers little by way of variation from the too tried and not always very true renditions of Broadway musicals, take heart. The Country Players have departed from the well-worn path to offer a daring trio of one-acts grouped together under the theme of love, and not one features a cast member or chorus breaking suddenly into song. Even more daring, not one ends on a conventionally happy note, although the characters do wind up pairing off - for better or worse - as the lights go dim. These short plays are tightly constructed little parables of the possible in the theater of the absurd we call romance, and they provide a welcome antidote to too much saccharine song and dance.

Which is not to say that each of the evening's plays is an overwhelming success. Each struggles against shortcomings, but offers unusual rewards. Taken as a whole they provide the audience a brisk, refreshing romp through the looping pathways of the heart.

The first, a half-hour meditation on the profound hold first love continues to exert, though years and an entire continent of experience have driven young lovers apart, is the furthest from a routine comedy, although all three entrees are billed as such. "First Love," by Murray Schisgal, directed by Amanda Percival, examines a contretemps between a brass-knuckled literary agent with a heart of gelt, Lucy, and her unexpected client, a homeless man named Mike who comes barreling into her office one day pitching his memoirs. She stifles the urge to show him the door because he happens to be her ex-husband.

The problems here are many. How would Lucy, who as the scene opens is shown dealing harshly with competitors and clients alike, suddenly find a soft spot for the man who deserted her without warning 20 years earlier? This, along with her mooching ex-husband's unaccountable lapses and recoveries of memory are meant, perhaps, to establish an ironic tension in the scene. But due to uneven delivery and the basic unbelievability of the entire plot

polished gem called "Date with a Stranger," by Cherie Vogelstein - is first-rate comedy. Telescoping the euphoric highs and vertiginous depths of an entire relationship into a chance 15-minute encounter at a coffee shop, it suffers only from compression. How can the audience be expected to handle that much hysteria in such a brief amount of time?

The play begs the question, "Why exactly do we suffer all the tedium of living with another

Wall Street Journal while the lovebirds at the next table are trilling lines like, "I love words that begin with the letter 'P'. Can you think of any?"

Taking a breath for intermission, the audience is soon plunged back into an even denser thicket of human behavior in the evening's sole original production, "The Importance of Being Wild," authored and directed by Gill's own Jessamyn Smyth. A mannered send-up of an Oscar Wild comedy of man-

bid them all adieu.

Dispensing with prologue, Smyth throws us headlong into a familial soap opera and we barely regain our footing in time to sort out the constantly shifting relationships and make sense of what's unfolding. But, never mind. What's unfolding is quite fun: barbed, literate, and occasionally sincere. And the actors who portray these scenes are individually and together a bold, accomplished crew.

It would be hard to single any out for special praise, they are all so good, but Marcia Schuhle, in high dudgeon as Mrs. True, provides the fixed moral compass around which the entire antic carousel revolves. And Marvin Shedd, as Reverend Richter, eloquent in his silences in the first two scenes, gives real heart to the proceedings in the third. The rest of the cast are thoroughly excellent, with the principals (Laura Patrick as the predatory Andy, Heather Abbott, the vacillating Gwen, and Al Clement as the all too earnest John) sharing the spotlight generously with their supporting cast. Of these, Sue Shedd is unflappable as Mary Ernest, Rowena Rantanen sterling as Lane, the servant who upends class relations with a smile, and Judy Rodriguez shines in a flawless portrayal of Cecelia, the kid sister who won't stand in the shadow of her older sibling for one more second. All these roles are clearly etched and confidently portrayed, a tribute as much to the author/director as the stars.

Smyth has tossed some spicy ingredients in this stew. Perhaps after they simmer for a bit in this fine one-act they will emerge someday more fully formed in a full-length play. We can only hope, for what Smyth has given us here only whets our appetite for more.



*A dinner party sets the scene for Jessamyn Smyth's one-act, "The Importance of Being Wild" at the Shea this weekend.*

- would a homeless man pushing a shopping cart ever make it into the office suite of a high-powered literary agent and why would she tolerate him if he did - the attempt falls flat.

But just as you think the play has little left to offer, the principals stun you with the raw immediacy of their feelings. In a few swift strokes they show you how the back-story of their lives - shuffled, repressed, and now revealed - is indeed a tale worth telling.

While the first play wobbles somewhat between bathos and tragedy, the second - a finely

er person when it's possible to get everything we've ever wanted from a relationship out of the very first date? Jodie Walsh turns in a bravura performance as Paula, or, perhaps, Debbie, a nice, neurotic, Jewish kleptomaniac who can't pass up a chance to indulge her fantasy with Clark (Michael Fleck, acting and directing) an over-analyzed passive-aggressive Goy who falls for her hook, line and sinker before he starts to notice something strange. Kudos to straight man Steve Woodward, making a brown study of the red and blue electoral map in the

ners, the play can't quite fit into one act; too much is at stake for the motley cast of lovers on the make. Smyth divides the action into three scenes - Appetizers, Dinner, and Coffee - though she could have easily added Dessert and Brandy. Still, within the scope of this 45-minute dinner party, more than one troth is plighted, skeleton outed, and high horse hobbled. The problem of so much ado bubbling up in so small a space and time is that we are never quite sure what web winds these eight quite different characters together until it is nearly time to

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THE PEDESTRIAN CRITIC

# My Dinner with Jessamyn

BY PETER MONROE

**TURNERS FALLS** - This article is about Jessamyn Smyth who wrote and directed a play called "The Importance of Being Wild," an homage, she said, to the play called "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde.

The Shady Glen's owner retired last week, and an article in the Greenfield daily talked about that, so we decided to meet there to talk about the play because the article in the paper made me interested to see how the new owners were doing.

That article talked about how the owner (I think his name is John) was there forty years, hired his wife-to-be as a waitress then married her, and also talked about all the loyal customers wishing him well for his retirement because they see him as a friend. I've been to the Shady Glen, but my only interaction with (I think his name is John) was after I paid the check and he forgot to give me my change. I asked for it and he said he already gave it to me, but then I had to remind him he didn't. He didn't believe me (I could tell), but gave me the change (again, he thought). I don't blame him; I look different than the average customer, probably a lot like the old Renaissance Commune people who lived in Turners in the old days.

There's a resident of the Pioneer Valley Manor on Montague City Road I see every time I take the bus from Turners to Greenfield. I mean *every* time. I don't have any schedule, so he must take every bus to Greenfield and back. He was at the Shady Glen a few months ago (he doesn't order food) asking for free water. It was his second time there that day and the owner (the one who got miffed at me for asking for my change, I think his name is John) got mad at the Pioneer Valley Manor guy because of asking for water twice

in one day. It was probably not as bad (or as much of a loss) as, say, having to give me change two times but maybe these two things (me, and the Pioneer Valley Manor guy) made him decide to retire. Also, the fact that I look like one of the Renaissance Commune guys from the old days, which I'm guessing he had a problem with.

I'm supposed to write about Jessamyn Smyth and her play called "The Importance of Being Wild" at the Shea Theatre. I'm not really a critic, but my mother did take me to "A Chorus Line" in 1975 cause she likes dancing. Carroll O'Conner who was Archie Bunker in "All In The Family" was right in front of us in line and my mother got excited because she likes celebrities. Anyway, that's part of my qualifications and background for writing about theatre. The other is when I went to see "Oliver" in 1964. I never saw a Broadway show before and didn't want to go because I wanted to ride my bicycle, not get dressed up like everyone had to do to for stuff like that in the old days. I told my mother I would sit backwards in my seat as a protest and she said not to since we had front row tickets and the actors would be insulted. I ended up going and was amazed when the orchestra (right in front of us since we were in the front row) started playing. I leaned over and told my mother I didn't realize that was where music came from and she got mad and told me to be quiet. I thought music only came from radios or records She was nervous because we had to drive over the 59th Street bridge to get to the theatre, which was one of her phobias that she was taking valium and quaaludes (legal at the time) for and it affected her being normal and usually came out by her yelling at me. I thought she should have been happy that I was amazed about where music came from. My

father got mad at my mother getting mad all the time because he was paying for a fancy psychiatrist who couldn't stop her from being nervous so he (the psychiatrist) blamed my father. So, my father went to the psychiatrist and complained that he was paying him 'good money' and he told the psychiatrist not to go on blaming him like that for my mother's problems. Anyway the marriage didn't last much longer, although we saw a few more Broadway shows before the divorce: a revival of "My Fair Lady" at which my father pointed out when the actors were watching a horse race, how they were all panning their binoculars at the same time, which I thought was interesting (although not as interesting as discovering that music wasn't from a radio or record). Also, we saw a play called "Walking Happy" which wasn't a hit and probably no one's ever heard of but, since I started getting interested in who was a celebrity (inheriting that interest from my mother - remember how she liked how Carrol O'Connor from "All in The Family" was in line for "A Chorus Line?")... What I am trying to say is that "Walking Happy (a play probably no one saw) had a guy in it who I noticed soon after was a guest star on an episode of "Bewitched." I was thinking about writing about the two actors who played Darrin Stevens in that show (Dick York, then Dick Sargeant), but that's probably too much about things other than this play, "The Importance of Being Wild" that is happening at the Shea Theater this weekend, but I will say that Dick York was the better Darrin Stevens.

Oh yeah, Charlie Bohonowicz of the Turners Falls Airport sometimes talks to me about Broadway shows (well, actually only one Broadway show) because he knows I'm from New

York, and also no one else at the airport would have the slightest interest. He tells about how his old boss in the 60s and 70s named Freddie Golden, when he worked in Long Island, took him to "Oh Calcutta" which had nude scenes and his wife didn't care for that, but he liked the play. He also thinks Barbra Streisand is "nutty."

That reminds me of when I went to see the original "Hair" on Broadway in 1969. My father already divorced my mother for being too nervous and blaming him so he married her best friend and we all went to see "Hair." Some ladies from Brooklyn (in those days you could tell who was from Brooklyn) were talking and my mother's former best friend (who was now my father's wife) told them to shut-up even though she wasn't nervous from going over the 59th Street bridge like my mother, but because she was aggravated from being pregnant with my father's baby who she didn't really want but sort of had to have to cement the marriage - this actually worked because when my father tried to leave her a few years later, the financial penalties were prohibitive and he came crawling back.

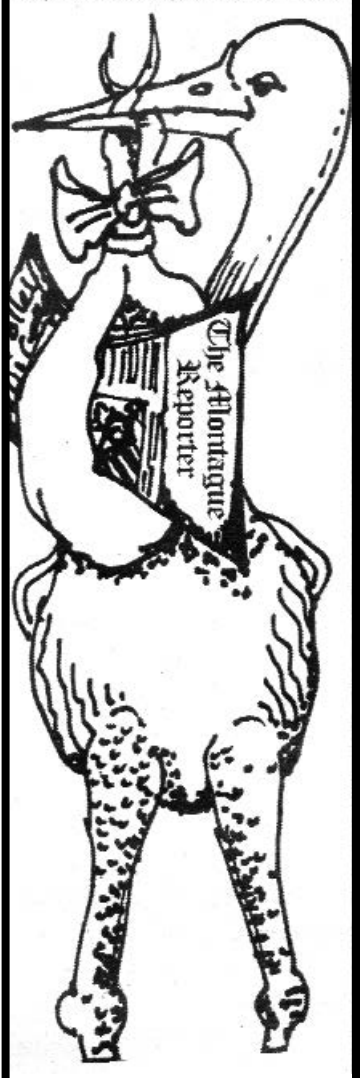
Also, in those days older people like my father and my mother's best friend were into off-Broadway plays because it was hip for older people to be 'into the younger generation'. When my father was entertaining a client from out of town who wanted to see something "wild" (hey, that's sort of the name of the play I'm supposed to be writing about) we went to the East Village for an off-off-Broadway play and when my father's wife (who used to be my mother's best friend) wanted to take a walk before the show, my father joked, "Don't get kidnapped by any of the neighborhood hippies."

"I hope I do," she replied.

(Part II next week)

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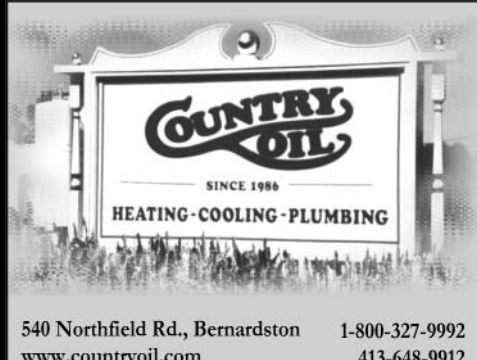
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# All My Villages

BY P. YORK

While some real-life locations and events are used in the following, all characters are the invention of the author and are in no way intended to resemble actual persons living or deceased

Part XXII

## Noises Off

They heard a distinct thump, an abrupt, almost angry sound that brought them each to a halt - Barbara turning back from the thicket, Brigid quickly setting the Mary silhouette down, Sunny straddling the windowsill.

"Now, I been in a bar too long, so what do I know?" stage-whispered Sunny. "Maybe that's the noise an owl makes when he falls out of his tree."

Before anyone could answer, it came again, a hard thump - like someone ramming a door with one shoulder, or dropping a bushel of potatoes on the floor.

"Okay, that's enough for me," moaned Brigid. "I have absolutely no desire to see what that is. I just want to get out of here."

"But no animal makes that noise," protested Barbara. "Aren't you curious? What on earth could it be?"

Sunny lowered himself to the ground and walked to the rear of the cabin. "There's another cabin back here," he called softly. "Down in a gully."

Barbara joined him while Brigid cowered back with Mary.

"So there is. I can just make it out through the trees. Is that where the sound is coming from?"

As if in answer, the sound came again, hard and desperate.

"That does it," said Barbara. "You two stay here if you want,

but I'm going to see what that is."

"I'm not staying here in the dark," said Sunny.

"Me neither, I guess," said Brigid reluctantly. She leaned Mary carefully next to Joseph against the window frame, years of Catholic upbringing giving rise to a little prayer in the back of her throat. Holy Mary, watch over us, I'm scared to death.

They made their way down a steep slope into the gully, mud sucking at their shoes, even as the thump from the dark cabin came again.

"There's some one in there," hissed Barbara. They were all three panting as they came to a halt, several yards from the door of the second cabin.

"We could just go away and tell the police," Brigid hissed back. "I hate this. This is like three dozen Nancy Drew mysteries where she hears a noise in the damn attic and you just want to scream, 'Don't go in there, you fool!'"

Sunny took the light from Barbara and went a few steps

closer to the second cabin, which was somewhat less decrepit than the first, with a front door solidly in place and not boarded over.

"There's a lock on this door," he called softly back to them. "A padlock. A shiny new padlock."

Thump. Thump. Thump. The noises came in quick succession now, but not only thumps. Suddenly they realized they were hearing grunts and moans - muffled, but the voice of something clearly human, and clearly in need. Sunny and Brigid started looking around wildly for something to batter the door with, and Barbara made a circuit of the cabin, pushing and yanking at boarded-up windows and calling, "We're coming! We hear you, we're coming right in!" It seemed to take forever to find a downed limb big enough to use as a battering ram, but finally Sunny did, and the three of them took hold and rushed the door clumsily, only to have the end of the rotten bough crumble as it came into contact.

"Try it again!" said Sunny, "The rest of the limb is in better shape."

This time the door cracked when they rammed it, and they backed up for another turn. It

took two more runs, but finally one door panel splintered enough so Sunny could kick it apart with one big boot. With a foot-wide space to peer through, all three crowded in the doorway and - holding their collective breath - shone the flashlight in.

A confused array of old chairs, a mattress, papers, cracker boxes, water bottles and cigarette butts greeted them, but finally, in the corner, the light caught a glint of desperate eyes and the white slash of a bandage across a pale face. A woman was bound and gagged in a chair in the far corner, in jeans and a sweatshirt, and a motorcycle jacket, dark hair tumbling over her shoulders, her feet slamming a hard, triumphant tattoo on the floorboards.

"Oh my lord above," said agnostic Barbara in astonishment. "It's Tina Frontenac's mother. It's Yvonne."

"No, it's not," said Brigid, the blood rushing to her face and a flood of tears coming from nowhere and everywhere coursing down her cheeks. "It's Siobhan. It's Siobhan Sutnick. It's my sister."

(to be continued...)

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

### Thursday 11-04

7:42 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on two straight warrants.

### Friday 11-05

9:37 a.m. Report of wires down on Poplar Street. Verizon notified.

10:48 a.m. Report of a tent blowing around the neighborhood on K Street.

12:22 p.m. Report of a tree down with wires on W. Mineral Road, Millers Falls. Fire department and WMECO notified.

1:53 p.m. Two-car motor vehicle accident with no injuries reported on Millers Falls Road. Report taken.

3:33 p.m. Tree reported down on Montague Street. DPW notified.

11:39 p.m. Report of a possible fight happening at Jake's Tavern on Avenue A. Upon arrival of officer, both subjects parted ways.

### Saturday 11-06

1:21 a.m. Report of an assault at Second Street Bar. Report taken.

11:04 a.m. Report of stolen lawn ornaments at a James Avenue address. Report taken.

6:07 p.m. One-car motor vehicle accident reported on Greenfield Road. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor (3rd offence), marked lanes violation, and wanton destruction of property over \$250.

7:70 p.m. Report of money stolen by a roommate at a 5th Street address. Report taken.

### Sunday 11-07

12:52 a.m. Report of a possible fight at Yesterday's on 3rd Street. Everyone was dispersed.

4:02 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Park Street address. Found to be verbal only.

8:37 a.m. Report of a restraining order violation at a Turnpike Road address. [redacted] was later found and charged with violating a restraining order.

5:51 p.m. After a investigating a 911 hang-up call, two subjects were arrested. [redacted]

was charged with assault & battery with a dangerous weapon and assault & battery. [redacted] was charged with three counts of domestic assault & battery, threatening to commit a crime, and a default warrant.

### Monday 11-08

9:56 a.m. Report of a wood cabinet stolen from a 41 E. Main Street, Millers Falls address. Report taken.

11:43 a.m. Vandalism reported at Montague Center School. Report taken.

### Tuesday 11-09

7:36 a.m. Report of a restraining order violation at a Turnpike Road address. Subject summonsed.

12:48 p.m. Breaking and entering into a motor vehicle reported at a Carlisle Ave address. Report taken.

6:29 p.m. Report of a windshield smashed on a motor vehicle reported at a Union Ave, Lake Pleasant address. Report taken.

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'86 Chevy Van, needs work/parts, \$300/offer- '98 Lumina LS, 135k, good shape, \$750, needs trans. Call 367-9132 evenings or e-mail stew@library.umass.edu

### Pet Corner

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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# CALENDAR

## FRIDAY, NOV. 12TH

The Country Players present **CRAZY IN LOVE: PG-14** ...an evening of one-act comedies at The Shea Theater, Ave. A, Turners Falls at 8 p.m. Advanced reservations call (413) 863-2281. Tix avail. at Shea Box Office or World Eye Bookstore, Main St. Greenfield. \$10 general, \$8 seniors and students up to Grade 12.

Second Friday Contra Dance with David Kaynor & Greenfield Dance Band at the Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 p.m. to midnight. 413-367-9380

## SATURDAY, NOV. 13TH

The 7th Annual Arts and Crafts Fair, sponsored by the Orange Elementary PTO at Fisher Hill School, Dexter Street, Orange. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Baked Stuffed Chicken Dinner featuring 6 games of Bingo. 5:15 pm at Fr. Casey Hall, St. Anne's Church 6th St., Turners Falls. Adults \$9.00, Children \$4.00. Call 863-2585 for tickets.

## Western Mass High School Cross Country Championships

includes 45 teams from Division I and II. All races are run on a 3.1 mile course with great spectator viewing at Northfield Mountain Recreation Area, Route 63 in Northfield. Start times: 11:00 a.m., 11:40 a.m., 12:20 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Second Saturday Contra Dance with Tophill Music at the Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. 413-773-1671.

## Erving Elementary Craft Fair

Over 30 crafters with over 100 items. Erving Elementary School 28 Northfield Rd. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Fete Noel

Holiday fair at the Montague Center First Congregational Church, beginning 9:00 a.m., featuring homemade candy,

food, crafts, mittens, raffles and gift items. Morning coffee with homemade danish, lunch features corn chowder, sandwiches. Proceeds to benefit local and world wide missions. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

## TUESDAY, NOV. 16TH

*Planning for the Future of the Farm* is the title of a farming program by the Highland Communities Initiative focusing on preparing and planning for the future of the farm beyond one's lifetime. This half-day workshop will also offer plenty of opportunities for farmers to share their experiences. The workshop will take place at the Shelburne Grange Hall and is \$10 per person, which includes lunch. Please register in advance by calling (413) 268-8219 or emailing jchristensen@ttor.org. More information is available at [www.highlandcommunities.org](http://www.highlandcommunities.org).

## THURSDAY, NOV. 18TH

Join author Robert Thorson for **Stone by Stone: The Magnificent History in New England's Stone Walls**

Learn how geologic and human history intersect in 240,000 miles of New England stone walls. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. Pre-registration is required. 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the G.C.C. Downtown Center. See page 3 for more details. For info call 800-859-2960.

## ONGOING THRU DEC. 5TH BRICK HOUSE SEEKS ARTISTS AND CRAFTS-PEOPLE

The Brick House is seeking artists and craftspeople who would like to participate in the First Annual "Firsts and Seconds on Third Street" Under \$25 Arts and Crafts Sale on December 4th and 5th. All sales are on consignment, with The Brick House taking a 30% commission. The sale will go from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sale is targeted to the thrifty local shopper who still wants quality items. Work such as pottery mugs, small photos or simple jewelry is very appropriate. Artists who are interested in

participating in the sale should contact Michael or Karen at The Brick House at 863-9576 to receive an application form.

Art exhibits and sales at **Mudpie Potters Community Clay Center** Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 5th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment during the week. Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts, 13 Montague Road, Leverett. Call (413) 548-9070 or (413) 548-3939 for more information.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 19TH

Third Friday Contra Dance with Tomczak Productions, Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman St., Greenfield. 8:00 p.m. to midnight. 802-387-9380.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 20TH

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse presents a live performance by blues/rock artist **JOHN SHELDON AND FRIENDS** at the historic Wendell Town Hall on the common. Open mic at 7:15, John Sheldon and Friends at 8 p.m. Proceeds to help benefit the Hitchcock Center for the Environment. For more info :[www.wendellfullmoon.org](http://www.wendellfullmoon.org). Call (978) 544-0240 to sign up for open mic.

Third Saturday Contra Dance with Big Bandemonium at Guiding Star Grange Hall, 401 Chapman S., Greenfield. 8:00 to 11:30 p.m. 413-774-2830.

## UPCOMING

### FRIDAY, NOV. 26TH

You may need a... **FULL MOON TURKEY TROT** Walk off some of your turkey feast - hike through gorgeous upland forest and farmlands and reach the top of Crag Mountain. Total hike is over 3 miles. Sponsored by Northfield Mountain Recreation Area. 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. Directions: 800-859-2960.

### SUNDAY, NOV. 28TH

**Tuba Christmas** An outdoor concert held on Bridge Street in Shelburne Falls. Dozens of tubas, sousaphones, and euphonium. 2:30 p.m. 413-863-2850.

### FRI, SAT & SUN, DEC. 3RD, 4TH & 5TH

Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts and Nick Waynelovich are proud to announce the **Ja'Duke Christmas Spectacular** at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue

A, Turners Falls on Friday, December 3rd and Saturday, December 4th at 8 p.m. and Sunday December 5th at 2 p.m. General Admission is \$12.00 - 65/over and 12/under \$10.00. This Christmas Spectacular features The Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts members as well as Ja'Duke Productions vocalists and features a cast of over 140 performers. It is an old fashioned Christmas show with music and dance that will entertain the whole family and the cast includes Santa, Mrs. Claus, Santa's Elves, Snoopy, Elvis, and Frosty the Snowman. Holiday music will be performed featuring songs like Sleigh Ride, White Christmas, Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer, I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus, Oh Holy Night, Blue Christmas, Jingle Bells, The Gloucestershire Wassail, Winter Wonderland, The Christmas Song, Ave Maria, Have Yourself A Merry Christmas and many, many more! Ja'Duke Productions staff includes the internationally award winning tap dancer Kimberly Waynelovich as choreographer, and producer/director Nick Waynelovich. This unique father and daughter team brought you the dynamic and very popular Footloose, Crazy for You, Chicago and 42nd Street. Ja'Duke Productions brings you this classic Christmas Spectacular underwritten by Greenfield Savings Bank. Tickets are available at

World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield or for reservations please call the Shea Theater at 413-863-2281.

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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

# Happycrows are Here Again

ON THE SIDEWALKS OF MONTAGUE CENTER AND TURNERS FALLS



**BY FLORE**

Did you take a day to stroll through both towns before the big event called Hallowe'en? One could have been so easily fooled; everything appeared so quiet. You wondered really if the big day had been completely forgotten. Could it have been erased from the calendar? As the day faded, it was too tempting for me not to do some checking out.

Walking down from the darkened hills, how could one have suspected what the town held up its sleeves?

As soon as I approached the center of the village of

Montague, everyone and everything, behold, became enchanted as if touched by real magic wands! Faerie scenes took you by the hands, leading you to storytellers of all kinds, crowned kings, clowns pirouetting through alleyways. By your side, veiled brides and gaily tripping princesses moved as fast as the clouds. Floating ghosts, chanting their siren haunting songs, held you tight. Goblins of all sizes, carrying prize bags of candies of all sorts, walked proudly through this contagious feast.

Through their sparkling lights, houses revealed their

secretive interiors. Parties took places of honor, wherever one stopped. The lighted windows bobbed above the roaring waves of trick-or-treaters.

Even the balmy night walked right through the open doors. The continuous flow of crowds poured from all the side streets. What a blast!

Costumed children and adults had found, at last, their wished for place in this ephemeral joy. For this unforgettable night was to be placed upon their memories' shelves. That kind of familiar bond one recognizes, when happiness stomps at the heart.



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