



COMING SOON
a Montague Police Chief
/ Page 10



SONYA KITCHELL
at the Unitarian Coffeehouse
/ Page 15

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

Year 3
No. 6
50¢

The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 18, 2004

Wendell Forum Plans for Growth

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL - On Tuesday evening, November 9th, about 20 Wendell residents attended a public forum put on by the Community Development Planning Committee. The purpose of the forum was to gain input on the community development plan from townspeople, so the committee could continue to refine the plan.

Each section of the plan was presented and discussed by a committee member. Presentations were followed by a brainstorming session, adding ideas from the participants to the appropriate chapter outline. Those in attendance were given colored dots to emphasize or object to specific proposals.

Meanwhile, at the back of the town hall was a table covered with refreshments; people stayed and shared ideas through the evening, and the graphs, displays and comments will from the forum will move to the library where they will remain on display in the hope that people who could not attend the forum will add their own comments, ideas, and points of emphasis or disagreement.

In notes prepared after the meeting, committee chair Deirdre Cabral said, "I appreciated the participation of those of you who made it to the forum last Tuesday, and especially the presenters. I think the variety of presenters kept it interesting, and the food sustained us through it all. The special assistance

see **FORUM** pg. 8

The Word came on Veterans Day ...



DETMOLD PHOTO

C. Richard Loftin, former lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, came all the way from Nantucket to play Taps at the Veterans Day ceremonies at the memorial on Avenue A last week. Loftin is a member of "Bugles Across America."

Trevor Allenby Wounded in Fallujah

BY JEAN HEBDEN

TURNERS FALLS - On Monday, November 8th, Montague resident Marine Corporal Trevor Allenby was injured while U.S. troops were making a push to quell resistance in Fallujah, in Iraq. His mother, Cathy Allenby received a call from Trevor's fiancée in San Diego, California on Thursday with the news. Earlier in the day, Cathy had participated in an emotional Veterans Day ceremony in Turners Falls, where she joined Linda Wickline reciting the names of 29 GIs from Massachusetts killed in action in Afghanistan and Iraq. A 30th soldier from Massachusetts, Lance Corporal Travis Desiato, age 19, from Bedford, was listed killed in action in Anbar Province in Iraq over the weekend.

Speaking of her son, Cathy Allenby said, "He was hit in his arm. There was tissue damage, but Trevor is okay. He has seen a lot. I hope mentally he is okay."

According to veterans agent Leo Parent, the soldier next to Allenby during the firefight in Fallujah lost an arm in the attack. Parent said get well cards and Christmas cards could be sent to:

Corporal Allenby, Trevor J.
A Co. 1st Battalion
3rd Marine AAV.PLT
UIC 44020
FPO-PO 96607-4020

see **ALLENBY** pg. 11

Erving Hires Mero as Town Accountant

BY DAVID DETMOLD

ERVING - At their November 15th meeting, the selectboard offered the town accountant's position to Erving resident Deborah Mero, of North Street. Mero has been performing town accountant duties in Northfield, 20-hours a week, since 1989. Erving has been without a regular town accountant since Dick Pomeroy resigned the post several months ago, although he has been helping the town on an as needed basis since then. "We're very pleased we'll have that position filled," said administrative coordinator Tom Sharp. "We grabbed her other part time hours, and hope to put

see **ERVING** pg. 8

Hydroponics on the Ave

BY LAENA SANTOS

TURNERS FALLS - When Dennis Walsh moved in with his mother while building his Greenfield home, his asters, geraniums and impatiens began to suffer.

"I had tons of plants, flowers mostly, and they were all dying because they had no light there," said the former pharmaceutical company sales and marketing guru who is trading in his suit and tie for gardening gloves.

To save his plants, Walsh built a greenhouse and installed grow lights, then listed his hand-built

fast enough," he said. "What dawned on me is a lot of people live in apartments and would like to



SANTOS PHOTO

The products inside Dennis Walsh's shop on Avenue A are 90 percent organic and include these nutrients and hydroponic growing systems.

equipment on eBay to see if it would sell.

"I couldn't make them

have a garden all year

see **PLANTS** pg. 9

Cafe Theater Debuts in Northfield

BY DAVID DETMOLD

NORTHFIELD - Tonia King, with her husband Rick, are opening a new movie theater this weekend in Northfield, with all the comfort of home. That is, if you happen to live in an art gallery with a nationally known chef providing the a la carte menu. The Kings are inaugurating the Media Arts Café in the Green Trees Gallery, a 50-seat theater experience that will combine state-of-the-art audio, high definition projection equipment, great food, great art, and great company for a one-of-a-kind night on the town. This weekend is the kick-off of the theater café, with showings of *Chinatown* on

see **CAFE** pg. 12

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Funnyface is a two-year-old female domestic shorthair cat in need of a good home. She is a meticulously clean grey and white cat---you know the kind, their white fur doesn't have a single flaw or splotch of dirt! She must be indoors only, and she's good with children through she's never lived with dogs or other cats before. All around she is very friendly and personable. To learn more about adopting Funnyface, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

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LibraryNews

Something New at Music and Movement

Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson of Montague Center are performing at the weekly Music and Movement program at the Montague Center Library. Tom is a professional musician and Laurie is a bilingual educator. Donna Lee of Ware, who was the regular performer for five years, has decided to take some time off due to poor health.

The free programs for young children are held on Friday mornings at 10 a.m. at the Montague Center Library. Sessions will not be held the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, or New Year's Eve. The last session in Montague Center will be held on December 17th. In January and February, the programs will be held at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. The programs are sponsored by the Gill - Montague Council of the family Network, a project of the Massachusetts Department of Education. For more information, please call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

Articles and

Photo by Linda Hickman



Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson perform at Music and Movement

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES November 22nd - 27th

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

Monday, 22nd
1:00 p.m. Crafts

Tuesday, 23rd
10:00 a.m. Tai Chi
1:00 p.m. Painting Class

Wednesday, 24th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday, 25th
CLOSED - THANKSGIVING
Friday, 26th

9:45 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11:00 a.m. PACE Aerobics
Saturday, 27th
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
featuring handmade gifts and food. Silent auction and raffles. The grand prize will be \$100 Savings Bond. Second prize, \$50 gift certificate on Hawthorne Tours. Many other prizes as well. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant Street, Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for activities and congregational meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping (Thursdays), or medical necessity by calling Dana Moore at (978) 544-3898.

Monday, 22nd
9:30 a.m. Exercise
9:45 a.m. Library
12:30 p.m. Pitch
Tuesday, 23rd
9:00 a.m. Aerobics
12:30 p.m. Painting Class
Wednesday, 24th
10:00 a.m. Line Dancing

12:00 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 25th
CLOSED - THANKSGIVING

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

Elder Care Advice

If you're an elder or caregiver and need advice on services that might help you through your days, give Elder Care Advice a call at Franklin County HomeCare Corporation. We can help families sort through options for care after a hospital or nursing home discharge, help arrange services that keep elders as independent as possible in their own homes, or refer you to services that meet your individual situation. Our experts on senior services can offer the most current information that is best suited to your needs. And if you can't come to them they make house calls! Call Elder Care Advice at 413-773-5555 or 978-544-2259.

FACES & PLACES



BUNNY CALDWELL PHOTO

JoAnn Tuttle sells another raffle ticket to one of many customers at the Montague-Gill Senior Center table in the breezeway of Food City on Saturday, Nov. 13th. Her sister, Bernadette Champagne, is seated right. The drawing will be held next weekend at the Christmas Bazaar, so buy your tickets soon!

The bazaar will take place Saturday, November 27th at the Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Proceeds from this event help seniors in Montague and Gill. Public support for this fundraiser is appreciated. Call 863-4500.

Volcano Worlds

On Saturday, November 20th at 1:30 p.m., children ages 5 - 10 will make volcano worlds out of clay with artist Ruth O'Mara at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. Participants will make their own volcanoes to take home. At the end of the hour-long program, the volcanoes will erupt. The session is free and all of the materials will be supplied. For more information, please call the Carnegie Library, 863-3214.

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Light Up the Band

BY KEN GARBER

How many band members does it take to change a light bulb? Though this sounds like the beginning of a callous joke, it really describes a unique local fundraiser, starting this week, organized by the Turners Falls High School Band Boosters. *Change a Light, Change the World* is an innovative pilot program that combines conservation and energy education with school fundraising to create real benefits for everyone who participates.

The fundraiser will raise money for the music program at the Great Falls Middle School and the Turners Falls High School through the sale of energy efficient, compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Even something as simple as a light bulb can change the

world. Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFL) produce the same bright light, use 66% less energy and last six to ten times longer than regular incandescent bulbs. By installing CFLs in the lamps and fixtures used most in your home, homeowners will reduce their energy lighting costs, help conserve energy, and help protect the environment by reducing pollution caused by burning fossil fuels. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that each CFL, over its life, saves burning one barrel of oil or 500 pounds of coal, preventing 800 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering our atmosphere.

Bring on the band! Members of the middle and high school bands and chorus will be selling various types of CFL light bulbs

through December 6th. The selection includes traditionally shaped and spiral shaped CFLs rated at 14 watts, which replace 60 watt incandescent bulbs, and 23 watt CFLs, to replace 100 watt incandescent bulbs. Bulbs are priced at \$2.00 and \$3.00 each. Advance orders will be taken and delivery of the bulbs is planned for mid-December. Proceeds from the sales are retained by the Band Boosters and will support the music programs in each school.

Residents interested in purchasing light bulbs can obtain information and place orders through members of the Great Falls Middle School and the Turners Falls High School bands and chorus or they can call Nancy Underwood, 863-8472 or Ken Garber, 863-8158.

Psychic Fair November 27th

LAKE PLEASANT - The National Spiritual Alliance will sponsor a Psychic Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, November 27th at Thompson Temple across from the post office in Lake Pleasant. Readers obtain information via divination methods, including astrology, I-Ching, hand reading, spiritual counseling, and tarot cards. Consultation is with a medium of choice.

Spirit and Spa, an anecdotal and pictorial history of the glory days of Lake Pleasant a century ago as a Spiritualist resort, is

available at the TNSA Bookstore and through the TNSA internet website, <http://www.thenationalspiritualallianceinc.org>.

Spirit and Spa was written by Louise Shattuck, whose family roots go back three generations to the beginning of Lake Pleasant in 1870 as a religious resort, and David James. TNSA was incorporated in 1913 and evolved from the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association formed in 1874. Lake Pleasant is the oldest con-

tinuously-existing spiritualist community in the United States.

TNSA's fundamental principles include belief in an infinite and eternal sentient creating and sustaining force, the interconnectedness of everything, the siblinghood of humanity, personal responsibility for thoughts, words, and deeds, non-judgmentalism, continuity of life of the soul, communication between the worlds of form and formlessness, and reincarnation as the method of progression toward perfection.

Montague Elks Celebrate 30th

The Montague Elks Lodge, #2521 celebrates its 30th anniversary this week with an anniversary dinner dance and presentation of life membership awards on Saturday, November 20th at the Montague Elks Lodge, 1 Elks Avenue, Turners Falls. The dinner will start at 7 p.m. Life memberships will be presented at 8 p.m. to 37 members; their names are listed below. Live music will be provided by the band Shakin' All Over, with dancing until midnight. Members and guests are welcome. Tickets for the dinner and

dance, \$12.50, may be purchased from Pamela Lester, 863-8670, Beverly Reid, 772-0426, and at the lounge, 863-2521.

Congratulations to the 37 members who are becoming life members at the Montague Elks!

Robert Abbott, Earl Brunelle, John Carey, Stanley Choleva, Harold Collins, Muarice Cote, Thomas Cotter, Jr., Theodore Croteau, Stanley Cyhowski, Paul Fontaine, Donald Fugere, Alfred Gates,

Donald Hanley, Elbert Haskins, James Irvine, Robert Jablonski, Edward Kells, Robert Kirk, Theodore Laczynski, William Lambert, Roland Leveille, Frank Lewandowski, Eugene Mowawski, Joseph Naida, Eugene Richotte, Benjamin Rubin, Robert Sabato, Michael Saharceski, Robert Sanstock, Stephen Savinski, Jr., Donald Skole, Edward Slate, Henry Stratford, Francis Togneri, Raymond Tuttle, Howard Watrous, Bernard Zewinski

CAN to Hold Holiday Market

Citizens Awareness Network (CAN) will hold a Holiday Market on Saturday, December 11th at the 2nd Congregational Church, 16 Court Square in downtown Greenfield. The market, to benefit CAN, will feature unique, affordable items from more than 15 local vendors including antique teddy bears,

dolls and collectibles; Lionel trains; original paintings; stained glass; sculpture; handmade alpaca garments from a local alpaca farm; vintage and Afghani jewelry; local and Moroccan pottery; imported rugs; old postcards, and much more.

The market runs from 9 a.m.

to 4 p.m. Parking is available in the town lot behind the church. Members of Citizens Awareness Network, an anti-nuclear coalition, will be available to discuss their current campaigns.

For further information, contact Hattie Nestel at (978) 249-6224 or Hattieshalom@verizon.net.

Youth Basketball Registration

sponsored by Montague Parks & Recreation Department

This program is open for children currently in grades K - 6. Instructional Basketball (K - 2), Co-ed Junior League (3 & 4), Girls Basketball League (5 & 6), and Boys Basketball League (5 & 6). Practices begin mid-December (except Instructional Program in early January).

Coaches are needed for all of these programs - no experience necessary. For more info. contact the MPRD Office at 863-3216.

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dent with a bed, meals, and a warm caring environment. Student has own health insurance and spending money. Single parents, retired or young couples with children are encouraged to apply as host families. This could be the most rewarding decision you will ever make. Call PAX: Program for Academic Exchange at 1-800-555-6211.

25th Annual CRANBERRY FAIR

Saturday, November 20th

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



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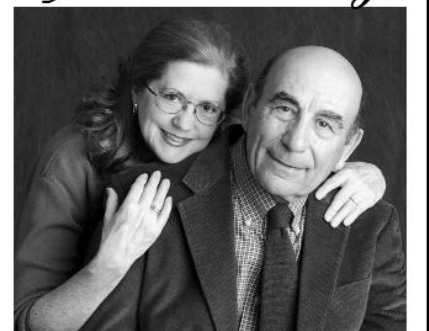
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The Undiscovered Center

After 20 years of planning and development, and the allocation of over \$4 million in state and federal funds, the Great Falls Discovery Center opened to great fanfare last fall. Officials hailed the center as a centerpiece of Turners Falls and the Connecticut River Valley for many years to come, and a critical piece in the revitalization of downtown. This week, with the state's commitment to the project in limbo, the Center's director, David Ziomek, who brought the project from blueprint to ribbon cutting, is departing to take a new post as the head of the Amherst Conservation Commission. His replacement has not been named; funding to hire his successor has not been identified, and officials from the Department of Conservation and Recreation have been scarcer around here lately than salmon in a fish ladder.

It makes little sense for the state to invest the kind of time and resources it has put into this project only to leave the dioramas and natural history displays half-shuttered and seldom seen. The public should join town officials in clamoring for DCR to make good on their commitment to the Discovery Center,

and to provide funding for interpretive staff to keep the Center open.

A few signs on Route 2 and 91 directing tourists to the site wouldn't hurt either.

Meanwhile, the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center is hosting an event this Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for anyone who is interested in supporting the Center by joining the Friends. The Friends offer programs, volunteer as museum guides, plant gardens, sponsor nature outings and spread the word about the Center. The event on Saturday is free, and starts at 3:00 p.m. with refreshments and a tour of the museum. At 3:30, Micky Novack will present a nature program on Atlantic salmon, followed at 4:00 with a Friends presentation and awards. The afternoon will conclude with the unveiling of an interpretive sign, part of a series of nature guides the Friends have installed on the grounds of the Discovery Center.

The Discovery Center is located at 2 Avenue A, across from the town hall. For more information about the Friends, call Annie Chappell at 498-2710 or Anne Jemas at 863-2730.



JAMES DAMON PHOTO

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Unfair to Carey

I'm compelled to respond to the article of November 11th named "My Dinner with Jessamyn" by Peter Monroe, who is obviously new to our area if he doesn't know who John Carey is. I think everyone who decides to write in local newspapers such as the *Montague Reporter* should do their homework and make sure the facts he or she presents are accurate. Mr. Monroe wasn't sure if the name of the person he was writing about was John.

He also mentioned a "Pioneer Valley Manor guy" whom he witnessed coming into the Shady Glen twice in one day and ask for water; he then stated that John Carey got mad at the guy for asking for water. Let me tell you, Mr. Monroe, that for all my five years of working in the Shady Glen, of which three and half of those were fulltime, I never saw or heard "Pioneer Valley Manor guy" ask for food;

it's either money (usually five bucks not less) or cigarettes, or a ride, or pay for the taxi. And I see that John Carey got a little irritated with him because he (Pioneer Valley guy) usually as soon as he gets water he sits at the counter and harasses customers or wait staff; very often yells at them. Of course no one wants to be rude back to him. So wouldn't you be a little irritated if you had someone who is usually at the Shady Glen every day, asking either this or that plus being disrespectful to your customers? Numerous times John had given him money, soda, coffee or made phone call to the taxi for him.

In regards of John forgetting to give you your change back, I'm sorry but you are not alone; there are a few people that he forgets to give change to, and it's not because of your distinctive looks but simply because see **CAREY** pg 6

American Dead in Iraq
 as of 11/17/04

US FORCES
 Casualties in Iraq
 as of this date
1,195

Wounded in Action **8,458**

presented by Oak Ridge Detachment
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GUEST EDITORIAL

Why did John Kerry Abandon his Crew in Battle?

BY HARVEY WASSERMAN

In the heat of battle, John Kerry abandoned his crew.

Not in Vietnam. This is not Karl Rovian Swift Boat libel.

No, John Kerry abandoned us here in Ohio and around the country at precisely the moment we needed him most - when the fire was heaviest and we were taking the hardest casualties - right after Election Day.

This is also not about whether or not the election itself was stolen. Many of us believe it was, and that the evidence is clear. Many don't and never will, no matter what the evidence.

But despite all his promises and those of his running mate John Edwards - who repeated them that very morning - John Kerry left us hanging. His campaign threw in the towel - and a piece of our hearts - while we were (and are) still collecting evidence. It abandoned the commitment to full and fair elections not only in 2004 but, perhaps more importantly, for years to come.

There's no need to repeat the full laundry list of what went suspiciously wrong on November 2nd. For us Ohioans, it's enough to know that tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands of those much vaunted "likely voters" came to inner city polling places in Cleveland, Columbus, Akron and elsewhere, saw lines stretching for four, six and eight hours, and did not vote. They had jobs and families. While thousands of eager, committed Kerry volunteers moved heaven and earth to get these folks to the polls, Republican Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell made sure there weren't enough voting machines to accommodate them.

He and Jeb Bush in Florida also labored long, hard and successfully over the past four years to guarantee those voting machines had no paper trails. Jeb told the world there would be no recount, no matter what happened.

George Bush has made it clear that history doesn't concern him. But no matter what anyone says or does, no one will ever know what the true vote count was on November 2nd. Those machines say Bush won by 3.5 million votes. But the ultimate vote count was and always will be suspect, hostage to a few cynical keystrokes from the Republicans who own and control those machines.

There was much much more electoral abuse on November 2nd, all of which cut to the core of whether or not the Kerry campaign could even hope to win. This had nothing to do with issues of the economy, Iraq or fundamentalist morality. It had to do with guaranteeing Americans the right to vote, and to make sure those votes were fairly counted.

Given all that, and the now infamous discrepancies between the exit polls and the official vote counts, there was only one thing Kerry could have done to honor the work we all did - not concede. Indeed, his campaign has a sacred obligation to consider the election not over until all allegations of electoral abuse are vented, investigated and put to rest. We now hear there is a call for evidence to be brought forward. This is not enough. Many millions of dollars were raised by the Democrats to guard against the widespread fraud that defined this election. Where is it? Why isn't it being aggressively deployed?

During the campaign, Team Kerry spent unlimited time, money and effort on denying the public the ability to

control the federal government. Uncounted thousands came out to make phone calls, canvass door-to-door and drive likely Democrats to the polls.

But when it was so dubiously over, Team Kerry had no such commitment. Not to victory. Not to fair play. Not to the hard work of those who volunteered with such amazing energy and dedication.

Kerry's sad, premature swoon gave the Republicans a totally open field to claim victory for their hateful "moral" val-

from the start. Arnold Schwarzenegger called the Democrats a bunch of losers, and this is exactly who he meant.

For these backroom wire pullers, issues are poker chips and the horserace is all that matters. Shrum has lost every campaign he's run. Forgive us, please, if we can't help speculating which of those hopeless bumblerers is actually on the Republican payroll. Or, to avoid the conspiracy theories, how many will soon join the infamous Clinton triangulator Dick Morris among the right-wing bloviators.

But in the real world, where people care about their lives and the issues that define them, this country is deeply divided.

Friday before election day was the ultimate, essential October Surprise for a "war president" with not one positive accomplishment to his credit.

If Kerry hadn't conceded, the right wingers would have screamed bloody murder. But what else is new?

At least some serious attention might then have been paid to the denial of the right to vote of people of color (who often waited eight hours here in central Ohio) and young people (students at Kenyon College waited eleven hours). There might've been a real national dialogue on the realities of electronic voting and who can hack those machines. We might even have heard of the thousands of cases of intimidation and fraud that defined this election far more than Karl Rove's "moral values."

All Kerry had to do was let things play themselves out, even for a few days.

But he didn't. So we are proceeding without him.

Grassroots citizen groups are holding hearings here in central Ohio so those who were denied the right to vote can get their testimony on film. We will continue our investigations. We will do what people in a democracy must do - fight. By surrendering before this election was done, the Kerry campaign marginalized itself, not us.

Elections are only a single day in the life of a democracy. Whatever really happened November 2nd, we will never be free until each and every American is guaranteed the right to vote in a reasonable time frame, without being harassed, with those ballots reliably counted.

And that's just for starters.

Harvey Wasserman, a former resident of Montague, now lives in Bexley, Ohio



www.sorryeverybody.com



vote for Ralph Nader. The attacks were political, personal, procedural, and endless.

But after spending all that energy attacking the left, the Kerry campaign conceded to the most powerful and dangerous crew of right wing extremists this nation has ever seen, and then had no time at all to make sure the vote count was fair or accurate. Kerry's hurried, feeble plea that George W. Bush heal the wounds of disunity in this country must have been greeted with gales of laughter in Karl Rove's White House.

At the grassroots, among those of us who labored long and hard to unseat that vicious, hateful, anti-democratic regime, Kerry's sorry surrender has evoked utter horror.

This election saw an unprecedented grassroots outpouring. Kerry was not an inspiring candidate. Until the last month, his campaign was a study in ineptitude.

But tens of millions of Americans were (and are) terrified of who and what now con-

ues, for infinite deficits, for environmental destruction, for an extremist judiciary, you name it.

On TV, "strategists" like James Carville, Robert Shrum and so many other slick operators grovelled shamelessly at the "brilliance" of Karl Rove while ignoring the miserable campaign they mishandled right

There was no more mandate this year for George W. Bush's reactionary attacks than there was in the obviously stolen election of 2000.

If Rove won this one at all, it was with those classic totalitarian staples, hate and terror. The Osama bin Laden cameo the

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Value of the Vote

How strong do you think our country can be if more of its citizens than already have lose confidence in our electoral process and the value and point of voting?

Here in Montague Center, Precinct #1 of Montague, Massachusetts, we achieved 90% voter turnout. How many

other precincts in your districts and state do you think can say the same?

We use old-fashioned pencils to mark our choices on paper ballots. Our polling station is staffed by respected rank-and-file members of the community.

New technology purports to make elections cheaper and

faster. But why are cutting costs and time taking precedence over the assurance that all Americans' votes count? Has a dollar value been put on the American public's trust in its fundamental institutions?

- David Kaynor
Montague Center

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Has the Mission of the Elementary Study Group Changed?

Jeanne Weintraub, a Montague Center parent, recently sent the following email to members of the Gill-Montague school committee, asking for an update on the status of the elementary study group. She received replies from Sally Shaw, a school committee member from Gill, and from school superintendent Sue Gee. In the interest of promoting public dialogue on elementary education in the district, we reprint the correspondence, with permission of the authors, below.

If So, Why?

In following the recent deliberations of the Elementary Study Group, I cannot help but notice that the focus of the committee since the summer seems to now have shifted away from grade configuration to a general review of factors considered important in improving elementary education in the district. Could you tell me if the question of reconfiguring the elementary schools has been quietly shelved, and if so, why?

According to my notes, the assignment of the group was to:

- determine the feasibility, advantages, and disadvantages of past, present and different configurations of the elementary schools in the district, including, but not limited to, consolidation,
- determine the feasibility, advantages and disadvantages of a change in policy to include intra-district choice
- report at each school committee meeting the group's progress of these tasks and
- actively seek public involvement and prepare an educational impact statement for public review and comment.

In the School Committee Notes in the *Montague Reporter*, I read that Sue Gee and the principals are preparing a "working paper" to address general concerns raised by the survey, and there will be a follow-up survey (unfortunately distributed only to parents of children currently enrolled in the district) to gather more information, but I can't find any indication that the

study committee is continuing to work to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of various configurations, or to arrange for public forums to address this question.

- Jeanne Weintraub
Montague Center

A Clear Charge

At the last Elementary Study Group meeting, where Tony Guglielmi and I presented the results of the survey, there appeared to be some confusion on the part of some committee members about the charge. Some wanted to change the focus, feeling that a clear prioritization of concerns had resulted from the survey, so we should just act on them and not waste time studying everything to death.

I pointed out the group had a clear charge from the school committee to consider configuration and intra-district choice, with a clear set of instructions about how to conduct a scoping process that involved the public. If they wanted to change that charge, they needed to come before the school committee and request the change; the school committee would have to decide. The purpose of the white paper is to keep the public apprised of where we are, to outline people's primary concerns, and to let people know the administration is already taking steps to address some of their concerns. We're not waiting until the configuration question is settled to do anything. This does not obviate the need to follow through with our responsibility to address the concerns that catalyzed this study in the first place: the issues of configuration and intra-district choice.

All agree that a longer timeline will be needed. Forums are still on the table, but first, a short survey will be sent home with parents at school conferences. I think your point about the interests of people who leave the district is a good one. Though we did get some response on the initial (random) survey from that stakeholder group, I think it would be useful to explore their ideas further.

- Sally Shaw
School Committee Member, Gill

The Mission Hasn't Changed

The mission of the Elementary Study Group has not changed, and Sally has brought you up to date in her recent email. The community survey results (164 respondents) supported two configurations for providing a quality elementary education: the K-6 model and the K-2, 3-6 model. The majority of the survey respondents were over 55 years of age, and they stated that they were happy to be asked; and the next largest groups were between 35 and 45, and 45 and 55. There was a good balance of responses from in-district and out-of-district parents. The five concerns -- reasons why parents keep their children in the district, and reasons why parents leave the district -- were as listed in the *Montague Reporter* article (Volume II, #41): (1) teacher effectiveness; (2) academic program; (3) class size; (4-5) arts and music and discipline.

The district is recovering slowly from the two difficult years of state and local financial problems, and we are rebuilding programs in art, music and eventually physical education. We are also focusing on returning Title I Reading teachers to support positions and looking at the K-12 math curriculum, among many other educational goals. Our newly renovated secondary complex had its grand opening on October 24th, and we are moving toward extending Advanced Placement courses, world languages and electives to round out the required curriculum. We have also placed a high priority on peer mediation and conflict resolution, and have reintroduced the Responsive Classroom principles of respect and community-building at the elementary and middle school level.

We are holding on to the majority of our students in this school year, and gaining on School Choice into the district.

I feel very positive about the outlook for the students in the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

- Superintendent Sue Gee
Gill-Montague Schools

CAREY

continued from pg 4

he doesn't remember even if it was me, or a regular customer that comes to the Glen every day since he opened the place. So don't feel offended if a person who was in the restaurant for forty one years from eleven in the morning until four in the morning, doing all the cleaning by himself, ordering two hundred items, rearranging the cellar after every delivery, making up the schedule for twenty-something people who work there might be forgetful; I would think I'd be a little forgetful too, even in my early twenties.

I appreciate your attention to this letter. I might not be that

good of a writer, but I say out loud what I stand for and in this case I would suggest for Mr. Monroe to write about the playwrights, theaters and the facts that he has strong knowledge about.

- Tatyana Bocharnikova,
Greenfield

Editor's note: We should be more careful, in the future, to clearly mark humor columns as humor. The article referred to above was not intended as a serious review, and since it included jocular references to Monroe's dinner at the Shady Glen, we asked the author to speak with John Carey in advance of publication to see if he would object to Monroe poking mild fun at his expense, and

John gave him his OK.

To set the record straight on a few points raised. Even the most conscientious proprietor in a busy restaurant may get momentarily distracted making change. The author wound up receiving his change in full. There has never been a more conscientious proprietor anywhere, to our knowledge, than John Carey.

After reading Monroe's article, John troubled to call up to remind us he had always been welcoming to folks from the Renaissance Community, who have held reunions at the Shady Glen over the years. Michael Metallica was on a first name, friendly basis with John, as indeed just about everyone is who has eaten at his fine establishment over the years.



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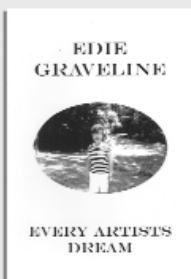


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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

New Highway Chief Reports for Duty

BY DAVID DETMOLD

GILL - On Monday, November 15th, newly hired highway superintendent Mickey LaClaire gave a report of progress after three weeks on the job. "So far, so good." His work list has included vehicle maintenance, assessing repairs to the heating system of the Riverside Municipal building, roadside mowing, grading dirt roads, clearing downed trees after gale force winds blew through town on November 5th, sticking culverts in advance of winter plowing and dealing with the first snowfall of the season.

On Friday, November 12th, with a dusting of snow in the forecast, LaClaire said he traveled the main roads shortly after nightfall, inspecting the road surface. "In places like the hollow near the library, and further down the hill by Kuzmeskus, it was wet and glazey," LaClaire said. He put a load of sand in the bucket, but blew a hydraulic line on the dump truck before he was a quarter mile out of the yard. Fortunately, the day before "I'd told Eddie (Ambo), one sander isn't going to cut it," so they had the other sander ready to go. Loading that one up, LaClaire worked the roads until 10:30 p.m. He went home and took a nap, but Officer Sokolosky called and woke him up around midnight. "It's getting slippery."

LaClaire went back out sanding until about 3:30 a.m., and, after heading home for another quick catnap, was back out at 5:00 a.m. Saturday morning sanding again. After a little rest on Sunday, LaClaire hauled out the damaged dump truck on Monday morning, and repaired the hydraulic line, so he'll be ready for whatever comes down the pike next.

LaClaire said he and Ambo are working well together. "Our skills and backgrounds complement each other. Eddie did well doing what you can do alone," in the months when he was the only employee of the department. Now, with the selectboard advertising again for a third employee, LaClaire said, "If we get the right person for the



The cutting blades from the Jaws of Life failed to pass inspection due to a crack in the steel. Fire Chief Gene Beaubien estimates replacement costs at \$3,250.

third guy, we'll be a well-oiled machine."

"That's what we've been waiting to hear," said board chair Leland Stevens.

In other news from the highway department, the 14-old fence that separates the highway yard from the neighboring property owned by Joe and Lori Rinaldi is coming down. Well, that's not news. The fence has been coming down for some time. But now, after considering the matter, the board has decided to act on the Rinaldi's request to replace it with a new fence. They asked LaClaire to research fencing prices at area lumber yards. So far, Damon's Fence has the price to beat, at \$82 an eight-foot section, with post and rails included, for latticetop cedar panels. The board hopes the final cost for materials for the new fence will come in under \$1000. Member Anne Banash wondered whether it would be

necessary to replace all 16 sections of the old fence, or whether the new fence could adequately shield the Rinaldi's property if it extended only as far as the tree line.

Administrative assistant Deb Roussel said the town's Peer to Peer program will get started on December 9th, when Agawam's director of planning, Deborah Dachos, will come to a meeting with members of the Gill planning and zoning boards. Funded with a \$1000 grant from the Mass Department of Housing and Community Development, the Peer to Peer program will focus on helping the planning and zoning boards function more effectively, Roussel said.

As further evidence that property values along the Connecticut River are rising at a disproportionate clip, assessor's clerk Harriet Tidd notified the board about the pending sale of a camp, on leased Northeast Utilities land, presently valued by the assessors

at \$35,000. At the asking price of \$129,000, the camp has received six bids, and the modest cottage is now under deposit.

The Gill-Montague school district has asked the board to appoint a representative to walk through the Gill Elementary School with principal Bob Mahler to assess needed capital improvements. Of particular interest is an outmoded boiler that may be nearing the end of its useful life. Board member Phil Maddern was nominated *in absentia* to take on this task.

Roussel said \$27,000 from bond premiums from debt financing for the recently completed Turners Falls High School / Great Falls Middle School complex will shortly be coming back to Gill coffers. The money will be applied to reduce the tax rate, Roussel said.

After all the fuss about newfangled voting machines in the recent national election, Gill voters can rest assured that the absence of the Gill voting booths from their usual location at the safety complex does not portend a change to punch card ballots or fancy touch screen machines that record every 100th vote for the incumbent. Gill town clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo was the one who removed the voting booths. She brought them home and is storing them in her basement temporarily, where she plans to give them a fresh coat of paint before the next election.

At the selectboard's request, outgoing town accountant Dale Kowacki totaled the balance remaining in the town's emergency service "Northfield Mount Hermon Fund". The balance is \$8,071.67. The board said this amount, which is supplemented yearly by an annual \$10,000 contribution from NMH, should be adequate to defray the cost of new cutters for the Gill fire department's Jaws of Life, which failed to pass a recent inspection due to a crack in the steel. The estimated cost of replacing the cutters, along with two worn out 16' hydraulic hoses, is \$4219, according to Gene Beaubien.

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continued from pg 1

them to good use."

Sharp said Mero would work 16 hours a week for Erving, without benefits, as she already receives benefits at her job in Northfield. The selectboard agreed to a salary of \$24,000 for Mero's services.

In other business, the board wrestled with the problem presented by a main pump and a backup pump failing simultaneously at the septic system for the village of Farley, located to the south side of Route 2 near the bridge to Wendell. The double pump failure has resulted in an expensive fall-back to pumping out the septic system, which services the residences of Farley,

and hauling the septage over road to the Erving side wastewater treatment facility off River Street. The pumps should be repaired shortly, and the outage has not caused problems for the local residents, Sharp said.

Town clerk Richard Newton informed the board Verizon has been issuing more 659 exchanges in Erving side, despite repeated protests. The telephone company was supposed to have phased out the use of the old 659 exchange under the terms of an agreement hammered out two years ago to merge all the phone numbers in Erving into the 413 area code, with Erving Center exchanges listed as 422 and Erving side listed as 423. The new exchanges are not just a matter of convenience;

they allow for quicker response time from emergency responders. The board agreed to send letters to local legislators to put pressure on Verizon to honor the original agreement, and phase out the 659 exchanges.

As the lead town of the Ten-Town Loan Fund Trust, administered by the Franklin County Community Development Corporation, the Erving board was pleased to award a micro-business development grant to a local resident. Cyd Scott applied for and received a \$7,000 grant to expand his disc jockey business, Cyd Scott's Custom Entertainment, which provides entertainment for weddings, birthdays, and similar affairs.

FORUM

continued from pg 1

from Court Dorsey with the economic development questions was great. Kathy Becker kept our discussion moving from topic to topic as well as keeping the discussion open to all. Christine Texiera's graphics were a wonderful addition, though I think we did not take the time to appreciate them.

"As a followup, Christine is sharing with the library those wonderful graphics she put together, along with the printouts of the recommendations and the "votes" and comments on them from the forum. Thus, we will be able to get more feedback over time. In addition, Marianne Sundell has suggested having a staffed or unstaffed table at the Holiday Fair the first weekend in December, with an opportunity to get further comments."

Among the subject areas covered by the Community Development Plan were the legal status of county roads and town roads including Rockwell Hill Road, Kentfield Road, Old Farley Road, Old Egypt Road, and Sears Road. The width of main roads is also clouded due

to inconclusive bounds.

On the subject of transportation, a survey of local residents was conducted, with 70% falling into the category of two-car families. Three quarters of Wendell residents say they commute daily. There is no public transport in town. The only public bus is at the fringe of town (Route 2). Some residents choose to use alternative means of transportation, such as biking, horseback riding, or walking. Seniors, or people with disabilities have access to limited transportation through the FRTA. Respondents recommended a renewed rideshare board, coupled with an effort to increase businesses and services offered in town. A van or small bus service was also suggested.

On the topic of housing, the plan looked at overall patterns of population growth, and noted Wendell has a 10.2% poverty rate, with most residents falling in the moderate income bracket. The scarcity of rental units was identified as a problem, leading to the exodus of grown children from town. Wetlands, septic issues, and conservation land were noted as obstacles to large scale development; clustered housing with shared services

was proposed as an alternative to the current pattern of large lot development.

On the topic of economic development, town assets were listed including high retention of youth, high self-employment, a well-educated population, natural beauty, and a supportive, creative environment. Among the deficits noted were a lack of services and transportation.

In the brainstorming session, residents proposed a number of ideas for economic development, including supporting the growth of home-based businesses by joining with residents of Leverett and Shutesbury to bring in wireless internet service; developing a cottage industrial park, a Wendell mail order or web order site, an crosscountry ski touring business, establishing a small gymnasium or small scale restaurant, and setting up a wind farm in town. A business - barter directory was also proposed, as was the idea of reviving the dormant community newspaper, the *Wendell Post*, with a corresponding website.

David Detmold
contributed to this report.

What To Do with an Old Mill

EASTHAMPTON - One Cottage St. Studios will be holding its 16th annual Open Studio and Holiday Sale as part of Arts Easthampton on December 3rd, 4th, and 5th from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visitors will find a wide array of handmade crafts and art for sale, including furniture, lighting, ceramics, glass, paintings, printing, and photographs.

One Cottage St. is a former mill building in Easthampton. It was converted to studio spaces

starting in 1975, the first of a number of similar projects that have made Western Massachusetts an exciting place to be a crafts person.

One Cottage St. is located in downtown Easthampton at the corner of Union and Cottage Streets. Parking is located in the rear of the building (follow signs on either street). For more information, see the Arts Easthampton website at www.artseasthampton.com.

Fiske Pond Walks

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL - On Saturday morning, October 30th, and again on November 6th, the Wendell open space committee sponsored walks around Fiske Pond with UMass professor of Botany, Paul Godfrey. He talked about different management options for the 125-acre property, which the town is considering purchasing, and identified many plants and several ecological zones as we walked the trail around the pond.

The walk started in the grass field by the road, which is being invaded by sumac and white pine, continued along the shore where

plants were encroaching on the pond, through a climax hardwood forest, a bog, where Fiske Brook enters the pond, a stand of hemlocks, across the outlet stream, and back across the dam to the start. Godfrey stressed that a management plan should be tailored to the different habitats, as management practices that might be right for one area might not be good for another.

The walks were scheduled to be two hours long, but the second one, attended by ten residents, seemed to take less time but in fact ended an hour and a half later than scheduled.

Wendell Holiday Fair

Saturday, December 4th (9 to 5) and Sunday
December 5th (9 to 3) at the Wendell Town Hall.



Holiday shopping featuring local artists, crafters, and businesses. Special guest Fran Doughty on acoustic guitar, Sunday 12 to 2. Art prints, jewelry, pottery, blown glass, wreaths, herbs, maple products, crystals and gemstones, massage, tarot readings, astrology, hand-painted silk, chimes, software, and more. Food sales to benefit Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse and the Wendell Women's Club. Sponsored by the Wendell Community Development Planning Committee to support local economic development goals.

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PLANTS

continued from pg 1

long. I realized I needed seeds, fertilizers, and that brought me into the world of hydroponics."

Gardening hydroponically means growing without the use of soil, Walsh explained, and hydroponics are the main specialty at Walsh's new retail shop at 112 Avenue A, just two doors down from Ariel Jones Photographic Studio.

In addition to three types of hydroponic growing systems, several varieties of grow lights, fruit, vegetable, herb and flower seeds, tools, hardware, organic fertilizers, vitamins and nutrients for both indoor and outdoor (and soil-based) gardeners, Specialty Garden Supplies will offer all of the supplies a new indoor or outdoor gardener, seed starter or experienced hydroponic grower needs to sustain plant life.

Ninety percent of the products in his shop are also organic, an important factor to Walsh.

"In the past, organic meant more expensive and less effective. Now it's the same price (as conventional products) and just as effective and gives you better peace of mind," he said.

Soon, the interior of Walsh's shop will delight the senses of visitors; many of whom he

thinks will seek him out as the only specialty garden supplier between Brattleboro, Vt. and Holyoke. His goal is to support the indoor and outdoor gardening enthusiasts between Amherst, Northampton and Greenfield - including Montague - by providing his personal knowledge and expertise to back up his products. Shopping at this store will allow customers to purchase the products they love and avoid the shipping fees often incurred when ordering specialty products online.

Within the next couple of months, taste-bud tempting organic peas, tomatoes, lettuce, strawberries and peppers will grow indoors alongside colorfully blooming zinnias, phlox, morning glories, portulaca rose and snapdragons in Walsh's shop. The pleasing scents of basil, rosemary, thyme, mint and chives will tease the nostrils of culinary masters as well as kitchen gardeners, and at this time of year, perhaps help "defy winter and make gardening easier than you ever thought possible," reads the sign on his front door.

"The beauty of hydroponics, is not only do your plants grow faster and produce more, it's easier because everything is automated," said Walsh, touring a visitor through his shop earli-

er this week.

There are three basic kinds of hydroponic systems, he explained, all of which deliver vitamin and nutrient fortified water to plant roots through lightweight clay rocks (instead of soil), with the help of pumps.

The "Ebb and Flo" system floods plant roots three times a day, working on a timer. Walsh adds an oxygenated pump to this system to increase air flow. The "drip" system pumps water up through an interior column and drips on the plants all day long. His personal favorite, the "aeroponics" system, sprays the plants' roots constantly while highly oxygenating them.

"Basically, by handling the elements, you are able to maximize plant growth," he said.

A Greenfield native, Walsh graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a bachelor's degree in science and then from the University of Connecticut at Storrs with a master's degree in healthcare administration. Before working in the pharmaceutical industry for several years, Walsh worked for Snow & Sons Landscaping in Greenfield, where he said he gained valuable experience that instilled in him a love of gardening.



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Community Garden Receives Improvement Grant

The Great Falls Community Gardens located at the corner of 4th & L Streets and 3rd & L Streets in beautiful downtown Turners Falls were recently awarded a \$1000 grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund in Montpelier, Vermont.

The New England

Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF) is a small grants program designed to foster and give voice to grassroots environmental initiatives in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. It provides grants of up to \$2,500 to fuel civic engagement, local

activism, and social change.

The grant awarded to the Great Falls Community Gardens will go to help build a small tool shed and to buy new gardening tools. Anyone interested in being involved in the community gardens in downtown should call Jean Hebden at 863-3075.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Police Chief to be Chosen Soon

BY DAVID DETMOLD

On November 15th, the selectboard honed their plans for picking a new police chief, and intend to have the process wrapped up by the end of next month. The Civil Service Commission has granted the town an extension to December 30th to complete the process, but town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said he hoped to have the selection finalized by December 20th, when the selectboard will meet to choose the new chief.

The three candidates in the running are sergeant Chris Williams, detective Ray Zukowski, and acting chief Gary Billings, ranked in order of their scores on the Civil Service police chief exam. A fourth candidate, officer Charles Dodge, was bumped from the list when the selectboard sought and received permission from Civil Service to remove him from consideration for the position due to his actions in an off-duty fracas with another patrolman in the summer of 2000, which led to Dodge's demotion from sergeant to patrolman. Dodge received the second highest score on the police chief exam.

Abbondanzio said the selectboard, as the town's appointing authority, would weigh other factors besides the candidates' ranking on the exam in deciding who would lead the department. "The board will conduct a review of the background and experience of the candidates as contained in their personnel files," said

Abbondanzio, and weigh this with the report of the agency conducting a police chief assessment center for the town. The town has chosen a private company called Badgequest to perform the assessment center, which will feature a series of exercises in "oral

communication, written communication, leadership, problem analysis and decision making, planning and organizing, persuasiveness, initiative and decisiveness, creativity, interpersonal relations, and organizational sensitivity," according to a letter to the candidates furnished by Abbondanzio. The assessment center exercises will take place at the Turners Falls High School under the supervision of Stephen Unsworth, retired Waltham police chief, on Saturday, December 4th, preceded by a written exercise administered at the town hall during the week of November 29th. The assessment center exercises will be closed to the public.

Three months ago, the board formed a police chief selection committee, bringing together people from the community and the schools to act as advisors to the board in choosing a new chief. The selection committee includes Jean Hebden, precinct 5, Bob Sojka, precinct 2, Michael Bosworth, Brick House director, Maria Rodman, Montague Catholic Social Ministries direc-



tor, Rob Morrill, TFHS principal, Abbondanzio and David Gendron, former Erving police chief, who chairs the selection committee. It was Gendron's suggestion that led the town to incorporate an assessment center in the selection process.

In overlapping roles, both the selectboard and the selection committee will review the candidates' personnel files, hear Unsworth's report on the candidates' performance on the assessment center exercises, and conduct in person interviews with all three candidates. Those interviews, with the selection committee on Tuesday, December 7th from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on the same date with the selectboard from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., will be open to the public. Subsequently, the selection committee will review the results of the exercises, personnel files, and interviews and weigh them with the results of the civil service exam to come up with a recommendation to the selectboard. The selectboard will review all the same data, and include the recommendation of the selection

committee in deciding whom to appoint as the new chief.

MacMillan Resigns

In other police news, the board received a letter of resignation from patrolman William McMillan. McMillan, who had

been the subject of recent petition drive in Lake Pleasant amid complaints over rough treatment of subjects in custody and rude behavior to village residents, said he was leaving the force not as a "result of pressure or disgruntled issues with the town or department, for I have dedicated much of my life to be the best patrolman and representative of the department. It should, however, be viewed solely as a career advancement move {for} which the town of Montague was not able to provide me due to the current department structure."

MacMillan is resigning effective November 27th to take a job with the Barnstable police department. "He'll do well down there," said acting police chief Billings. "He's done well here." Chair Pat Allen asked Billings to, "Thank him for his service."

Lake Pleasant's Marge Levenson said, "I am sorry the gentleman had problems working in our community, and I'm delighted he has found employment that he likes."

GM Contract Negotiations

Board member Patricia Pruitt was appointed to represent the selectboard in GMRSD contract negotiations with the teachers of the Gill-Montague schools. Allen, who had held down that role for the board during past years, told Pruitt, "You'll find them a thoughtful, knowledgeable group of people to work with," and urged her to "push for a three-year contract."

The board agreed to sign onto a letter the GMRSD is sending to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission calling for a more open process to evaluate the safety of Entergy Vermont Yankee's request to boost power to 120% of design capacity at the 32-year-old Vernon nuclear plant. (The letter is reprinted on page 11)

Landfill Evaluation

The landfill evaluation committee met on November 10th with a consulting engineer from Camp Dresser McGee, who will be advising the committee as they decide whether to develop the town-owned, DEP approved landfill site off Turnpike Road. At the next committee meeting, Abbondanzio said the consulting engineer will help narrow the list of options for using the site.

With members of the airport commission present, the board went into executive session for discussion of strategy for litigation. Executive sessions were also to be held that evening for discussions concerning real estate, and for collective bargaining negotiations.

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To: the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Atomic Safety Licensing Board

Honorable Adjudicators:

The Gill-Montague Regional School District lies partly within the 10-mile emergency evacuation zone of the VT Yankee nuclear reactor, and wholly within about 20 miles of the reactor. As school committee members, we are deeply concerned about Entergy's request to increase power at the VT Yankee nuclear reactor. We are aware that similar uprates at other reactors of this type have caused costly shutdowns due to potentially dangerous steam dryer cracking and valve jamming. The accidental release of increased radioactive steam due to valves jamming open, should the structural integrity of the steam dryers fail, increases health risks to children in our schools. The evacuation plans in existence now have never been actually tested, and simulations have repeatedly failed to include private nursery schools in the town of Gill. This is of great concern to us. Although the evacuation plans are outside of NRC purview, the level of our concern, and the need for public confidence in any increase of power, nuclear waste and emissions at the plant should be apparent to you.

Last spring, the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee sent a letter to the VT Public Service Board asking them to require an independent safety inspection at the Entergy-VT Yankee nuclear power plant and to make their decision regarding a power uprate conditional upon a review of the plant similar to the one conducted at Maine Yankee before its closure. We were joined by many state and federal officials in VT and MA in making this request to the NRC and the Public Service Board. NRC denied the request. We continue to consider our request reasonable. Maine citizens were given the benefit of a complete and thorough safety inspection. For our children's sake, we consider it necessary in this case. Our confidence in the safety of the ENVY plant under current, let alone uprated, conditions is not gained by the brief NRC engineering assessment released on the NRC website recently, nor are our concerns about safety allayed by recent events at the plant.

We ask again for an open, transparent, and thorough process of evaluating the new conditions involved in the uprate, and their impact on emissions, accident scenarios, and safety. We ask that, at minimum, a full, open, public hearing be held, with intervenors allowed to cross examine witnesses under oath, to enable a factual information base known to all parties and the public to be established on which to evaluate the uprate.

We trust that your decision will be in the best interest of the public.

Sincerely,
Joyce Phillips, Chair, GMRSC

ALLENBY

continued from pg 1

Cathy Allenby said Trevor has been sent back to his platoon, which is now involved in "humanitarian work". When that work is done, he'll start his journey home, but probably won't arrive back to base camp in San Diego before March, 2005. She said, "Trevor doesn't need anything, but there are many in his platoon who do."

Local resident Sandy Miner is coordinating a donation drive to collect necessities for Allenby's platoon. All items will be wrapped and sent to Trevor for distribution. Here is a list of items and drop-off locations.

Please keep in mind that there are both men and women serving in Iraq

ITEMS NEEDED BY OUR TROOPS

Items need not be "full size." Sample/trial size are great

- International phone cards
- AA batteries
- baby wipes
- toothbrushes
- toothpaste
- mouthwash
- Q-Tips
- disposable razors
- deodorant
- shampoo
- gel innersoles
- playing cards
- magazines

- crossword puzzle books
- instant cereal
- Cup-o-soup
- powdered drinks
- Crystal light/Kool-ade
- raisins
- trailmix
- mini cookies
- Oreos
- teddy bears
- dried fruit
- peanuts
- gum
- mints, tic-tacs
- Nerf footballs
- Slim Jims
- Lifesavers
- candy canes
- Pringles
- "girlie" items
- nail care items
- tampons
- hair brushes
- scrunchies
- hair clips
- body powder

Please, NO CHOCOLATE OR PERISHABLE ITEMS

All cash donations will be used to purchase additional items to be sent to the troops. *Thank you for supporting our troops.*

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CAFE

continued from pg 1

Friday at 6:45 and 9:15 p.m. and the *Big Lebowski* on Saturday, at the same times.

Tonia, known to local listeners of radio stations WRNX and WRSI from her disc jockeying days, has also been the host of such popular on-air features as *Nature Notes* with Karl Meyer. She is now syndicating a jazz show, *Jazz Variations*, which can be heard locally on WRNX, 100.9 FM, Sunday mornings, and a food show called *Tonia's Kitchen*, which can be heard across a scattering of blue and purple states like California, Iowa, and Pennsylvania. But if you want to sample Tonia's kitchen locally, you'll have to make the trip to her new Northfield cafe theater, where she will be providing "tasty appetizers, scrumptious desserts, and non-alcoholic beverages." The two show times will accommodate viewers who may wish to dine out or eat a main course at home, but fill in the extra spaces while curled up in a love seat watching some of the finest in classic,

independent, foreign, and documentary film. A definite departure from the drive-in movie, or the sticky floors and busted springs of the local odeum.

Rick King provides the technical component of the entrepreneurial duo hosting the Media Arts Café. He has spent years as the creative force behind Integrated Systems Design, designing home theater systems for discerning viewers throughout the region. Now he can put his technical expertise to work for a larger audience, with a high definition projection system and Dolby surround sound audio.

A larger, but still intimate audience. With café table seating and plush couches, the background distractions of typical theater audiences will be minimized. Simply put, the Media Arts Café will offer "a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere where you can see a good movie and enjoy good food," said Tonia.

The Media Arts Café is located in the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main Street, Northfield, the former Spencer Ford dealership. Check it out.

STUDIO WALK in TURNERS

December 4th & 5th



ARIEL JONES PHOTO

Tim deChristopher in his Turners Falls studio on 2nd Street

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Earlier this year, on Valentine's Day, a modest effort between the Pure Light Gallery and the Ariel Jones Photography Studio on 3rd Street blossomed into the first studio walk in Power Town in recent memory. More than 50 art lovers from around the county turned out on a romantic, mild evening to browse through photos of Jamaica and images Turners Falls. There was talk that night of many things, of cabbages and kings, and more than one gallery walker wondered whether this modest effort might bloom into something more ambitious, to showcase the burgeoning downtown arts

scene, in time to come.

Well, the time has come, as a group of downtown artists and eateries has banded together to sponsor *Arts and Eats*, a week-end walking tour of working artists' studios and galleries in a four-block area of downtown, on December 4th and 5th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. According to organizer Eileen Dowd, of Carriage House Designs on Canal Street, eight artists are participating, including Tim deChristopher, stone carver, Ariel Jones, photographer, Mike Langknecht and Spencer Peterman, woodworkers, Wednesday Sorokin, painter, and Jack Nelson, potter and sculptor, along with the Pure Light

Gallery and the Great Lighting showcase. The same weekend, the Brick House will be offering "Firsts and Seconds on Third Street", inexpensive art in their ground floor gallery. Area restaurants including the Shady Glen, the Chinatown Restaurant, Subway, Cup o' Joe, and Equis are jointly sponsoring the event, and brochures announcing the studio walk will be available up and down the Avenue in the days ahead.

"We're very excited," said Dowd. "It's really happening. All the artists are looking forward to this walk, and to many more to come. We hope everyone will come early, stay late, eat, shop, and poke around."

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Thursday 11-11

1:50 p.m. Minor motor vehicle accident with no injuries reported on 3rd Street. Report taken.

6:15 p.m. Report of some articles stolen from a 2nd Street address. Officer spoke to a young person and the articles were returned.

9:23 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle being driven erratically on Grove Street. Officer spoke to operator.

Friday 11-12

11:51 a.m. Report of a larceny at the Tech School. It will be handled within the school.

1:51 p.m. Report of a two-vehicle motor vehicle accident with no injuries at Cumberland Farms. Summonses were issued.

4:40 p.m. Domestic disturbance reported at a Turnpike Road address. Found to be verbal only. Both parties spoken to.

11:02 p.m. Report of vandalism to windows at the Cutlery Block. Vandals gone on arrival. Report taken.

Saturday 11-13

7:17 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle's window smashed at a 2nd Street address. Report taken.

9:59 a.m. Report of a missing dog in Millers Falls. Owner called later to report dog had returned home.

12:40 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at the Powertown Apartments on 4th Street. Found to be verbal only. Both parties advised of their options.

1:35 p.m. Report of icy park-

ing lot on 3rd Street. DPW notified.

2:18 p.m. Report of icy stairs at the Carnegie Library. DPW notified.

3:20 p.m. Report of icy conditions on Federal Street in Millers Falls. DPW checked it out and it was not icy.

Sunday 11-14

1:25 a.m. Report of loud neighbors on L Street. Subjects spoken to.

9:22 a.m. Vandalism to a motor vehicle reported on 5th Street. Report taken.

11:29 a.m. Vandalism to a motor vehicle reported on 11th Street. Report taken.

1:21 p.m. Loose dog reported on Montague Street. It was returned home.

Monday 11-15

6:35 a.m. Report of vandalism to a motor vehicle in the 5th Street alley. Air was let out of a tire. Report taken.

12:25 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident on N. Leverett Road at Spaulding Brook Road. Car went off the road because of icy conditions. No injuries. Report taken.

5:52 p.m. Report of vandalism on 5th Street. Motor vehicle window smashed. Report taken.

6:50 p.m. Report of a past assault at the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club. All parties were advised of their options.

Tuesday 11-16

12:27 a.m. Domestic disturbance reported at a Park Street address. Found to be

verbal only.

11:00 a.m. Minor motor vehicle accident with no injuries reported on 1st Street. Report taken.

Wednesday 11-17

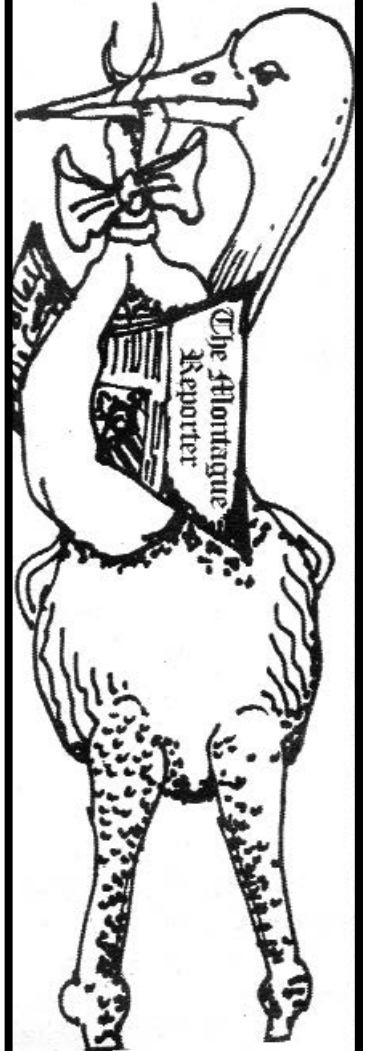
8:35 a.m. Report of a lost backpack at an E. Main Street Millers Falls address. A later call reported the backpack had been located.

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OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Charming Turners

BY FLORE

Recently, there have been a lot of suggestions how to give Turners Falls a new, beguiling look. The kind, without cosmetics, that will draw tourists to its hidden beauty, without ignoring how the past has left traces of its claws on the millworkers' history.

Would you say Turners Falls' charms are still present? Definitely, you bet, they are! Have you looked at the delicate bronze sculpture of "The Spinner," greeting the passersby on the Avenue, rain or shine? How many of us have noticed her grace, amid the red bricks

and weed strewn planters. What about the hitching posts, waiting for the horses to stop by and rest?

Who are those ready to help put this town back on her feet?

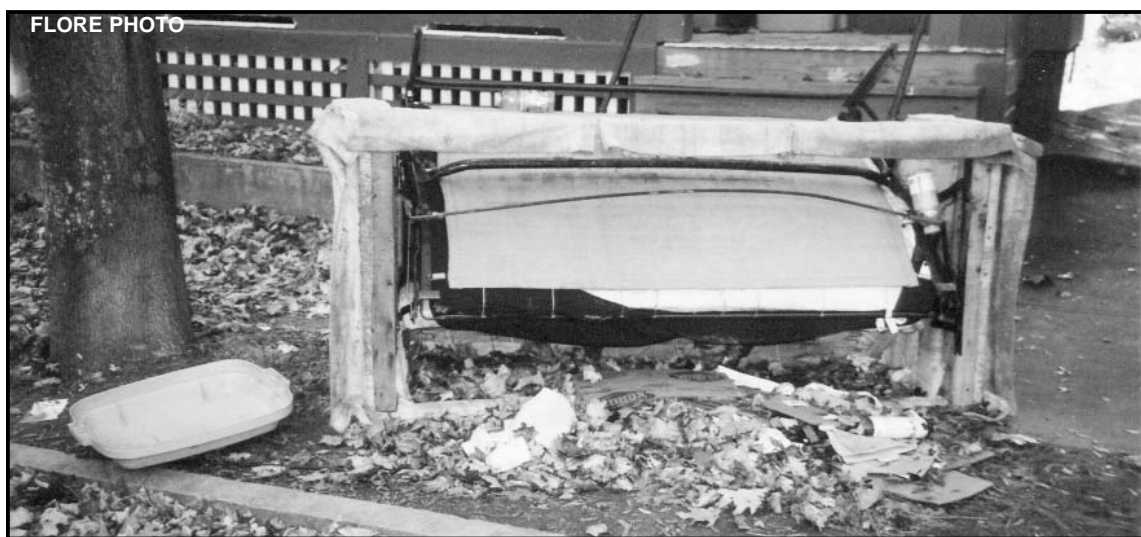
Perhaps the first thing is to deal with such unsightly scenes as the photograph taken below, cast-offs thrown right out on the street. How do we remind people not to dump anything out on the sidewalks? The streets are not open garbage cans.

Let's start right in our front yard to clean up such unsightly messes. Next, we should think about how to help the village regain its former prestigious

ways. Perhaps, in showing its quality, we can show how America can once again be beautiful.

After all, remember, we have the renovated playhouse, the new Discovery Center, the Conte Fish Lab over the canal, not forgetting the fish ladder to watch agile shad and salmon climb the falls, as they have every spring, over millions of years.

Anyone want to share all of their bright, even crazy ideas, how to go about it? Send in your thoughts, so we can read them and work together to bring them into being.



This hideaway sofa sat in front of 26 3rd Street since August. Last week, it suddenly vanished. How?

Music in the Air

The following excerpt was taken from the Historical Walking Tour of Turners Falls Village:

"The perception is that down-



town is not a good place to live by many people who live in Turners Falls. But I really enjoy Turners and Turners has been very good to me. I find it very rewarding to live here. I appreciate the sense of neighborhood; it's stronger here than any other place I've ever lived. There is such a sense of history here, which is very varied. From things that were going on in the 70s, to the 50s, to the turn of the century and 1870s when the canals were built, and going back to the Indians. Everywhere, in this small little area, in this half mile radius, there is evidence of all those influences. Historically and visually it's a very rich place.

"I'm sitting here and looking out my window. I can see Canada Hill. This time last year there was a herd of deer walking across while I was eating my breakfast, and at the same time I was watching people going to work at the mill. I don't even have to get out of my chair and I can see both those things! There are so many

layers here, simultaneously rich. "There's a kind of music in the air here. There's the rhythm of the mills, and the church bells and the bird song and it's all happening at the same time. And the rush of the canal, I can hear the canal water go by in the evenings, that lapping and rushing sound of water, and then there's the sound of cars going over the bridge to and from Greenfield." - LJ, (1995)



ANNIE VADEBONCEUR PHOTO

Sita Lang and her crew have been hard at work lately cleaning up the debris scattered in the parking lot of the old Railroad Salvage building, much to the relief of the entire neighborhood.

Jen Smenzer, Sita lang, and John "Jhonno" Balchunas

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The Town of Gill is Seeking: Truck Driver/Laborer 2 yrs experience heavy equipment operator and snowplowing. MA CDL Class 2 and Housing License For further info. or for application contact the Administrative Assistant, Town of Gill, 325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01376 or 413-863-9347 EOE

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

Really nice, heavy black jacket from Howard's Leathers. Perfect condition. Snap in liner. Good fit on 6'3" 220 Lbs. \$275 new, will sell for \$150. Call 367-0350.

Ride Needed

BOSTON SYMPHONY FRIDAY SERIES - Is there anyone in the area who attends the regular Friday afternoon concerts? Need ride. Will share gas and parking costs. Steven 413-863-9922

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JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

Sonya Kitchell

at All Souls Unitarian Church
Nov. 20th
7:30 p.m.
Live Cool Jazz



FRIDAY, NOV. 19TH

Franklin County film aficionados will have an exciting new viewing and dining option when the Media Arts Cafe opens its doors Nov. 19th with a showing of the critically acclaimed film *Chinatown*. Located at 105 Main Street in Northfield in the Green Trees Gallery building. A regular weekend slate of classic, independent and documentary films will be featured in an intimate, high-quality setting, plus great food. The venue will offer two showings each night at 6:45 and 9:15 p.m. Tickets are \$10, \$8 for students and seniors. For reservations call 413-498-2100. Seating is limited and doors open at 6 p.m. Saturday's film will be *The Big Lebowski*.

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

SATURDAY, NOV. 20TH

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse presents a live performance by blues/rock artist

JOHN SHELDON AND FRIENDS

at the historic Wendell Town Hall on the common. Open mic at 7:15, John Sheldon and Friends at 8 p.m. Proceeds to help benefit the Hitchcock Center for the Environment. For more info :www.wendell-fullmoon.org. Call (978) 544-0240 to sign up for open mic.

The Big Lebowski showing at Media Arts Cafe in Northfield, see Friday's listing above.

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

Sonya Kitchell, live jazz performance at All Souls Unitarian Church, 399 Main St., Greenfield. 7:30 p.m. with All About Buford, a great pop/funk vocal band from Boston. Miro Sprague and Emiliano Garcia will be playing on this gig.

FRIDAY, NOV. 26TH

You may need a...

FULL MOON TURKEY TROT

Walk off some of your turkey feast - hike through gorgeous upland forest and farmlands and reach the top of Crag Mountain. Total hike is over 3 miles. Sponsored by Northfield Mountain Recreation Area. 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. Directions:

800-859-2960.

SUNDAY, NOV. 28TH

Tuba Christmas

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

Got Kids? Montague Grange Family Dance Series at 4:00 p.m. The Montague Grange continues this wonderful family series, now in its fourth year. The series goes from October through April. The series features family-style contra dancing, paced for little feet (no age restriction) or adult beginners, in a beautiful, restored historic building, across from the Town Commons in picturesque Montague Center. Each dance is on the last Sunday of the month, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM, priced a sliding \$5-\$10, and includes a light snack.

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

Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts and Nick Waynelovich are proud to announce the

Ja'Duke Christmas Spectacular

at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls on Friday, December 3rd and Saturday, December 4th at 8 p.m. and Sunday December 5th at 2 p.m. General Admission is \$12.00 - 65/over and 12/under \$10.00. This Christmas Spectacular features The Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts members as well as Ja'Duke Productions vocalists and features a cast of over 140 performers. It is an old fashioned Christmas show with music and dance that will entertain the whole family and the cast includes Santa, Mrs. Claus, Santa's Elves, Snoopy, Elvis, and Frosty the Snowman. Holiday music will be performed featuring songs like Sleigh Ride, White Christmas, Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer, I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus, Oh Holy Night, Blue Christmas, Jingle Bells, The Gloucestershire Wassail, Winter Wonderland, The Christmas Song, Ave Maria, Have Yourself A Merry Christmas and many, many more! Ja'Duke Productions staff includes the internationally award winning tap dancer Kimberly Waynelovich as choreographer, and producer/director Nick Waynelovich. This unique father and daughter team brought you the dynamic

and very popular Footloose, Crazy for You, Chicago and 42nd Street. Ja'Duke Productions brings you this classic Christmas Spectacular underwritten by Greenfield Savings Bank. Tickets are available at World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield or for reservations please call the Shea Theater at 413-863-2281.

SAT & SUN, DEC. 4TH & 5TH WENDELL HOLIDAY FAIR

at the Wendell Town Hall (Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) Holiday shopping featuring local artists, crafters, and businesses. Special guest Fran Doughty on acoustic guitar, Sunday 12 to 2. Food sales to benefit Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse and the Wendell Women's Club. Sponsored by the Wendell Community Development Planning Committee to support local economic development goals.

SUNDAY, DEC. 5TH

Wild Asparagus

will host a Family Contra Dance to benefit the Greenfield Center School on Sunday, Dec. 5th from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the Guiding Star Grange at 410 Chapman Street, Greenfield. Advance tickets and T-shirts are for sale now. This is both a GCS fund-raiser and "fun" raiser, so let's show some love for our school! Visit: www.guidingstargrange.org for directions and more information.

ONGOING THRU DEC. 5TH BRICK HOUSE SEEKS ARTISTS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE

The Brick House is seeking artists and craftspeople who would like to participate in the First Annual "Firsts and Seconds on Third Street" Under \$25 Arts and Crafts Sale on December 4th and 5th. All sales are on consignment, with The Brick House taking a 30% commission. The sale will go from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sale is targeted to the thrifty local shopper who still wants quality items. Work such as pottery mugs, small photos or or simple jewelry is very appropriate. Artists who are interested in participating in the sale should contact Michael or Karen at The Brick House at 863-9576 to receive an application form.

Art exhibits and sales at
**Mudpie Potters
Community Clay
Center**

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

ONGOING THRU. DEC. 15TH

New Hampshire artist Julia Ferrari likes to think not only in terms of landscape, but also the human interaction with that landscape. It's with this in mind that she approached her new exhibition, *The Further Mound Series*, at the Northfield Mount Hermon School's Nada/Mason Gallery. *The Further Mound Series* will continue at NMH through December 15th. The Nada/Mason Gallery is located in the Bolger Arts Center on the school's Northfield campus. For more information, call (413) 498-3297.

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Mabel Zobel
By
Sandra Facto



Drama Queen? No my dear girl. I'm just crazy and I have the documentation to prove it.

Honoring the Fallen

On Veterans Day, a somber crowd turned out to honor the American men and women who have fallen in the service of their country in wars past and present. Master Sergeant Larry Parker gave a rousing oration about the debt we owe to veterans, recalling the loss of his elder brother in the Vietnam War, and recounting heroic tales of past conflicts.

Cathy Allenby and Linda Wickline read the names of 29 Massachusetts veterans who have lost their lives in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. They updated the sign recording current casualties in Iraq. As Richard Loftin, a bugler

from Nantucket, played taps, Don MacPhail and his son Ian raised the flag.

Loftin, a member of the organization Buglers Across America, said he came to Turners because he "wanted to honor Leo Parent's efforts in maintaining the memorial. He was concerned our casualties in Iraq were not being noticed, before a lot of other organizations thought of that. The flags and the sign are a nice way to honor our fallen and wounded servicemen. Besides," said Loftin, "You can't have a complete Veterans Day service without a bugler playing taps."



Sergeant Larry Parker, a resident of Montague, gave a heartfelt tribute to the heroes of past wars, including his elder brother, who was killed in the Vietnam War.



Linda Wickline adjusts the count of American soldiers killed in action in Iraq. Fifty more flags have been added at the memorial since last Thursday.



As Linda Wickline waits her turn, Cathy Allenby (center) reads names from a list of Massachusetts GIs killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. Leo Parent bows his head in respect (right).

Where the Geese Wander

BY FRAN HEMOND

GREAT FALLS - The Connecticut River by Unity Park stretching broad over Barton Cove is host to hundreds of trim, dark Canada Geese who float and fly and preen in merging groups in this beautiful haven. This mild November afternoon it was time-out for the flock near the dam. Most of them were bobbing on the water near the shore, with dark head tucked under wing, trim body compact, and unique white chin strap hardly showing.

Walk along the edge of the river, and the scene changes. Most of these Canadas seem bigger. They do not look like floating bundles; they are moving around one another in their group, some occasionally flapping black wings and stretching long necks which show off the pretty white patterning, the dark bill. Their size is not apparent because so much of them is

beneath the water.

Suddenly, they're gone! The Canadas rise almost together, big bodies lifted into the air. They fly honking noisily some hundred feet up the river. They settle together, displacing a few mallards who make way. The iridescent green head, rusty breast and blue speculum would make mallard drakes a prize sighting if they were not so common worldwide.

A visitor moves into the space so recently vacated; he appears from nowhere, a heftier imperious grey goose whose single-minded activity separates him from the other birds on the



JAMES DAMON PHOTO

river. He seems to ride a little higher in the water than the sleek Canadas. His light coloring and an aspect of tipping forward that shows his ample white rump topped by grey wings,

held high at alert, set him apart. In the bright sun his breast and neck seem white, his head brownish-grey, his bill thick and orange. His legs seem hitched wide to the sides of his body and

look orange in the water. He drinks water now and again as he swims along. In fact, whenever I have seen him, he seems busy doing something, checking out a flock, mixing with a gull or two, preening when all around were at rest.

He swims not with any flock; he cruises around on his own, checking out the handsome, sleeker Canadas in gooseland on the river. Everything seems effortless. He must be a powerful flier although I have never seen him in flight. Who is our visitor?

As I read the birding books, he seems too large to be the Ross's Goose other, more experienced birders have spotted visiting in recent weeks. He may be a White-Fronted Goose, or perhaps a common barnyard goose gone astray. Check him out. Whoever he is, he knows that the waters of Barton Cove are the best.

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