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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 - NO. 9

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 23, 2011

## The Blow by Blow on a Wind Farm Hearing



**Proponents Plan to Re-apply for Eight 2.5 MW Turbines on Mount Massamet**

PHOTO SIMULATION COURTESY OF HARRY DODSON, DODSON ASSOCIATES, ASHFIELD

*Eight 470-foot tall wind turbines are proposed for Mt. Massamet in Shelburne, overlooking the village of Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts.*

**BY KATIE NOLAN**  
**SHELBURNE** - People stream into Memorial Hall in Shelburne on November 17th for a zoning board of appeals (ZBA) hearing on the Mount Massamet wind farm proposal. They pass through a gauntlet of opponents with handouts – two women on the steps outside the door handing out white half sheets listing zoning regulations; a woman with a yellow sheet giving arguments opposing wind-derived electricity; a man with a sheet of photos showing land disruption associated with other wind projects. No handouts are available supporting the proposal.

According to its September 6th application to the ZBA, Mt. Massamet Windfarm, Inc. wants to construct eight 2.5-megawatt

wind turbines on 120 acres along the east slope of Mount Massamet in Shelburne, wind towers that would be visible from downtown Shelburne Falls.

At stage right along a long table, elevated above the audience, sit the four members of the zoning board of appeals (ZBA). The board members look the same as board members in other Franklin County hill towns, earnest and committed citizens who work days, then spend their evenings at meetings that too often go late, listening to proposals and arguments and hashing out ideas – and making decisions that profoundly affect the shape of their towns.

Windfarm applicant Frederick Field, his son John Field, and see **WIND** page 10

## A Perfect Night for Cheese Balls



*The Medula Oblongata in Action at Food City*

**BY JANEL NOCKLEBY**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - I arrived early at Food City, unclear on the start time. I thought, should I get some shopping done? I couldn't fathom what I might need. I hadn't thought this through like how one might normally think these things through before going to a grocery store. You see, I was there to see theater – a play in the bakery department.

The local food vendors had

already set up their tables in the Food City breezeway though, so I began to munch. Garlic pickles from Real Pickles (I had two). Samples of ginger brew and liquid sunshine mead from Green River Ambrosia (I got cut off after three thimbles full). Some lovely sautéed chicken in one of Myron's Sauces (Ponzu, Szechuan, Teriyaki, Tsukeyaki, Yakitori and more!). I skipped the

see **PERFECT** page 6

## Thanks for the Giving

Hundreds are Helped at Food Pantry



*The Survival Center gave out nearly 200 birds for Thanksgiving. Jean Thurber (left) and Sandy Beighley had a nearly empty larder by Tuesday afternoon.*

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - The Franklin Area Survival Center has had a busy week. Due to the generosity of local donors, the food pantry distributed nearly 200 turkeys and chickens to families to help with holiday cheer in difficult economic times.

By the time the doors closed at the pantry on Tuesday afternoon, tired but satisfied volunteers heaved a sigh of relief and gave thanks for the chance to relax after serving a crush of families and individuals seeking help with basic food items, or centerpiece birds for Thanksgiving dinner.

Long time volunteer food pantry staff member Jean Thurber took a break from the action on Tuesday to reflect on the pantry's vital role alleviating the threat of hunger in Franklin County.

"We serve a growing need," she said. "We used to average 20 new families a month. These last few months, we have seen 35 to 40 new families come through the door." That's in addition to the regulars.

Thurber said the food pantry

serves 1013 individuals a month now, and there seems to be no let up in demand for the staples and nonperishable food items the pantry provides.

Sandy Beighley, of Erving was there to serve the overflow crowd on Monday and Tuesday, and she seemed proud to have been able to help. She explained she was simply filling the shoes left empty when her mother, Mary Tirell, passed away not long ago. Tirell had volunteered at the food pantry for years.

Thurber said the pantry was able to buy 71 chickens at Food City this year for distribution at the pantry, thanks to anonymous cash donations of two longtime supporters. She said the Emblem Club of Greenfield and the Montague Elks made it possible to purchase \$700 worth of turkeys for distribution at the pantry. And people also walk in unbidden with birds to donate, including one man who brought in five turkeys this week to give away to food pantry clients.

These are tough times, but there is plenty to be thankful for in Franklin County.

## Shutesbury and Leverett Meetup on School Plans

**BY DAVID DETMOLD & ROBIN KEARNS** - The Shutesbury and Leverett school committees met in joint session at the Leverett Elementary School on Thursday, November 17th, and, in the midst of other topics, discussed forming a regional planning board to explore the possibility of creating a new three or four town school district with Pelham, and possibly Amherst. The planning board, to be formed out of three person committees approved by town meetings in all four towns, but not yet formally appointed, could also look at other possible arrangements for school governance for the Leverett and Shutesbury elementary schools, including the possibility of remaining part of U-28, the current superintendency union with Erving, Wendell and New Salem.

Michael DeChiara, chair of the Shutesbury school committee, commented, "I do have flashes of déjà vu." DeChiara served with Leverett school committee chair Farshid Hajir on a regionalization planning board studying the same questions only two years ago. But DeChiara said, "Significantly, the law has changed – we now have the ability to have the money to do this."

Hajir has also referenced, in recent meetings, a multi-million sum set aside by Governor Patrick to incentivize school regionalization. If Leverett were to regionalize with other towns for school governance, Hajir believes the state could provide enough of an increase in Chapter 90 aid to Leverett to improve programming at the elementary school, and, as he put it on Thursday, "ease the transition."

Hajir has also held up the possibility that Leverett, Shutesbury and Pelham could perhaps all receive "innovation school" designation for their elementary schools as part of any regionalization deal approved by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. An aspect of recent education reform legislation passed in

see **SCHOOL** pg 13



## PET OF THE WEEK Bug Hunter



### Lucky Luke

My name is Lucky Luke and I'm a three-year-old male short-hair cat in need of a good home. I'm a guy that just loves to play. I'm a fantastic hunter of insects too. There is nothing more fun than hunting moths, or any other little creatures that might sneak into your house. I'm an indoors only fellow, so all of my hunting takes place inside. Now there are some things I don't much like, one is to be picked up. Some cats are fine with that but not me... doesn't mean I don't like to snuggle because I do. Also children are just a bit too loud and active for me, I prefer calmness. I do like other cats though. Come down and meet me, you'll see how charming I am. To find out more about adopting me, please contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at 413-548-9898 or via email at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).

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## CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS Make Gingerbread Houses

**BY LINDA HICKMAN**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - On Saturday, December 3rd, at 10:30 a.m., children of all ages and their families are invited to come make easy gingerbread

houses at the Carnegie Library with Ruth O'Mara. Candy, graham crackers, and icing will be provided for this fun program. Free. For more information, call 413-863-3214.

## ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

### Download Books, Welcome New Technician

Downloads & Donuts on Wednesday, November 30th. Learn how to download ebooks while you enjoy donuts and cider. If you're not a techie, but think that an ereader might enhance your reading pleasure or you are just curious, come and try it out at the library. This is a hands-on demonstration and we will be sharing information about how to download free books from the C/W MARS website.

Please welcome Cynthia Rucci to the library. Cindy, our new library technician joined us

in November. She has a wealth of library experience and brings other computer skills and a customer service personality to the job. If you haven't been to the library in November, stop by.

Enjoy our holiday decorations and all the library has to offer to make your spirits bright during this season. Join us on Sunday, December 4th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for Craft Day. Make a winter craft, sponsored by Friends of the Erving Library

Erving Public Library is located at 17 Moore Street. For more



**TURNERS FALLS** - Don Girard (left) and Larry Parker at Veterans Memorial Park in Turners Falls on Veterans Day.

Parker is a 40-year veteran of the Air Force; he served two tours in Southeast Asia. Parker spoke of his older brother Freddie, and the last time he saw him before he deployed for the war in Vietnam. He never saw his brother again. Parker spoke of how proud he was to serve. Of his brother's loss, Parker said, "I now know what supreme sacrifice means."

info call: 413-423-3348 or email: [ervinglibrary@net-scape.net](mailto:ervinglibrary@net-scape.net) 7 p.m., Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The library is now open Sundays, from 1-4 p.m., Mondays and Thursdays, from 1-

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

## Great Falls Middle School Honor Roll 1st QUARTER

6TH GRADE		7TH GRADE		8TH GRADE	
<b>FIRST HONORS</b> Sienna Dillensneider Kasia Dobosz Chloe Ellis Maya Hancock-Pezzati Carlie Kretchmar Snejana Lashtur Simon Lorenzo Kaeden Socquet Jeremy Towle David Tricolici Kyleigh Williams	<b>FIRST HONORS</b> Aliyah Sanders <b>THIRD HONORS</b> Malik Baker-Gore Ian Cecchi Adrianna DiMaio Emma Miner Avery Palmer Hady Patenaude James Vaughn Henry Worden	<b>FIRST HONORS</b> Gabrielle Arzuaga Tionne Brown Tahner Castine Nolan Courtemanche Nicholas Creteau Keara Deery Savannah Donahue William Doyle Jordyn Fiske	<b>FIRST HONORS</b> Jillian Harris Alison Hulslander Tess Hunter Madelyn Johnson Bryn Kruzlic Michelle Leh Ian Moriarty Will Roberge Patrick Salls Amanda Savinski Kate Sprinkle Luis Torres Riley Wood Jordan Wyman	<b>FIRST HONORS</b> Dylan Mailloux Nicholas Morin Owen Ortiz Haleigh Paulin Frederick Smith Nicole Thibeault Kortney Thurber Jacob Wright	<b>FIRST HONORS</b> James Fritz Kamryn Frost Ryan Lenois Mitchell Mailloux Timothy Momaney Riley Palmer Sadie Pelletier Mackenzie Phillips Jenna Putala Allyson Renaud Tanner Richardson Seth Rider Jason Scott Nevan Shattuck Margaret Sroka Sydney Upham Alexandra Vieira Hailey Whipple Cullen Wozniak Alexxis Young
<b>SECOND HONORS</b> Tanner Ames Hannah Bogusz Madison Chmyzinski Amanda Cooke Sahaley DuPree Kylie Fleming Daniel Momaney Marissa Rosa	<b>SECOND HONORS</b> Tanner Ames Hannah Bogusz Madison Chmyzinski Amanda Cooke Sahaley DuPree Kylie Fleming Daniel Momaney Marissa Rosa	<b>SECOND HONORS</b> Jaynise Burton Richard Craver Jack Darling Jemma Dickson Stone Dresser Melissa Hersey Regina Hope Kaili Lynch	<b>THIRD HONORS</b> Ryan Howard Calley Hubert Alison McKenna	<b>THIRD HONORS</b> Ryan Howard Calley Hubert Alison McKenna	<b>SECOND HONORS</b> Casey Antunes Jacob Barboza
					<b>THIRD HONORS</b> Brennan Camara Noah Cordonnier-Padilla Tyler Elie Devan Rivera

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES – November 28th - December 2nd

**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. There will be a drop in flu clinic on Wednesday 11/30 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets are now on sale at the Senior Center for the **Holiday Lunch** at the Tech School on December 6. For information, meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 413-863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine if the center is not open.

**Monday, November 28th**  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:00 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday, November 29th**  
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
**Wednesday, November 30th**

10:00 a.m. Aerobics  
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Health Screening & Flu Clinic  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, December 1st**  
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Brown Bag  
No Tai Chi  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, December 2nd**  
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 28th**

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise  
12:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Tuesday, November 29th**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10:00 a.m. Tax Exemptions for Erving residents 60+  
12:30 p.m. Painting  
**Wednesday, November 30th**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing/Zumba  
12:00 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, December 1st**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
**Friday, December 2nd**  
9:00 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Lunch - t.b.a.

**LEVERETT Senior Activities**  
• Take-It-Easy (Chair) Yoga – Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$4.00 (first class free).  
• Senior Lunch – Fridays, 12:00 p.m. Call 413-367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.  
• For information, contact the Leverett COA at 413-548-1022, ext. 5 or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

**WENDELL Senior Center** is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, 978-544-6760 for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

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## Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** - In honor of **National Caregivers Month**, Greenfield Savings Bank is partnering with the Franklin County Home Care Corp to celebrate several popular, rewarding programs. Stop by the GSB location at 282 Avenue A in Turners Falls on Wednesday, November 30th, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for a presentation explaining how FCHCC supports caregivers with valuable programs such as respite, caregiver grants, grants for grandparents, in home care and other options. A question and answer period will follow, and light refreshments will be served. Call Linda at 413-863-4316 for your reservation.

What was Wendell like in days gone by? Former select-board member **Ted Lewis** will be giving a talk about Wendell in the olden days and answering questions on Thursday, December 1st, at 7:00 p.m. at the Wendell Library. This event is sponsored by the Wendell Historical Society and is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

New Renaissance Players of the Shea Theater in Turners Falls are putting on a performance of **"It's a Wonderful Life"** directed by Kimberly Morin, performed in the style of a 1940s radio show, with actors onstage reading from the script, and sound effects performed onstage. New Renaissance Players shows benefit the Shea Theater by giving 100% of the proceeds back to the nonprofit Shea Theater. Performances will be held December 2nd, 3rd, 16th, 17th, and 18th. Call the Shea at 413-863-2281 or: [www.theshea.org](http://www.theshea.org) for ticket prices, curtain times and reservations.

A reminder to mark your calendars for December 3rd and 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the **Wendell Holiday Fair** held at the town hall. The fair is a gen-

erous fundraiser for the Swift River School Music and Art departments. Over the last three years, the community has raised several thousand dollars for the school through the annual fair, which features the work of local artisans including beautiful handmade jewelry, glass work, one-of-a-kind pottery, clothing, wooden toys and gifts, local art and a popular raffle. The Skorupa family will entertain shoppers and the Diemand Farm will provide lunch on a first-come-first-serve-basis between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. both days.

The **Annual Make-and-Take Craft Fair** of holiday gifts you can make or buy is being held at the Montague Grange Hall on Sunday, December 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. sponsored by the Friends of the Montague Grange, on Main Street in Montague Center. People of all ages can make lovely gifts, enjoy a homemade lunch, and shop for crafts and collectibles. Gift making activities include rolling colored beeswax candles and making unique holders, forming wreaths with locally gathered and recycled material, gilding acorns to hang from your wreaths, beading delicate snowflake ornaments and jewelry, creating sweet gnomes and fairies from fabric scraps and natural materials, making refrigerator magnets with marbles and tiny photos that you bring, and much more.

Admission is \$1 per person and the gifts cost \$3 - \$10 to make. Come for the day and enjoy baked potatoes, chili, soup, baked goods and hot drinks. Help the Friends of the Montague Grange raise sorely needed funds to save the Grange Hall and have fun along the way. Call Cindy at 413-367-0042 for more info or write to: [cindy@thealchemystudio.com](mailto:cindy@thealchemystudio.com)

**A Polish Christmas Bazaar**

will be held at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 87 K Street, Turners Falls on Saturday, December 3rd, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. As always, there will be Polish crafts and home-made foods, raffles and fun for the whole family. To rent a table at this popular annual event, or for more information, contact Shirley at 413-773-7202.

The Wendell Senior Center will sponsor a **free SHINE counselor** on Friday morning December 2nd. Call the library to schedule an appointment at 978-544-3559. Medicare's new open enrollment period runs through December 7th. Medicare plans change every year and should be reviewed to keep your options up to date. A SHINE counselor can help provide counsel and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries and their families free of charge.

**Franklin County Technical School's** 3rd Annual Reunion Gathering for classes from 1977 to recent graduates (must be 21 years or older) will be held on Saturday, November 26th. Happy hour will be from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.; dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. with music at 7:00 p.m. Held at French King Bowling Center, 55 French King Highway in Erving. All money raised will go to the scholarship fund for graduating seniors. Email for more info: [alummi@fcts.org](mailto:alummi@fcts.org).

The Erving Senior Community Center **Grand Opening** at 1 Care Drive will be held on Sunday, December 11th. The Ribbon Cutting ceremony will take place at noon, with refreshments and entertainment to follow. Call 413-422-2800, ext 100, for more info.

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

**Town of Erving  
Recreation Commission**

Final date to sign up for  
youth basketball program:

Tuesday 11-29-11 at  
Erving Town Hall

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

## On Books: A Spoonful of Promises: Recipes and Stories from a Well-Tempered Table



**REVIEWED BY CINDY TARAIL; LEVERETT** — Stating, "Food is storing our memories for us," Leverett resident T. Susan Chang celebrated this month's publication of her first book, *A Spoonful of Promises: Recipes & Stories from a Well-Tempered Table*, (Globe Pequot/Lyons Press), with a packed crowd at the Leverett Library, located just across the street from the old farmhouse she and her family are fixing up. Softly, in a confident voice, the author read some of her memoirs' tightly crafted short essays and took questions from neighbors interested in her cookbook-reviewer life. Like her inspiration, M.F.K. Fisher, America's most famous food writer, Chang writes about food and life with great literary knowledge and skill as well as her passion for cooking well and efficiently.

I do know Susie personally. Long before young moms began blogging like crazy about DIY eggs, honey, aprons and canning, and before articles about eating local proliferated, Susie interviewed our family for an article in the *Globe* about eating from your backyard. She knew my husband Mark from his work in promoting locally grown food for its own deliciousness, not just for its sustainable status. I

produce some good eats from our homely fifth of an acre, from garlic to maple syrup to raspberries, and Susie too was interested in really slow cooking, starting with mellowing the unfortunately rocky soil of her Leverett field. Soon enough, we were cooking for each other, and Susie was becoming a regular cookbook reviewer, receiving hundreds of books a year by post and cooking up more recipes than anyone I know.

At Susie's well-used dining table, we dined on the week's recipe-testing fare, with her plan of attack carefully mapped out on a list tacked up over the sink. We dug into savory chicken potpie in tiny ramekins topped with delicate flaky crusts with some local brew on the side. Miraculous Chinese soup dumplings in which soup, meat and ginger exploded in our mouths all at once from the hundred soft wrappers we had rolled. Rough warm corn tortillas her husband pressed wrapped the most nicely charred and salty flank steak she made on her Weber. Revelatory flash-fried kale with garlic actually cooked through in minutes without the need for long braising. (I bought a stove with hotter burners so I could make my kale that way.)

As a graduate of the Institute for Culinary Education in NYC, and with many years of serious experimenting in every kind of cuisine at home, Susie has the training to understand, just by reading a recipe, whether it has the potential to work or not. And where does she cook up these carefully chosen recipes? Home cooks might get the impression that all test kitchens are sterile, laboratory-like spaces, with banks of ovens and appliances and busy recipe testers gliding from station to station. Unlike the America's Test Kitchen of *Cook's Illustrated* fame, Susie's kitchen functions more like our

see **BOOKS** pg 12

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David Detmold

**Layout & Design**  
Claudia Wells - Art Director  
Katren Hoyden  
Janel Nockleby  
Boysen Hodgson

**Photography**  
Claudia Wells  
Joe Parzych

**Editorial Assistants**  
Hugh Corr  
Shira Hillel  
Gloria Kegeles

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**Distribution Manager**  
Don Clegg

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Janel Nockleby

**Founded by**  
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold  
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Michael Muller

## Thanksgiving Day

BY FRAN HEMOND

**MONTAGUE CENTER** - Amid the hustle and bustle of rounding up the family and planning the accommodations for folks from afar, we take a moment to remember our years of Thanksgiving Days and perhaps find in them a semi-history of people and places past. The noisy delight of little cousins, running around at grandmother's, the concern of their parents that the kids might upset some apple cart, the new sophistication of the teens, the appreciation of the adults for the chance to catch up with each other's busy lives - all these make up the many reasons this holiday is my favorite.

Then we may reach beyond as did the Pilgrims at Plymouth who celebrated the blessing of their Creator who gave them good harvest and survival of their colony. Bradford's account, *Of Plimoth Plantation*, and Edward Winslow's letters back to England tell of the Thanksgiving feast when the starchy Pilgrims, well appreciative of Massasoit's help in the starving time, invited him to their celebration. He arrived with a hundred warriors and venison, and the three days of this party, with more guests than hosts, and food and games for all, certainly promoted understanding between neighbors at that time.

Somehow, the thanks giving is sometimes overshadowed by exciting events. I was a little kid when we lived in Holyoke, some 30 miles south of Cold Brook Farm. One Thanksgiving, freezing rain had made the ride up through Hatfield to grandfather's farm here in Montague Center hazardous. Our

car was a flivver, not a fancy vehicle, but not many people had cars and my brother and I thought it great.

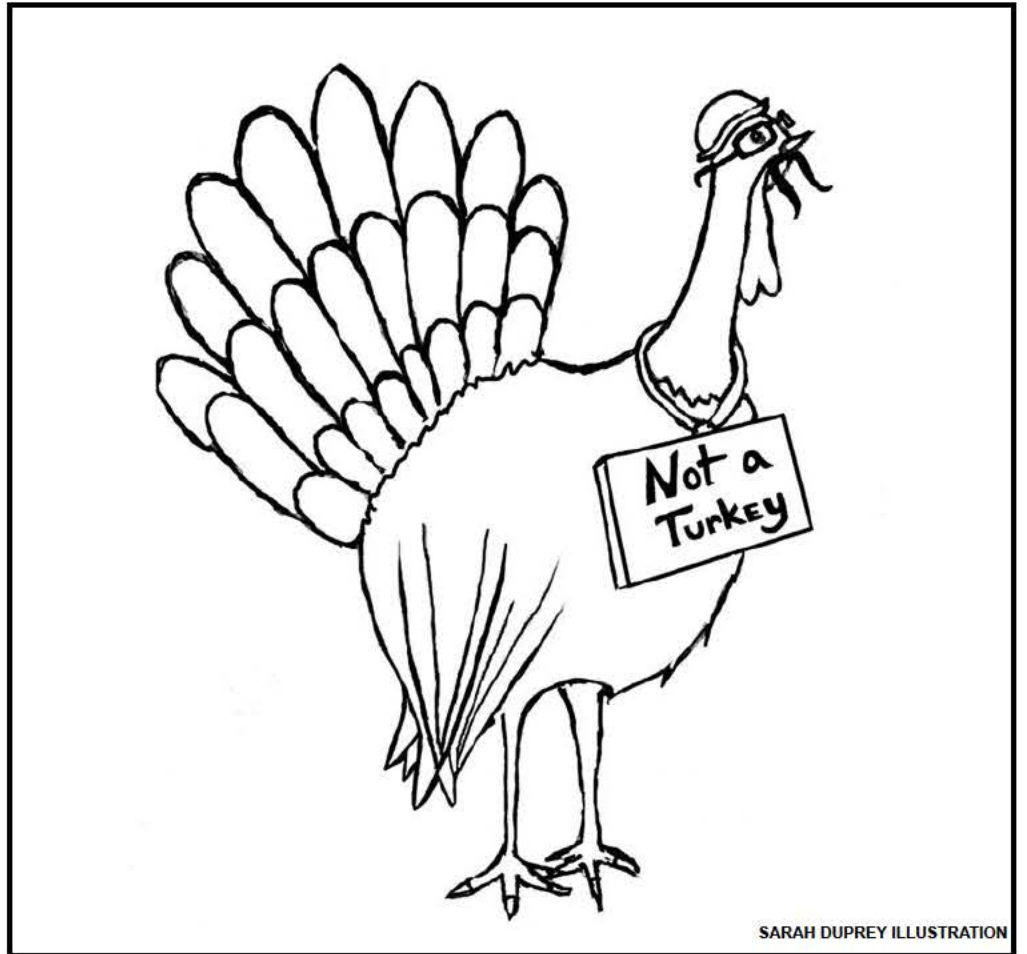
To keep the rain from coming in, the open car had to have flexible curtains that fastened on and enclosed the passengers, letting in light and scenery through little isinglass windows.

The cousins could not make the trip through the storm. But my father was a farm boy, and he could do anything. Arriving through the sleet on frozen roads for the turkey that Grandfather Fred carved with such style from mid-table, and fabulous turnip and squash, pies and nuts and all that Grandmother Rose and Aunt Minnie served from their end of the table with special attention to the little kids, made this all the more a holiday to remember.

Many years later another freezing rain closed out our hosting the Thanksgiving holiday. We were living in Mystic on the Connecticut shore and my husband's family could not make the daunting trip with small children from Hartford on the icy roads.

This time we had a four-wheel drive closed-in jeep with snow tires. We had two rugged teenaged sons, who were quite unwilling to let the family Thanksgiving go by uncelebrated. So with turkey and pie and all, we braved the weather and the treacherous roads and celebrated in proper style.

There have been Thanksgivings when a grandchild has brought a friend from school, sometimes a student from another country. With our guests, we give thanks for our blessings with food and family and friends.



SARAH DUPREY ILLUSTRATION

### GUEST EDITORIAL

## Advocates for Higher Education Win on Casino Bill

Governor Deval Patrick is about to sign a casino bill that will provide an estimated \$20 million per year to public higher education, once casinos are up and running in Massachusetts. Five percent of the total yearly revenues from the three resort casinos that will be built in the coming years will be dedicated to Massachusetts public higher education. The money is specifically intended to supplement existing budgets and not simply replace annual appropriations.

PHENOM (the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts) took no position on the casino bill, and many members of the organization are opposed to casinos. But the organization mobilized its members and a coalition of public

higher education advocates to argue to the legislature that if there were revenues dedicated to a variety of vital needs, public higher education must be included in the final bill.

"We were very pleased to have played a significant role in securing an ongoing revenue stream to our campuses," said Ken Haar, PHENOM board member from Westfield State University. "Just a month ago, public higher education was not included at all. But against long odds and through our efforts and the efforts of our allies inside and outside the legislature, public higher education was included in the final bill."

Representative Tom Sannicandro (D-Ashland), Senator Michael Moore (D-

Milbury) and Representative Ellen Story (D-Amherst) were instrumental in securing a portion of the revenues for public higher education, advocating for weeks to have the system included in the final bill.

"This is the first significant new revenue stream for public higher education in a long while," said Story. "While I have mixed feelings about casinos, I don't have mixed feelings about public higher education - it deserves much more support than our Commonwealth provides. This money will be a small but important step toward reversing the endless cuts to our vital public institutions."

- Ferd Wulkan  
Montague Center

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### High Praise for Christina's

This is an unabashed endorsement of Christina's on Route 2 in Ervingside, under new management, at the site of the former Starlight Diner, and the Smokin' Hippo. Now under the ownership of Tony Dimaio, who grew up cooking at his father's highly appreciated "Dimaio's" in Deerfield,

Christina's is a very good, classic, full service American-Italian restaurant, with consistently good food served well at a reasonable price. I recently had a deliciously fresh and generously portioned Schrod Picatta. Redolent with capers, white wine and butter, it was well executed, perfectly seared, garnished with artichokes and served on al dente linguini. Some recent specials: Scallops Mediterranean over linguine prepared with a spicy, olive red

sauce, Veal Osso Bucco with a rich rosemary sauce, and Chicken and Shrimp Caprice with mushrooms in a sherry cream sauce. Dimaio's meatballs are at least as good as mine, and I don't admit that easily. They are open every day.

- Myron Becker  
Wendell

## Local News on a Bicycle

Thank you for a very high order of local journalism and news. You have reminded me what journalism really means in a community. Besides, where else can you get the editor of the newspaper to deliver your paper by bicycle?

- Richard Nathhorst  
Leverett

## U.S. Casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan as of 11/20/11



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**ANOTHER LETTER**

**Hats Off to the Chiefs**

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to both David Guilbault and Raymond Zukowski for the service they provided in their positions as chiefs of police, David in Greenfield, and Raymond in the Villages of Montague.

I knew both of them when they were growing up, as well as their parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. As the old saying goes "they were cut from good cloth." As adults,

they displayed the wonderful background from which they came. The generation they came from should be well proud of these men.

The towns of Montague and Greenfield will miss the dedication they both provided for the safety and welfare of their communities. I wish them the very best in the future.

- Art Gilmore  
Millers Falls

**Next Steps for Wendell on School Governance**

BY RAY DIDONATO - I am writing in response to an article which appeared in last week's issue (*MR X#8: Wendell Rejects Hybrid Region*) regarding the recent vote of Wendell town meeting against regionalizing Mahar with Orange-Petersham.

As Wendell and Petersham have now both rejected the proposed agreement, the regional planning committee has its work cut out for it to determine the factors which led to its rejection, and next steps moving forward.

Wendell voters expressed a clear desire to assist Orange in improving its education system. However, proponents of the agreement failed to present a compelling case that the Mahar budget would not be impacted by the proposed agreement, a prime concern of Wendell citizens, since our children attend Mahar. The regional planning committee may have underestimated concerns coming from Wendell as perhaps those of a small minority of Wendell town officials. The Wendell town meeting vote will, I hope, dispel that notion.

While I believe Wendell citizens want to help with the elementary school situation in Orange, of paramount importance to Wendell is that the Mahar budget and quality of education not be impacted by regionalization. One major example is the treatment of Mahar's free cash (excess and deficiency) funds under the proposed agreement. The proposed agreement said that in an emergency situation, E&D funds can be drawn from the Mahar budget and used by the Orange elementary system, with a two third vote of the full regional committee. Thus, Wendell tax dollars may be drawn into the Orange system under the agreement, a fact glossed over by the regionalization committee.

While the agreement stated that those E&D monies would be paid back, the committee does not address what would happen if the Orange elementary district cannot pay those

funds back. How would Orange Elementary operate if it were unable to repay borrowed funds - would it run a deficit? If the regional planning committee stripped language from the agreement allowing for use of Mahar E&D funds by Orange Elementary, the proposal might garner more support.

The Wendell finance committee presented what I would term a more stable arrangement than the proposed regionalization agreement, an alternative that would provide more money to Orange in the long run while maintaining E&D monies as separate between Mahar and Orange. This proposal entails forming a K-6 region between Orange-Petersham, with both the resulting Orange-Petersham region and Mahar region forming a school union.

Orange should give serious consideration to such a model, as I believe it would enjoy more support in other member towns.

Separately, the Wendell town meeting voted to form a regional study committee, which will enable us to form a regional study group with other member towns to explore regional configurations, both at the K-6 and at the K-12 level. As readers no doubt know by now from reading reports from the Leverett selectboard and school committee in this newspaper, the towns of Leverett and Shutesbury are actively studying the possibility of forming a regional district with Amherst and Pelham. It has been made clear to members of the Union 28 joint supervisory committee that such a regional district would likely spell the end of the participation of Leverett and Shutesbury in Union 28, and there have been mixed messages as to how quickly this might occur.

While historically Union 28 has functioned rather well, these are obviously tense times in the union. While Wendell would rather see Union 28 remain intact, it is the opinion

of the Wendell school committee and finance committee that it is prudent for the town to explore other configurations, first because the withdrawal of Leverett and Shutesbury from Union 28 may likely lead to dissolution of the union, and second because regionalization study efforts to date have been focused only on the Mahar region, though other possible configurations may exist.

As part of its regional study committee, Wendell will likely be interested in studying the current Union 28 structure, to determine through a factual process the real versus perceived issues concerning Union 28. I believe some complaints regarding Union 28 arising from the Leverett selectboard are valid, whereas others represent a misunderstanding of where Union 28 issues end, and local school issues begin, and yet others are just factually incorrect.

The regional study committee will also enable us to determine whether Union 28 could survive with two member towns withdrawing, or whether more towns would need to be added for the union to be sustainable. The committee will also help determine what other regional configurations exist, with possibilities including an expansion of the existing K-6 district, adding an additional town or towns to the Mahar region, or joining a different K-6 or K-12 regional configuration altogether.

The point is that in very uncertain times, it is incumbent upon Wendell to embark on a detailed examination of different school governance configurations, while attempting to strengthen those structures we know work well.

*Ray DiDonato is a member of the Wendell school committee. The opinions expressed here are his own, and do not necessarily represent those of other members of the committee.*

**OCCUPY THE AIRWAVES**

On Sundays at 10 a.m., Valley Free Radio, WJOJ-LP (103.3 FM) airs its newest weekly show, "Occupy the Airwaves."

The hour-long show features the latest news from the Occupation Movement, locally, regionally, nationally and around the planet. Occupy the Airwaves has interviews, news and views, and of course, music and spoken word regarding all the issues relevant to the Occupy Movement. Listeners can participate by calling in at (413) 585-1033 and adding their voices to this historic moment in U.S. history.

Occupy Wall Street and approximately 370 locally organized occupations across the nation and here in Western Mass have captured peoples' imaginations and the headlines. In the words of media sage, Bill

Moyers, "Those men of action in the capitalist world were not content with their wealth just to buy more homes, more cars, more planes, more vacations and more gizmos than anyone else. They were determined to buy more democracy than anyone else. And they succeeded beyond their expectations. After their 40-year veritable crusade against our institutions, laws and regulations — against the ideas, norms and beliefs that helped to create America's iconic middle class — the Gilded Age is back with a vengeance."

But corporate America's days are numbered. Mark your calendars for Sundays at 10 a.m. Occupy the Airwaves webcasts and podcasts are at [www.valleyfreeradio.org](http://www.valleyfreeradio.org) or tune to 103.3 FM where "Free speech is in the air!"

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The *Montague Reporter* isn't just for residents. It's also for residents once removed.

Years ago I bought my parents a subscription to the *Montague Reporter*. They have never lived here, and only visited a couple of times a year. But each week the *Montague Reporter* provided them with a glimpse of their far-flung daughter's life in a small town by the Connecticut River. In addition to the goings on in their grandchildren's school from sports to theater; my mother continues to enjoy the *Gardeners Companion*, and I occasionally point her to relevant articles in the *Healthy Geezer*.

The *Montague Reporter* isn't just for locals - though you may know a near neighbor who would enjoy a gift subscription too! Until the end of December, for the special holiday offer of five dollars off the already low price, you can purchase a gift subscription for a friend or family member, near or far. Use the subscription blank on page 4. Happy holidays!

- Emily Monosson  
for the *Montague Reporter* board

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# A Citizen Cares for Steps and Sidewalk



DETMOLD PHOTO

Philip Kuczewski stands by the broken hand rails of the steps he uses every day.

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - Thirty-six concrete steps lead down a steep embankment from the top of the Hill on Worcester Avenue down to Unity Street in Turners Falls, offering a convenient shortcut for residents of that small neighborhood to walk to downtown restaurants and stores, banks and the post office.

One Worcester Avenue man who uses those stairs daily, a former highway department worker named Philip Kuczewski, 67, has been concerned about the condition of those steps - which feature cracked and sagging concrete walls, broken metal handrails on one side, and broken wooden handrails on the other.

Kuczewski said when it snows, sometimes it takes the town several days before the steps are shoveled off, or before the sidewalk along the steeply curving Unity Street hill gets cleared.

"I know they lost guys due to budget cuts and layoffs," said Kuczewski. But he thinks the town should clear the steps and walks in his neighborhood sooner. School children use the walkways heading up the Hill in winter, and there is no room to walk safely on the side of the road on Unity Street if the sidewalks aren't cleared.

Kuczewski recently borrowed a leaf blower from a neighbor and spent hours clearing the sidewalk and steps of leaves

and debris.

"I can't see having a dirty sidewalk," said Kuczewski. He filled three plastic garbage bags full with litter and nip bottles from the sides of the embankment.

Kuczewski grew up in the Patch, and has lived on Worcester Avenue for decades. He worked for 15 years for the highway department under Andrew Rastallis, but got laid off in the days before the union and seniority rules when the passage of Proposition 2½ led to budget cuts on the local level. He remembers the exact date in April when he lost his job in 1981. But he has not lost his pride in maintaining the public walkways of the town.

## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

# Erving Supports a Change to the Way Massachusetts Elects Presidents

**BY KATIE NOLAN** - "We are contacting you in the hopes that you share our opinion that all Massachusetts voters would be provided with a stronger voice in presidential elections if our current electoral college votes system (winner takes all) were replaced with a system of Congressional district apportionment of presidential electors."

The Erving selectboard plans to send this letter advocating for passage of House Bill 0200 filed by representative Robert Kocera of New Bedford to every town in the Commonwealth.

According to selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin, district apportionment of electoral votes would give individual voters and small towns a stronger voice in presidential elections.

Brian Eno, aide to state representative Denise Andrews, who attended the November 21st selectboard

meeting, said the legislature passed the National Popular Vote interstate compact last year, which would award state electoral votes to the national popular vote winner once enough states to form an electoral majority join the compact.

Eno said that the election laws committee, of which Andrews is a member, would do "due diligence" on Kocera's bill and determine how it fits with the recently passed compact.

According to figures presented by town administrator Tom Sharp, Erving spent \$7,221 for additional fire, police, and department of public works salaries as a result of tropical storm Irene at the end of August. The town has applied for reimbursement from the federal and state emergency management agencies to defray the expense.

The selectboard wrote to the finance committee asking for approval to move

money from the reserve fund to departmental budgets to cover the additional storm related costs until the town receives the hoped for reimbursement.

Sharp will provide the amount spent during the October nor'easter at a future meeting.

School committee chair Jarod Boissonneault told the selectboard the committee has had preliminary budget discussions and is involved in contract negotiations. The committee aims to have a draft school budget ready by January.

Board member Eugene Klepadlo asked Boissonneault about "a rumor that the majority of 6th graders are planning to choose to Turners Falls next year."

Boissonneault said the numbers of students considering choosing out fluctuates over the school year, and added that the real concern is why students consider choosing out of Erving Elementary School.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

#### Domestic Assault, Illegal Dumping, B&E

**Tuesday, 11/15**  
4:56 p.m. Default warrant arrest of [redacted] on Fourth Street. Investigated.  
**Thursday, 11/17**  
9:36 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on East Main Street. Services rendered.  
10:44 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on South Prospect Street. Services rendered.  
**Friday, 11/18**  
12:36 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery.  
1:33 p.m. Illegal dumping at Survival

11:26 p.m. Center on Fourth Street. Report taken.  
**Saturday, 11/19**  
7:23 a.m. Breaking and entering follow up information at Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club on Deep Hole Drive. Referred to an officer.  
7:40 p.m. Trespassing on East Main Street. Investigated.  
2:21 p.m. Burglary, breaking and entering at 91 East Chestnut Hill Road. Investigated.

from **PERFECT** pg 1 cheese from Chase Hill Farm, because cheese doesn't like me, but the reviews from theatergoers were positive for the cheese.

All of these local products and many more are now available at Food City. I think they have the best price around on the pickles. I can eat a whole jar of the dills in one sitting. I recently also picked up a two pound jar of honey from Shelburne at the City of Food. Two pounds! Honey is one of those magic foods

that never spoils. All you have to do is warm it up slightly if it crystalizes.

Of course, anyone who was anyone began to arrive for the show. Greenfield's Fringe Theater thing was the same weekend, but Greenfield, eat your heart out. We had a play in a grocery store with the stage right next to giant towers of Utz puffed cheese balls. You can't beat that.

Oh, and the play was great too. *The Daughter of the Father of Time Motion Study* by The Missoula

Oblongata provided laughter, music, tears, how to get on a postage stamp, smarmy robots, and lots of efficient hand movements. I sat next to the cheese display case in the deli to the far right of the stage, with a good view of the standing-bakery-department-only crowd and the front entrance's warm adieu - "Thank you for shopping."

No, thank *You* Food City and Turners Falls RiverCulture for a fantastic night out in the village.

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**THE NEIGHBORHOOD TOXICOLOGIST**

**The Do's and Don't of Chlorine**

*The Neighborhood Toxicologist has not been on vacation, folks. She's teaching a course at Mount Holyoke spreading her enthusiasm about all things toxic to some promising student toxicologists. You may have read about tetrodotoxin a couple of weeks ago in the Hallowe'en issue. This week's article introduces us to the toxicity of a very familiar chemical: chlorine.*

— Emily Monosson

**BY AMANDA BRETON**

**SOUTH HADLEY** - In our life, we constantly encounter the element chlorine in some form, but we need to take care not to mishandle this chemical, even in the form of a common household product - Clorox.

Chloride is an important life-sustaining anion (negatively charged ion) in the human body. In humans, and all living things, chloride levels are kept balanced. But fluctuations in this balance can cause harm to the body. Although we acquire chloride through natural sources, including food and water, we are also exposed to additional chlorine through chlorinated drinking water, household products and medications, and through its use as a bleaching agent and disinfectant.

Discovered in 1774 when chemist Carl Scheele collected chlorine gas in a bottle and noticed the gas not only yellowed the cork stopper but also drained the color from vegetable flowers, chlorine's journey from chemical curiosity to

star disinfectant took place in the laboratories of 19th century European chemists.

A few decades after Scheele's observation, French chemist Claude Berthollet discovered a way for chlorine to be used safely and developed the hypochlorite bleaching solution still in use today. In 1825, pharmacist Antoine Germain Labarraque recommended a chlorinated soda solution for disinfecting purposes, and in the 1840s Hungarian Ignaz Semmelweiss demonstrated that washing the hands of his clinical students with chlorinated lime soap reduced the mortality of puerperal fever in the delivery room at the clinic where he worked. In the late 1800s, Moritz Traube experimented with using chlorine to disinfect drinking water, and in 1908 the Jersey Water Works was the first in the United States to continuously chlorinate water on a large scale.

Today chlorine is used in Clorox household products, pool water, drinking water, and medicine. But as helpful as chlorine may be, it can be toxic.

Chlorine can be particularly toxic in its gaseous state. Chlorine gas was the first chemical weapon used in World War I, during the Second Battle of Ypres when the Germans released 180,000 kilograms of chlorine gas, killing 6,000 Allied troops in ten minutes and driving back French and Algerian troops.

Chlorine in its gaseous state can be highly toxic. There are several ways people can be

exposed to chlorine gas. Chlorine is sometimes stored and transported as a gas. Chlorine gas can be released into the environment due to leaks or explosions.

The worst chlorine gas accidental release in the United States happened when a train carrying three cars filled with chlorine gas tanks crashed into a parked train in South Carolina in 2005. One of the cars released chlorine gas into the surrounding area, causing eight deaths, with over 500 people treated in surrounding hospitals for respiratory issues.

The most common exposure occurs from the misuse of the bleach and vinegar. Mixing bleach with vinegar does increase the disinfecting power, and the combination has been proven to disinfect surfaces contaminated with anthrax spores. However the combination produces toxic chlorine gas.

Sodium hypochlorite, the active ingredient in bleach, exists as hypochlorous acid in water. The efficiency of this solution depends on its pH, or the measure of its acidity. The pH of bleach is lowered when vinegar is added, making the solution more acidic, which makes it a better disinfectant. However, as pH is lowered, the amount of chlorine gas released increases.

Chlorine gas attacks the respiratory system, and the amount of respiratory damage depends on the length and concentration of the exposure to chlorine gas.

A person can tolerate one to

three parts per million (ppm) of chlorine gas for an hour until irritation starts. At a dose over 30 parts per million, chlorine gas might throw you into a coughing fit, give you a pulmonary edema, or cause shortness of breath. A prolonged exposure of 400 parts per million can be fatal after a half an hour, and an exposure over 1,000 parts per million is fatal within a few minutes.

Exposure to chlorine gas when it is dissolved in water causes damage to the respiratory tract, because chlorine gas forms hydrochloric acid and hypochlorous acid which can be potent corrosive agents, particularly when delivered to the delicate mucus membranes lining the airways of the lungs.

Chlorine also reacts with oxygen reactive species within the mucus membranes to form highly reactive oxidants. In some cases, the immune

response can increase the damage done by chlorine gas. When bodily tissues are damaged, the immune system sends inflammatory cells to the area, which release proteolytic enzymes and oxidants, which in this case can further irritate the lungs.

To stay safe while doing daily chores, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends reading all product labels before use, storing chemicals in their original containers to prevent accidental combination, never purposely mixing two different household cleaners, and opening windows or putting on a fan when cleaners are in use. If you want more information on a certain product, you can also visit the United States Department of Health and Human Services Household Products Database.

*Amanda Breton is a senior at Mount Holyoke College.*

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# Village Sketchbook

## A Walk in the Wilds of Erving



The Poplar Mountain conservation area in Erving

**BY DAVID BRULE** - Fifteen hikers gathered on Old State Road (Route 2-A) in Erving this past Sunday morning. Sponsored by Mount Grace Land Trust, the walk in the woods was an inaugural of sorts for the recently acquired conservation lands in town.

Harry Sharbaugh, much as his look-alike Teddy Roosevelt, led the charge up the hillside trail of Poplar Mountain. The noisy band traipsed through rustling leaves and slightly muddy terrain before reaching the fork at the middle plateau of the conservation area, and heading eastward.

Harry and Sue Sharbaugh have adopted this trail-blazing project as their own. Living in a log home not far from the new trailhead, they've spent some of their precious time laying out the trails on Poplar Mountain, and maintaining them.

Laura Herbert and Rob Fletcher, living next to the conservation lands, have often pitched in their time and enthusiasm in the effort as well. No

small task, for although this Sunday the weather was balmy and the walking easy, barely three weeks ago there was a foot and a half of snow on the

trail was littered and in many cases blocked by massive oak limbs that had come crashing down under the weight of snow. Undaunted and scram-



Erving Conservation area, the Weeping Wall, with Harry Sharbaugh in the lead.

ground, as we all know painfully well.

The carefully maintained

bling to get the trail ready again, the Sharbaughs had attacked the chaos of limbs and

you are in the woods, you can amble easy enough, but at the end of your two hour walk, you

tree trunks with chain saw and limb loppers, and before long, the trail was back in shape for our Sunday stroll.

Harry and Sue have long experience with trail maintenance through their work with the Appalachian Mountain Club, and although the Hallowe'en blizzard left a wreckage that was no child's play to clear up, the paths were whipped into shape. We had been advised by Dave Kotker of Mount Grace that we should expect to clear the trails ourselves, but the Sharbaughs did it ahead of us, so all we had to do was the hiking part.

Cyd Scott of the Erving conservation commission did arrive with his McCullough chainsaw in hand, ready for action, but he had to reluctantly put it back into the trunk of his car.

The carefully color-coordinated trail markings led us up and across the hill, then switched back westward along the foot of an impressive rock ledge ridge. As Harry stated, the trail signs were geared especially to help hikers find their way out of the woods. The thought being that while

don't want to wonder how to get back out and down to your car with unpleasant feelings of being lost!

Saving the best part for last, Harry led us along the Blue Trail that passes at the foot of a wonderful 70-foot long ledge he calls the Weeping Wall. Spring water seeps out all along the ten foot high cliff face covered with moist moss and lichen. Another feature is a lovely bower of mountain laurel, where a gentle stream pours over a ledge creating a four-foot waterfall before resuming life as a stream.

Our winter snowbirds, the slate colored juncos, flitted in the south-facing evergreen leaves of the laurel, clearly choosing this site in which to linger. Harry calls this site "Little Falls" in wry reference to all the Falls names of our regions' towns.

Within an hour and a half of leisurely hiking on this former Ginuiz family property, we found our way back to the cars. We were reminded that this 120-acre expanse was purchased from the family back in 2007, with the help of Mount Grace Land Trust, and a powerful campaign drive headed up by Herbert and Fletcher, and a resounding vote by the Erving townspeople.

At the foot of the trail on Old State Road, we chatted while we picked ticks off clothing, a necessary ritual after a walk in these woods. We all determined to do this again soon. Sue Sharbaugh mentioned the beauty of the place, especially the Weeping Wall as a destination for a deep winter snowshoe hike. Harry did remind us, however, of the impending shotgun deer season.

"Better stay out of the woods, except on Sunday," he said. "I can wear white, hunter orange or day-glo lime green, to some people I still look like a deer!"

We agreed we would leave the mountain to the hunters, but on Sundays we'll be back to walk on the wild side of Erving.

DAVID BRULE PHOTOS

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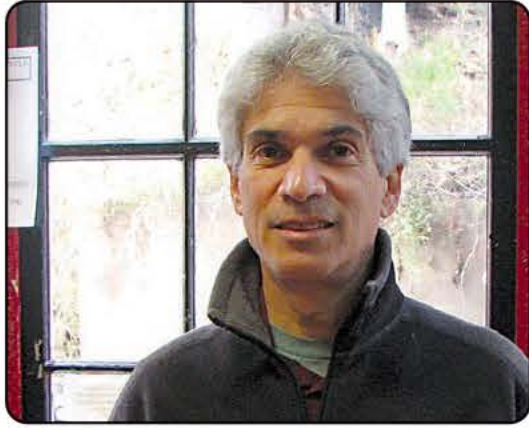


# The Word from the Bookmill

## Reasons to Give Thanks

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY LEE WICKS

Just two days before Thanksgiving, while every supermarket bustled with activity, the Montague Bookmill offered sanctuary to those who wanted to pause in a quiet place before the festivities began. People were surprised but not displeased to have a stranger approach, asking, "What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?"



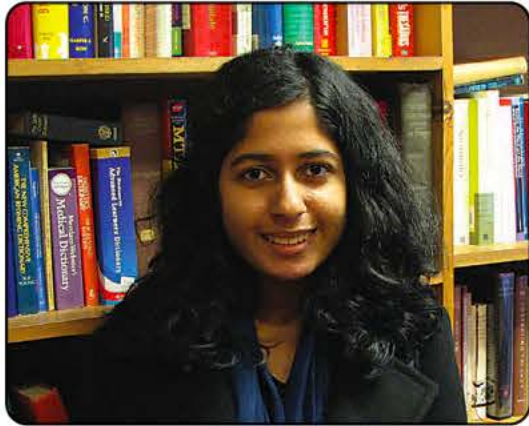
Paul Kaufman of Montague Center, "I am thankful for being."



Susan Shilliday, who owns the Bookmill, had been thinking about her childhood in Pittsburgh and a recent radio program that featured the Carnegie Library there. She said, "That program brought back so many memories, and so I am thankful to the Carnegie Library. It had as much influence in my life as anything else, and I still have a strong visceral response to memories of going there."



Scott Jacobs from Shelburne Falls, "I am thankful for a healthy group of family and friends that I'll be near."



Naomi Sinnathanmby, a Smith College student from Sri Lanka, said, "I am thankful to have my friend Jamie to spend the holiday with."



Jim Samdahl from Princeton, MA, said, "Family. That's enough to be thankful for."



Jamie Samdahl, a Smith College student from Princeton, MA clutched volumes of poetry and said, "I am thankful for lots of poetry to read."

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from WIND page 1

Mark Donohoe (one of two men at the meeting wearing a tie), an engineer working for Mount Massamaet Windfarm Inc., sit at the table at stage left. Field and Donohoe are at the stage of life where people might call them elders. They speak slowly and quietly and appear unassuming, the antithesis of slick developers. More than 200 people sit or stand in the hall, keenly involved in the proceedings.

ZBA chair Joe Palmeri sets the ground rules – presentation by the ZBA members, presentation by the proponents, comments from town boards, then from abutters, then from town residents, then, if there is time, from others. The meeting will break from 8:30 to 8:45 and end at 10:00 p.m. sharp. He asks people to relax, be patient, and respect one another. ZBA member John Taylor says, “Don’t panic,” all viewpoints will be heard.

ZBA member Ted Merrill has an immediate objection to the proceedings. He says it is necessary to determine whether the windfarm is a “commercial electricity generating facility,” clearly allowed by special permit in the rural residential/agricultural zone on Mt. Massamaet, or whether it is an “industrial electricity generating facility,” which would not be allowed in a residential/agricultural area, only in an area zoned industrial. He suggests a final decision might come from land court where “an unelected judge in Boston would decide.” Merrill urges the applicants to go to the planning board for changes in the zoning bylaws, that would then go to town meeting for a vote. “Bring the question directly before the public.”

Palmeri says, “This is really

his (Field’s) first day in court, so to speak. I think we need to give him his time.”

Field says Mt. Massamaet is one of “about a half dozen” sites in Massachusetts suitable for wind farming. He offers the opinion, “Some day there will probably be some wind generation in that location.” He says he and the other wind farm proponents have considered whether the project would fit into existing zoning bylaws and turns over the presentation to Donohoe.

Donohoe says proponents are ready to listen to concerns so they can come back to the board and the town with answers to the questions raised. He says proponents “believe this is a commercial generating facility,” but assures the board they will research the difference between commercial and industrial generation. He tells the meeting that with the wind farm construction, “There will be intrusion, necessary intrusion to provide clean energy.”

Donohoe says the bylaw limit of only one principal structure on a lot does not exist for residential/agricultural zones, and therefore, multiple turbines could be built on a single lot. Palmeri doubts this argument, saying the bylaw was written for associated farm structures – farmhouse, barn, chicken house, etc. – not unassociated structures such as the proposed wind turbines.

Donohoe offers the alternative that proponents could break their land up into individual lots, with only one turbine per lot.

Questioned by ZBA members about how the proponents would break up existing lots and still have the necessary land area and road frontage to create eight lots for the eight turbines, Field says, “We have adequate frontage.”

Palmeri comments, “The frontage is already used up by the farms; you can’t combine frontage.” He asks for drawings with specific lot lines and frontage shown, saying, “These are the things we asked for last meeting. I, for one, don’t like spinning my oars in the water.”

Palmeri asks Donohoe if the proponents will have a planning board approved plan ready for the ZBA, and Donohoe says, “No.” Palmeri tells him, “We’re not going to approve any of this... with just a conceptual plan.” Donohoe suggests the ZBA could approve the plan with the condition that a subdivision would be approved by the planning board before construction starts. Palmeri replies, to laughter in the hall, “No, I don’t think so. I think you’d better get that by us first.” Taylor confirms the ZBA can’t rule in favor unless everything is “signed, sealed and delivered from the planning board.”

Palmeri says proponents must convince the board that the project meets all of the of the criteria in the special permit bylaw – criteria relating to social, economic, community effects, traffic safety, utilities, fiscal impact, surface water and groundwater runoff.

Taylor mentions some of the concerns raised in letters received by the board, such as environmental disruption, interference with other structures, noise and flicker and says the board needs real information, “not optimistic or projected or hopeful statements” from proponents.

Merrill asks when these answers will be ready. Donohoe answers that the proponents don’t want to spend “hundreds to prepare plans and drawings without knowing that we will get a special permit.” A ripple of laughter passes through the crowd.

Merrill calls it a chicken and egg problem, and says, “We don’t issue special permits until we have all those things.”

Donohoe cites the Cape Wind project, saying Cape Wind spent millions over ten years to gain final approval for that 130-turbine offshore wind farm. He says, “We are not the 1%. We are the 99% of this country and we’re trying to accomplish something.”

The crowd breaks out in boos. Someone yells, “Give me a break!” and Palmeri asks for respect for the speakers.

Palmeri summarizes, “You’re asking us to approve a concept which gives you leeway once you walk out the door with your permit in your hand.”

Palmeri opens the meeting for comments from town boards. Planning board member Vincent Matthew Marchese says that after two meetings with proponents, the members feel they still do not have enough information about the project. Conservation commission alternate chair Steve McCormick (chair Norman Davenport has recused himself because he owns land included in the wind farm project) says significantly more information is needed before the commission can make a determination – specifically, there must be wetlands delineation for the site, and evaluation by a wildlife biologist and a terrestrial ecologist. Board of health, board of assessors, and the open space committee representatives say they are still studying the proposal and don’t have input at this time.

Palmeri calls for a fifteen minute break, and board members, proponents, and audience members mingle. Speaking informally at the proponent table, Donohoe tells a questioner the projected cost of the project is

\$40 million. A reporter from WHMP asks Donohoe, “What is your business plan? Who are the investors?” Donohoe looks stumped. “We really don’t have one.” The reporter seems shocked. Donohoe says, “If we find the town completely against this, why go any further?”

After the break, abutters speak. Catherine Smith says she needs to know how close the turbines will be to her house, what the fall zone of the towers would be, whether they might affect telephone, electricity, satellite communications, and whether there would be noise or visual disturbances. She wonders about the size of the roads that would have to be constructed.

Kevin Delaney of Industrial Communications, Inc., the company that owns an existing communications tower near the site, says the clients that use the tower, Northeast Utilities and AT&T wireless are concerned about potential effects on their systems. He concludes, “We would like to see more detailed plans, like everyone else,” and recommends a third party consultant who could review the plans for effects on communications.

Norman Davenport, one of the farmers whose land would be leased for the wind turbines, comes up to the microphone and reads aloud the letter he has sent to the ZBA. He begins by saying, “Many people are here under the impression that this is an oncoming train headed into town and that the only way to stop it is to blow up the tracks. The train has not even been boarded.”

He explains that he has signed a two year lease with Field to research the viability of wind generation on the land, saying, “due to the economic reality of

see WIND page 12

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## the poetry page

It is difficult to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day for lack  
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

Poetry Page edited by  
Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, and Janel Nockleby  
design by Claudia Wells

The editors would like to thank the following for their  
generous financial underwriting of The Poetry Page:

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and Green Fields Market

Readers are invited to send poems to the Montague Reporter  
at 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376; or email us your  
poetry at reporter-poems@montaguema.net

### Water's Will

The steps into a lake, tenderly taken  
Beg questions of animal, mineral and vegetable  
depositing silk to the toes  
tipping around the bites of imagined fish  
opening a second sky that swims into the heart  
breathing wings to unconscious strokes,  
long and longer, known  
heaving a confluence of waves in quiet tumult,  
bubbling, alive, primal, from cool climates  
deep and deeper toward will, firm,  
as sure as the far shore settles in the sun.

—Bob Susskind

### Last

Left dying, rounded mouth mouse,  
head wound, played by a cat,  
labored breath, belly soft,  
pulsing with the same air that used to serve vitality,  
slowly, more slowly, barely conscious,  
a one act tragedy, the guttural rasp  
opening to a receptive cosmos  
an honesty of effort and scale.

—Bob Susskind



### Binsey Poplars felled 1879

My aspens dear, whose airy cages quelled,  
Quelled or quenched in leaves the leaping sun,  
All felled, felled, are all felled;  
Of a fresh and following folded rank  
Not spared, not one  
That dandled a sandalled  
Shadow that swam or sank  
On meadow and river and wind-wandering weed-winding bank.  
O if we but knew what we do  
When we delve or hew—  
Hack and rack the growing green!  
Since country is so tender  
To touch, her being so slender,  
That, like this sleek and seeing ball  
But a prick will make no eye at all,  
Where we, even where we mean  
To mend her we end her,  
When we hew or delve:  
After-comers cannot guess the beauty been.  
Ten or twelve, only ten or twelve  
Strokes of havoc unselve  
The sweet especial scene,  
Rural scene, a rural scene,  
Sweet especial rural scene.

—Gerald Manley Hopkins  
Essex, UK

### Dear Sarah Palin,

I found you lingering in the sul-  
fur burn of a match, whispering  
about the grey Talkeetna  
Mountains.

My life is a wreck from trying  
to reproduce the drama that's  
within me. In you I have found  
the perfect counterpoint to my  
arms swinging and eyes turned  
upward—the way we both  
search for our thoughts in the  
sky. I'm no monster. I could  
have wrecked them all. But  
now a crack of thunder is no  
longer noise. I feel close to  
you. I like you. But there is  
something in you more than  
yourself that I love. I fantasize  
of being snow-blind and bound  
in Alaska, in visions beyond the  
visible.

With you, I want to see the end  
of landscape.

Yours,  
—Derek Fenner  
Lowell, MA

### My Sarah, My Palin,

I'm pulling down the mask while the river taps dreams. I'm  
tired of writing down the ground. I've left for the pines,  
running on fumes, but running. At least I warned you. I'm  
beginning to understand the beautiful fear in a palace of  
slow rolling water and how a dark meadow invites me a  
handful of hours to think of our kiss like a red-tail hawk—  
vanilla and bourbon. I want to drag your shadow down the  
sunset, ease the grace of others with dynamism and a  
moving speech across this sea of ink. My Aries rising  
wants me to place first in the race for you. People's first  
impressions of me may be that I am a little rude, with  
seething impatience. But that's because I'm in such a rush  
to push this body forward that I don't notice those around  
me until I'm crashing into them. This is the mask — the  
first impression. You will also find with my Aries rising that  
I have an indomitable spirit, steadfast courage and willing-  
ness to walk through fire to fight for what I believe in. And  
Sarah, you should also understand that in matters of love  
and sex, my ascendant drives passions to run high which  
matches my Scorpionic tendencies to have a dark and  
mysterious style in bed. You hit Twitter today to endorse  
another Mama Grizzly, I'll certainly alert the folks on my  
feed with a hearty Retweet.

Dreaming of you I want to sleep forever,  
—Derek Fenner  
Lowell, MA

### Blissful Bubble

Life is luscious  
in my blissful bubble.  
How like an an embryo;  
warm, opaque orb  
where I hide  
from everything  
I don't want to see,  
don't want to hear.  
Your words are pins.  
They will burst my bubble.  
They might kill me.  
How fragile this bliss;  
blister over my fear,  
birthing into rage -  
blind bliss blossoming,  
psychical miscarriage.  
Nine months  
is no longer than  
a lifetime

—Kevin Smith  
Turners Falls

### Contributors' Notes:

Bob Susskind and Chuck Stebelton will read from their work this Monday,  
November 28th, at 7 p.m. at All Small Caps at the Deja Brew Pub in Wendell.

Bob Susskind writes intensely in short spurts and does not save  
his pieces on his computer. He has yet to publish a volume of  
his short poems but loves to speak them out loud to any cap-  
tive audience. His transcendent nonautobiography has a way of  
putting him in his place.

Gerard Manley Hopkins was born in Essex, England, and lived  
from 1844-1889.

Derek Fenner is an artist, writer, publisher, and juvenile justice  
educator. He is the author of *My Favorite Color is Red*  
(Bootstrap Press 2005), *I Know Longer Believe in the Sun: Love  
Letters to Katie Couric* (Bootstrap Press 2009), and *Wild  
Schemes* (Lew Gallery 2010). He lives in Lowell, MA.

Kevin Smith is 52 years old, a Turners Falls resident, tubist and  
therapist as well as poet.

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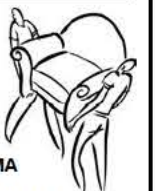
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**WIND** from page 10

agriculture today" it is necessary for farmers to consider all sources of income from their land. He asks other residents to keep an open mind. He walks away from the microphone with dignity, focusing on returning to his seat, not on the rows full of people who disagree with him.

Michael Perry of Springdale Farm calls the project industrial, wrong for an agricultural area. He mentions the potential for adverse health effects from wind turbines, and says, "My wife and family and I have no interest in being guinea pigs for an ongoing health experiment." He says Field does not have the money to put into the studies necessary.

Tom Lesser, a lawyer hired by project opponents and the only man at the meeting dressed in a suit and tie, argues forcefully against the plan, citing the many unanswered questions, saying that, "The simple reality is, you don't have an application here. We're just talking about a hypothetical." He asks the ZBA to end the hearing and deny the permit without prejudice and let Field reapply when the application is complete.

Neal Anderson, a resident of Falmouth, MA, his voice emotional and the letter in his hand

shaking slightly as he reads it aloud, claiming the wind turbine operating in Falmouth has caused numerous health issues for him and his family: migraines, loss of sleep, hypertension, fatigue, nausea, tinnitus, loss of hearing, vertigo, difficulty concentrating, depression, and difficulties in personal relationships. The audience applauds when he says he drove from Falmouth just to give this testimony.

Palmeri proclaims the end of the public comment period. Donohoe moves the proponents microphone closer and says in a level tone, "We are withdrawing this application, without prejudice."

The hall erupts in cheers and clapping, but the opponents seem taken aback that this preliminary skirmish ended so quickly with a result they favor.

Taylor moves to accept the withdrawal without prejudice and the board votes unanimously to accept it. Without prejudice is important - it means the proponents can re-apply in the future. Palmeri adjourns the meeting, and people move from their seats, forming small conversational knots.

Lesser is the center of one excited knot. The elder Field moves to the back of the hall and speaks with a small group. One woman comments, "I can't believe this town. Everyone is so Green until this wind proposal comes up."

Asked if this is the end of the wind farm application, Field says, "Oh no. We'll come back with a better one. We're learning." As he walks out of the building to Main Street overlooked by Mt. Massamet, he remarks, "I'd like to find a place to get an ice cream."

**BOOKS** from page 3

kitchens, with the same constraints of space, equipment (other than her previously-mentioned powerfully hot stove burners) and budget that most of us have to deal with. There's no automatic dishwasher, just Susie, while her spouse, who works all day as a schoolteacher, happily makes drinks for kitchen visitors — see her lavender-infused vodka tonic and basil mojito recipes in the book.

Susie is the home cook's advocate for recipes that work. In an article she wrote to the cookbook publishing industry, she said, "Cookbooks remain a non-replaceable, hard-copy artifact in a digital world. They are used as physical objects in a way other books are not. Every time a cook tries a new recipe, she returns to the page at least a dozen times. Format matters, as do details and specifications." The specs in her book's 50 well-tested recipes (I tested the chili, pad Thai, dumplings, mushroom soup, and tasted many others) contain clear advice with all the detail needed even for novice cooks.

Susie uses words to describe how things should look, smell, feel and taste — and what ingredients we can use — in a way that few other recipes I have seen, if any, do. For a particular dish, we look for the perfect moment when our diced onions become "gilded" on the way from soft translucence to overly browned. When mixed well, while still raw, her wonton filling will smell "fresh, sweet and good." Whether you have a whole morning of prep time for a dinner party or just 45 minutes before dinner, are cooking for 6 or for 1, there are a variety of dishes to make.

The recipes are beautifully

accompanied by stories from her childhood, in which, like me, she lost a passionate cook of a mother to cancer, stories about feeding her opinionated children, and stories of her many interesting food-loving friends, one of whom said, after learning to make Susie's soy-glazed almonds for a cold and outrageously good green bean salad, "For the next few days, if it does not move, it stands a good chance of getting soy-glazed."

In my favorite story from *A Spoonful of Promises*, Susie writes about her struggle over many years to recreate that wonton soup — without the recipe she wished she had for her Chinese-speaking grandmother's. "When it comes to culture, the lines of transmission are never continuous. Yet, from nothing more than a smell you can patch together broken bits and pieces of memory and common sense and find, to your shock, years later, that you have something your children recognize as their own, as if it were always whole and perfect. Like it or not, you're not just a descendant — you're a forebear, too."

Susie's tasty word morsels — on her blog, she wrote that "nettle are the bacon, the veritable bacon, of weeds" — and judicious advice run through my mind as I cook now, added to the careful techniques I learned from my consumer economics teacher grandmother. I wish I could share our new family favorites with my improvising mother, developed over the decades of cooking without her. She taught me the slowest of slow cooking — raising goats for milk and meat in the Maine woods and then making roasts and cakes on a wood cook stove, off the grid,

in that earlier back to the land movement of the 1970's.

Back to a balmy November evening in the center of Leverett. The Baking Squad, some friends the author called into action, made treats for the library talk from some of Spoonful's more challenging recipes, as well as from a difficult cookbook she was thinking of reviewing. Susie's Soul Cakes (saffron flavored scones), chocolate bread (dark and brioche-like), and Stroopwafels (contrasting textures of airy and sticky) were devoured by the 60-odd attendees. The feeling of community, well knitted by all of us there from Leverett, Montague and beyond, was palpable and tasty. Susie, previously a Kellogg Food and Society Policy Fellow, has done her share of that knitting, helping to organize the school community to improve school lunch options with a salad bar, and then helping to create a greenhouse to feed salad to the students (school lunch participation went up 20% after crisp fresh salad came on the daily menu and the kids found it yummy).

An apple grower from New York State once said to my husband "people don't come to my orchard for nutrition; they come for sustenance." Susie, all the while raising a healthy, well-fed family, gardening her way through the year at home and at the school next door, and supporting locally grown, shares that sensibility. Generously, she has shared stories close to her heart, writing so positively about sustaining ourselves and our family and friends with all that good food, well made, has to offer.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

**BY FRED CICETTI**

**LEONIA, NJ** - In my last column, I discussed high-protein diets. Today's column is about the role of protein.

Proteins are extremely complex substances that are essential parts of all living cells. They make up about 15 percent of the average person's body weight.

We need protein from the foods we eat to maintain bones, muscles and skin. We get proteins in our diet from meat, dairy products, nuts and some grains and beans.

Proteins from meat and other animal products are complete proteins. This means they supply all of the amino acids the body can't make on its own. Plant proteins are incomplete. You must combine them to get all of the amino acids your body needs.

Amino acids play central-roles as intermediates in metabolism, the chemical processes by which cells produce the sub-

stances and energy needed to sustain life.

So, it is important to get enough dietary protein. You need to eat protein every day, because your body doesn't store it the way it stores fats or carbohydrates. The average person needs 50 to 65 grams of protein each day. This is the amount in four ounces of meat plus a cup of cottage cheese.

However, most Americans already eat more protein than their bodies need. And eating too much protein can increase health risks.

High-protein animal foods are usually also high in saturat-

ed fat. Eating large amounts of high-fat foods for a sustained period raises the risk of coronary heart disease, diabetes, stroke and several types of cancer. People who can't use excess protein effectively may be at higher risk of kidney and liver disorders, and osteoporosis.

Older adults and vegetarians have to pay special attention to the protein in their diets.

A recent National Institutes of Health study of men and women in their 70s found that those who ate the least protein lost significantly more muscle than those who ate the most protein.

Maintaining muscle is important as you age. Older adults who lose muscle in their legs and hips are more likely to fall and injure themselves.

Animal proteins have all the essential amino acids, but plant-based proteins can have low amounts of some. So, vegetarians have to eat protein from several different sources to get all the different amino acids they need. Vegetarian food combinations that give you complete protein include rice and beans or peanut butter and bread.

*If you have a question, please write to [fred@healthygeezer.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezer.com)*

**SCHOOL** from page 1  
Massachusetts, innovation school designation would allow for some autonomy of curriculum design and personnel policies within a broader school region, Hajir has said.

After Hajir reprised this theme at Thursday's meeting, DeChiara commented, "Farshid and I have really different opinions on innovation schools." Shutesbury principal Bob Mahler said innovation schools have to sign up for the federal Race to the Top program.

Without getting into the substance of any difference of opinion with DeChiara, Hajir said, "The point is, there are various things that have changed in the last two years," since the last regionalization study. "All of this should be on the table." The possibilities for sharing resources, streamlining administration, and establishing stable budgets with added state aid,

while endeavoring to maintain traditional local autonomy over town elementary schools, were raised as goals.

Hajir continued, "If, at the end of the day, the configuration you have now satisfied most of your goals, that will be useful information for the schools."

Once the planning committees are appointed for each of the towns of Leverett, Shutesbury, and Pelham, they may choose to form a joint regionalization planning board, and Hajir said his hope would be for that body to jointly apply for a state grant to hire a consultant to study the costs and benefits of various school governance configurations. He said Amherst has appointed a regional school district planning committee as well, but has instructed it not to affiliate with other town committees until it holds at least a half dozen meetings, and two public hearings,

to first gauge the concerns and issues specific to public education in the town of Amherst.

In other business, members of both committees questioned superintendent Joan Wickman closely about the details of her draft U-28 budget for FY13, in particular the placeholder for a 1.6% increase for her own salary. The Shutesbury committee held an executive session, with Hajir in attendance, to discuss the superintendent's contract, prior to the Shutesbury committee's adjournment from the joint meeting.

In her report, superintendent Wickman said the committees would doubtless be irritated about news from Washington regarding the way, she said, House Republicans had recently undermined tighter nutrition standards for school lunches. New federal standards, which failed to make it into new legislation passed this month, would

have required

schools to reduce sodium and offer more whole grains at school lunch lines, among other changes. They also would have prevented schools from categoriz-

ing pizza as a vegetable. Currently, tomato paste on pizzas is classified as a vegetable serving.

Yet, as Wickman noted, "Luckily, Massachusetts has a higher bar, and we will be following the state's [guidelines]."

Wickman reported on the Obama administration's evolving approach to No Child Left Behind legislation, which would let the federal government offer states that meet certain benchmarks the opportunity to scrap minimum yearly progress to 'total proficiency' by 2014 in favor of a standard of 'continued improvement' for all students, and more flexibility for states to intervene in failing schools. She noted that President Obama's 'flexibility waiver' won't have much impact for Massachusetts, since the state maintains standards higher than required under NCLB anyway.

A discussion of possible changes in start times for elementary and secondary schools led to Leverett school committee member Kip Fonsh voicing opposition to a proposed switch, where elementary students would start earlier, and high school students would start their school day later, at precise times to be determined (perhaps 8:15 a.m. for elementary stu-

dents and 9:00 a.m. for high school).

"Despite respect for the scientific evidence," for improved educational outcomes from later high school start times, which he felt was thin, Fonsh said changing start times would be "too disruptive," especially for families that lack resources. Fonsh suggested more emphasis be placed on making classroom instruction interesting, which he felt would be more likely than anything else to keep students alert in their classes.

Principal Ann Ross reported on communication problems during the recent snow emergency, which led two teachers (and the principal) to arrive at school on Monday, October 31st during the townwide power outage, unaware that school would be canceled for days. Ross said with no cell or phone service in town, and inadequate ability to rely on radio communication to reach most parents and staff, it turned out the internet provided the most reliable way to get information out to people, who eventually found ways to get online.

In future emergencies, Ross hopes people will go to the Union28.org website for reliable school closing information.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG**  
**Stolen car found, 911 misdialled**

**Wednesday, 11/2**

10:10 a.m. Officer located reported stolen motor vehicle at an Amherst Road residence. Owner advised and stated vehicle no longer considered stolen. Owner advised to have Northampton state police remove it from NCIC. Domestic situation.

**Saturday, 11/5**

12:53 p.m. Alarm at a Lead Mine Road residence. Building was secure.

**Monday, 11/7**

7:45 p.m. Officer requested to do a well being check on a Montague Road resident. Person was fine, no problem.

**Saturday, 11/12**

12:15 p.m. Resident of Rattlesnake Gutter Road reported a breaking and entering into their home that occurred on 11/11/11. Laptop computer and jewelry taken. Under investigation.

**Wednesday, 11/16**

4:50 p.m. 911 call from a Richardson Road residence. Phone operator error, misdial. No problem.

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# Ferry Meadow Farm - part XVI

Turners Falls, MA 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL - "How will the bank know that I was in Massachusetts the whole time?" I ask.

"We'll make sure people see you here at the same time."

"No one I work with is here in Turners Falls, by the way."

"We'll work that out. You'll go to Boston."

"Also, one body needs to sleep while the other is awake," I point out.

"We'll need both awake at the same time. But only for a few minutes."

"Jason, this is way more than I signed on for. I'm still getting used to having a doppelganger at all."

"You have time to think about it. Anyway you should consider whether you even want to help us in the first place," he adds.

"Right," I say.

"So what are you doing with the rest of your evening?" he

asks, "You're up all night, right?"

"Well, yeah. Don't you need to sleep, though?" I ask.

"I've just been in Europe," he says. "It's 6:30 a.m. in France."

"Doesn't that mean you're really tired?" I ask.

"Nah, it means I just got up." He looks over at the coffee maker. I follow his eyes, grab a cup and pour us both some coffee. It's more or less midday for me.

We stay in the kitchen talking. It's like we never left Philadelphia and never stopped being friends.

Jason has been looking down at his hands, fiddling with things on the table. He looks up suddenly and holds my gaze.

"It's good to see you again, Resa," he says.

"It's good to see you, too," I say, wanting to look away and also not wanting to. It's the first time in two hours that neither one of us has had something to say. After a minute of silence, during which Jason looks back at the table and I hop up to get the coffee pot, I say, "Do you want to go for a walk?"

"Sure," he says, glancing nervously out the window. "It would be good to move."

He pulls on the jacket which is over the back of his chair and produces a hat from the pocket. I stand up and get my coat from its hook by the door. I wind a scarf around my neck and pull on a hat. Jason is at my elbow with his hands in his pockets.

"Ready?" he asks.

"Yup."

I open the door and we both step into the dark. I figure it will look a little weird to be walking around residential neighborhoods in the middle of the night, so I steer us toward the bike path. Once we get there, Jason seems more relaxed. Actually, I

am, too.

It's pretty dark, but the moon helps us see the path. By now we are talking easily again. We have years of catching up to do. It's still dark when we are ready to head back.

"4:30," Jason says, looking at his watch. "We could be out for exercise before work."

"Ugh," I say, feeling glad I don't have to squeeze all of my life into a sixteen-hour day, like other people.

"Rese," he says, "another reason to move back to Philadelphia - you would not be the only person in your neighborhood who's up in the middle of the night."

"Yeah, I've thought of that."

"So, um, do you mind if I sleep at your place. Just for today?" he asks.

Not only do I not mind, I am delighted. I have been dreading the moment when Jason disappears and I am alone again. I say, "Course not."

"Thanks," he says.

- Continued next issue

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**Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m.**  
**The Bangs Center Amherst**  
 For more information, contact Deb Katz at: 413-339-5781 or deb@nukebusters.org

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG**

<b>Monday, 11/14</b> 6:40 a.m. Larceny of fuel from the Gill Mobil. Suspect located. 1:40 p.m. Abandoned property at Main Road residence. Located owner of property to be removed.	<b>Thursday, 11/17</b> 1:01 a.m. Reported wires in the roadway Main Road at Dole Road. Same removed. Comcast notified. 8:10 a.m. Dead Deer located at intersection of Grist Mill Road and River Road. Highway Department to remove it. 12:30 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with two car accident with entrapment. Operator Life Lighted to hospital.	<b>information regarding stolen Skid Steer from Main Road farm.</b> 6:37 p.m. Motor vehicle accident at Main Road and Route 2. One party transported to hospital. 8:10 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with disorderly youths on Center Street. <b>Saturday, 11/19</b> 11:20 a.m. Reported domestic violence incident on Main Road. 12 p.m. Vermont state police assisted in locating subject on Barney Hale Road for warrant arrest.
<b>Tuesday, 11/15</b> 6:15 a.m. Suspicious motor vehicle on Dole Road. Checked with operator, subject out scouting for deer.	<b>Friday, 11/18</b> 7:40 a.m. Investigated	

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

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: *The Berrys*, 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*, featuring Derek Fenner & Bob Susskind, 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 & Bonnie Parsons. 7 p.m.

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

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30th**  
St. James Church, Greenfield: free film, *Gasland*, explores the impact of drilling for natural gas using "fracking." 6:30 p.m.

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *How to Survive a Five Month Expedition & Not Go Insane with Zane Reed*, slide show and talk, 7 p.m. Free.

**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.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Maria's Metal Mania*, 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd**  
Greenfield Center School: *Rumpus-a colossal arts and crafts event* 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Orange Town Hall Auditorium: *2nd Annual Zydeco Dance Party Benefit with Slipper Sneakers*, for Seeds of Solidarity Youth and Community

Programs, 6 - 10 p.m.

Montague Grange: Southern square dance, with *The Dosey Doughrollers*, Calling by Ralph Sweet. 7 - 10 p.m.

Suzee's Third Street Laundromat, Turners Falls: *Suzee's Lost and Found Fashion Show*, music from the Hallas Cowboys. Ticket info at Suzee's facebook page.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Tracy & Company*, 9:30 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.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Pamela Means*, 8 - 10 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd and 16th**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd & 17th**  
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *It's a Wonderful Life*, A Tribute to a Simpler Time. Matinee on Sunday, Dec. 18th.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sweetback Sisters*.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9th and**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th**  
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Welcome Yule*, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. And Sunday, December 11th at 2 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9th**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Captain-Salls Orchestra*, 9 - 11 p.m.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th**  
Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Wendell Town Hall: *Full Moon Coffeehouse*, *Rhythm Inc.* 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Corwin Ericson's *Swell* book release, 4 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, 8:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Not Lisa & Steve's Third Annual Holiday Spectacular*, 7 p.m. Free.

Leverett Library: *Mark Vonnegut, "Just Like Someone Without Mental Illness Only More So,"* book reading. 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kurtyka Kills Christmas*. 9:30 p.m.

Element Brewery, Millers Falls:

Second Anniversary Party, 6 p.m.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17th**  
Montague Grange: *Yule Concert with Kelliana and Friends*, 6 - 9:30 p.m.

Greenfield High School: *Family Holiday Concert*, *Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus with Greenfield High School Chorus*. 7 - 9 p.m.

**The Brick House**  
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24 3rd Street in Turners Falls is where resources and resourceful people intersect.  
Tuesday, 12/6 6:15-7:45PM: Richard Witty, CPA. Tax Strategies for Low-Income Families and Individuals  
Tuesday, 12/13 6:15-7:45PM: Richard Witty, CPA. Tax Strategies for Sole Entrepreneurs  
413-863-9576  
www.brickhousecommunity.org

**SUNDAYS in NOVEMBER**  
Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Actomatic sculpture workshop*, ongoing collaborative 3-D sculpture project, 6 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. Artist Reception Saturday December 3rd 1 - 4 p.m.

**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.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Scenes of*

Turners Falls, Ariel Jones & Nina Rossi.

**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*,



Leonore Alaniz prints at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

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, & 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 at 6 p.m., limited to the first 100 people, concert at 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Kellianna*, 9 p.m.

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

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RICK ROY PHOTO

**TURNERS FALLS** - In the darkest time of the year, people everywhere gather for songs, stories, and celebrations. Welcome Yule: a Midwinter Celebration brings those traditions alive at the Shea Theater December 9th, 10th, and 11th.

This year, a huge polar bear and a fairy tale cast of puppets join the Welcome Yule chorus of adults and children. Stories and dances are interwoven with a mix of traditional English carols, boisterous pub songs, and rousing four-part shape note songs.

"I come for the music," says long-time audience member Rita Reinke of Pelham. "Welcome Yule is an integral part of my family's December. It lifts our spirits. It feels like a genuine celebration, not a performance."

The show's chorus of musicians, dancers, and puppeteers of all ages transform the theater into

a midwinter village. While adults sing, dance, and gossip, children make mischief, act out stories, and create their own traditions. An appearance by the rowdy Blue Willies and a traditional mummer's play round out the performance.

The songs, stories and plays in Welcome Yule highlight the pleasures of passing on seasonal traditions of family and community. Join us as we sing and dance away winter's darkness and call back the warmth of spring.

Reserve tickets at 413-863-2281 or purchase in advance at the Jones Library in Amherst, Broadside Books in Northampton, the World Eye Bookstore in Greenfield, or online at [www.Brattleborotix.com](http://www.Brattleborotix.com). For information, call 413-665-3206 or visit [www.welcomeyule.org](http://www.welcomeyule.org)

**A Wonderful, Wonderful Night in Turners Falls**

BY DAVID DETMOLD

Nina's Nook, at 125-A Avenue A, is a beehive of activity as the holidays approach... sort of a long, narrow beehive... but the diminutive store is positively buzzing with creativity. And the newest notion to be concocted in this tiny sliver of a store is a special shopping and caroling night in Turners Falls on December 9th, timed to coincide with Welcome Yule, a Midwinter Celebration at the Shea Theater.

Nina's owner Nina Rossi huddled with photographer Ariel Jones to work out the fine points of their niche marketing campaign in a back corner of the Nook on Tuesday.

"We're calling it a Wonderful, Wonderful Night in Turners Falls," said Rossi, who

by sheer coincidence timed the event to fall midway between the two weekend staged readings of "It's a Wonderful Life," by the New Renaissance Players (see this week's Local Briefs for details on that performance) at the Shea.

The special shopping and caroling night on December 9th will run from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., Rossi said, and will involve artists, stores and eateries offering up a mix of one of a kind holiday shopping with discounts (Nina's Nook will offer 10% off on everything in the store that night), hot chocolate and other treats, while the Rendezvous' own Emily Brewster leads a merry band of revelers from street to street singing time honored and much loved carols.

A walking map of participat-



DETMOLD PHOTO

Ariel Jones and Nina Rossi at Nina's Nook

ing locations, including stops at Loot and Carriage House Designs, Ristorante DiPaolos and other gems of the Turners scene will be available to guide visitors and shoppers on their rounds. No shopping carts will be harmed in this excursion.

Jones, well known for her vivid series on the art of fly-fishing in the *Montague Reporter*, once organized dog parades and curated a photog-

raphy studio on the Avenue. She felt inspired to help Rossi organize A Wonderful, Wonderful Night in Turners by her own memories of winter evenings in her photography studio, including one night she was working late as the snow swirled down outside her window when, "I heard someone playing a trumpet." No, not some angel in training named Clarence. It was a young man

named D'Angelo Nieves, famed through the years for his fluent horn playing in any number of local bands. But on that night in Turners he was standing out on the darkened sidewalk, just playing real good for free.

Come down to the Avenue for more memories like that in the making on December 9th, for a Wonderful, Wonderful Night in Turners Falls.

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