



## A Bid!

### GREENFIELD DEVELOPER PROPOSES GREEN APARTMENTS IN FORMER MONTAGUE CENTER SCHOOL Page 7

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 - NO. 8

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 17, 2011

## Williams Tapped for Acting Chief



DETMOLD PHOTO  
Chris Williams

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**MONTAGUE** - After interviewing sergeant Charles Dodge and staff sergeant Chris Williams on Tuesday afternoon, the selectboard had a hard time deciding between the two candidates for the position of acting chief of the Montague police department. Ray Zukowski, who has led the force for the past six years, is retiring on November 26th.

"Either one would make a great chief," said town administrator Frank Abbondanzio after the candidates were interviewed, and the three selectboard members all agreed.

But in the end, the selectboard voted unanimously **see CHIEF page 10**

## Wind Farm Proposal Stirs Opposition



PHOTO SIMULATION COURTESY OF HARRY DODSON, DODSON ASSOCIATES, ASHFIELD

*A photo simulation of the proposed wind farm in Shelburne, as viewed from the Buckland side of Shelburne Falls. Mt. Massaemet Windfarm, Inc. proposes to build eight 470-foot tall wind turbines on the east side of Mt. Massaemet in Shelburne.*

**BY KATIE NOLAN**  
**SHELBURNE** - "A lot of people think wind energy is green and free, but that's a big misconception," said Lamia Holland, a Shelburne resident who opposes the construction of a wind farm on Mount Massaemet. "Everyone is desperate for an alternative to the energy system we have, but wind is not the answer."

Mt. Massaemet Windfarm, Inc. wants to build eight 2.5-megawatt

wind turbines on 120 acres along the east slope of the mountain, according to its application to the Shelburne Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). The application has kicked up a tail wind of local opposition.

Holland, who made her comments outside a jam packed Shelburne planning board meeting on November 9th, where the public was not permitted to speak, said wind farms are a problem because they

use more energy to produce electricity than they actually produce, "a lot like the ethanol scam." She added, "Wind farms wouldn't survive without government subsidies."

Holland maintains that federal and state governments are promoting wind farms as a Green energy source, "but they are not cutting carbon dioxide emissions overall or producing enough energy to reduce the number of coal-fired plants." Holland

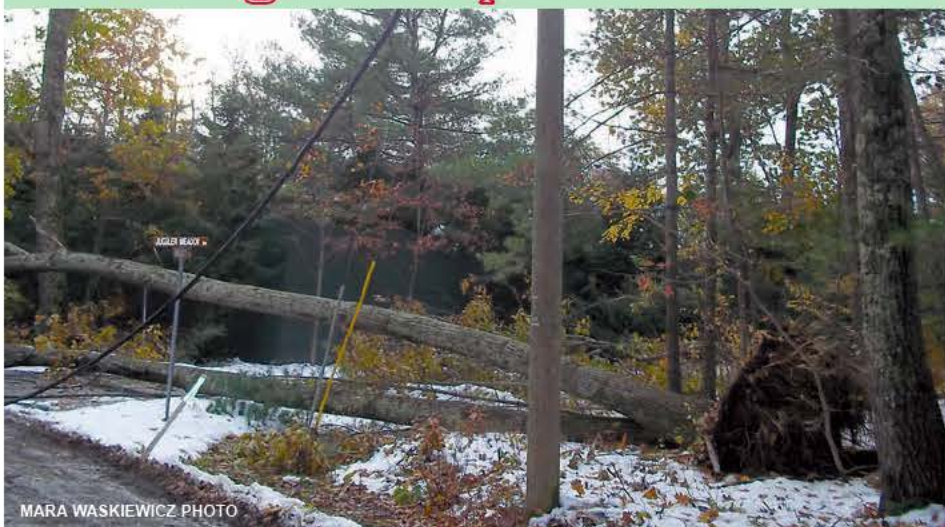
added that wind generators can receive "massive corporate subsidies" through trading in carbon credits.

According to Frederick "Don" Field, who represented Mt. Massaemet Windfarm at the planning board meeting, the proposal does not represent corporate excess but home grown values. The proponent's website: mtmassaemetwindfarminc.com, describes the company as a relatively small venture: "a privately owned clean

energy company whose sole business venture is to own and operate a wind power facility on the ridge line of Mt. Massaemet in Shelburne, MA."

Opponents counter on their website: shelburnewind.info, "The Mt. Massaemet project will receive checks in the mail from borrowed taxpayer money and extra charges from your electric bill. These subsidies alone will likely total most of the cost **see WIND page 11**

## Planning for Unplanned Events



MARA WASKIEWICZ PHOTO

*Downed oak trees and power lines blocked the intersection of Juggler Meadow and Amberst Road following the October 29th storm, which knocked out power to 100% of Leverett.*

**BY TANYA CUSHMAN**  
**LEVERETT** - Emergency planning is a study in worst-case scenarios everyone fervently hopes will never occur. But earlier this month a worst case scenario did occur, when many of our villages, towns, counties, and states were without some basic necessities we have come

to take for granted. Communication, heat, water, hot food - all were in short supply, for days. Planning for emergencies is almost an oxymoron, but the Leverett emergency planning board met Thursday morning, November 10th, to try to plan for them anyway, in the aftermath of an

October 29th storm that left the town with a 100% power outage that lingered through the week. Power and phone lines were down, many roads were impassable, and for the first time in recent memory, the town activated an emergency shelter at the elementary school (fallout **see PLANNING pg 12**

## Parent and Fitzpatrick Team up for Veteran Services



LEE WICKS PHOTO

*Leo Parent (l), director of Veterans Services, and Mark Fitzpatrick, Veterans Services officer share responsibilities for the 23 towns of the Central Franklin County Veterans District.*

**BY LEE WICKS**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - It takes courage to fight in any war, and it takes another kind of courage years later to seek help, as a veteran, for end of life issues, to face a group of people and announce you have a terminal illness, to ask hard

questions about benefits, real estate tax abatements, health care and entrance into the Soldiers Home.

To help with all this and more Leo Parent, the director of Veteran's Services for the Central Franklin County Veterans District, and Mark Fitzpatrick, the

Veteran's Services officer for the 23-town region, hold information sessions throughout the year. Parent and Fitzpatrick each work part time to help veterans and their families through a tangle of paperwork and regulations, both state and **see VETERANS pg 10**

## PET OF THE WEEK

### Kitty of Light



#### Paris

Bonjour! I am an internationally sophisticated eight-year-old female domestic longhair cat by the name of Paris. You may call me Patee if you like. I am beautiful, friendly, affectionate and a true raconteur. I have a gorgeous long gray and black coat with a gray undercoat. What more could you ask for in a companion? I love to sit on shoulders and have been known to hug while being held. Paper bags, bugs, moths and any toy you bring me sends me over the moon. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email: info@dpvhs.org.

#### Holiday Recycling

For Thanksgiving week: trash and recycling in Montague for Thursday will be picked up on Friday and Friday will be picked up on Saturday, November 26th.

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## WENDELL LIBRARY NEWS

### Home for the Holidays Showing Sunday

The Wendell COA Film Series presents a special film at the library for Thanksgiving, *Home for the Holidays* (1995, 103 minutes, PG-13), an ode to family dysfunction, directed by Jodie Foster, featuring a stellar cast including Anne Bancroft, Holly

Hunter, Robert Downey Jr., and Charles Durning among others, on Sunday, November 20th at 7:00 p.m. The showing also includes the short film *Save the Planet* (1979, 18 minutes) by Wendell filmmaker Dan Keller before *Home for the Holidays*.

## CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

### Thanksgiving Crafts on Saturday

BY LINDA HICKMAN  
**TURNERS FALLS** - Don't miss Saturday's children's craft program on November 19th, 10:30 a.m. at the Carnegie Library. Come make table decorations for Thanksgiving out of a wide variety of art materials.

Projects will include harvest centerpieces, creative place settings and napkin rings. This is a great opportunity for adults and children to work together on seasonal projects. All materials will be provided. For more information, call 413-863-3214.

## ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

### Upcoming Programs and C/W MARS Upgrade

Join us for upcoming programs - Story Stars for preschoolers presents Sugar Gliders & Rabbits on Sunday, November 20th, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

All Day Downloads & Donuts on Wednesday, November 30th. Download ebooks, and enjoy refreshments.

Program details for these and upcoming programs are available in *Around Town*, Erving's newsletter, and at the library. Call: 423-3348 for more info.

The software that connects the library to hundreds of other libraries in Central and Western Massachusetts (C/W MARS), will change to an open source system called Evergreen. This transition should occur during the holiday week between

Christmas and the first week of the New Year. The library may be closed during this time for training and software maintenance. We will keep you posted. If you encounter any difficulty accessing materials you need during this changeover, library staff will assist you.

Erving Public Library is located at 17 Moore Street. For more info call: 413-423-3348 or email: [ervinglibrary@net-scape.net](mailto:ervinglibrary@net-scape.net).

The library is now open Sundays, from 1-4 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, from 1-7 p.m., Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The library's newsletter may be viewed online at: [erving-publiclibrary.wordpress.com](http://erving-publiclibrary.wordpress.com).

### Author's Tea and Mother Goose in Greenfield

BY LINDA HICKMAN  
**GREENFIELD** - Celebrate Family Literacy Month with an author's tea on Saturday, November 19th, 10:00 a.m. at the Federal Street School. The event features Marie Betts Bartlett's newly released children's book, *The Little Yellow Trolley Car*. There will be many fun and educational activities including storytelling, puppet making and music.

Linda Hickman, Children's Librarian of the Montague Public Libraries, will perform *Mother Goose on the Loose* with live guitar and banjo music. Refreshments will be served.

Marie Betts Bartlett lives in Montague, and the featured trolley is from Shelburne Falls. The activities are designed for children ages 0 - 8. For more information, call Karen Green at 413-665-1555.

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - November 21st - 25th

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

#### Monday, November 21st

10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
 1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle

#### Tuesday, November 22nd

9:00 a.m. Walking Group  
 10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
 1:00 p.m. Painting Class

#### Wednesday, November 23rd

10:00 a.m. Aerobics

11:00 a.m. Third Wednesday Book Club  
 12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, November 24th**  
 Closed for Thanksgiving  
**Friday, November 25th**  
 10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
 1:00 p.m. Writing Group

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

#### Monday, November 21st

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi



The audience enjoyed Missoula Oblangata's experimental theater performance in a supermarket, November 12th, courtesy of Food City and RiverCulture. Next - a fashion show in a laundromat! See Suzee's facebook page for info.

## Corrections

### Off with your Headline!

In the twinkling of an eye, as if subject to a witch's spell, the last word of the title of our report from professor Teofilo Ruiz's lecture on the persecution of women accused of witchcraft in Renaissance Europe mysteriously vanished on the way to the printer last Thursday. Had this necromancy not been worked on us, we would have offered you the complete headline, thus: *A Brief History of Witch Hunts*.

It is never too late to correct an injustice. Last week in *News and Notes*, we falsely stated that Robert Schuyler, who died on November 5th at age 93, was Leverett's oldest resident. In fact, he was the male *Boston Post*

### Wreath Sale

The Family of Life Commission of Holy Trinity Church will be selling Christmas wreaths on Saturday, November 26th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and on Sunday, November 27th, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. Proceeds from this sale will benefit Holy Trinity Parish.

### Psychic Fair

The National Spiritual Alliance is sponsoring a Psychic Fair on Saturday, November 26th, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Thompson Temple across from the Lake Pleasant post office. More info at the TNSA website, [www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org](http://www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org).

Gold Cane holder, but the oldest resident in town remains the female Gold Cane holder, Elaine Barkin, 98, who was seen at the town's emergency shelter eating a pot roast meal with her neighbors following the Hallowe'en snowstorm. She is as full of good ideas about issues in town, especially as they pertain to seniors, as ever.

In last week's *Notes from the Gill-Montague School Committee*, due to an editing error we incorrectly stated that Joyce Phillips read a statement objecting to her being passed over for appointment on the Regionalization Planning Committee. Rather, Phillips read an email she received from school committee chair Michael Langknecht where he detailed reasons why he did not select her for the committee. She refuted those reasons, and was supported by other school members who had served with Phillips on the Facilities Use Subcommittee.

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## Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** - Walk the trails at Poplar Mountain Conservation Area on Sunday, November 20th, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The town of Erving bought this land in 2007 with help from the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. To reach the hike, take Route 2 to Old State Road. Parking is one mile up from the western intersection of Old State and Route 2 across from a white farmhouse. The trailhead will be marked by a gate with a yellow blaze. Please join in to explore this beautiful forested area and to clean up after the surprise early snowstorm.

On Friday, November 25th, starting at 4:30 p.m. Shelburne Falls will hold the annual **Moonlight Magic** event to kick off the holiday season. The village still has space available for vendors and is seeking street performers and musicians. A typical Moonlight Magic attracts nearly 1,500 visitors to the Falls. Over 1,200 luminaries line the streets and sidewalks to create a festive atmosphere. The event includes "Lighting of the Village," a parade of lights, visits with Santa, carolers, street performers, vendors, classic cartoons, and trolley rides. If you are interested in participating, please contact [info@shelburnefalls.com](mailto:info@shelburnefalls.com) or call 413-625-2526.

Attention all **Parrot Heads**, are you dreaming of island living, balmy weather, and that perfectly lazy day on the beach?

Then swing or dance by the Shea Theater, Avenue A in Turners Falls on November 26th, for some "Changes in Latitudes," one of America's premier tribute shows to singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett.

This nine-piece band has a singular plan and that is to take you to Margaritaville by capturing the look, feel, and sound of a real Buffett concert. So, if you're ready for a latitude adjustment, break out your straw hats, grass skirts, Hawaiian shirts, kick off your shoes if you bother to wear them, and join the beach party. Who could forget the classic song, "**Cheeseburger in Paradise?**" The Parrot Head pre-party begins at 6:00 p.m. but is limited to the first 100 ticket holders. The concert kicks off at 8:00 p.m. and promises to be a festive "Havana Day Dreamer" time. For reservations call the Shea box office at 413-863-2281.

Ann Feitelson, of Montague Center, walking along Migratory Way recently overheard a man ask if anyone had seen the **pink-footed goose**. He had come all the way from Delaware on reports of sightings of this bird, usually only found in Norway. Information on such rare bird sightings is shared on [birdingonthenet.com](http://birdingonthenet.com), she learned.

This information will be of great interest to the new **birding group forming** at the Great Falls Discovery Center; call 413-863-3221 to find out more.

The Gill/Montague Senior Center at 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls is holding the **Annual Christmas Bazaar** on Saturday, November 19th, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. This event is organized by the Friends of the Senior Center. There will be great raffle prizes donated from many local businesses, a silent auction, crafts, a bake sale, gifts and a great quilt to be raffled off as well. Support our Senior Center this holiday, what a wonderful way to give back to the community.

Send local briefs to: [reporter-local@montaguema.net](mailto:reporter-local@montaguema.net).

## MassDEP to Boost Textile Recycling

**BOSTON** - In recognition of America Recycles Day, November 15th, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) announced its support for a new campaign to increase public awareness of textile recycling, which supports local businesses and reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills and waste combustors. The outreach campaign is sponsored by the Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART), a non-profit, trade association whose members reclaim, convert and recycle textiles across the globe.

More than 230,000 tons of usable textiles - including clothing, footwear, towels, bedding and other fabric-based products - were sent to landfills and incinerators in Massachusetts in 2010, according to the results of a recent waste composition study published by MassDEP. Ninety-

five percent of all clothing and household textiles can be recycled or repurposed, according to SMART officials. The Association encourages people to donate or recycle all clothing and household textiles in any condition as long as they are clean and dry at all times through the collection process. The five percent of textile materials that are disposed of as trash are either wet, mildewed or contaminated with oil, paint, or another hazardous material.

The donation of clothing, shoes, linens and bedding supports a thriving industry in Massachusetts and across the country. Charities such as Goodwill, Salvation Army and St. Vincent report that about 15-20 % of the clothing and textiles they receive as donations are sold in their retail stores.

The items they can't sell in the U.S. are sold to textile brokers who sort and grade the material into categories. About 45% is sent to developing countries as wearable clothing, another 30% is sent to companies such as ERC Wiping Products in Lynn, MA where they are converted into industrial wiping cloths, and the remainder are sent to fiber converters like Millbury Textile Recycling (Millbury, MA) where they are broken down

into their basic fiber components to be re-manufactured into insulation, carpet padding or sound-proofing materials.

"We want the public to know all clothing and household textiles such as tablecloths, sheets, shoes, belts, and stuffed animals can be recycled. As long as the items are clean, even if they are stained or damaged, there is a recycling use for the material," says Larry Groipen, SMART president. "Nationally, only 15 % of clothing and textiles are recycled, with the other 85 % going to landfills or waste combustors."

Consumers can locate textile recyclers in their area by visiting SMART's web site at [www.SMARTasn.org](http://www.SMARTasn.org). An interactive tool (widget) on the site allows users to enter their Zip Code to identify the closest organization that accepts clothing and other household textiles for recycling.

## Raffle Hauls in 3K for Meals on Wheels



Anna Viadero photo. Pictured (l to r) are Elizabeth Foster, HR manager at FCHCC, who worked with quilter Irena Pydych on the raffle prize.

**BY ANNA VIADERO** - MONTAGUE CITY - Irena Pydych, of Turners Falls, along with quilters from her sewing classes, created a queen sized quilt that was raffled off to benefit Meals on Wheels at the Franklin County Home Care Annual Meeting on November 9th. The raffle brought in more than \$3,000 for Meals on Wheels. Roberta Landry of Athol won the quilt. Other winners can be found at [www.fchcc.org](http://www.fchcc.org).

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## Caring for Veterans - A Lifetime Commitment -

In events leading up to last Friday's Veterans Day holiday, the Obama administration has been busy reminding employers that recent veterans lag behind the rest of the population in the unemployment line, with 11.5% of returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan now unable to find a job.

Still, as Dr. Sarah Kemble, founder of the Community Health Center of Franklin County told a senior symposium at Greenfield Community College's downtown campus on Wednesday, November 9th, there is at least one category in which America is doing better when it comes to meeting the needs of returning war veterans than it does with the population at large. That category is health care.

"The reality in every other developed country," said Kemble, "is that truly accountable health care is non-profit health care, where all capitation payments are used for patient care, capital funding is kept separate and is based on regional health planning, and the 20% of health care dollars America spends on insurance middle men is eliminated. The rich and the poor are all included in the same plan. Like roads and bridges, health care is considered a basic infrastructure need the government must keep in place, for all to access, and quality data is used for the improvement in the quality of care."

Fortunately, said Kemble, who recently left the Community Health Center, where she worked as a primary care physician, to take a job as the chief

medical officer of the Springfield Medical Care System in Vermont, the United States already has a fine working model of what she called "truly accountable" non-profit care - the Veterans Administration health service.

Kemble cited numerous studies she said proved that the VA hospital system delivers better quality care than the best HMOs. The VA is an integrated system that both provides and pays for care for veterans throughout their lives. Therefore, the VA avoids the perverse 'pay for services' model of private health care, and instead invests in the kind of preventative care for patients that can be a model for cost control in the provision of quality care for the nation as a whole.

The Veterans Administration provides "a national health care program" for veterans, Kemble said, "not social insurance like Medicare and Medicaid." Because the VA both pays for and provides health care for its patients throughout their lives, "Its results are better and its costs are lower" than either private or public health care plans in this country.

As America's formal November 11th salute to veterans fades from the nation's calendar and consciousness, it is important to continue to hold up the model of care provided by the Veterans Administration as an example of how our nation can do better to provide the basic human right of health care for all our citizens.

For the general population, Kemble pointed out, America spends more than \$7000 per



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

person per year on health care - a per capita figure more than double what nations such as Japan, Sweden, France, or Germany spend. Yet America's health outcomes consistently measure below the outcomes in these and other developed nations, where the government provides for public health. For example, one of the leading indicators of the health of general population can be found in the accurate measure of infants who survive their first 12 months of life. Kemble noted that in America, the infant mortality rate - 6.7 per thousand

and rising - compares poorly with the infant mortality rates of Canada (5.1), Australia (4.1), France (3.8), Italy (3.7), Germany (3.5) and Sweden (2.5).

Kemble added, "We don't have equal access to health care" in America, where uninsured children die at a higher rate than insured children do.

She also said, "Poor adults are over four times as likely to have poor health," as adults who live above the poverty line in America. A 2009 study Kemble cited by the *American Journal of Public Health* esti-

mated that, once other factors are accounted for, 45,000 Americans die each year as a result of not having health insurance, and consequently allowing treatable illnesses to go undiagnosed or cared for.

"I've had my patients literally drop dead at work because they could not afford the cost of medical care or to take the time off from work," said Kemble.

For all the ways we fail our returning veterans, they are better off than the rest of the population in at least one respect. The government takes care of their health.

### TO THE EDITOR

## Seniors Rally to Stop Entitlement Cuts

BY AL NORMAN

**BOSTON** - More than 2000 elderly and disabled individuals converged on the Wang Center in Boston on November 9th to stage a mass protest against proposed cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

Sponsored by Mass Senior Action, AARP, Mass Home Care and several dozen elderly rights and labor groups, the rally literally sent a "big message" to one of the members of the congressional super committee tasked with developing specific proposals to cut the federal deficit.

Seniors took a large envelope stuffed with postcards from elders to the Boston office of U.S. Senator John Kerry, the only New England lawmaker on the 12-per-



Seniors and workers say "NO" to entitlement cuts - Boston, November 9th

son deficit reduction committee. The November 9th turnout was described as historic, coming roughly two weeks before the super committee is scheduled to submit its findings to the full Congress. The rally began at the Wang Theatre, and was followed by a "rolling march" and caravan

through Downtown Crossing towards the offices of Senator Kerry and Senator Scott Brown near City Hall Plaza in Boston.

Max Richtman, head of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare told the crowd, "The threat to programs which touch the lives of virtually every American family, has never been as serious as it is right now. In Washington these days, cutting benefits to middle-class and poor Americans is seen by too many as a sign of courage - rather than what it truly is - misplaced priorities which continue to ask average Americans to pay for fiscal policies which for more than a decade have benefit-

### U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 11/15/11



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# Fresh Challenges for the Atlantic Salmon Program

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS, The SOUTH END** - "We are working at reassessing every program in the region. That includes all the salmon programs in New England," Bill Archambault, deputy director of fisheries for the US Fish and Wildlife's northeast region told the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC) on Thursday, November 10th, at their meeting at the Silvio Conte Anadromous Fish Lab in Turners Falls.

Greenfield environmental journalist Karl Meyer, who has been the CRASC's most persistent critic of late, has estimated that the federal government spends at least \$10 million a year to restore an extinct species of cold water salmon to the river that historically provided the southernmost reach to its spawning habitat - in the 1400s to 1800s, when mean global temperatures were colder than now.

The results?

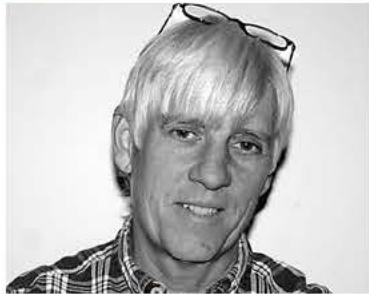
Eighty-six miles from the sea, on the 410-mile long Connecticut River, in 2005, 132 salmon were counted returning to the Holyoke dam. In 2006, that number dropped to 115. In 2007, 107 salmon made it back to Holyoke; in 2008, 86; in 2009, 60; in 2010 that number dropped to 52.

But there was some satisfaction in the ranks of the CRASC representatives from Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut who gathered in

Turners last week when CRASC's executive assistant, Ken Sprankle noted that the number of returning salmon in the Connecticut was up this spring, as was the number of salmon returning to spawn in rivers throughout New England generally.

At the Holyoke dam, 107 salmon were counted returning to spawn this year.

Sprankle insists that Meyer's \$10 million figure for annual federal expenditures on the Atlantic Salmon restoration program in the Connecticut River is wildly exaggerated. He gives a \$1.5 million figure for the program, instead. Since the funding for the program is spread out through four states and several federal



Karl Meyer

agencies, it is a difficult number to verify independently.

But however big that funding stream may be, the CRASC commissioners sounded worried that the federal government may soon be cutting it off at the source, once the super committee charged with reducing the federal deficit completes its work (or fails to) next week.

"Multiple millions," is how



The Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission met Thursday, November 10th at the Silvio Conte Fish Lab.

Archambault characterized the damage to one of CRASC's key components - the White River National Fish Hatchery in Bethel, VT following flooding from Tropical Storm Irene in August. Meyer gave a more precise figure, when he cited US Fish and Wildlife's appropriation request in mid-September for \$10 - \$14 million in emergency funding to rebuild the damaged facility, which was flooded with river water known to be contaminated with didymo, an invasive alga also known as 'rock snot.'

The prime product of the Bethel fish hatchery is salmon eggs - about six million a year were produced there - and due to flood damage the White River Hatchery has been forced to transport this year's remaining eggs to other hatcheries around the region. About half the eggs were lost - so stocking efforts will be reduced for the coming year, regardless of future funding. And due to the threat of contagion and the possible spread of didymo, Archambault received the unanimous consent of the CRASC commissioners to disperse the remaining brood stock of salmon from the Bethel hatchery to federally recognized Native American tribes from

Maine to Rhode Island for ceremonial use (or ceremonial feasts) - about 4000 fish.

Archambault noted that "the construction budget for Fish and Wildlife has been pretty much zeroed out," putting the future restoration of the hatchery in doubt.

"We need to rebuild the electrical and water systems" at White River Hatchery, said Archambault, "not to mention armoring the river. We've lost acres along the river bank," to the recent flood. "Our intention is to get White River rebuilt, but I can't give a time frame."

Meyer has other ideas about how the CRASC - which, by the way, used to be called the New England Cooperative Fisheries Commission before breeding hybrid salmon eclipsed the commission's other concerns - might spend whatever federal dollars remain in the pipeline. He told a meeting of the Greater Northfield Watershed Association on November 6th that the Holyoke fish lift - installed in 1955 to improve fish passage for the half dozen or so species of anadromous fish native to the Connecticut River, including shad and blueback herring - had proven to be a great success. The

simplicity of its design - allow enough water in the river's natural channel, crowd the fish into a oversized bucket and lift them over the dam - should not discourage the commissioners responsible for fish passage on the public's river from copying it at the Turners Falls dam, where spawning populations of shad and herring and other native species have failed - in large numbers - to negotiate the turbulent waters and lengthy concrete fish ladders at either end of the power canal, Meyer said.

The key to successfully introducing a fish lift at the Turners dam, Meyer said, lies in the CRASC regulating spring flows in the natural riverbed - the two mile stretch below the dam Meyer calls the Connecticut's "dead reach." Instead of allowing the Northfield Mountain pumped hydro station to use the Connecticut River north of the Turners dam as a private money spigot, Meyer said the regulators should actually regulate in the public interest, foregoing their 44-year "failed experiment" in reintroducing an extinct species of Atlantic salmon in favor of providing safe passage for the river's native species to their ancestral spawning grounds.

## SENIORS from page 4

ed the wealthy." AARP Massachusetts state director Deb Banda said, "Medicare and Social Security aren't luxuries. They aren't fat to be trimmed. They are the backbone of support that allows older Americans to live with a modest level of dignity and peace of mind in retirement." The super committee is considering potential cuts to Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security that would harm today's seniors and workers, including: a \$112 billion cut to Social Security by changing how the Social Security cost of living adjustment (COLA) is calculated and reducing benefits; raising the age of Medicare eligibility from 65 to 67; and, increasing out-of-pocket costs for sen-

iors in Medicare.

Rally organizers say these benefits represent an intergenerational commitment - and that cuts of the magnitude being considered by the super committee would constitute a betrayal of the seniors, veterans, and workers who have paid into the safety net and retirement systems for years. Social Security has not contributed one dime to the federal deficit, and cutting Medicare alone will not address the skyrocketing costs crippling the entire health care system.

Today, about one million Massachusetts residents rely on Social Security and Medicare. The average annual Social Security benefit for middle- and low-income Bay State seniors is \$13,900, while their average

annual out-of-pocket cost for health care is \$6,800.

As executive director of Mass Home Care, I closed down the Wang Rally by asking the crowd, "Do you know who we all are? We are the 99%! The richest 1% in our county do not wait by the mailbox for their Social Security check to arrive. The richest 1% does not worry if they have a Medicare card in their wallet. And the richest 1% are the only people in America who don't need Medicaid to pay for a nursing home bed. But Social Security matters to the 99%. Medicare matters to the 99%, and Medicaid matters to the 99%."

Al Norman, of Greenfield, is the executive director of Mass Home Care.

## Holiday Shopping Made Easy!

OK folks. Let's get serious. You've made your Christmas list, checked it twice, and still can't decide what to send Aunt Tibby who married the Texan cowboy, Grandma Flo in Florida, and son Sammy interning at a hospital in Alaska. It was the same last year, and at the last minute you threw in the towel and sent them all cash, which only Sam appreciated. The rest thought it just a little tacky. Shame.

Really. This is a no-brainer. What do these exiles all have in common? Nostalgia

and a thirst for news from home, in-depth news of old neighbors, loved places, businesses out, new ones in, buildings down, new ones up, school and selectboard activities, arts, crime, advice, honor rolls.

Do yourself and them a favor! Use the form on the preceding page and buy a gift subscription to the Montague Reporter at an amazing \$5 holiday discount for Aunt Tibby and Grandma Flo. They will be thrilled. You should probably still send Sammy cash.

- Lyn Clark, for the Montague Reporter Board of Directors

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

### Suspicious Vehicles, Unlawful Vehicle Operation

Tuesday, 11/8	lot. Moved along.	9:00 p.m. Arrested
11:40 p.m. Suspicious persons and motor vehicle on Church Street. Checked. Moved along.	4:30 p.m. Suspicious vehicle at Veterans Field in Ervingside. No problem.	[Redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, a revoked registration and without insurance on Route 2.
Thursday, 11/10	12:45 p.m. Report of construction tarps in roadway on Route 2 near Christina's Pizza parking	rest area. Removed same.

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**NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD**

# Emergency Response Applauded and Critiqued

**BY KATIE NOLAN** - "It was a delight, a joy, amazing working with everyone in this room," emergency management director Luke Hartnett told Erving department heads and elected officials during a two-hour debriefing on the town's response to the Hallowe'en nor'easter and resulting long-term power outage.

After the snowstorm felled trees and branches along town roads and Route 2, Erving highway department, firefighters and police worked long days and nights cutting and clearing woody debris to make roads passable, and also found time to make welfare checks on residents and, in some cases, deliver meals as well.

Hartnett characterized the response to the storm and power outage as unified, with all departments involved. He said, "It made me proud to be a resident of Erving."

Finance committee member Winniphred Stone Rubinaccio agreed, saying, "Erving did an excellent job."

Looking at the assembled townspeople, town administrator Tom Sharp said, "You guys are heroes."

Until the Wednesday following the weekend storm, the town provided a warming shelter, open during the day until 8 p.m. at the Erving Elementary School, which never lost power. Deputy emergency management director Laura Conway reported that 160 meals were served at the warming shelter on Monday after the storm, and 170 meals were served on Tuesday.

Board chair Andrew Goodwin commented that, once the school opened again on Thursday, the warming shelter had to be

closed, for student security reasons.

Stone Rubinaccio said she felt the warming shelter should have been kept open past 8 p.m.

Hartnett replied that the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) "was pushing regional shelters" rather than local 24-hour shelters, and the Red Cross was supporting the regional shelter at Turners Falls High School with staff and supplies. He said the town's emergency responders offered rides to TFHS from the town's warming shelter.

Selectboard member and fire lieutenant Eugene Klepadlo suggested Erving should consider whether the Council on Aging van could be used to transport elders to the regional shelter, rather than using police or fire vehicles.

Hartnett said the emergency operations center (EOC) in the police station was small. He said a larger EOC, perhaps in town hall, "the hub of the town," would allow more space for meetings.

Fire captain Philip Wonkka said town hall would provide both a central location and a large table in the town hall basement, good for laying out maps.

Assistant assessor Jacquelyn Boyden suggested putting showers in the basement bathrooms in town hall, so town hall could be used as an emergency shelter, or for showering by emergency personnel working long shifts.

Fire chief Almon "Bud" Meattay recommended buying generators for several town buildings.

Treasurer Margaret Sullivan felt a generator at town hall would allow that building to function as the EOC and as an information center, and would also

allow town business functions, such as cutting payroll checks, to continue in a power outage.

Selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin said a generator will be installed in the nearly-finished senior center, using building project funds. He said the town will consider buying generators for other town buildings, after studying costs and evaluating whether to use gasoline, diesel or propane-powered generators.

Environmental supervisor Art Pace said the Erving wastewater treatment plant's generator and 24-hour coverage by staff allowed uninterrupted treatment of wastewater, with no discharge violations during the power outage. Because one portable generator had voltage fluctuations and was considered unusable, Pace said he called suppliers to see about buying a new one to replace it, but found all generators in the area were sold out.

Klepadlo said while "everyone did a great job," better communication would help responders. Wonkka recommended daily face-to-face briefings between department heads and the town administrator or selectboard members to improve communications during an emergency.

Boyden said she and Sullivan did not know from day to day whether they should come to work, or if there was a way they could help in the response. "There was no communication with town hall employees," she said. "We knew that town hall had no power and was cold, but we didn't know who to call."

Boyden, who never lost power, said she would have been willing to allow people

see **ERVING** pg 11

**NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**

# One Dog Removed from Locke Hill Road, Three on Probation

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN** - The Wendell selectboard's November 9th meeting was dominated by a dog hearing about four dogs on Locke Hill Road.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the selectboard ordered one dog removed from town, with papers returned showing the dog had either been euthanized or licensed in another town. The three remaining dogs were allowed to stay, but with the understanding any further transgressions would cause them to suffer the same fate.

Five neighbors came to the hearing with their complaints.

Dog officer Maggie Houghton spoke first, with a list of issues brought by the neighbors dating to July 30th, and continuing through summer and fall. The dogs are not licensed, in spite of the owners being told that licensing is required.

The complaints include the dogs running in a pack, barking persistently late at night and early in the morning, chasing cars, bicycles and motorcycles, and threatening people on foot, sometimes in their own yards.

Neighbor Penny Delorey said on August 17th, the dogs chased her husband Phil on his motorcycle. Phil Delorey said that on October 5th, Penny was walking with their three-month-old granddaughter and their dog on a leash when three of the dogs in question cornered her, barking. They did not attack.

Phil Delorey said the dogs have not been socialized. When someone approaches them in a firm but unthreatening way, they back off, still

barking with neck hairs raised. He mentioned another incident when the dogs similarly cornered Penny while she was walking with her 83-year-old father. He added everyone on that street has a dog, and with the exception of these dogs, the occasional escaping and free running dog has been easy to live with. But this situation has been a constant problem, not an occasional one.

Neighbor Don Richardson said the dogs in question bark three or four hours every morning. Brian Jones agreed with that statement, and added that the barking often goes late into the night.

Cindy Freeman answered the complaints as owner of two of the dogs, and Jesse Barnacle represented the other owner, Corey Porlier, who he said was ill. Freeman said she had the rabies certificates that are needed to license three of the dogs and she would license them straight away. But the fourth vaccination certificate had gone missing.

Freeman said she had taken both of her dogs to obedience school. She lets them out in the morning to do their business before she leaves for work, and again when she returns in the evening. She said when they are tied, they bark; when they are not tied, they are quiet.

Theirs is a two family house, Freeman explained, with an unlocked door connecting the two houses, a large extended family "with no blood relations." A four-year-old opens the door to her part of the house, and the dogs get out. Houghton said the bark-

ing and marking territory in neighbors' yards was a nuisance but that chasing cars, pedestrians, bicycles and motorcycles is a threat to the neighbors.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said the board is responsible for the safety of the townspeople, and these dogs have violated that safety.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said state law requires that dogs be under direct control of an adult, leashed or somehow restrained, and Houghton said that someone other than a four-year-old has to supervise these dogs in the day time. She said that Porlier's two dogs have been a nuisance, but Freeman's two dogs have been a threat.

Freeman asked to keep the smaller of her two dogs, the one that follows the aggression of the larger dog.

Jones thought with the leader gone there might be a chance that Freeman's remaining dog would no longer be a problem.

Houghton agreed, but warned that the remaining dogs must be licensed, and that the next complaint would result in further action.

The selectboard decided to send a registered letter outlining the findings of the hearing to Corey Porlier. Phil Delorey said police chief Ed Chase has a good relationship with Porlier, and could speak with him face to face.

Switching to his role as building inspector, Phil Delorey said the construction firm doing green repairs on the Swift River School has asked that the permit fee be waived for that project. see **WENDELL** pg 14

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# Wendell Rejects Hybrid Region

**BY JOSH HEINEMANN** - After an hour and a half of intense discussion Wendell citizens roundly defeated - by a hand count of 50 to 5 - a proposal to create a hybrid K-12 region for Orange and Petersham, with New Salem and Wendell remaining part of the 7-12 Mahar region with the other two towns.

For the proposal to be enacted, it had to be approved at town meetings in all four towns. Against the recommendation of their selectboard and finance committee, voters in Orange passed the agreement earlier this fall. But on Monday evening, one day prior to Wendell's vote, Petersham turned down the hybrid region by three votes, 67-64. Had the proposal passed, the Orange and Petersham elementary schools would have gained significant state aid - in the form of regional transportation aid reimbursement and a regionalization bonus spread over five years - and New Salem and Wendell would have remained in control of their shared regional elementary school, Swift River, within the present U-28 superintendency union with Erving, Leverett and Shutesbury.

Moderator Kathy Becker set the ground rules for the regionalization discussion: each official presenter had ten minutes to make an argument. After that, presenters could only speak to answer a question posed by a voter.

Consultant Ken Roche of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) spoke first. He said the hybrid regional agreement would prevent any one town from having a majority on the school committee by cutting the number of Orange members to 5, and giving each of the small towns two members. Members would have to live in the town they represent, but voting would be at large, with voters from all towns casting ballots for committee members representing each.

The money the new region would receive in state aid would be significant, and Roche said structures would be put in place to assure that Wendell taxpayer money would not be diverted to the budget crunched Orange elementary schools.

Roche admitted the agreement was not perfect, but said it could be adjusted after it was put in place.

Orange elementary schools have been rated as Level 3 by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and seemed close to slipping into Level 4, or underperforming status. But Roche said the list of new Level 4 schools has been issued by the DESE, and Orange is not on it, so the danger of the new region being classified Level 4 had been avoided.

Orange has incurred a fine of \$357,000 from the state for underfunding its elementary school system for the past three years.

That fine would have been forgiven if the hybrid regionalization agreement passed.

Due to worsening budget problems, the Orange elementary schools laid off 22 staff this summer, including eight fulltime teachers, with the loss of art and music classes.

In December of 2010, the Mahar school committee voted 6-4 against a proposal by Orange to remit \$100,000 from the region's free cash (E&D) fund to the town in order to help close an unexpected budget gap of \$416,000 in Orange's budget, midway through the fiscal year.

Mahar and Petersham assistant superintendent Patricia Martin told the meeting, "We are asking that the children of Orange have the best possible education, which is every child's birthright. Wendell and New Salem children who come up to Mahar will benefit. We need you to say yes. All children need this birthright."

Wendell finance committee member Jim Slavas, recalling four and a half years on the regionalization planning committee, said the proposed agreement did contain provisions resulting from Wendell members' advocacy. But he said, "We feel there is a significant risk of harm" in this proposal.

Slavas continued, "We all agree that an Orange-Petersham region makes sense, both financially and educationally, but this evening's vote is not on see REJECTS page 13

## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Greenfield Developer Bids on Montague Center School

**BY JANEL NOCKLEBY & DAVID DETMOLD** - Third time is a charm, they say.

After failing to find bids the first two times the town issued a request for proposals to redevelop the 14,182 square foot building that formerly housed the Montague Center School, the third time, when the RFP deadline came on November 10th, one bidder did respond.

That bidder, Mark Zaccheo, of Olive Street LLC in Greenfield, proposes to renovate the 1949 school building, which is situated on 3.3 acres of land, into high end apartments with granite countertops, cherry cabinets, and a menu of Green features to please the most ardent Stretch Energy Code proponent.

For Zaccheo, who has developed a number of projects in Greenfield including the Mix 'n Match building on Olive Street, half of the Reid Building (behind the post office) on Franklin Street, and 28 Federal, a mixed use building on the corner of Ames (with Valley Ts in the first floor storefront), and has now rented 100% of his more than 100 apartments in Greenfield, the Montague Center School building would be his first move in the real estate market on this side of the river.

"I've really gotten into doing Green communities in Green buildings," said Zaccheo, who added he has

been developing real estate for nearly 20 years. "Just the fact that the Montague Center School was on a couple of acres allows for composting, green space, the possibility of garden space. I'm looking at somewhere between 16 and 18 apartments. They are going to be fairly spacious, with high ceilings; we'll keep the windows; there will be lots of open space."

Capital improvements committee member Les Cromack, who chaired the meeting of the CIC on Wednesday when Zaccheo's proposal was first considered, said at first blush, "I think I can safely say it will fit within the RFP quite nicely."

Cromack added, "He has come up with an excellent proposal here."

Cromack said he ran Wednesday's meeting because CIC chair Greg Garrison, a principal in an area solar energy firm, "may have a conflict of interest," in the proposal.

Zaccheo said his redesign of the former school would include solar electric and solar hot water, as well as dual flush toilets, bio-based insulating foam between the exterior and reframed interior walls with an R-40 insulation factor. He said he would strive for an Energy Star III rating for the apartments, though that would be difficult to achieve with the existing windows. But features like high efficiency washing machines and a

high efficiency boiler to heat the building should help. "I might have some parking spaces for electric vehicles," added Zaccheo, who plans to market the apartments to empty nesters and young professionals, and anybody "willing to pay a little bit more for Green and quality."

With zoning regulations calling for 1.5 parking spaces per apartment, and the building lot tucked up against wetlands, with little on street parking, Zaccheo said he would perhaps try to fit more parking in behind the building. "There should be enough space."

He added, "The town has been wonderful to work with."

Montague put a new \$98,500 roof on the school building when it fell into town hands during the consolidation of Montague Elementary to the Turners Falls campus of Hillcrest and Sheffield in 2008. Since then, the town has invested more than \$80,000 in heating and securing the building.

The terms of the RFP call for a minimum bid of \$50,000 from a qualified bidder with a proven track record to develop the building, on condition that the bidder invest at least a million dollars in the building's renovation. An investment of less than half a million would call for a minimum bid of \$200,000.

"There's a lot of questions that need to be see MONTAGUE pg 9

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## The Road Less Traveled

### A Renaissance Man for the Twenty First Century

RICHARD ANDERSEN  
& DIANE LYN

**FLORENCE, ITALY** - Have you ever become friends with someone before you met them? We hadn't, until we reserved a room at the Loggiato dei Serviti in Florence, Italy.

A person by the name of Fabio Mercati responded. We made other reservations at other hotels in Italy, but there was something about Mercati that made his response stand out from the rest. Perhaps it was his sincerity in making sure we enjoyed ourselves while we were in Florence.

In subsequent emails, we learned that Mercati would soon be trading his seat at the hotel reception desk for one in a school, where his students would all be adult workers looking to enrich the quality of their lives through the art, philosophy, and English language courses he

would teach. Enrich your life



Campo di Papaveri 11 by Fabio Mercati

through art and philosophy? Who ever heard of such a thing?

Mercati comes from a family of teachers, but his passion has been art for almost as long as he can remember. When he was 18, his parents took him to Paris where they bought him a book about the Impressionists. Only the book was in French. When he returned to the family

home in Umbria, Mercati immediately began teaching himself French so he could learn more about what he'd seen of Monet & Co. He later worked in Paris for a year and devoted most of his free time to honoring everything connected with the Impressionists, even going so far as to place a rose on the grave of Berthe Morisot.

And Mercati's appreciation of

art isn't limited to the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries. In fact, it seems to know no bounds, ranging from Greeks to geeks and top to pop. One measure of his love for painting can be seen in the different styles he exhibits in his own works.

A self-taught painter since the age of 14, Mercati's paintings have appeared in galleries throughout the Tuscan

region and beyond. And he's no snob. His works also hang on the walls of a pizza parlor and the mock rooms of a furniture store.

During our time in Tuscany, Mercati took us to places we never would have known about if it hadn't been for him. And every place we went he was able to locate in an historical and often literary context.

We also got to know him as a kind, gentle, caring, considerate, sensitive, and loving person who is genuinely committed to improving the life experiences of all with whom he comes in contact. What Italians call a *Umanista*.

A quiet room in the center of Florence — something of a *miraculoso* in itself — can be found at the Loggiato dei Serviti overlooking the Piazza Santissimo Annunziata ([www.loggiatodeiservitihotel.it](http://www.loggiatodeiservitihotel.it)).

The hotel, which is located in a pedestrians-only zone, is around the corner from Michelangelo's "David" and a five-minute walk to the Duomo. Fabio Mercati is no longer there, but a soulmate is. Address your inquiry to Simonetta ([info@loggiatodeiservitihotel.it](mailto:info@loggiatodeiservitihotel.it)). Tell her Richard and Diane say, "Ciao."



"Violin", oil on canvas; photo by the artist

## Paintings by Eileen Donovan Capolongo

BY RICHARD BALDWIN

**WENDELL** - This early winter's exhibition at the Wendell Free Library is a selection of skillfully executed oil paintings by Eileen Donovan Capolongo of Athol. These colorful realist works are the result of arduous training and 50 years of experience. All were completed in the past three years.

Capolongo studied at the Art Students' League and at the Frank Riley School of Art in New York City. Frank J. Riley was one of the most popular teachers at the League. It was in his classes

that she began her fascination with traditional oil painting.

Most of the paintings in this show are oil on canvas with a few on gesso board. The subjects are still lifes and landscapes, some incorporating figures. The still lifes are done from direct observation; the landscapes are done partly from photographs.

Capolongo's approach is directly related to her traditional training. She begins each piece with an underpainting, usually of raw umber, establishing the composition and arranging the basic

forms and value relationships. After this layer dries she adds colors, developing color relationships and intensities, and finally adding opaque highlights. This process, referred to as *grisaille*, is perfectly suited to her fascination with, and skillful creation of, illusionist three-dimensional forms. She leaves areas of underpainting in the finished work, enhancing an atmospheric effect by softening edges of forms *sfumato*.

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# Try this at Home!



DETMOULD PHOTO  
Susan Conger works on weather stripping a window at the Montague Center library on Saturday as volunteers and other energy committee members look on.

BY DAVID DETMOULD

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - The Montague energy committee got together an enthusiastic team of weatherization volunteers to caulk and seal drafty doors and windows at the Montague Center library on Saturday, November 12th. The goal was two-fold: to actually save the town some money on energy bills, as well as to show other town residents just how easy it is to practice basic weatherization techniques in their own homes.

These weren't just your run-of-the-mill town volunteers, by the way. Among the helpers applying v-seal strips to the front doors at the 1850s-era former town hall, and caulking and sealing to the old aluminum triple-

track storms were Pat Allen from the selectboard, Les Cromack from the capital improvements committee, Barbara Turner Delisle from the Montague Congregational Church, Michael Muller from MCTV, and John Hanold, from the finance committee, who proved that the chair of the finance committee will stop at nothing to save a few dollars for the town.

"The idea is to have community leaders show how easy it is and how important it is to do this. If we can do it in the library, people can do it in their own homes," said Montague energy committee member Sally Pick, who recruited many of the volunteers, and arranged for Tom Bergeron of the department of public works to

**MONTAGUE** from page 7 answered still," said Cromack, who said the CIC would meet with Zaccheo on December 1st to discuss the proposal.

**New Regs for One Day Liquor Licenses**

In other news, on Monday the Montague selectboard, as the liquor licensing authority for the town, adopted new special one day liquor license regulations, so event organizers will need to submit their applications for licenses at least 60 days prior to an event. From now on, restaurant and bar owners, non-profits, and community leaders will have to get organized early if they want alcohol included in their celebrations.

The selectboard approved the new liquor licensing regulations on Monday, to align with the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) recommendations for

special licenses, and to give the selectboard "the necessary amount of control" over the sale of alcohol in town, explained town administrator Frank Abbondanzio.

In addition to the required 60 days notice, those who request special one day licenses must purchase alcohol for their event "from an authorized source" (a distributor). The ABCC website provides a three page list of wholesalers, farm brewers, manufacturers, and direct shippers that are authorized. Element Brewery in Millers Falls is the only very local entity on the list, so again event organizers need to get up to speed so that they can get approved booze. The new regulations also state that as needed, police officers can be hired to patrol for problems, check licenses, and monitor noise levels from amplified music systems.

The usual requirements of sig-

provide a case of caulk, weather-stripping and other materials for the work day.

As Cromack vacuumed the interior of one of the large storm windows in the children's room of the library to remove dirt and debris in preparation for caulking and sealing, energy committee member Jason Burbank said, "On a window by window basis, when the wind is blowing, sealing the storms will at least double the effect of this storm window. Even on a seasonal basis, it might even double its effectiveness," said Burbank, who was extremely effective in helping the town commission the geothermal and other energy efficient systems at the new police station a few years back, applying knowledge gained in his day job as UMass Amherst's energy engineer.

As others worked with caulk gun, scissors and putty knife, (no special tools are needed to apply simple weatherization techniques at your house, either) Burbank dialed area hardware stores in an effort to locate a rather specialized programmable thermostat: one that could be programmed separately for each day of the week. Many of the new thermostats are programmable differently for weekends and weekdays, but it proved difficult to find a new model that could be programmed to turn up the heat in the building an hour before the library opens on Mondays and Wednesdays, and to keep it at the

mid-50s range the rest of the week.

"They used to make them mechanically..." observed Burbank, after hanging up with Aubuchon, "...the little round wheels, with the dogs you lift in and out" to preset the temperature. "But everything has to be digital now...."

Burbank eventually found a seven day programmable thermostat on offer at Home Depot. He said, "I'm convinced the single most effective thing we can do," at the library is to install that thermostat.

As Richard Adams, a licensed electrician who also happens to be a member of the energy committee, installed a motion sensor on the bathroom light switch, Cromack studied the dangling sash cord of the window he was sealing, and wondered whether to reattach it to its weight. "I see the biggest source of cold air is this type of sash cord," he commented, "with window weights and cavities."

Pick called out from the corner where she was guarding the exposed wiring in the bathroom from unwitting volunteers as Adams backed off the ancient fuse in the corner of the main room, "They make plastic sash cord covers that allow you to operate those windows without losing so much heat."

The day was fine, so energy committee member Tim van Egmond worked outside in his license, approved by the selectboard. The license allows liquor to be transported by customers to and from the sports bar section to the dance club section in a blocked off and guarded area of the sidewalk on Avenue A near Second Street. The Gobble til You Wobble event has been pop-

shirtsleeves, applying Frost King plastic V-Seal Weatherstrip, "guaranteed to remain flexible for five years," to the front door.

"It's really, really easy to install," he demonstrated. "You peel off the self-adhesive strip, put it into a v-shape, and when you put it up against the door frame, it forms a seal..." a flexible seal, between the frame and the door itself, to keep the cold air from blowing in.

The work party ended two hours later, in a flurry of doughnuts, apple cider, camaraderie and accomplishment.

Sally Pick wrote to the participants, and thanked Tom Bergeron and the librarians for all their efforts, saying, "We sealed up every downstairs window, plugged significant air leak holes, and we hopefully made the library a more comfortable place for the patrons, while reducing our town's energy use."

Pick said next steps at the library may include: bringing in experts from Coop Power to hold hands-on air sealing trainings to demonstrate how to seal up gaps between the top of the outside walls and the attic framing, and also sealing the basement door to the cellar.

If you have any questions about the techniques or materials used to button up the library, and how easy it would be for you to do the same at your own home, contact the Montague energy committee at: [sjp@crocker.com](mailto:sjp@crocker.com).

ular for nine years, so having an outdoor area for people to take a smoke break, relax outside, and easily move between the two adjoining spaces of his night spot really helps with traffic flow, explained Lew Collins, owner of the bar and club.



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**CHIEF** from page 1

mously to back the staff sergeant – Chris Williams – in his bid for the job, since, as Pat Allen put it, “Police departments tend to be hierarchical. You are better off going up the chain rather than skipping to the next person if there’s not a good reason to do so.”

Williams reacted to the news of his selection on Wednesday, saying, “It felt great. It’s an honor. I realize it’s just the beginning.”

Williams, who has worked full time for the Montague police since 1995, with three years as a reserve officer on the force before that, scored the highest of the three candidates who applied for the permanent police chief post in 2004 – when he, acting chief Gary Billings, and then detective Zukowski vied for the job. Passed over six years ago, Williams said he definitely plans to take the Civil Service police chief exam again next year and apply for the job of permanent chief. The selectboard said it would be approximately a year before the Civil Service process would allow the town to hire a permanent chief.

In the meantime, Williams said he plans to familiarize himself with the budgetary aspects of the job, for which his experience as back-up payroll clerk

and grant writer for the governor’s highway safety program for the department should give him a leg up.

One of his top priorities will be to work on an updated policies and procedures manual for the force. This should come as no surprise, since Williams listed this as his top priority when he interviewed for the chief’s position in 2004. The Montague police are still using the same manual as they were then – last updated in 1978.

The manual would provide guidance for the department in a world of rapidly changing technology, where people can film you with their cell phone cameras “while you are doing your job, without your even being aware,” noted Williams.

An updated policies and procedures manual should help the acting chief set policies for the department on controversial measures like the use of tasers, and high speed chases in town.

High speed chases were a sensitive topic in Williams’ 2004 interview for police chief, when former Brick House director Michael Bosworth pressed him on the topic, after Williams told the interviewing panel he had been involved in five high speed chases earlier in his career, of which three had ended in accidents.

“That’s a tricky subject,” said Williams in 2004. “If there is danger to the public, we should rely on radio communication with other towns and the state police. Call it off. An updated policy is needed.”

Back then, Mike Bosworth asked him, “Three ended in accidents?”

Williams replied, “The vehicles ended up in crashes. Their own actions created their accidents, because they chose not to stop.”

Bosworth rejoined, “Would you do it the same way again?”

Williams replied, “Yes.”

This week, Williams said he would still approve of high speed chases in town, “As long as they’re safe. We haven’t had one in a long time, luckily. As long as it doesn’t pose a risk to public safety... otherwise, use the radio and continue at a moderate pace.”

Williams told the selectboard on Tuesday he has served on the police union’s negotiating team since 2000, so he is familiar with labor relations from that perspective. But he said his goal as acting chief would be to keep grievance issues at the 15 member department from rising to the level of selectboard attention.

In discussing the police department’s engagement with various parts of town, Williams said Turners Falls is “one of our

busiest places, with lots of blue collar workers, hard working people.” He noted, “We have a huge immigrant element of workers in downtown. We’re not quite dealing with them as we used to. They’ve gotten the idea of what they can and can’t get away with.”

He went on to mention drunkenness, drug problems and fights downtown as problems that demand a lot of the department’s attention, and noted a number of sex offenders live in town, something he chalked up to the prevalence of subsidized housing and a homeless shelter in Montague City. “That’s kind of a problem for a small town; we deal with them frequently.”

In a follow up interview, Williams said, “It seems the drug problem isn’t as big as it was in the 90s, but it’s still there. We don’t have the gang problem we had in the 90s, but we stay pretty busy.”

Williams said when the department used to be located on First Street, response time to downtown was quicker. But he said officers still walk the beat on weekend nights, despite the reduction in staffing from budget cuts over the years and the loss of community policing money that once allowed the force to maintain designated community policing officers,

and patrolmen on bicycles in warmer weather.

He said he would like to see the department make more use of the Segway, which allows for swift and silent maneuvering in downtown streets and alleys.

Without the community policing approach, Williams said, “It’s a little harder because we don’t know quite as many people. The downtown is busy now with all the new businesses opening up. Community policing would be an asset.”

Williams said he would bring leadership, communication skills, and an open mind to his new position, and encouraged any member of the public to bring their problems to the department. “I’m easy to approach. We’ll help if we can.”

Williams, a former Marine, graduated from Turners High School, got a degree in criminal justice at GCC, and worked as a campus security guard at Amherst College from 1992 – 95, just down the road from UMass where his grandfather, Red Blasko, was the first chief of campus security.

Williams concluded his interview with the selectboard on Tuesday by saying, “I know I’m a good leader. I hope you give me the opportunity.”

They did.

**VETERANS** from page 1

federal.

Last week at the Greenfield Savings Bank community room in Turners Falls, a group of about

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15 veterans gathered to ask questions and share information with Parent and Fitzpatrick.

One veteran stated he had a terminal illness, and needed help getting into the Soldiers Home.

They were all welcomed by branch manager Linda Ackerman who said, “Greenfield Savings Bank is committed to this community and to people like you who have done so much for all of us.”

Parent gave a comprehensive presentation about the importance of making contact early on with the Soldiers Home in Holyoke. The Home offers affordable nursing home care for veterans, and Parent advised the group that pre-registering and getting a blue card would put them in the system. He said, “It’s as easy as making a phone call. Go down there while you are able, and if and when the time comes that you need care, everything will be ready. They’ll give you a tour and explain all their services.”

He said the Home has recently undergone a \$14 million dollar renovation. Many veterans had questions about the facility, transportation, cost and eligibility. Parent explained that cost is determined by income, but unlike some nursing homes, the Soldiers Home does not attach your assets, and even at the top of the range the cost of care at the Home would be far less than at a conventional facility.

Parent offered to invite a representative from the Soldiers Home to a future information meeting, to answer additional questions.

Fitzpatrick, who calls himself “the new Leo,” and works alongside Parent in their Turnpike Road office, said a representative of the Veterans Administration will be invited to the next information meeting, (watch this newspaper for an announcement of time and place).

Mark Fitzpatrick then spoke about the importance of raising awareness among young people

about the role veterans have played in securing their freedoms and defending their way of life.

To that end Veterans Services ran an essay contest this fall in Franklin County. Sixth graders were asked to write about Veterans Day and why we set aside a day to honor the men and women who have fought for our country. David Lorenz, a retired Army Major, Tim McCorory, a retired Marine, and Sue Carey, who is retired from the Air Force, served as judges. The first, second and third place winners were from Leyden. Portions of their essays are excerpted here.

Chris Revis, the first place winner, began his essay with a quote from President Herbert Hoover who said, “Older men declare war. But it is youth that must fight and die, and it is youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow, and the triumphs that are the aftermath of war.” To those words Revis added his own, “Veterans are true heroes. Because they won the wars

(World War I and World War II) America is a free country with free will and our own choices. If I ever meet a veteran, I will be sure to shake his hand.”

Remembering another war, Rebecca Rogers, who took second place wrote, “One of the most difficult things about being a veteran is missing the people and comforts of home. No matter what the circumstances were that led us to war, the veterans still deserve to be honored, because they fought for our country. One thing that should never have happened was the treatment Vietnam Veterans received when they returned home.”

Thinking of his own future, Nick Baronas, the third place winner, wrote, “Like knights, veterans fight for freedom. Since some die in battle, America will never forget what they have done for us. Because of the help they give us, America prospers. When I grow up, I might join the Army and eventually become a veteran.”



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**WIND** from page 1

of the project. And there are many other financial benefits available, making it difficult to know just how much money a project like this costs the public. All for .03% of Massachusetts' electrical use."

The opponents' website lists other concerns about the proposed wind farm, including: "Fragmentation of wildlife areas, red lights flashing in a previously darkened sky, noise and vibration that make people, and we should assume all the animals as well, want to move from their homes, along with a disturbing rate of bird and bat kills."

Ted Cahill, who says he has known Don Field for decades, finds it odd that such strong opposition has surfaced in Franklin County, "the home of alternative energy consciousness." Outside the meeting, he said, "This project proposal got very political very fast. Some people have made up their minds."

Cahill suggested a more measured approach. "Anyone who uses electricity has a moral imperative to look at wind farms objectively and weigh the pros and cons. This wind farm won't shut down an existing coal plant, but it could replace some coal-generated power."

Cahill said, "I would like to see more information about the project, and the best way to find out is to go through the process of examining the application."

Cahill agrees the project should proceed only if the benefits outweigh the costs.

Planning board member Charles Washer characterized the landowners who would like to use or lease their land for the project as "hard working farmers."

Cahill said Field is from one of the oldest families in Shelburne. The other landowners involved - Doles, Davenport, and Goulds - have also lived and farmed in Shelburne for generations.

Cahill said he visited the

Davenport farm this week and "got a sense of how farmers struggle. They want to make money with the land so they can keep it open and rural. They are coming at this project with good intentions. I'm disappointed that people are rushing to judgment," Cahill said.

According to the project application, "The value of the land on which the turbines and related infrastructure are located will be enhanced and help the landowners to improve and maintain their properties."

At last week's hearing on the proposal, where about 60 people filled the meeting room and spilled into the hallway, Washer warned, "They all have acreage, and they have other options," including subdividing the land for residential development.

The project application provides a similar image: "The turbines will alter the appearance of Mount Massamet, as would a residential development."

Planning board chair Vincent Matthew Marchese said the

ZBA is required to follow the zoning bylaws, whatever the board members' personal feelings may be about the project. He said the acreage "is not public land, it's not a park." He added, "The landowners have formed a corporation and this is what they want to do. I enjoy looking at that mountain; it's beautiful. But I don't own it."

As well as stirring up controversy, the wind farm application points up the fact that the Shelburne zoning bylaws, typical of bylaws in other Franklin County towns, are silent on large landscape-altering structures such as wind turbines. Therefore, elected board members are pressed into determining how to use bylaws written with more traditional residential, commercial, and industrial structures in mind in order to regulate wind farms.

Marchese felt there might be some ambiguity in the bylaw with respect to using the special permit process for construction of industrial structures in an area

zoned rural residential/agricultural. However, he and other planning board members felt it was clear the project needed to meet the requirements of Section 1.1, the purpose of the bylaws: "to promote the health, safety, convenience and general welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Shelburne, to protect the value of land and buildings, to conserve natural resources, to preserve the Town's cultural heritage, rural character and open farmland, and to facilitate residential, commercial and industrial development in a responsible manner."

The planning board members concluded that without the additional project details Field promised for the November 17th ZBA meeting, no conclusions could be reached about the proposal.

Despite his lifetime connection to the town, as Field left the November 10th planning board meeting, he looked over the overflow crowd in attendance, and quipped to a friend, "Let's go - before we get lynched."

**ERVING** from page 6

ple without power to use her shower, but "there was no way to get the word out."

Goodwin recommended the town find a creative way to encourage people to "talk to their neighbors" to organize and plan for emergencies in their own neighborhoods. Conway agreed, saying she and Hartnett would be discussing Wendell's volunteer neighborhood co-captain program with Wendell emergency management director Lonny Ricketts.

In order to help individuals

prepare, several people suggested producing an information sheet with emergency contacts and telephone numbers and suggestions for emergency supplies to keep on hand.

Boyden agreed to develop an information sheet, possibly in connection with the Around Town newsletter.

Hartnett commented that the reverse 911 messages sent from emergency management didn't get to the parts of town where telephone service was down. Boyden said some residents had access to email at their work-

places, and that the reverse 911 system can also send emails or messages to cell phones if residents choose to add their email addresses or cell phone numbers to the system.

Goodwin said town departments are collecting information on expenses for the emergency response. The town will apply to MEMA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for reimbursement if the agencies certify the storm and power outage as a reimbursable event.

Brian Eno, aide to state rep-

resentative Denise Andrews, also attended the storm response debriefing.

The selectboard will sponsor a meeting in December to hear citizen comments on the town's performance during the emergency.

In other business, the selectboard approved revising the Erving Paper Mill above ground storage license to allow storage of renewable diesel oil, a fuel made from animal and food processing waste. Formerly, the license was restricted to #6 fuel oil.

Eno confirmed that a bill had been filed in the Massachusetts house this spring to apportion Massachusetts electoral votes by congressional district rather than by the "winner take all" system. He said he was not sure what the status of the bill was, but would check into it.

Goodwin said the selectboard will be sending a letter to other towns asking for support for the bill.

Eno told the selectboard, "That's what starts to move these things."

In their role as water commissioners, the selectboard signed a letter to the planning board saying that there would be no negative impact to the

town's water supply if Ralph Semb's bowling alley, apartments, and proposed convenience store are connected to town water. Currently, these properties are supplied by a private well.

A special town meeting is scheduled for December 12th to consider bills of prior years.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Harassment, Break In, Weapons Violation**

**Tuesday, 11/8**  
5:14 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Franklin Street. Advised of options.  
6:37 p.m. Shoplifting at Food City on Avenue A. Minor transporting, carrying alcoholic beverage. Investigated.  
**Wednesday, 11/9**  
1:08 p.m. Harassment on Eighth Avenue in Lake Pleasant. Services rendered.  
5:52 p.m. Breaking and entering attempt at Lisa's Handcrafted Soap on Third Street. Services rendered.  
7:38 p.m. Harassment on Eighth Avenue in Lake Pleasant. Services rendered.  
10:14 p.m. Officer wanted on East Chestnut Hill Road. Peace restored.  
**Thursday, 11/10**  
11:50 a.m. Drug, narcotics violation on Park Street. Referred to an officer.  
**Friday, 11/11**  
7:27 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at Southworth Paper Mill parking lot on Canal Street. Report taken.  
7:45 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Fourth Street. Report taken.  
10:50 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at Lisa's Handcrafted Soap on Third Street. Report taken.  
10:22 p.m. Loud noise disturbance at Montague Bookmill

on Greenfield Road. Services rendered.  
**Saturday, 11/12**  
1:35 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a straight warrant.  
12:57 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering on Hillside Road. Report taken.  
11:51 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery on Montague City Road.  
**Sunday, 11/13**  
12:38 a.m. Weapons violations in the area of the Montague Plains. Unable to locate.  
12:48 a.m. Weapons violations on Massasoit Street in Lake Pleasant. Report taken.  
6:27 p.m. Threatening, harassment in front of Turners Falls Pizza House on Avenue A. No such person can be found.  
**Monday, 11/14**  
4:58 a.m. Broken window at Pipione's Sports Shop on Avenue A. Investigated.  
3:19 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a straight warrant on Fourth Street.  
8:37 p.m. Assault on Federal Street. Investigated.  
**Tuesday, 11/15**  
7:45 a.m. Odor investigation on Solar Avenue. Referred to other agency.  
8:30 a.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at Lisa's Handcrafted Soaps on Third Street.

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PLANNING from page 1  
drills in the 50s were the last remembered use of a shelter in town).

Communication is an important component of emergency planning – it is hard to imagine not having it. Leverett has implemented a CTY-Connect (Reverse 911) system, but with so many phone lines down, it could not be counted on after the storm. Forty percent of Leverett residents who signed up for CTY did not get the calls, and Jim Field, emergency planning chair, realized afterwards that 52% of those who supposedly received the calls had Verizon voice mail, which registered calls as being picked up.

The E911 system that highway department boss Will Stratford utilizes goes to a Connecticut dispatch and is then rerouted to appropriate groups. However, Connecticut was possibly harder hit than Massachusetts with power outages after the storm.

The town emergency plan calls for radios for in-town communication, but the radio John Kuczek, Leverett's facilities manager, had was not strong enough to reach the whole town, for instance, the southern part of Leverett. A repeater is needed.

It was also hard to communicate out from the emergency shelter because the phones were out, said Sue Nagy, the emergency planning assistant who spent most daylight hours taking charge of the shelter.

The internet connection from the school was created by routers that had to be set up after power was lost. Under better circumstances, that system should run while powered by the generator – but as it happened the system was being worked on prior to the storm and had not been put back online when the power went out.

In people's homes, some had cell phone service but had to charge the batteries (at the school or through a car charger or battery backup from a computer). Some had electricity but no phone; some had phone but no electricity. (I realized, after a day or two, that if I found a place where my cell phone worked, I could call in to my voice mailbox with Verizon. It was nice to hear from my mother and sister, and CTY-Connect.)

We all have neighbors – did we communicate with those who live closest to us and ask about others?

Heat during this power outage was a pressing need for many. Fireplaces are OK, but don't give off the kind of heat (and light) one needs to live by. Those with pellet stoves suffered if they did not have a backup battery to run them.

Those with wood stoves were getting mighty warm for a few short hours from the hot afternoon sun beating in our windows. But running water – what a luxury! I never realized how much precious water one flush of the toilet can use.

Gravity-fed wells continued to work, same as always.

The emergency shelter at the school provided heat and water for citizens who found out it was available. I saw quite a few relieved friends after they had taken a lukewarm shower in the dark staff bathroom, which was located in a part of the building not on generator power. Kuczek promised he would hook up lights for the bathroom and shower to the generator system this summer.

As word got around, many residents of town took advantage of the running water at the school to fill up various sized water containers. It became a little hectic in the kitchen when

people needed sinks. Next time (though we hope there is no next time), a map will be available showing where all other running water taps are located.

The emergency shelter did a fantastic job supplying hot food, cookies, fruit, and coffee. However, many of the people who had signed up to serve as volunteers during an emergency were not able to be contacted – although plenty of others filled in.

A few issues arose in the kitchen at the shelter. The needs of vegetarians were mentioned. A few pots of hearty vegetarian soup could surely meet this need. One complaint was made that the kitchen was not following food safety guidelines; Fay Zipkowitz, chair of the board of health, and Stephen Ball, health inspector, will create a general outline for food safety during emergency operations.

In private homes, food storage was a concern. Even if one had a gas stove or a wood stove to cook on, there was the need to keep food cold, in freezers and refrigerators. The best idea I heard was to put a big amount of snow in the fridge. Freezers are meant to remain colder during a power outage, especially chest freezers, and that is the one

place we utilized our generator by the end of the second day (using an extension cord to the freezer cord, not through the fuse box).

Lots of people utilized generators, and some did so in inappropriate ways. Gary Billings, Leverett police chief, who knows about "pig-tails" and other generator-speak, worried, as did WMECO supervisors who "were driving around to listen for that generator sound," that people had not shut off their power to the road before they activated their generators. The wattage that can come into a home when electricity is restored, along with the generator-created wattage, is enough to kill a person. Please hire a licensed electrician to set up partial or whole-house generators.

Possibly the scariest part of an emergency of this scope, as John Moruzzi, fire chief, brought up, is that the police and fire department's usual resources to evacuate residents in case of a medical emergency were unavailable. How does the town know if someone needs help if the communication systems are broken?

The lists the fire and police department maintain of people

in town who may need medical attention during an emergency (e.g., people who need oxygen, or use a wheelchair) is outdated. As chair of the Council on Aging, I will work with the fire and police departments to assess how we can create a better list. Expect future information on this issue in this community newspaper.

In an emergency like our town just lived through, even residents who are fully capable of physically caring for themselves may need help, or information. Many did not hear about the emergency shelter until after their power or phone returned. If an emergency like this happens again, the town will do its best to put up sandwich boards at all the villages in town, to let residents know the shelter is open.

If another emergency does occur, as roads become safe to travel we should get ourselves, or a neighbor, down to the safety complex and school to find out what is going on. Even with phone service and power down, we still have each other. Can you take your local emergency network and promise yourself and your neighbors to expand it by ten, by twenty, and do some of your own planning for unplanned events?



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG**

**Fatal Motor Vehicle Accident, Identity Theft**

Thursday, 11/3

9:30 p.m. Reported youths on the catwalk below the French King Bridge.

Sunday, 11/6

1:45 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with fatal motor vehicle accident at Route 10 and Route 142 intersection.

Tuesday, 11/8

10:30 a.m. Animal Complaint at the Main Road at Route 2 intersection. Loose dog located.

10:50 a.m. Reported break-

ing and entering in progress at Oak Street residence.

Responding officers located the owner inside the home.

4:40 p.m. Reported tractor trailer unit stuck on the Gill Montague Bridge.

Wednesday, 11/9

11:20 a.m. Court process issued to West Gill Road resident.

5:35 p.m. 911 Hang up call at residence on South Cross Road. Mother/daughter dispute handled by officer.

10 p.m. Wires in the roadway complaint on West Gill Road.

Removed same.

Thursday, 11/10

6:55 a.m. Wires in the roadway complaint on Dole Road. Removed same.

8:20 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle reported on Dole Road. Photographer taking pictures.

2:20 p.m. Reported tractor trailer unit stuck on Gill Montague Bridge. Assisted same in getting clear.

Friday, 11/11

8:30 a.m. Traffic complaint on Main Road. Asplundh

Tree Service on a dangerous corner.

10:05 a.m. Traffic complaint on North Cross Road of Asplundh Tree Service on a blind corner.

7:20 p.m. Alarm at Forslund Gym on Mt Hermon Campus.

Sunday, 11/13

5:55 p.m. Identity theft of resident on social network.

7:20 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle at the rest area at French King Bridge. Checked ok

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

BY FRED CICETTI

**LEONIA, NJ - Q.** *I've been on a diet high in protein and low in carbohydrates for several weeks now and I've lost weight on it. What do you think of this type of diet?*

These diets can bring a quick drop in weight because eliminating carbohydrates causes a loss of body fluids. And, high-protein diets cause substances called "ketones" to be released into the

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER: High Protein Diets

bloodstream. The ketones make dieting easier by lowering appetite.

I tried one of these diets, and it worked. But I didn't feel quite right eating so many high-protein dishes while avoiding carb foods such as my favorite - bread. I noticed a diminished appetite. However, I also got constipated. I quit and went back to watching calories.

I've always been skeptical about any diet that is unbalanced. Logic tells me I must be doing something bad to my body. I don't think it's safe to lean in one direction at the dining-room table.

"For most healthy people, a high-protein diet generally isn't harmful if followed for a short time, such as three to four

months, and may help with weight loss."

according to Katherine Zeratsky, a dietitian at the Mayo Clinic. "However, the risks of using a high-protein diet - usually with carbohydrate restriction - for the long term are still being studied. Several health problems may result if a high-protein diet is followed for an extended time."

Here are some problems:

- Some high-protein diets don't provide enough fiber. This can cause constipation and intestinal inflammation. This may also increase the risk for cancer.

- Many of these diets include a lot of red meat and fat, which can increase your risk of heart disease.

- A protein-packed diet may cause liver or kidney problems.

"If you want to follow a high-

protein diet," Zeratsky said, "do so only as a short-term weight-loss aid. Also, choose your protein wisely. Good choices include fish, skinless chicken, lean beef, pork and low-fat dairy products. Choose carbs that are high in fiber, such as whole grains and nutrient-dense vegetables and fruit. And if you have kidney disease, liver disease or diabetes, or if you're taking medication for a chronic health condition, talk to your doctor before starting a high-protein diet."

The American Heart Association doesn't recommend high-protein diets for weight loss because "people who stay on these diets very long may not get enough vitamins and minerals and face other potential health risks." The AHA also asserts that more research is needed on the effectiveness of these diets for long-term weight loss.

Most Americans already eat more protein than their bodies

need. The AHA urges dieting adults to eat no more than 35 percent of total daily calories from fat, less than 7 percent of total daily calories from saturated fat, and less than 1 percent of total daily calories from trans fat. Trans fat raises your "bad" (LDL) cholesterol and lowers your "good" (HDL) cholesterol.

On most high-protein diets, meeting these AHA goals is impossible.

The American Heart Association urges people to use safe and proven methods for losing and maintaining weight. Dieters should pay attention to calories and enjoy healthy, nutritionally balanced meals. The AHA says a healthy diet includes a variety of foods, and is rich in fresh fruits and vegetables.

*In my next column, I'll detail the role of protein...*

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

### REJECTS from page 7

regionalization, but on the proposal in front of the town this evening."

He said it is good news that Orange elementary schools avoided Level 4 status, but Orange has chronically underfunded its elementary schools, and it will take more than the transportation aid and the state forgiving the fine for that underfunding to overcome that shortfall. He said Orange is contemplating going into state receivership. He offered another alternative: that Orange and Petersham form an elementary school region, and join in a superintendency union with Mahar. This approach would parallel the Wendell-New Salem region, with Swift River School sharing a superintendent in Union 28 with Leverett, Shutesbury and Erving.

Mahar superintendent Michael Baldassarre thanked

Wendell for past votes that set the Mahar budget higher than the Orange town meetings would have approved. But he said this regionalization vote was essential, analogous to a choice between giving milk to the children or not giving them milk. The Orange elementary schools need the money that will come from regionalization, he said.

Baldassarre said the "clear and simple alternative" Slavav mentioned would have to be worked up from scratch, setting the regionalization process back a year or more. The proposal before Wendell had already gained required state approval; a No vote would prolong the Orange elementary school problems.

Wendell's Mahar committee representative Johanna Bartlett said she had spent a year following the development of the agreement, "and it has not been easy."

She continued, "We have an obligation to take care of the children of Orange - many people in Wendell care about the larger community of children... but this agreement is not ready."

Wendell selectboard member Daniel Keller reported the selectboard had voted unanimously against supporting the agreement. "It is precipitous," he said.

Former Wendell selectboard member Margo Culley said she was arguing with herself. "I wish I could believe that rejection does not consign Orange elementary schools to indefinite purgatory. What is our responsibility to a town in our newly formed legislative district? Don't we have to learn to cooperate?"

Dick Baldwin, one of two Wendell citizens on the Regional Planning Committee said that Baldassarre had done a wonderful job at Mahar, starting

with using a zero-based budget process his first year on the job. But, he said, "One of our concerns is the financial position Orange is in."

Finance committee chair Michael Idoine said he wanted to speak to the "perennial argument that we don't care enough about children. The people of Orange are our neighbors and friends, but we don't have fiduciary responsibility for the financial affairs of Orange. We wouldn't want them to have responsibility for ours."

Wendell citizen Shay Cooper said, "I'm not hearing what is Orange's responsibility, what is Orange's commitment to change? Sometimes putting money in a bad situation only puts more money into that bad situation."

Orange school committee member Peter Cross said the Orange selectboard and the

Orange finance committee recommended against this proposal only because they are trying to keep spending in Orange down.

Wendell citizen Harry Williston called the question, that call was seconded and approved. After the vote of 5 for, 50 against, the other four articles on the warrant passed within five minutes.

In those votes, citizens approved the creation of a regional school district planning committee, an appointed body that will be able to discuss school regionalization issues with other towns and make recommendations to town meeting, approved \$7,000 from stabilization to direct drainage from the town hall and police station away from neighboring property into drainage culverts along Morse Village Road, and paid a \$61.25 bill from a prior year.



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# Ferry Meadow Farm - part XV

Turners Falls, MA 2017

**BY ELOISE MICHAEL** - "So how are you going to save the world by creating chaos at Case Pearman?"

"We're planning a strike. The biggest one yet. It will be international."

"I've heard about it," I say.

"You have?" he seems pleased.

I don't want to tell him that I heard about it only last month and that was because I was looking for information about him. I want him to think that I am on the right side. I want him to look at me the way he is right now, like he is impressed.

I feel like I need to explain myself — and my job at the bank. "Jay," I say. "I really need-

ed a job. And I didn't know what I was doing with my life, you know? I mean Diana was at college. Then she got married and had a real career. And you were so busy with your political stuff."

"We could have used your help," he says.

"I didn't really feel like I was part of all that, part of your group."

"That's cause you were dating a basketball player," he says.

"Partly. Maybe."

"I guess he's not around anymore," Jason says, looking around the room.

"If you've been spying on me, then you probably already know that."

"Yes, I do," he admits. "He

went to medical school in Chicago. You didn't follow him." "I already followed him here."

"Yeah," Jason says, "I remember."

"I'm thinking of moving back to Philadelphia," I say, and wonder why I am telling this to Jason.

"Seems like a good idea," he says.

I wait to hear why it is a good idea for me to move back to Philadelphia.

"You have friends there," he says, "unlike here."

"I think it's a little creepy that you know all about my life," I say. It's true that I don't have a lot of friends here. The friends I had were mostly Paul's friends. Like him they have moved to other states. I haven't really kept in touch with the ones who stayed here. It turns out we don't

have too much in common.

"Your brother is in Philadelphia, too."

"And you?" I ask.

"I move around," he says. "It's better not to get too well known in any one place."

"That's kind of sad," I say.

"Not really," he says. "I have friends who travel with me. Anyway someone's got to do this job, and I'm good at it."

"You always were good at sneaking around and hacking computers," I say.

"I assume you mean that as a compliment," he laughs.

"Getting back to me," I say, "and CP."

"OK."

"What are you hoping to accomplish by creating chaos?"

"Simple. It will contribute to the strike. If the world comes to a grinding halt — transportation workers on strike, truck drivers,

farm workers, no one unloading the ships, you know — and even the banks can't trade money around. Then we'll have them scared, you know? That will be a lot of power, and then the governments, and the CEOs, too, they'll have to listen to our demands."

This actually makes sense to me. "I would be taking a big risk, though," I say. "A huge risk. It's not the same as going on strike."

"Everyone has a different part to play, and don't worry, Resa, you won't get caught. We'll make sure of that." He has a passionate look in his eyes that reminds me of being in high school together. He continues, "Case Pearman will think it's someone else who stole your identity. 'Cause they will know that you were in Massachusetts the whole time."

- Continued next issue

## Odds on for Turners on Turkey Day

**DENIS BORDEAUX**  
**TURNERS FALLS**

Is this a mirage? Or is Turners Falls really the unofficial favorite going into this year's Turkey Trot?

Not since the Prondecki brothers pounded the rock for Powertown for about six years in the 90s has a Turners squad been as clear cut a favorite going up against



Greenfield. Records have never meant much in this rivalry, mainly because the two teams have always played in different leagues with rarely a common opponent.

Not so now, for in the past few years we have a plethora of information to stack these two teams against. The Green Wave has moved into the I.C. and almost every game can now be read as a barometer for evaluating each

team. Start with the records, which read: 5-5 overall and 3-4 in the league for Turners; and 1-7, 1-5 with one game left from Greenfield.

But again, records mean nothing when emotion and a great game plan can turn the tide (get it?).

Many of us remember the gamesmanship employed by coaches and parents of a Greenfield team a few years ago, when they semi-vandalized their own locker room to look like it was done by Turners fans (blue colors, foul signs, etc.) so that the Wave stormed a Turners squad that

was every bit their equal that year. Such is Thanksgiving high school football. Emotion and a little bit of trickery (Snidely Whiplash snicker here).

Unfortunately for the Wave (aka the Puddle) Turners has tactical weapons now in Wilder, Olari, Mankowsky, Markol and others who can really move the ball in between turnovers.

Whereas Greenburg's woes begin with a super young, super sparse squad, as in 18 players or less, having really only had the chance to win one game.

If this team sticks together, they'll be really tough in two years.

Putting this all together, with absolutely no bias for my team, my school, and my town, should make Turners a touchdown favorite, which means Turners by two.

I've always felt every Turners win over Greenfield should be treated like a Celtics NBA championship banner, hung to the rafters and painted on the locker room wall, a la Rise Up!

Now's the time for Banner Number Nineteen, Boys!

One last thing: a shout-out to a former player, life-long blue and white fan, and very sick friend - Pooh-Bear, I think we got 'em!

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Deadline to apply is noon on 12-5-11. AA/EOE.

### WENDELL from page 6

Wendell's share of the \$4,500 fee is \$2,250; since the cost of that fee would only be borne by the town, the selectboard approved that request.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that the Franklin County Solid Waste District's annual inspection of the Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station showed no shortcomings. The WRATS has a new compactor for trash, and has started using the old compactor for cardboard, with the result that both will go out in fewer, denser loads.

Aldrich reported that the

Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI) had conducted site visits to the buildings where they plan to connect their main fiber optic trunk line in town; that list does not include the highway garage and fire station, which also house the town's Emergency Operation Center (EOC), created after the 2008 ice storm to help coordinate agencies working in different parts of town. The board felt that was a serious omission, and talked about other ways the town could get a high speed internet connection to that building.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said during the

October 29th snowstorm, road supervisor Rich Wilder got the weather information he used to plan snow removal procedures from a counter top television with a rabbit ear antenna.

Keller said during the recent snowstorm the generators the town bought to keep municipal buildings functioning during extended power outages worked well. No one used the available town hall as a shelter, but people came to the library and the highway garage for water, though the well serving the highway garage is not a legal public drinking water supply.

Not many people knew to go

to the EOC in the highway garage for information or aid; a notice at the town office building, or in the town newsletter might help.

There is a bill in the state legislature to update animal control laws to add a \$3.00 surcharge to the cost of licensing a dog and use the money to pay for animal control.

Keller thought it was a bad idea, a further incentive for someone to avoid licensing a dog, but he thought town clerk Gretchen Smith should have some say in the issue because she collects license fees.



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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**SUNDAYS in NOVEMBER**  
Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Actomatic sculpture workshop*, ongoing collaborative 3-D sculpture project, 1-3 p.m. Free.

**EVERY TUESDAY**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Craft Night*, 7 p.m.

**EVERY THURSDAY**  
Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Ping Pong*, 7 - 9 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Acoustic open mic*, with Dan, Kip and Shultz from *Curly Fingers DuPree* host. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m.

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

**NOW until JANUARY 29th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Artwork by Leonore Alaniz*. Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**NOW until NOVEMBER 27th**  
Vermont Center for Photography, Brattleboro: *Low Tech/No Tech: A Juried Plastic, Pinhole, & Camera-less Show*.

**NOW until DECEMBER 18th**  
The Gallery at Hallmark, Turners Falls: *Ellen Denuto's photographs in The Artist as Art*. Fridays through Sundays from 1 - 5 p.m.

**NOVEMBER & DECEMBER**  
Leverett Library: Original collage illustrations by *Judith Inglese*, from the *I See the Sun* children's book series.

trations by *Judith Inglese*, from the *I See the Sun* children's book series.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Scenes of Turners Falls*, Ariel Jones & Nina Rossi.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17th**  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Mineral Collecting: Join artist Fred Wilda* of the Connecticut Valley Mineral



*Una Jensen CD Release Party at the Shea Theater, Saturday, November 19th at 7 p.m.*

Club. 7 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal*, 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wailin' Dave Robinson & Tommy Filault*, 8-10 p.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dea Dia*, rock, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Damon Reeves and the Love Thieves*, 9-11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *T.J. Conroy and the Peepers*, 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rockit Queer*, dance party, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Cottonwood*, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Nexus*, eclectic harmonic rock, 9-11 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Una Jensen*, CD release party, 7 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Gender Role Free Contra*, Caller: *Tim Van Egmond*, Music: *Frost & Fire*, 7 p.m.

Leverett Town Hall: *Echo Lake Coffeehouse* series presents *Spook Handy*, 7:30 p.m.

Franklin County Tech School, Turners Falls: *Little Drummer Craft Fair*, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Northfield Mountain Recreation Center: *After the Leaves Hike*. Hikers will enjoy three state views. 4½ mile hike with elevation changes of 800 feet. Age 12 & up. 12:30-4:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20th**  
Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Thrive Show*, featuring *Brian Gillig and Vanessa Brewster's Avalanche and Food*, Issue #1. 4 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunday Locals Matinee with Abbie Barrett and the Last Date*, and *Heather Maloney*, 5 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library: *Wendell COA Film Series Home for the Holidays* plus bonus local film, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, 8-10 p.m.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21st**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*, 8 p.m. Free.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Get Sloshed* with NY Magazine cocktail columnist *Matthew Latkiewicz*. Talking at 7:30, drinking after.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Brittany Bruce's Magical Monthly Movie Night, Ghost World*, 7 p.m. Free.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd**  
Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Gobble Til You Wobble*, sports bar open at noon, dance club open at 8 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Contra Dance*, *David Kaynor* primary caller with *Montague Center Band*. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25th**  
Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *TFHS Alumni Association Reunion: 7 - 10 p.m.*

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Messages From the Other Side*, with *Psychic Medium Lisa Lanno*, 7-9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Mud, Blood & Beer Band*, Johnny Cash favorites, 9 - 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Burn Town*, 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Smith & Weeden*, rock, 9:30 p.m. Free.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26th and SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27th**  
Craigieburn Farms Alpacas, Shutesbury: *Holiday Open Farm*. Hot cider, holiday shopping, and visits with the alpacas. 10 - 4 p.m. Also on December 3rd and 4th.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26th**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Changes in Latitude, Jimmy Buffett Tribute Band with Parrothead Concert Party!* Party begins at 6 p.m. & is limited to the first 100 people, concert curtain; 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Span of Sunshine*, *Chris Scanlon*, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Turn it Loose*, 9:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27th**  
Montague Grange: *Family Dance*, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunday Locals Matinee, Heather Maloney and Zack Holmes*, 5 p.m. Free.

Montague Bookmill: *Thanksgiving Concert* with: *The Bernys, Jonathan Stevens, The Edge Sisters*, 7 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Le Chêile*, an Irish Session, 8 - 10 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Free.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dada Dino's open mic*, 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *All Small Caps*, a night of spoken word, Special Poetry night menu available, bring a friend and your appetite 7 - 10 p.m.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29th**  
Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *The Hootenany*, bring an instrument to play, or use ours, it's like a campfire jam-singalong on the beach, 7 p.m.

North Leverett Baptist Church Parish Hall: *Leverett Historic Commission presents Historic Districts Meeting*, with *Betsy Friedberg*, a representative from MHC, and consultant, *Bonnie Parsons*. 7 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Leverett Peace Commission presents Dr. Penny Gill - Reclaiming Politics: Thinking About Occupy Wall Street* 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1st**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fall Town String Band*, 7:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Relics, Brian Mallet and Lefty Cullen*, 8 - 10 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, Reggae Fantastico! 9 - 11 p.m.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th**  
Montague Grange: *Crafting Gift Fair*, come sit & make various crafts & walk out with a bagful of completed gifts for your families & friends, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd and 16th SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd & 17th**  
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *New*

Renaissance Players presents, *It's a Wonderful Life*, A Tribute to a Simpler Time. And Matinee on Sunday, December 18th.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9th SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th**  
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule*, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

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7:00 FREE *Lenny's Lounge*  
9:30 \$3 *ROCKIT QUEER*  
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# Moose Population Rising in Massachusetts



DAVE WATTLES PHOTO

One participant in the Massachusetts Moose study, with a radio collar allowing researchers to track the movements of these increasingly common ungulates over time.

**BY REBECCA RIDEOUT**  
**NORTHFIELD** - If you've lived in this region for the last 30 years, you may have noticed an increasing number of large, brown mammals splashing through the wetlands, each tearing up 40 to 60 pounds of bark, leaves, and aquatic plants every day. But it's entirely possible that you haven't noticed them at all.

A dramatic resurgence of moose has taken place in Massachusetts since the 1980s, following their near extirpation in the region. But it's been a quiet return. Although they are one of North America's largest mammals, moose move nimbly through the underbrush, and travel mostly from dusk til dawn. Consequently, they are still nearly invisible in our daily lives.

The story of moose in

Massachusetts is refreshing. It's a reversal of the all too common news of species extinction and habitat destruction. It starts with the re-growth of the region's forests over the last 150 years.

New England's wide swaths of cleared land once used for agriculture and livestock have grown back, making our region the most heavily forested in the nation, with over 80% coverage. This reforestation has encouraged a re-entry of many species once scarce or absent from the area including beavers, fisher cats, deer, and moose.

There are now over 1,000 moose in Massachusetts - a number that would have sounded unbelievable in the 1970s. Stephen DeStefano, research professor and USGS Massachusetts Cooperative

heavily. The winters here are milder, and the makeup of forests differs from those found further north. But it seems these conditions have had little effect on the health of the moose population in Massachusetts. Their numbers continue to grow, as well as the incidence of two-calf litters, a direct sign of a healthy habitat for moose population growth.

DeStefano and graduate student David Wattles have been studying the species' preferred habitat range using electronic collars for several years as part of Wattles' PhD thesis. DeStefano presented some of their findings at a November 4th talk at Northfield Mountain, co-sponsored by the Athol Bird and Nature Club.

The data paints a picture of a species with a wide range of travel; an animal that does

not keep to reservations and woodlands but travels through developed areas, across busy roads, and relies on freshly cleared land for a large part of its life cycle.

The electronic collars, applied to 36 moose during the course of the Mass Wildlife funded study, recorded information such as the moose's location, the date, and the temperature anywhere from 2,000 - 10,000 times per year. Each location recorded is mapped and studied; these charts and animations illustrate a fascinating pattern of moose movement through the region, around each other, and through patches of non-developed land during the course of the year.

DeStefano and Wattles found that a bull moose averages a range of 60 to 70 square miles during the year, with most movement occurring during the rut (mating season) in the fall. Both males and females stay in a smaller area during the winter months. Compared to other ungulates (hoofed mammals), moose tend to be much more stationary. They travel alone for the majority of their lives, only joining others of their kind during mating season, or while a female is raising a calf.

After looking at seasonal patterns, the researchers studied the areas where the moose spent the most time. Through temperature data, we know these giant animals - whose large size is meant to protect them from the bitter cold in climates further north - are ill equipped for even mildly warm summer days. They rely heavily on dense forests and mud wallows during summer months, venturing out into open areas only at night.

When it comes to their preferred grazing locations, moose prefer to eat young, tender twigs and leaves found in

recently disturbed zones, along with aquatic plants in wetlands. These areas include clear cuts, wildfire zones, or the paths of hurricane destruction that let sunlight in and encourage new growth. These "early successional habitats" are highly attractive to moose.

Wattles and DeStefano say moose are an umbrella species, meaning the combination of habitat they require (a range of forest types including dense canopies, recently cleared areas, and wetlands) overlaps with the habitat needs of most native species in the region. By managing land for the moose population, biologists can ensure that dozens of other species will benefit as well.

There is, of course, another side to the story. Across New England, the newly re-grown forests are disappearing once again, this time to suit the changing habitat needs of another species - ourselves. Especially in densely populated Massachusetts, the balancing act between wildlife and human habitat management is an ongoing challenge.

As DeStefano says, "wildlife management is mostly people management." In addition to keeping our development in check, there is the real risk of coming into contact with our animal neighbors in the form of car collisions. As the presentation came to a close, DeStefano presented a map of collared moose movements overlaid with a map showing the region's major roads.

"The first thing I'd say is slow down - it gives you time to react," he cautioned. "I tell people you really have to be alert and scan the edges of roads, look for that shape and look for movement." DeStefano suggests using high beams to look for an animal's eye shine, which could clue a driver to deer or moose feeding on cleared areas beside roadways before a collision occurs.

Although we may not see them in our daily lives, an increasing number of moose ramble just out of plain sight in Massachusetts. Passing us by as quietly as shadows, our new neighbors are just looking for a little piece of the Commonwealth to call home.

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