



## Eugene Mirmin BRINGS HIS STRANGE VISION TO ST. KAZ

Page 9



## Hobbits on Parade

LEFT,  
BEN HUNSICKER, OF LEYDEN, AS FRODO BAGGINS  
MORE PHOTOS FROM  
THE RAG SHAG PARADE ON - Page 16

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 10 - NO. 6

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

75¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 3, 2011

## Orange Approves Hybrid Mahar Region

**BY KATIE NOLAN** - On October 20th, the Orange special town meeting voted 149 to 114 to approve amendments to the Mahar regional school district agreement to create a hybrid K-12 region for Orange and Petersham and a 7-12 region for New Salem and Wendell.

The Orange finance committee unanimously recommended voting against the amended agreement. Orange finance committee chair Jane Pierce commented that the central administration consolidation that has already taken place for Orange and Petersham has provided the majority of savings and educational benefits that could be realized by regionalization.

After the Orange town meeting vote, Wendell finance committee co-chair Jim Slavas said he will recommend to the Wendell finance committee and selectboard that the amended agreement be rejected. Slavas cited concerns with the status of the Orange elementary school district and potential reallocation of funding from Mahar to Orange elementary schools.

According to Slavas, the fact that the Orange elementary school district may be placed in Level 4 under the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) accountability system is a concern, because the Level 4 designation may be applied to the entire hybrid region.

According to the DESE website, a Level 4 school is an "underperforming" school and is both low performing on MCAS over a four year period and not showing signs of substantial improvement over that time.

Slavas suggested a Level 4 determination for the Orange elementary "sub-district" of the hybrid region could cause the entire district, including Mahar, to be subject to corrective action by the state.

"Since a similar scenario played out in the Gill-Montague district, this is not just an intellectual concern. We have repeatedly asked the regional planning committee to seek definitive, written guidance from DESE on this matter, but to date nothing has been provided," Slavas said.

Slavas, a member of the regionalization planning committee that developed the amended regional agreement, said he and fellow Wendell committee member Dick Baldwin voted against the current version of the agreement. He said, "Because Orange is adamant that their total

see ORANGE page 10

## Police Chief Zukowski to Retire



JAMES DAMON PHOTO

Police Chief Ray Zukowski

**BY JANEL NOCKLEBY**  
**MONTAGUE** - Through a letter to the selectboard on October 31st, police chief Raymond Zukowski announced his upcoming retirement on November 26th.

"I will miss all that is associated with being a police officer," he wrote. "Especially the many wonderful people I had the opportunity to work and associate with over the past 36 years. These people, and the many memories, I will never forget."

Members of the selectboard were clearly disappointed by the announcement, but with no actual say in the matter, they could only accept his retirement "with extreme regret."

Pat Allen further stated that see **POLICE** page 12

## Living in Non-Electric Wendell



LINDA HICKMAN PHOTO

One warmly dressed Wendell resident on Lockes Village Road surveyed the scene after this weekend's snow.

**BY KATIE NOLAN** - The outdoor sign at Wendell Free Library said it all. Not only was the library open this week for borrowing books, but it also offered "Water, Electricity, Phone and Internet," to townspeople who in many parts of town had been living without any of those mod cons since a mad snowstorm blew through on Saturday, dumping two feet of wet snow on the hilltowns of Franklin County.

The trees, still in full fall foliage, buckled and snapped under the weight of soggy snow, bringing down power lines with them and underlining an argument National Grid linemen had

been making for weeks about the safety of the power line from Wendell Depot to the center of town, and beyond. (Though Don Pugh observed none of the utility-marked trees slated for cutting near Lockes Village Road had lost limbs or fallen in the storm.)

Since the weekend, the library has been buzzing with people charging cell phones and laptops, catching up on days of backlogged email, filling jugs for drinking water, and exchanging stories of how they are coping in their suddenly all too rustic retreats, without electricity or phone service.

Jenny Coy, holding her toddler

Josiah, was filling a large water jug. She said the family had been melting snow for their animals.

"We're OK," she said. "We're good at camping. Thank god for the library!"

Coy added, "We came this morning and got some social time in at the playgroup. But we'll be really glad when we get power back - I have six loads of laundry backed up!"

Librarian Rosie Heidkamp said she was delighted the library was able to serve as even more of a resource to the town during the electrical outage that began Saturday evening, ended on

see **LIVING** page 12

## Food City to Host Experimental Theater



The Missoula Oblongata Comes to Town

**BY MATTHEW SMALL**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - A truly unique theater experience is coming to an unlikely venue in downtown Turners Falls. On Saturday, November 12th, Food City, Montague's only supermarket, will stay open late not for food sales but for a one of a kind public performance written, produced and directed by a three-person modern theater company called The Missoula Oblongata.

After getting to know a little bit more about the group, I can affirmatively report that the essence of The Missoula

Oblongata and what exactly that company does is hard to communicate in words. Perhaps you just need to show up at the bakery counter of Food City at 8 p.m. on November 12th to understand.

Suffice to say, The Missoula Oblongata is a collaborative, experimental theater group founded by (but definitely not limited to) Madeline Ffitch (Ohio), Donna Sellinger (Maryland) and Sarah Lowry (Pennsylvania).

Dedicated to transforming vastly diverse and large-scale create see **THEATER** page 11

## Preserving Montague's Past, But in Need of Renovation

### THE EAST CENTER SCHOOLHOUSE

**BY JANEL NOCKLEBY**  
**MONTAGUE CENTER** - I've driven past the old East Center schoolhouse at least a hundred times (on my Montague Reporter paper route, don't you know) and would have never guessed that it was anything other than an old barn or shed. But, if you attend a Montague Historical Society meeting, it can lead to adventure.

I met local historian and Turners Falls native Ed Gregory and Montague Historical Society archivist Mary Melonis at the corner of Federal and Central Streets last week to take a step back to 1821.

A fading sign on the schoolhouse states, "The East Center District Schoolhouse, built in 1821 by Edwin Moody, father of Dwight L. Moody."

Dwight Moody, as we know, founded a much bigger school house - the Northfield Seminary for Young Ladies, in 1879, followed by the Mount Hermon



JANEL NOCKLEBY PHOTO

Pot Bellied Stove at East Center School for Boys in 1881. But the building his dad built on Federal Street in Montague Center met a different fate, and when the district schools of Montague were see **SCHOOLHOUSE** pg 11



## PETS NEED CARE



### Don't Forget Us

Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society's Springfield branch is here to help people and their animals during this most recent storm.

For people who are displaced and need temporary care for their animals, Dakin will house and provide care for up to five days. If additional time is needed, we will negotiate on a case by case basis.

Dakin also has a pet food bank to assist with pet food and basic supplies.

Please call (413) 781-4000, or if unable to call, come to the Humane Society, 171 Union Street in Springfield, between the hours of 12 - 5 p.m.

REGULAR

**PAPER!**  
Week of November 8th in Montague

more info? call: 863-2054

**Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week**

**Grade 6**  
Paul Vinton  
Simon Lorenzo

**Grade 7**  
Owen Ortiz

**Grade 8**  
Ashley Williams

**Our Condolences**

Go Out to  
Peg Bridges and  
Family on the  
Recent Loss of her  
Husband, Les.

**The Montague Reporter**

Published weekly on Thursday.  
(Every other week in July and August. Wednesday paper fourth week of November. No paper last week of December.)  
PHONE (413) 863-8666  
reporter@montaguema.net  
Postmaster: Send address changes to  
The Montague Reporter  
58 4th Street  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

Local Subscription Rates:  
\$20 for 1/2 Year

## LEVERETT LIBRARY NEWS

### Book Signing by Leverett's Susan Chang

*A Spoonful of Promises: Stories & Recipes from a Well-Tempered Table* by Susan Chang is a collection of mouthwatering stories of intimacy between family and friends, parents and children. Here, food is a metaphor, a sixth sense that binds to the drama of our lives and to moments that might otherwise be forgotten. These stories explore facets of the human condition, whether nostalgia, romance, loyalty, love, guilt, envy, or hope, each in its most delicious form. The book, comprising thirty-three

essays and recipes, begins with food scenes from Chang's childhood, memories that forever tie her to the mother she lost to cancer early in her life, and to the family that helped shape who she is today. This is followed by practical recipes for the weeknight parent and lessons Chang learned along her own parenting journey.

Join Susan Chang at the Library on Tuesday, November 15th, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for a discussion and book signing. Leverett Library, 75 Montague Road.

## MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

### Music and Movement in Millers Falls



**MILLERS FALLS** - Quinn Speck of Turners Falls and Maeve of Bernardston enjoyed playing with scarves during Music and Movement on Thursday, October 27th.

The very popular program

with Laurie Davidson and Tom Carroll is held weekly at the Millers Falls Library on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. through December 22nd.

For more information, call (413) 863-3214.

## Adams Grant Funding Restored

**BOSTON** - Friday, governor Deval Patrick signed a supplemental budget for the current fiscal year restoring \$750,000 to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for its Adams Arts Program for the Creative Economy.

The Adams grant program has been the major funder of programs vital to the rebound of Turners Falls, like the RiverCulture project, Fostering Art and Culture in Franklin

County, and a recent dinosaur footprint tourism project of the Pocumtuck Valley Association. The governor's decision followed vigorous advocacy from cultural and business leaders and local officials, including the Montague selectboard, and reflected broad support for the Adams program in the state legislature. "This is a real victory for the cultural sector of Massachusetts," said Anita Walker, MCC executive director.

## SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES - November 7th - 11th

**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. **We are taking appointments for private Shine consultations in November.** For information, meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 413-863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

### Monday, November 7th

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

### Tuesday, November 8th

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

### Wednesday, November 9th

9:00 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment  
10:00 a.m. Aerobics

11:15 a.m. Friends Meeting  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, November 10th**  
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, November 11th**  
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 congregational 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 7th

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:00 a.m. Osteo-Exercise  
12:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Tuesday, November 8th**



Jim Dinn and Ed Nash prepare Stone Age tools and weapons at the Neolithic Event at the Franklin County Sportsmen's Club in East Deerfield on October 15th. It takes all kinds.

## Historic Bridge Facts

PROVIDED BY ED GREGORY, OF GREENFIELD - from documents relating to the original construction of the Gill - Montague bridge.

In 1933, the Montague selectboard pushed for a better bridge to connect their town to Gill, and also to Greenfield. No action was taken at that time, although the selectboard and other interested parties continued to lobby the state. Governors Ely, Cudley and Hurley were approached about the problem, but the money for construction was hard to find. Finally, after the devastating flood of 1936, when Turners Falls was practically isolated except for back road traffic through Montague, it became evident that immediate action must be taken.

More bridge facts next week!

## Creating Greenfield's Future

How can we scale up our local food system? What does it take to create a business built on sustainability and energy savings? How can we "divorce ourselves from our 'sick care' system"? How can we recognize our seniors as a community asset and take advantage of their skills and wisdom?

These questions and more will be the topics of nine workshops offered at Creating Greenfield's Future: Our Food, Economy, and Community, on Saturday, November 5th from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Greenfield Community College's main campus. The workshops will come after a thought-provoking presentation by Ben Hewitt, author of *The Town that Food Saved*.

"Our world is changing, and we need to think more creatively

about how Greenfield can grow into a vibrant and sustainable place to live," said Nancy Hazard, a member of the forum planning committee.

As the county seat, the future of Greenfield is an integral part of the future of the entire region. The planning committee hopes people from the surrounding towns will join in exploring and creating what our businesses, food and health care systems, and our quality of life will look like.

The forum is organized by the Greening Greenfield Energy Committee. Register online at [www.GreeningGreenfield.org](http://www.GreeningGreenfield.org), or call 413-773-0228 or on-site on Saturday, November 5th.

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday, November 12th

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Peace Church

90 7th Street  
Turners Falls

FEATURING: Santa Claus, arts & crafts, multi-affle table, baked goods, attic treasures. Soup & sandwiches available at our kitchen.

## WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY

- System 2000 (Energy Kinetics)
- Thermo Pride
- Weil-McLain
- Other Major Brands
- Expert Burner Service



(413) 773-3622

### Friday, November 4th

7:30 - 10:00 a.m. Free Coffee, Tea and Conversation. All ages welcome!

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.





# Local Briefs

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

**COMPILED BY DON CLEGG** - A fine Italian wine tasting and dinner will be held at The Gill Tavern on Monday, November 7th, to benefit the Beacon Field Playground Project in Greenfield. Volunteers are teaming up with the Gill restaurant at 326 Main Road (thegilltavern.com) and wine expert Rob Forman of Greenfield to present a delightful evening of excellent food and specially chosen Italian wines.

The event will include a reception starting at 6:30 p.m. and dinner from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The cost is \$70 per person (including tax and gratuity), which includes three courses and five wines. Only 40 seats are available for this unique event. For tickets email Danielle at Danielle@beaconplayground.org or call Lydia at 413-774-5554.

Due to a huge changes in weather, power, and trees down in Wendell Depot, Shay and Charles Cooper have rescheduled their transition town get-together on Kentfield Road to Monday, November 7th, starting with a potluck meal at 6 p.m. The Transition Wendell initiating group invites all to join them to explore the shift from the "old story" (infinite growth, destruction of the planet for profit, the American Dream that everything will be bigger, better, faster, and shinier in the future) to the "new story" that is emerging. What is that new story? Come help tell it.

Shay Cooper said, "We all are seeing parts of it emerge in movements like local food, home rule, maybe even Occupy Wall Street." Following the potluck, a video by Brian Swimme, "The Powers of the Universe," will offer an entertaining union of science and spirituality that may help point the way to the New Story for humanity. Space is limited; call 978-544-2190 or email shayyoga@gmail.com to RSVP.

On Wednesday, November 9th, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Greenfield Community College downtown center, 270 Main

Street, in Greenfield the founder of the Community Health Care Center of Franklin County, Dr. Sarah Kemble, will present a symposium entitled "Health Care and Social Class in the U.S."

Our health care system, which was once similar to a public utility with local management, existing solely for the benefit of its local and regional populations, has become instead a massive profit-driven industry that reinforces social class divisions, Kemble maintains.

The lecture will explore alternative models of health care that might better address public health needs. Kemble holds a Masters in Public Health and has worked in community health settings for many years. To register call 413-775-1661, or arrive early for same-day registration.

Wendell resident, Iina Singh spent last year at a Buddhist monastery in Nova Scotia, living the simple life and practicing the dharma. While there, she took part in two local rituals: challenging the local firefighters in softball and releasing the last catch of lobsters back into the sea to celebrate the cycle of life.

Two short films, "Buddhist Baseball" and "Lobster Liberation," have been made of these happy times, and Singh will share them at the Wendell Free Library on Sunday, November 6th, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. After the showings, the floor will be open for general discussion. Cider and baked goods will be served.

"Cemetery Stories" with Pam Richardson will emerge from the dark and snow for a rescheduled appearance on Sunday, November 6th, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library. Who lies beneath the sod in Wendell's cemeteries? Tombstones talk!

Come learn some interesting local history. The tour starts at the library and then proceeds across the street to Center Cemetery for a narrated stroll among the departed. Hallowe'en

**BY LEE WICKS**  
**MONTAGUE CENTER** - Hallowe'en is one of Montague Center's treasured traditions, but following the freak autumn storm that dumped a foot of wet snow, downed trees and limbs, and knocked out power to the village, it seemed like Mother Nature had played her tricks a day early.

So the talk all Monday, at the post office and on the street was, "Will there be Hallowe'en?"

Someone had put up a sign at the post office saying that trick or treating was cancelled, and news had travelled from Amherst that the town had, indeed, postponed the holiday. But in Montague there had been no official word, and most residents believed that barring a message from the police, everyone would do the best they could and Halloween would be observed, if modestly. In a regular year hundreds descend on our little village, fiddle players perform outside the Grange, and witches gather on the common to serve hot cider. But with roads closed and difficult travel, this year's celebration was limited mostly to the families that live in town. Torches came out at the end of driveways. Pumpkins glowed, and although, without

electricity, the most famous decorated homes could not pump scary sounds into the street or cause ghosts to sweep from the barn to the house, small bands of ghosts and fairies and mythical creatures appeared around five. It was small and sweet, reminiscent of how Hallowe'en might have been in the Center 100 years ago. Then, at about 7:30 p.m. on Center Street, the lights came back on. Furnaces purred once again. Windows glowed, and the ordeal ended. But memories of this particular Hallowe'en will never end for those of us who were here. A storm freakier than the spookiest costume halted our usual routines, but it did not stop the village from doing the best it could under difficult circumstances. This is a signature of village life, be it a summer flood or a winter storm.

The Turners Falls Alumni Association will be holding the 1st Annual Reunion Party at the Extra Point Night Club, Between the Uprights, located on the corner of Second Street and Avenue A in Turners Falls from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Friday, November 25th. There will be plenty of munchies, music, cash bar and good fun with old friends. This event is open to all TFHS alumni, guests, friends, teachers, and administrators both past and present. Contact Karen at 413-863-0265 with any questions.

The Gill Veterans Day Celebration and Veterans lunch will be held on Friday, November 11th, starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Gill Congregational Church. The special guest speaker will be Retired Naval Commander and Navy Seal, Michael Walsh. There will be a special emphasis on World War Veterans.

The Turners Falls Veterans Day Celebration will be held at Veterans Park, Avenue A, starting at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, November 11th. Retired Master Sergeant, Larry Parker, of the U.S. Air Force will be the featured speaker. The "Star Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful" will be performed by Charles Hunting.

Come meet the new Veterans Agent in Montague, Mark Fitzpatrick, with Leo Parent at the Community Room of the Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, in Turners Falls on November 9th, from noon to 2:00 p.m. New benefits, insurance changes, and tax abatements will be discussed. A light lunch will be served.

Send local briefs to: reporter-local@montaguema.net.

post office and on the street was, "Will there be Hallowe'en?"

Someone had put up a sign at the post office saying that trick or treating was cancelled, and news had travelled from Amherst that the town had, indeed, postponed the holiday.

But in Montague there had been no official word, and most residents believed that barring a message from the police, everyone would do the best they could and Halloween would be observed, if modestly.

In a regular year hundreds descend on our little village, fiddle players perform outside the Grange, and witches gather on the common to serve hot cider. But with roads closed and difficult travel, this year's celebration was limited mostly to the families that live in town.

Torches came out at the end of driveways. Pumpkins glowed, and although, without

electricity, the most famous decorated homes could not pump scary sounds into the street or cause ghosts to sweep from the barn to the house, small bands of ghosts and fairies and mythical creatures appeared around five.

It was small and sweet, reminiscent of how Hallowe'en might have been in the Center 100 years ago.

Then, at about 7:30 p.m. on Center Street, the lights came back on. Furnaces purred once again. Windows glowed, and the ordeal ended.

But memories of this particular Hallowe'en will never end for those of us who were here. A storm freakier than the spookiest costume halted our usual routines, but it did not stop the village from doing the best it could under difficult circumstances. This is a signature of village life, be it a summer flood or a winter storm.



The Montague Grange, obscured by a broken oak bough, after the storm.

Montague Congregational Church  
**FETE NOEL**  
Christmas Fair  
**Saturday, November 12th**  
on the Town Common in Montague Center  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Crafts, Raffles, Gift Items, Homemade Food & Candy, Bargain Nook  
**Morning Coffee and Luncheon**

**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 / WK (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666**

**DILLON CHEVROLET INC.**  
54 Main Street  
P.O. Box 729  
Greenfield, MA 01302

Avalanche • Colorado • Suburban • Tahoe • Equinox • Traverse • Vans

Brian Sadlowski  
Sales Representative

Bus. Phone (413) 773-3678  
Fax (413) 774-5746

**[Pam Veith REAL ESTATE]**

**Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald**  
REALTOR, ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR

Office: (413) 498-0207 x2  
Cell: (413) 834-4444  
Home: (413) 863-9166  
Home Fax: (413) 863-0218  
bedson1@comcast.net

75 Main Street; Suite 105,  
Northfield, MA 01360

[www.PamVeithRealEstate.com](http://www.PamVeithRealEstate.com)

**Renaissance Builders**

Quality, Craftsmanship, Original Thought

[www.rebuild.net](http://www.rebuild.net)  
863-8316

Domestic, Asian & European Ron Kelley, Owner

**Eagle Automotive**  
147 2nd Street, Turners Falls  
(413) 824-8111

Engine Light  
ABS/Brake Light  
SRS/Air Bag Light

Complete Car and Truck Repair

**Sokolosky Realty**

(413) 863 - 4393

159 Avenue A,  
Turners Falls

**PLOW FRAU & BOW WOW**  
CLEAN-OUTS AND HAULING  
"Putting Your Used Goods to Good Use"

Fully Insured!  
413-834-**PLOW** (7569)  
**Sita Lang**

Snow plowing, too!



# The Montague Reporter

**Editor**  
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

"The Voice of the Villages"

**Distribution Manager**  
Don Clegg

**Circulation**  
Janel Nockleby

**Founded by**  
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold  
August, 2002

**Technical Administrator**  
Michael Muller

## After the Snow

Driving home from Amherst through the driving snow on Saturday night, Route 63 in Leverett looked like a blue toboggan flume tunneled through the bending, snapping trees. Unable to stop, at one point we drove right over a downed tree, cushioned by deep snow, and simply continued on without noticeable damage to the front end.

Waking in the morning, it seemed almost a relief to find the power out. Fall is normally such a hectic time, getting the wood in, buttoning up the windows and battenning down the hatches for winter. The absence of electricity at first offered an excuse to simply sit by the stove and read the paper, with a cup of hot tea from the match lit gas range.

But then, the corner store had no power either, and no newspapers, and it was difficult to even walk there because a huge limb had split under the weight of wet snow on colorful maple leaves and fallen across 4th Street mid-block, bringing down a suspect wire (not electric, fortunately) and landing smack on the hood of a neighbor's new red pickup. Thoughts of leisure were put aside, the chainsaw fetched, and work commenced with many helping hands to clear the way for the plow to come.

Driving up Main Road in Gill that morning, the way was clear to the common, but then a perilous detour up Center Road and West Gill led beneath half broken limbs and partly downed power lines, some hanging so low they almost clipped the antenna as we dodged oncoming traffic in narrow one lane free-for-alls in the strangely bright sunshine.

Power is still out in the northern sections of Gill, they say, or per-

haps it's been restored by now. It's hard to tell.

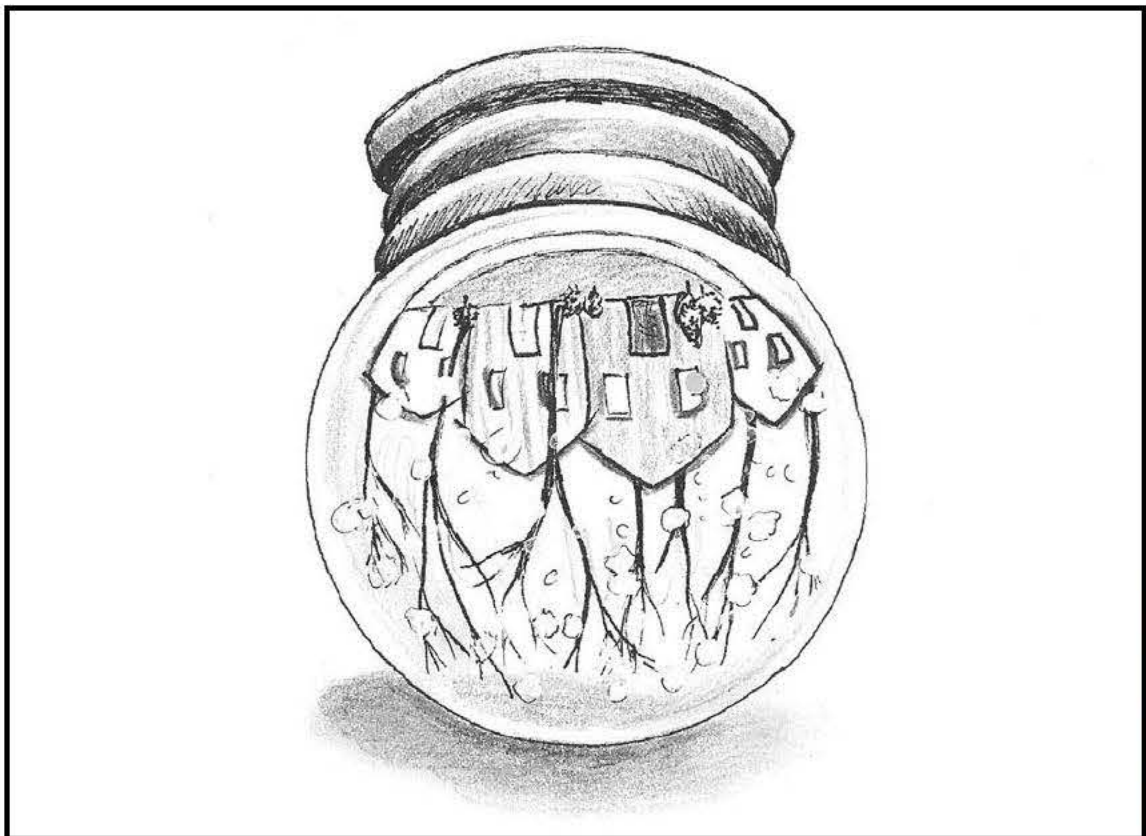
We sent a reporter to cover the selectboard meeting in Erving on Monday night. She tried to call ahead, but got no answer at town hall. Coming into the center of town from Wendell Depot, she found the town hall locked, and all the houses dark.

Hard to tell when power will be restored to any outlying regions. Checking the utility company's website for resumption of service you could get a range of dates, stretching for days. A range of possibilities.

Sure, burying the lines will be prohibitively expensive, in whichever year the utility companies finally decide to do it. But how many more freak storms like this are we going to endure before they finally bite that bullet?

One thing's sure. People in this neck of the woods 100 years from now are not going to be living in towns where vital communication and power supply gets cut off several times a year because conducting wires are still being strung on 20-foot tall wooden poles just beneath trees that drop limbs or fall over on them with astonishing frequency in high winds and heavy snow.

Folks in Leverett gathered at the elementary school for hot meals, jazz music on the generator-lit stage, and showers in a darkened bathroom. The emergency warming center at the school, set up in a trice and coordinated by Jim Field and Sue Nagy with the help of many others, was open 24/7 since the storm. Some folks slept there. Many more helped themselves to fresh water, charged their cell phones, accessed the internet, and exchanged information about roads that were still



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

impassable, roads that had been cleared. But had all the senior citizens in town been reached? Were they all warm, fed, safe? Who could check on them all, with phone lines down, and many roads still closed?

In Montague City, a gathering of energy committees from around Franklin County went ahead on schedule Tuesday evening, but only Conway, Montague, Deerfield, and Greenfield sent representatives. They discussed plans for a countywide contest to see which town could save the most energy, and ways to involve more young people in climate change education.

Other town committees were not represented; they were still

too busy practicing extreme (and involuntary) energy conservation measures in the aftermath of the 'freak' autumn Nor'easter.

On Sunday, several hundred anti-nuclear activists gathered in the foot deep snow in front of the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor in Vernon, where \$100 million worth of new radioactive fuel has just been loaded into the 40-year old reactor core, while 690 tons of spent fuel seethes in a seventh story swimming pool on the banks of the Connecticut River.

Entergy Corporation seems determined to defy the democratic will of the people of Vermont, expressed by the 26-4 vote of the Vermont Senate last year, ordering Vermont Yankee to close on

schedule on March 21st of 2012.

Despite impassable roads and fallen trees, the protestors had shown up the morning after the storm to serve notice that the people of our tri-state region will back up the state of Vermont, and make sure the reactor is decommissioned safely, on schedule.

Electricity is a blessing. Sometimes it can also be a curse.

The next time we lose power, we want to be able to curl up by the woodstove, sip a cup of hot tea and relax, without having to worry about a rogue reactor melting down, with enough high level waste to render our entire Valley permanently uninhabitable.

Perhaps it's time to invest in a photovoltaic panel.

## Vandalism Out in Left Field

**BY DAVID DETMOLD**  
**MILLERS FALLS** - Before the snow hit, Jon Dobosz, director of the Montague parks and recreation department, called to report a spate of recent vandalism at Highland Park in Millers Falls. Someone had been driving onto the turf from Lyman Street and doing donuts out in left field of the ball park.

"We saw initial evidence about a month ago," said Dobosz, "and we informed the police. But in the past, when this sort of thing happened, it would happen once and then stop."

This time, the perpetrator struck repeatedly, turning 360s in the turf of the junior soccer field and the outfield of the baseball diamond, before heading off into the night via Lyman Street. "Last week, they did it

Wednesday night. They did it Friday night," said Dobosz. And then, despite the record breaking October snowstorm on Saturday, they were back on either Saturday or Sunday night, tearing up the sod and soil again.

"They did significant damage," Dobosz said. "You could tell they were spinning their wheels," leaving ruts, more than superficial damage to the turf.

Monday night, Hallowe'en, they were back again. But this time, two vehicles were spotted on the park, one of them stuck in the middle of the park and needing a push.

A Lyman Street resident called the Montague police at 8:35 p.m. Montague got ahold of an Erving officer on the other side of the Millers bridge. By that time, the stuck pickup truck

had been freed from the ruts, and the vehicles had driven off.

But the Erving police officer found a pickup matching the description parked on Crescent Street, and

█ a resident of Erving, was arrested, and charged with vandalism, damage or defacement of property, operating to endanger, driving with an obstructed license plate, and trespassing.

Dobosz said the incidents had caused at least \$250 in damage to the playing fields, damage that cannot be repaired until spring, when new grass seed can be planted, after the turf is tilled up and the ruts leveled out.

Perhaps this will be a cautionary tale to anyone thinking about how much fun it would be to tear up a public park in the night.

## Send the Gift of Community to a Relative or Friend

Montague Reporter subscribers are used to the sense of community our paper creates for readers week after week.

Breaking local news, regional politics, cultural events, environmental activism, gardening and health advice — these are a few of the things we look forward to in our paper as each week draws to a close.

As the holidays approach, we

think of those we would like to draw in closer to our communities. These might be relatives who live nearby or who are off at school. Or they might be friends who have moved away from the Valley and miss the richness of life in the towns we love.

Make someone smile! Give a Holiday Gift Subscription at \$5 off the regular price. We will send a gift card to the recipient with your personal message.

Use the subscription blank on the left of this page, and check the box if you would like to have us send a card noting your gift.

- Chris Queen, Wendell  
for the Montague Reporter  
Board of Directors



 **Deer Readers,**  
**Help us Reach our Goal ...**  
**1000 Subscribers by 2012!**  
**With your Help, we Can do it.**  
 Subscriptions to the *Montague Reporter* make great holiday gifts for friends and relatives near and far. Take advantage of holiday rates.  
**Buy a Gift Subscription for \$5 off the regular price, now through January 1st, 2012**

**Give the Gift of Community!**  
**\$15 for Half a Year (local).**  
**\$20 for Half a Year (out-of-area).**  
**Send a gift subscription to the person listed below**  
 Check here to include a gift card with your name:  
 YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
**The Montague Reporter**  
 58 4th Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**We Welcome Your Letters!**  
**Montague Reporter**  
**58 4th St Turners Falls,**  
**MA 01376**  
**FAX (413) 863-3050**  
**reporter@montaguema.net**



# Ten Scary Problems Plaguing Massachusetts Air

BY ANIKA JAMES

**BOSTON** - Even after the witches and ghosts of Halloween disappear, very real and scary problems will remain for air quality in Massachusetts. Power plants and industrial facilities release smog, soot, toxics including mercury, arsenic and lead, and carbon dioxide into the air. This pollution cuts short the lives of thousands of Americans each year and leads to numerous other health problems including asthma attacks, heart disease, and developmental disorders in children.

In honor of the scariest holiday, Environment Massachusetts offers ten of the most frightening facts about air quality in Massachusetts, and what we can do over the coming year to make next Halloween a lot less terrifying for clean air and public health.

Last year, Massachusetts experienced 14 days when the air was unhealthy to breathe because smog pollution exceeded national health standards. Smog is a harmful air pollutant that leads to asthma attacks and exacerbates respiratory illnesses, especially among children and the elderly.

The Springfield area was ranked the smoggiest metropolitan area in the state with 5 days of unhealthy air in 2010.

The American Lung

Association gave all the counties in Western Massachusetts a failing grade for air pollution.

New England has the highest adult asthma rates in the country: 9.9% of adults in Massachusetts have asthma, compared to 8.1% nationwide.

The effects of asthma are costly: the total charges for hospitalization due to asthma in Massachusetts were nearly \$90 million in 2006, and over 20% of Massachusetts adults with asthma were unable to work for at least one day in 2009 as a result of asthma.

The top five Massachusetts towns with the highest rates of asthma in children are all in Western Massachusetts, and Rowe, with the highest rate, has three times the childhood asthma rate of the rest of the state.

Coal fired power plants are the largest source of mercury pollution in our air and water. Mercury pollution poses particular risks to children, affecting their ability to walk, talk, read, and write. One in ten women of childbearing age has enough mercury in her bloodstream to put her child at risk of learning disabilities and developmental disorders should she become pregnant.

Almost half the lakes and ponds tested in Massachusetts have at least one type of fish with

unsafe levels of mercury.

Most of the mercury in humans comes from the consumption of fish, and fish consumption advisories for mercury contamination have been issued for over 100 bodies of water in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts is the 5th worst state in the nation for diesel pollution, with 475 premature deaths in 2005. Diesel particles are small and highly toxic, and can trigger asthma and lead to heart attacks and cancer.

These facts are truly terrifying, but Environment Massachusetts is not afraid to stand up for clean air. We have an opportunity right now to fix the frightening problems plaguing our air. Even though big polluters and their allies in Congress are fighting to keep polluting, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is moving forward with new standards that would protect air quality and public health.

Environment Massachusetts urges EPA to set the strongest possible standards and calls on Massachusetts's members of Congress to block any attacks on clean air.

By acting now, we can protect the air and public health for adults and children, and that will be a treat for many Halloweens to come.

*Anika James is an environmental advocate for Environment Massachusetts.*

# Zombies Explained!

BY SHICONG LI AND PRAKRITI KAINI

**SOUTH HADLEY** - Ever wonder about the origin of that zombie who stumbled toward your door on Hallowe'en? Their secret is tetrodotoxin, a poison 1000 times deadlier than potassium cyanide, and it is the poison that almost killed James Bond in the movie *From Russia with Love*.

First isolated from puffer fish in 1950s, tetrodotoxin was soon discovered in a wide array of organisms - from goby fish to blue-ringed octopus and freshwater newts - that accumulate large amounts of the toxin for their own benefit.

Tetrodotoxin primarily acts as a chemical defense against predators. However, its functions can be as diverse as attracting a mate or signaling a predation risk.

So, of what use can this lethal neurotoxin be to humans?

Curiously, humans have been attracted to the delicacy of puffer fish since historic times - in part thanks to the risk this deadly toxin poses. Tetrodotoxin is part of the attraction many high-end diners have for puffer fish served up in Japan by licensed chefs who may leave a trace of tetrodotoxin, inducing lip and tongue tingling, preludes to paralysis without the risk. The momentary, but exciting, sensory effects caused by tetrodotoxin turns a gourmet meal into an adventure.

Lately, scientists have sug-

gested a possible use of tetrodotoxin in relieving cancer pain as well. By blocking the voltage-gated sodium channel, a key component in signal transfer in the nervous system, tetrodotoxin can also block our feeling of pain.

Which brings us back to the zombies at your door. An even more intriguing use of tetrodotoxin is associated with a Haitian Vodou practice. Leaders of Vodou, whom Haitians call bokors, create zombies by casting a magic powder. The powder, as you may have already guessed, contains tetrodotoxin. The toxin paralyzes the victims, making their families perceive them as dead. This leads to the victims getting buried alive. The bokors will then open the grave and 'awaken' the victims. This is when 'zombies' come back to life!

Caution to trick-or-treaters - do not try this at home! There are enough scary things in the modern world without inhaling any puffer fish powder. Just dealing with the after-effects of inhaling all those Snickers bars and Reeses cups will leave children experiencing their own near death state of sugar-induced paralysis, without the added spice of tetrodotoxin.

*Shicong Li and Prakriti Kaini are students in an Environmental Contaminants class at Mount Holyoke College.*

# Wendell Depot Post Office Hearing

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - On October 26th, at the Wendell town hall, Tatiana Roy, manager of U.S. Postal Service marketing operations, and Carissa Surprise, acting manager, held a hearing to get community input on the proposed closure of the Wendell Depot post office. Ten residents came to the hearing.

Wendell Depot is one of more than 3,000 post offices the USPS is considering closing nationwide; 25% of them are considered rural, the rest urban. Among the criteria considered before a post office is closed is customer demand, workload of the postmaster, and proximity to other post offices.

The two post offices nearest to Wendell Depot are located in Wendell Center and Orange.

Mary Gifford of Wendell complained that the writing on the

notice about the hearing to box holders was too small to read. She said a home business near Wendell Depot would be forced to ship out of the Wendell Center post office or the Orange post office and would have to charge more for shipping because of the added travel expense.


Wendell Depot is at the edges of Wendell, Orange, Erving, Warwick, and Northfield, and one box holder said the Depot is a center for people who live on the edges of those towns.

A woman from Northfield said the Wendell Depot post office has been her community. The Wendell Depot post office is still closer to her home than the Northfield post office, and still serves as a community center for her. She said decisions to close institutions like this should be made based on other considera-

tions than the bottom line.

Roy said there is a 60-day period for written comments, and that decisions about whether to close the office will be made from the top down. Other options are on line stamp purchasing, or establishing a village post office that can sell stamps, and maintain post office boxes. Call Wendell Depot post office with questions: 978-544-6682.

NANCY L. DOLE  
BOOKS & EPHEMERA



32 Bridge Street,  
2nd Floor  
Shelburne Falls

413-625-9850  
ndole@erocker.com closed Mondays

**Real Food, Real People, Real Investment**



Local, Organic Produce,  
Deli, eat in or take out,  
Bakery Specialties,  
Meat & Cheese, Natural Groceries,  
Supplements & Body Care Items,  
Monthly Specials



Green Fields Market  
144 Main St., Greenfield  
Mon-Fri 8-8  
Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5  
(413) 773-9567



McCusker's Market  
3 State Street, Shelburne Falls  
Open Daily  
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
(413) 625-9411

www.franklincommunity.coop

HK

**Power Town  
Apartments**

152 Avenue A  
PO Box 48  
Turners Falls, MA  
413-863-9433

professionally managed by:

**HallKeen Management, Inc.**

rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St.

Sharon Cottrell  
Property Manager




Enjoy your next party with your guests,  
instead of in the kitchen!

*Witchin' Kitchen Patty*



413-774-0517

*Organizing, Catering, & Serving  
Parties, Weddings, Events*

**CARSENSE  
AUTOMOTIVE**

Your Automotive Answer

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT EXPERTS

TELE: (413) 772-8862 **U-HAUL**

409 DEERFIELD STREET • GREENFIELD

**Doug's Auto Body**  
Doug Smith - Owner




MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph: (413) 863-2785  
Fax: (413) 863-0120

39 Center Road  
Gill, MA 01354

**Montague  
BOOKMILL**

Open Daily 10 - 6



413-367-9206  
www.montaguebookmill.com

**CRUISE & TRAVEL  
COMPANY**



30 Montague St.  
TURNERS FALLS



413-863-3143 | 888-763-3143  
www.cruiseandtravelcompany.com



## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Wendell to Vote on Hybrid Mahar District

BY JOSH HEINEMANN  
Wendell will hold a special town meeting on Tuesday, November 15th, to vote on the proposed hybrid Mahar K-12 school district.

Although the towns of Wendell and New Salem would retain control of Swift River Elementary School under the proposed agreement, finance committee chair Michael Idoine told the Wendell selectboard on October 26th, "I am not prepared to support regionalization. I have not been able to discern what's in it for us."

Mahar superintendent Michael Baldassarre requested all four towns that send students to Mahar, New Salem, Petersham, Wendell and Orange, to vote on the hybrid regionalization agreement – which would join Orange and Petersham from K-12 but leave New Salem and Wendell in their current 7-12 regional arrangement with Mahar – by December 1st. Orange voted 149 – 114 to approve the agreement at a town meeting on October 20th. Petersham will vote on November 14th.

All four towns must approve the agreement for the proposal to go through.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard, noting that Baldassarre is already superintendent of the Orange and Petersham elementary schools, as well as Mahar, asked, "Are we paying him less?" because he is devoting less of his time to Wendell upper school students.

Finance committee

member Jim Slavas pointed out that Orange elementary schools are close to being downgraded by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to Level 4 underperforming schools, and perhaps being taken over by the state. The town of Orange is facing a \$350,000 fine for underfunding their elementary schools.

The state has agreed to forgive that fine if a region is formed including Orange and Petersham K-12.

But if the Orange elementary schools are in the same region with Mahar, there will be pressure to divert money from Mahar to the elementary schools, Slavas said. The rationalization for regionalization is resilience, but he did not see resilience resulting from the agreement as it is written. The terms and financing leave many uncertainties, in Slavas' view. He said former Mahar superintendent Eileen Perkins, now a member of the Orange finance committee, advised against the agreement as premature. She said before they are put into a region with other schools, the Orange elementary schools should first put themselves in order.

### Farewell First Franklin

On a different topic, Idoine said the latest information about redistricting in Massachusetts holds that Wendell will be leaving the first

Franklin Congressional district for the North Quabbin-based 2nd Berkshire, currently

represented by Denise Andrews; Steve Kulik will no longer represent Wendell in the legislature. The change will take place in 14 months.

Idoine said despite Wendell's overwhelming objections to the redistricting plan, the legislature's redistricting committee ignored the protest. The committee voted to accept the map with Wendell grouped in a district with Orange, New Salem and other towns to the east.

The selectboard accepted Geoff Richardson's bid of \$4,850 to connect the gutters on the town hall and police station roofs to the roadside drain pipe that runs down the hill along the side of Morse Village Road.

An article on the town meeting warrant would authorize paying the highway department to cut through and replace the blacktop and install a catch basin at the buildings to complete that project. Money had been previously authorized for that work, but it had been returned to the general fund and must be re-approved.

### Disappearing Wood

Highway commission chair Harry Williston said the road crew needs a relatively small level area to use as a stump dump.

Selectboard member Dan Keller suggested the back of the WRATS, a town-owned property on Plain Road, or a small part of the town forest on Montague Road. He said he would go over a list of possible town owned prop-

erties with Williston, and choose one.

Highway supervisor Rich Wilder said there was not a lot of material involved, but the road crew needs a place to hold brush until there is enough to justify renting a chipper. He said the road crew leaves the usable wood next to the road, and, "It disappears."

Road crew worker Jon Hadley asked for a raise. He has worked on the road crew three years, has taken related courses, and can weld and use a torch. In addition, he is on call after Wilder, and when he is out alone with the newly hired worker he has to act as supervisor.

The town has no mechanism for step raises, and selectboard member Jeoff Pooser expressed some reluctance to setting a town precedent of giving a raise to a new worker in three years. He thought a bonus for Hadley might be a simpler way to recognize his changed responsibilities.

Heard commented there might be two levels of the road crew job, and it would be a good idea to find out what other towns do.

Keller thought a raise might be given by creating a position of assistant road boss and that the selectboard should consult the whole highway commission at the next commission meeting on November 1st.

Representing first National Grid, Richard Nalewski requested at one pole hearing a guying pole and brace to replace a tree that had guyed a wire car-

rying pole on Morse Village Road below the town office building. The new pole would be on the other side of the drainage system on the north side of Morse Village Road. The bracing wire would not interfere with the community garden space.

Then, representing Verizon and turning his hat backwards, he requested a mid span pole to lift a wire off a garage on Mormon Hollow Road.

The selectboard approved both requests, and turning his hat forward again, Nalewski thanked them and left.

### Solar Bids

Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) sent a notice to Wendell about their Municipal Solar program, through which HCOG offers to put out bids and vet providers for solar arrays on the town's behalf.

The HCOG asked for a list of potential solar sites in Wendell. Pooser said he would work on that list with members of the energy committee.

In a similar proposal, Keller said the town had a letter from Seaboard Solar requesting a rental of appropriate town land for \$1,000 per acre for solar arrays. Seaboard Solar would then sell electricity to the town at 92% of the going rate. Keller suggested both the back of the former landfill, now the WRATS, and a 40-acre town owned property behind Maple Valley School might be suitable.

The Woburn town clerk sent Wendell a letter requesting selectboard support for H1972, an act that would move the

Massachusetts primary election from Super Tuesday to the first Tuesday in June to coincide with state elections and save \$8 million statewide. It also would allow absentee voters overseas more time.

Pooser commented the move would save the town \$900 by allowing the town to rent the voting machine only once instead of twice.

No selectboard member saw a great loss in dropping out of Super Tuesday.

Union 28 superintendent Joan Wickman sent a letter to the town requesting Wendell's support for H3597, which she said would redress inequity in small school districts and charter school tuition. Kulik supports this bill.

Aldrich reported that MIA, the town's insurer, gave Wendell a discount of \$4,670, largely because the town pays its insurance bill in one payment.

Seal LaMadeleine requested use of the town hall for Monday night practice of the town chorus, now too large to meet in the senior center. Since the chorus is a town group, the selectboard waived the rental fee.

Barbara Caruso did not attend, but sent in a request to use the town hall on Saturday, December 3rd, and Sunday December 4th for the annual holiday fair. Caruso requested the rental fee be waived because the fair is a fundraiser that has raised over \$3,500 for art and music programs at Swift River School over the last three years.

Keller moved that the selectboard sponsor the holiday fair, and the fee was waived.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK. (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666

**GREENFIELD Veterinary Clinic**  
**Robert J. Sagor, D.V.M.**  
18 French King Highway  
Greenfield  
Office Hours by Appointment  
**(413) 774-9919**

Patrick Smith  
CSSL # 100236  
Insured  
Montague, MA 01351  
**EASTERN WEATHERIZATION**  
Specializing in Cellulose Insulation and Vinyl Replacement Windows:  
Toll Free 413-367-2228  
866-262-5361 FAX 413-367-2212

**Totally Free**  
Checking  
**Free Checking!**  
**Free Gift!**  
**Love it!**  
**GREENFIELD SAVINGS BANK**  
Linda Ackerman  
195 Avenue A, Turners Falls  
413-863-4316  
www.greenfieldsavings.com  
Member FDIC Member DIF

Locally owned since 1941  
**Foster's SUPER MARKET**  
Full service market  
Fresh Local Produce  
70 Allen Street Greenfield, MA Beer & Wine 413-773-1100  
FAX 413-773-1105

**About-Face Computer Solutions**  
151 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA  
(413) 863-5447  
Full Service Repairs, Network Setup & Repair, Sales!  
www.about-facecomputers.com  
Turn your computer troubles around!

**COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE**  
**KUSTOM AUTOBODY**  
MA Reg #RS2066  
48 Randall Road  
Montague  
Phone/413-863-3780  
Mike Fuller, Owner

**AJ's CYCLE**  
274 Rt. 2, Gill  
10% off Batteries and Clothing  
Gift Certificates  
**(413) 863-9543**  
Allan • David  
email: AJCYC@CROCKER.COM  
WWW.AJCYCLE.COM

Montague Mini Storage | Mike Fuller - owner  
**The Best Hiding Place in Town**  
48 Randall Road | 413-863-4680

**COUTURE BROS.**  
Celebrating 101st Anniversary  
Professional Painting & Decorating  
Contractor - Retailer  
www.couturebros.com  
187 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346



**NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Making Sense of MCAS**

**ELLEN BLANCHETTE**  
In an effort to clarify for members of the school committee and the wider community issues around MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) scores and data use, the Gill-Montague administrative team offered a series of presentations at the October 25th school committee meeting.

Questions have continued to arise about how the district Level IV (needs improvement) status is determined and the way the district's MCAS scores and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports impact that status. The school principals came to the school committee meeting to do their best to clear up those questions.

Kathleen Bailer Adams, the new principal of Gill Elementary, began with a discussion of data. She said collecting data is a valuable tool that helps teachers follow the strengths and weaknesses of students over time. Looking at the data collected from MCAS scores and other sources, they have the ability to monitor each child's growth.

A school can compare the progress their students are making against students at other schools in the state. Analyzing test results can help inform curriculum decisions and inform teacher instruction. Data can reveal a school's performance by following a specific grade over time, or by following one class through the years. This can

give teachers the ability to analyze overall instruction and analyze strengths and weaknesses.

Adams made a point of saying that data is not just about test scores but encompasses all the talk and work of teachers and students. It includes a teacher's evaluation of homework, consideration of student writing samples, portfolios, journals, or anything that provides the opportunity to discuss student work within the context of a lesson.

Gill Elementary has met its AYP in math and English Language Arts (ELA) for 2011, showing improvement in math performance over 2010. The AYP is calculated using several factors. Four categories are considered: participation, performance, improvement, and attendance. For the MCAS, the target rate is 95% participation or greater. For MCAS performance, the target is 95.1% or greater Composite Performance Index (CPI) in English language arts, and 92.2% or greater CPI in mathematics.

If performance is not sufficient, AYP can be met with MCAS Improvement rate, meeting or exceeding the 2011 improvement target (specific to schools, districts and student groups) or by reducing the percentage of non-proficient students by 10% from 2010 to 2011. An additional indicator is the attendance rate for schools serving grades 1-11, or for schools serving grade 12, in the cohort graduation

rate. Gill Elementary, had 100% participation, met the improvement target in math, reduced the percent of non-proficient students by 10% and had an attendance rate of 96.3%. They met AYP for 2011 in English language arts and math. In 2010 they met AYP in English but not in math. As a result they are now a Level 1 school.

Adams posed the question, "Where do we go from here?" She answered by saying they should celebrate their success. She presented a list of reasons why the school improved:

- After school MCAS tutoring
- Support from a math coach, the coordinator of data services, and reading specialists
- Professional development via book study and targeted instructional practices like Keys to Literacy
- Focusing on the standards in teaching
- School wide math curriculum
- Community volunteers
- Data team - focusing on collecting and reviewing student performance data

Principal Maureen Donelan, in her presentation on MCAS and data analysis, told the school committee that Montague Elementary has met its AYP for 2010 and 2011. As a result, Donelan said, the school is now considered in "no status" which is the status given to a school that makes AYP for two or more consecutive years in a subject for all student

groups. Montague Elementary, which combines Sheffield and Hillcrest in a joint campus, was named a commendation school last year.

Both Donelan and Adams noted that 4th grade English proficiency scores commonly fall. They have been working together to develop a plan for both schools to improve ELA scores with a focus on writing skills. Professional development is being made available for all newly hired and other identified teachers in currently implemented instructional programs, Responsive Classroom, Developmental Design, Tools of the Mind, and Keys to Literacy.

Joseph Fleming, Interim Principal for Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School and the newly hired Assistant Principal for Great Falls Middle School Patricia Gardner discussed MCAS and the AYP for the two schools, which have experienced mixed success.

The middle school did not make AYP in either ELA or math for 2011.

The students met their target in MCAS participation in both ELA (99%) and math (100%) but did not meet their target in performance or improvement for either ELA or math. The middle school students did meet their target in attendance. There was no breakdown of the data by grade for the school.

The high school met the target for all categories in English Language Arts (MCAS participation, performance, improvement) but failed to meet the target for graduation rate.

Fleming called the high

school's graduation rate the one weakness that is hurting the school's ability to show consistent improvement.

In math, the results were mixed. They met the target in participation, but not in performance. The high school makes up for this by meeting the target in improvement over 2010 scores. But the graduation rate holds TFHS back, so that in both ELA and Math the high school failed to make AYP for 2011.

Fleming said, "The graduation rate is killing us, so we need to turn this around."

Fleming and Gardner answered questions from the school committee about how the graduation rate is calculated. The graduation rate is not just based on students currently enrolled in Turners Falls High School. The graduation rate is based on the 9th grade "cohort," those students who began in the high school in 9th grade.

The data tracks all of those students and follows

them through graduation. The graduation rate calculation, however also takes into account students who transfer in and transfer out. Simple enough, yet the method of tracking and calculation used by DESE is enough to confuse any college graduate let alone a high school graduate. Superintendent Eskstrom, will explain and clarify the graduation rate calculation at the next school committee meeting.

Part of the effort to improve graduation rates includes developing a better exit interview process to see why students choice out. The data shows that students who enroll in the district early tend to stay. There is also evidence that shows that students who change schools a lot are less likely to graduate. Jean Bean spoke to the issue, saying "Our kids move around a lot," which is why the staff felt it was important to reinstate the Freshman Academy. "Ninth grade is where kids lose their way," said Bean.

**Rescuing Fish Passage and the Connecticut's Dead Reach at Turners Falls**

**NORTHFIELD** - Environmental journalist and author Karl Meyer will give a free presentation on Sunday, November 6th, at 4:30 p.m., at the annual meeting of the Greater Northfield Watershed Association at the Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main Street, in Northfield.

Why is there no Shad Derby in Turners Falls, or a Shad Festival in Gill and Northfield? A 1967 Connecticut River fisheries program promised 750,000 shad passing the Turners

dam. Today's "improved" passage numbers are lower than those of 1985.

Find out who's protecting the river's only spawning population of federally-endangered shortnose sturgeon, and why tens of thousands of migrating fish are deflected into the treacherous Turners Falls power canal instead of heading up their ancient riverbed path to a fish lift at the dam. Over 100,000 shad attempted to pass Turners Falls this year. Find out what happened to them.

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION  
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL  
DOORS & OPENERS


*Devine Overhead Doors*

Gerry Devine

106 West Street Hampshire: 586-3161  
Hadley, MA. 01035 Franklin: 773-9497

*Simply Computing*

Onsite Software Support on PCs and Macs from Windows to Office to QuickBooks



Debbe Dugan  
863-5030

**mww**  
Montague WebWorks . com

make the web work for your business

michael muller owner  
413.320.5336

28 Center Street  
montague, ma 01351  
info@montagwebworks.com

**Simons & Simons**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
Gerry G. Simons

Estates • Wills • Real Estate  
Personal Injury

P.O. Box 9 • Turners Falls  
(413) 774-3239 gerrygsimons@yahoo.com

**Rau's Auto**  
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR



(413) 367-2475

531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague  
24 hour emergency towing  
Best service licensed Mechanics

*THE HARP* Irish Seisiun Music  
*IRISH PUB*

Thursday 4 - 7  
Friday 9 - 1

**GREAT SEAFOOD & GOOD TIMES**  
163 Sunderland Rd. • Amherst  
(413) 548-6900



**HARTWOOD TREE SERVICE**  
Licensed and Insured

Christopher J. Morin, owner  
7 Kimberly Lane  
Turners Falls

**EXCELLENCE IN TREE CARE**  
413-522-6119

**\$250 CLOSING COST CREDIT**  
Expires Dec. 31, 2011

MetLife MetLife Home Loans

Credit at Closing Toward Closing Costs  
When you mention this Ad

**TIM PREVOST - Mortgage Consultant**  
413-773-8984 tprevost@metlife.com

All loans subject to approval. Certain conditions and fees apply. Mortgage financing provided by MetLife Home Loans, a division of MetLife Bank, N.A. Equal Housing Lender. ©2008 METLIFE, INC. PEANUTS © United Feature Syndicate, Inc. L09086294[exp0909][All States][DC]

**DOLAN & DOLAN**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A  
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS  
01376  
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP





MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Bringing in the Green

and the gardener to add more wood to the stove.

I shoveled twice before night-fall so as to avoid serious heavy lifting in the morning. I awoke in the small hours and went down to feed the woodstove again before easing the cat aside and climbing back into bed.

The plow roared down the street, dropping the huge blade with a metal clang. In the woods the sound of cracking branches rang out like gunshots. The cat and I slept.

In the morning, fortified with coffee, I finished the sidewalk and the driveway. The yardstick measured ten inches, a far cry from the 24 inches reported from Buckland and the 27 in Peru. A Hallowe'en fools day.

It is clear and bright with a sharp wind, but even in the shade the front porch is 50 degrees and the sunroom a balmy seventy.

The sunroom is alive with a variety of plants. The tuberous Begonia rescued from the outdoor garden sports rose colored bloom even with a backdrop of snow. The Christmas cactus, which looked dormant all summer, is suddenly showing tiny

buds at the tip of its leaves. The orchid I twice threatened to jettison for dead has produced a new green stalk and leaves over the summer. The miniature potted palms have gained half a foot and continue to grow.

The grey skies of November beg for green and bloom. This is a great time to comb the shelves of your favorite nursery and the garden centers for plants now on sale as winter approaches. Treat yourself to some to feed your gardening soul.

For south facing windows select cactus or citrus or hibiscus. If you have saved geraniums or begonias from your garden, they will also flourish in bright southern light. East and west facing windows are perfect for African violets which want a more filtered light. Large leaved plants often do well in bright north light.

A few simple rules of thumb will make these winter house plants happy. Repot in any light soil medium, rather than heavy garden soil. These plants want good drainage and while they deserve watering, do not over-dampen. More houseplants die from over-watering than from

drying out.

Most New England homes are full of hot, dry air. Instead of watering your plants daily, group them and set the pots in containers of small stones. Water the stones and the air around your plants will be moister. Your skin and lungs will thank you too.

Do not feed until new growth appears. If you bring plants in from your garden, rinse them in the sink or shower to remove any hitchhiking bugs and check for egg cases or cocoons. Turn your plants a few degrees when you think of it. This will equalize sun exposure and make for happier, even growth.

This is also a great time to buy some bulbs to force for the holidays. Narcissus is a favorite for its fragrant white blooms. Select a shallow container and set out the bulbs in soil or on top of pebbles or glass beads. Bury the large end of the bulbs in your planting medium of choice to give the developing roots something to steady on. If no green growth is showing, put the dish in a dark place for a week or two before setting out in bright light.

Most bulbs available in the store have already begun sprouting, so you can set them right out. Once the flowers emerge, keep the container in indirect light for longest blooming. Bulbs started

now will bloom around Thanksgiving.

It's fun to stagger the start of a few sets of bulbs so as to enjoy fresh bloom right through New Years. If, like us, you are behind in your garden cleanup, never mind, the snow will disappear so that you can continue to pull old plants and weeds. If you find your soil too hard to work, go ahead and spread fertilizer and manure for next year's garden. These nutrients will continue to leach into the soil until the cold of January, and you can turn or rake this food into the ground before planting next spring.

Nature will always continue to fool us mortals, but she is also an easy and flexible mother. If it's not quite done, it's still not too late to finish the work of this past season. Think of the wild plants whose seeds drop on fertile wet leaves or cold ground or snow, and remember how some always survive as you enjoy next season's wild flowers and berries. Much happens without an assist from any other gardener except the god of weather for good or ill. We're not a barren planet yet, and there will be more than one opportunity to lend Mother Nature a helping human hand.

Enjoy some greenery inside this winter and continue to feed the heart and soul.

Furbishing the Avenue Calling All Numismatists Gary's Coins and Antiques

BY JOHN FURBISH TURNERS FALLS - Gary Konvelski, the proprietor of Gary's Coins and Antiques, is both a professional numismatist (lover of coins) and an antiquarian. His shop at 115 Avenue A displays an excellent variety of antiques, jewelry, and coins for sale. Konvelski will also buy

gold, silver, antiques, coins, and jewelry, both at the shop and through home visits.

Konvelski took an interest in coins 35 years ago and started to collect them. He expanded his interests to include history and all sorts of antiques. Konvelski really likes to find out the story behind the coins; just ask him

about them. He reads magazines and books and goes to auctions to help expand his expertise. You'll find some of his varied reference materials on the back shelves at his shop.

Konvelski's specialty is American coinage, and he has trained to become a certified grader of U. S. coins. The earliest coin in his shop is dated from 1723 in the Colonial era. His favorite coin is the classic Buffalo nickel, and he has dozens of them for sale. Un-circulated versions shimmer with light and

continued next page



JOHN FURBISH PHOTO

Browsing at Gary's Coins and Antiques - 115 Avenue A - in Turners

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$12.00 PER WEEK. (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666

Willow Tree Sculptures advertisement featuring a woman and child sculpture.

Pete's Tire Barns advertisement for tires and automotive services.

Kubota Sirum Equipment Co., Inc. advertisement for Kubota machinery.

Diemand Farm advertisement for fresh Thanksgiving turkeys.

Mary Lou Emond advertisement for COHN & COMPANY Real Estate Agency.

CopyCat Print Shop advertisement for printing services.

HOPE & OLIVE advertisement for farm-inspired food and drink.

Geri Johnson advertisement for real estate services.

CopyCat Print Shop advertisement for online services and website.



## Eugene Mirman, Jon Benjamin & Kurt Braunohler Comedy Show this Saturday to benefit the Thrive Project

**MATTHEW SMALL**  
**TURNERS FALLS** - The funniest birthday party in town will happen this Saturday at St. Kaz, when the Thrive Project will host its Second Annual Comedy Benefit with an impressive line-up of nationally known comics. The show starts at 8 p.m. featuring Eugene Mirman (the voice of Gene on "Bob's Burgers"), Jon Benjamin (Bob on "Bob's Burgers," but also the voice of Archer on "Archer") and Kurt Braunohler (who may not be the voice of a cartoon character, but who is hilarious nonetheless in "Delocated" and "Jon Benjamin Has a Van").

Proceeds from the show will help cover the operating costs for Thrive's second year of offerings.

The Thrive Project is a community resource center serving the Turners Falls

area and Franklin County. "We're looking for ways to enrich the lives of adults," said Jamie Berger, Thrive's executive director. He pointed out that social resources are easier to find for young children or groups designated as high risk, but no programming really targets the people like you and I, people who may be going through their lives with their dreams on hold.

When it was founded, Thrive had a very open-ended mission statement, and while it may be adjusted slightly in the future, the gist is still the same a year later: "The Thrive Project - through tutoring, coaching, apprenticeship, artistic engagement, and community participation - helps adults go beyond merely surviving to building lives that they find meaningful." The organization was

designed to allow for the widest possible range of activities to promote the advancement of the people in our community. The Thrive Project targets folks who may need a nudge to take the first step toward a GED or a well-crafted resume or who want access to a variety of social activity not located on a bar stool.

Thrive focuses on both practical and aesthetic steps to enrichment. "We're here to help you do stuff or get places," said Berger, and that "stuff" has taken on a variety of forms: from dyeing Ukrainian Easter Eggs (which, as a workshop participant, I can say was amazing!) to ping pong to making lanterns for the River of Lights parade last August to figuring out how to manage all of the email in your inbox. The Thrive Project exists as a

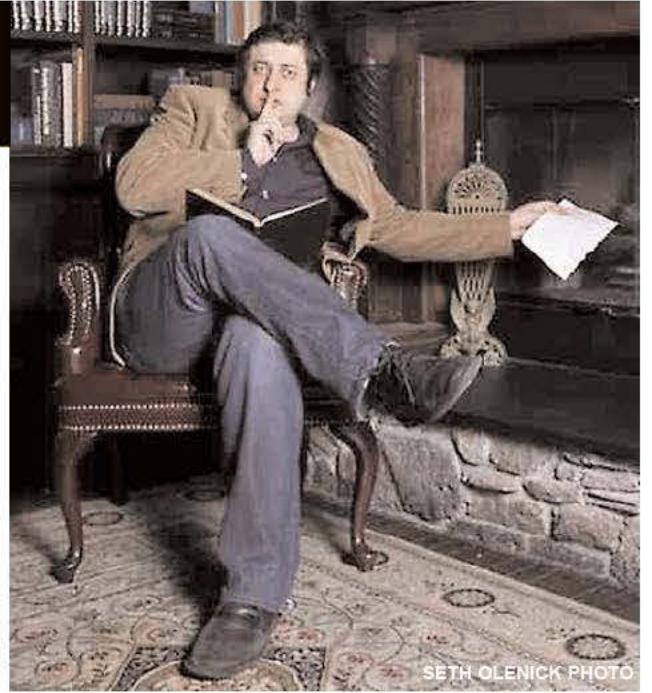
place where you can make your dreams a reality....

...but that can't continue without support!

"It's a success in a tough world just to be going into the second year," Berger allowed. Thrive is now - and plans to remain - 100% donor supported. Sure, that ups the fundraising ante for the folks who provide the mentoring services, but it means programming at Thrive can remain eclectic, personal and focused on results.

"We are here to provide programming without the rigorous reporting requirements of grants," said Berger. That's one key to keeping Thrive's content fresh.

You can donate to Thrive online at [www.thriveproject.org/donate/](http://www.thriveproject.org/donate/) but this Saturday, Thrive is giving you the funniest reasons in the



It's no secret - Eugene Mirman will appear at St. Kaz, Saturday.

world to support them: three great comedians in one local hall.

Join the Thrive Project on November 5th at 8 p.m. at St. Kazimierz Hall, 197 Avenue A, in Turners Falls. You can buy tickets online at [shopwesternmass.com](http://shopwesternmass.com) or at the door, but space is limited, so don't delay.

After the show, join DJs Mirman and Ansel Appleton at The Rendezvous for a dance party celebration. Can't make the show? Visit Thrive during open hours Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 3 - 7 p.m. to learn about how you can thrive too.

### Interview with Eugene Mirman

**MR:** You live in Brooklyn now. So, what's your favorite reminiscence about the Valley?

**EM:** I admire the discontent of all the people there who are living very wonderful lives. It's a funny place where there will be six people on the town commons protesting a war that's over or people mad at shoes or something. But I miss that, I miss people complaining there aren't enough vegan

cookies in a place where there are tons of vegan cookies.

**MR:** How do you feel about Occupy Wall Street?

**EM:** Sooo... how do I feel about social unrest? I think it's neat. I like that there's an active and to a degree progressive dialogue happening as a result of it. I don't know if there's any sort of end strategy, so I don't know what happens at

the end of this. Also I read an article this morning about people complaining because Occupiers keep peeing in their doorways and the drum circles are really loud so, essentially, basically, it's like the Valley.

**MR:** Yes.

**EM:** Well it's pretty much like the Daikin Quad - which is a very specific, Hampshire College joke.

**MR:** What's the line up for the Thrive benefit on

Saturday look like?

**EM:** Well the line up looks a lot like me, Jon Benjamin and Kurt Braunohler, who are two friends of mine who I asked to do this and they very kindly agreed. We were actually just performing together in London for a series of shows, so this one will be very similar. We're basically just taking what we did in London and bringing it to Turners Falls. Jon is the voice of Archer, he has a show on Comedy Central called "Jon Benjamin Has a

Van," he plays Bob on "Bob's Burgers," he was Ben on "Dr. Katz" and Coach McGuirk on "Home Movies." Kurt is an incredibly funny comedian who lives here in New York. He just got a show on IFC that's shooting very soon. He's also occasionally on "Delocated." Mostly they're just kind-hearted.

**MR:** Do you feel like your comedy hits a certain demographic?

**EM:** I remember taking a

class in college where the teacher - a teacher at Mount Holyoke - insisted that you need to figure out your audience first and then write to them, which I just thought was a terrible idea. And now that I don't do that - I was right! I don't do all-kid shows because I have swearing. But for all I know a lot of junior high kids watch my shows. And also I'm on a cartoon that lots of kids like. That's a lie. All my fans are twelve.

from previous page colors when held to the light, while circulated coins have a trademark bluish patina (from being handled).

Konvelski has always wanted to operate a coin business, and when he took an interest in renting a downtown Turners storefront, it seemed natural to include antiques as well. He uses an antique cash register in the shop, which is probably not for sale. Gary's Coins opened one year ago, at the time of the 2010 Pumpkin Fest, so when you drop by wish him a happy anniversary.

Konvelski buys, as well as

sells coins, antiques, gold, and silver and he can test the quality of gold items on the spot in the shop. He'll channel broken jewelry for rendering, and offer the best items at his shop. Would you believe that many of his customers are antique dealers? That must say something about his appraiser's eye.

Gary's Coins & Antiques is open 25 hours a week (11:00 to 4:00 on Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday), and he spends from five to ten hours a week on home appraisals.

Konvelski noted that a new business called "Loot" has

recently opened down the block on the other side of the Avenue, dealing in found and made items, many from New England's industrial past. He feels the new store complements his business rather than competes with it.

In fact, he would like to see more antique shops, and restaurants too, opening on the Avenue. Retail sale is not a cutthroat operation, he said, and people like to go to different shops one after the other and look at everything that is being offered. Make Gary's Coins and Antiques a starting point on your next trip to the Ave.

*Give a Unique Gift this Holiday Season!*

**Commission Handweaver Kathy Litchfield to create a unique piece for your loved one.**

**Scarves • Shawls • Twill Napkins • Placemat Sets • Vibrant Decorative Cloths • Your Ideas**

All handwoven on 8-harness loom. Cloths start at \$45; Scarves at \$75; Sets at \$140. Deposit required at time of commission.

**Firecrow Handwovens**  
\*\*\* Open Studios: Sun. Nov. 27, Thurs & Fri Dec 15 -16 • Bscorn Road, Gill \*\*\*

(413) 773-3830 • [firecrowhandwovens.com](http://firecrowhandwovens.com)

## The Gill Tavern

Come For a Drink, Stay For a Meal

www.thegilltavern.com    Open Wed - Sun at 5 PM  
326 Main Road, Gill, MA    413-863-9006

**Solar Store of Greenfield**  
2 Fiske Ave, Greenfield • 413-772-3122  
www.solarstoreofgreenfield.com • Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5

## Turners Falls Pizza House

119 Avenue A  
863-8000  
We Deliver!

Grinders • Dinners • Beer & Wine  
Open 7 days • 41 years on the Ave

**It's Pizza Time!**

**SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO. INC.**

SCSC "Rock solid service with level advice"

**Complete Masonry Supply**

Offering a complete line of pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block and more.

298 Avenue A., Turners Falls    413-863-4322  
and at our new location    or 802-579-1800  
529 S. Main St, Brattleboro    www.shanahansupply.com

Dennis L. Booska    Phone & Fax  
Dennis L. Booska, Jr.    413-863-3690

## Booska's Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls    **Tile Lino Carpet**

Member  
**The Flooring Network.**

found + made

Hours: Wed 11-5, Thurs-Sat 11-7, Sun 11-4  
4th Fridays of the month until 9

413-863-9500 • [loottheshop.com](http://loottheshop.com)  
62 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376



# Wendell Memories



The Wendell Town Hall

Broadus Mitchell, historian, biographer, and professor of economic history at Johns Hopkins, Rutgers, and Hofstra, summered in Wendell beginning in 1938, when he purchased property on West Street. Mitchell was born in Kentucky, grew up in South Carolina (where his father was president of the University of South Carolina) and then did his graduate studies at Johns Hopkins and married "a Yankee," said his daughter, Theo Bennett, who lives across from the old family home on West Street. "He adored Wendell," Bennett added.

Whenever he had a typewriter in front of him, Mitchell, who wrote the first full length biogra-

phy of Alexander Hamilton among many other works, "would write a book, or a letter, or a story, or something to amuse himself and his family and friends," Bennett recalled. One of these amusing stories, called Wendell Memories, which details a feud that landed the entire Wendell board of selectmen in jail for three weeks in 1933, is here reprinted in full, just as Broadus Mitchell typed it up some 70 years ago, on some summer day on West Street.

**BY BROADUS MITCHELL** – You are about to read of a series of episodes which occurred in a town so near your own that you will immediately

disbelieve. No imaginations worked overtime in the presentation of these facts; they are absolutely true.

Four miles off a state highway in the western part of Massachusetts is located the little town of Wendell, boasting less than 400 inhabitants. The town is perched on a hill just small enough so it cannot be termed a mountain. Peace once reigned in this hamlet, and things undoubtedly would have continued thus if it hadn't been for an argument between two members of the Board of Selectmen, Baker and Ballou, over some trivial matter.

Then came the formation of 'sides,' with these two men as leaders, and the start of the Baker-Ballou feud.

This must have been nearly ten years ago, but the effects of one small quarrel have been magnified over the years.

The townspeople of Wendell never really get together often, except at annual town meeting, by far the most important day in the year to most. In the old town hall, where town meetings were held, there was a stovepipe extended down the middle to an old wood stove by the door. This pipe, until it was recently replaced by a modern heating plant, divided the two factions. Automatically, the Bakers filed to the right, the Ballous to the left, when entering for town meeting.

Newspaper reporters, in their accounts of 'wild' Wendell town meetings, played the stovepipe up to a curious public. Upon one occasion when I had the opportunity to witness a town meeting, I was much amused over shouts of "You rat - rat - Rat!" which the moderator could not silence. At other times, special state police officers were detailed to Wendell town meetings.

Wendell needed a monument to its veterans. What could be more fitting than a millstone used by the first settler of the town?

"A good idea," most people echoed. But not everyone - for an attempt was made to destroy the millstone by dynamiting it, a few days before it was set up. Fortunately the plans were unsuccessful, and the vandal was never caught.

Another fine patriotic idea turned out to be humorous, except for those concerned. The

Ballou side decided the new flagpole at the center of the town should be dark red. "But, no," shook the Baker heads, "white is so much better."

"OK, dark red it is," decreed the Ballous, who happened to be in power in the town offices at that particular time. The painter therefore did his best with dark red paint.

But some noble soul did a little night work, with very little light on his subject, for in the morning the flagpole resembled a huge barber pole, a striped red and white effect.

Today, after the elements have worked on it, there may be seen little particles of dark red under the white.

The people of town are so patriotic-minded that a fist fight was necessary between a Baker and a Ballou, with the striped pole furnishing the background to the curt words and brief blows, all over the matter of, "What color paint?" Trivial? Not to them. Any victory, though small, was to be sought wholeheartedly.

No account of Wendell eccentricities would be complete without mention of its numerous court cases. Baker allegedly was a resident of another town, only spending a short while each summer in Wendell, but still he wanted to play a prominent part in the town's political activities. In fact, he had been serving on the Board of Selectmen with rival Ballou when they were friends. After legal consultation, the names of Baker, his wife and son were dropped from the Wendell voting list. Woe unto the persons who decided this action was just!

Court case followed court case, verdicts were given and appeals made to higher courts. Finally, the worst happened. Baker got the Board of Selectmen of the town sentenced to six months in the Greenfield House of Correction.

Indignant Ballou followers stuck by their town fathers, and town business was carried on as usual, except that trips had to be made to Greenfield often in order to obtain the signatures of the board.

It was in the summer of 1933 that the selectmen were confined, and newspaper men again had the chance to make publicity of the wrong kind for the town. For example, in a certain Boston Sunday paper, a whole page was

devoted to a write up of the unusual situation, with a large picture of the Greenfield jail, under which ran the caption, "Summer Residence of the Wendell Selectmen."

Other Boston and Springfield dailies printed a humorous article entitled, "Yes, We Have Bathrooms," which was an answer to a statement in the above article which said people in Wendell were devoid of bathrooms.

Ironically enough, the first bathroom in Wendell was in the home of Mr. Ballou, chairman of the condemned selectmen.

After serving three weeks of their sentence, surrounded by gifts from the many daily visitors, the selectmen were pardoned by Governor Ely. When the good news reached Wendell, hasty, happy preparations were made for a royal homecoming. Though it rained steadily, a parade of about 25 cars of all descriptions, also the high school bus, made the trip to Greenfield for the town fathers. After some debate, the best car of all headed the parade, intended to carry the guests of honor.


At Wendell Depot, the entrance to the town, a huge banner, "Welcome Home, Selectmen" was stretched above the road. Bells were rung; spirits were soaring - that is, except for those of the disappointed Bakerites.

In the evening, a grand ball, with the selectmen in the receiving line, was staged at the town hall, and free refreshments were served to all. Dancing was enjoyed, and at least one paper gave the affair a good write up.

from **ORANGE** page 1

obligation to the hybrid district be revenue-neutral compared to their current fiscal support of their elementary and Mahar systems, I have grave fears that there will be a significant shift of resources away from the Mahar program to Orange's elementary system."

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

Petersham will vote on the hybrid agreement at a special town meeting November 14th. Wendell has scheduled a special town meeting to consider the hybrid regional agreement on November 15th. 

**Feel Like a Brand New Person!**  
With a Haircut at **Ed's Barber Shop**



74 Avenue A • 863-2085  
Crew Products • Gift Certificates  
"56 Years on the Ave"

**LIVE IN**  
EST. 1754  
**MONTAGUE?**  
www.MontagueMA.net  
local gossip, news & business listings

**Red Fire Farm**  
Organic Vegetables, Flowers, Eggs, Fruit!

Our Farmstand stocks fresh produce, plus honey, specialty cheeses, pickles, jams, and more from excellent local producers!

Old Depot Gardens 413-467-7645  
504 Turners Falls Rd, Montague  
1/4 mile from the Bookmill  
www.redfirefarm.com

**EXCAVATING**  
Fencing - Patios - Walks - Walls Installed - Tree Work  
Loam - Compost - Mulch  
Stump Grinding & Septic Systems Installed  
81 Years of Combined Experience  
**DEMERS LANDSCAPING**  
413-863-3652

**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$8.00 PER WEEK. (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666**

**RAVEN**  
5 BANK ROW (RT 5&10)  
GREENFIELD, MA  
413-772-1968

4 OLD SOUTH STREET  
DOWNTOWN  
NORTHAMPTON, MA  
413-584-9868

2 LOCATIONS • USED & DISCOUNT BOOKS  
OPEN DAILY • [RAVENUSEDBOOKS.COM](http://RAVENUSEDBOOKS.COM)

  
**PETER WATERS**  
HOUSE PAINTING

Interior Exterior 978-544-6534 Wendell MA

**Beijing Station**  
Chinese Restaurant Eat In, Carry Out & Catering  
**Free Delivery**  
10% off for Pick up Only

  
51 Avenue A, Turners Falls  
413-863-8988 | 413-863-2666  
www.beijingstationTF.com

**It Figures!**  
Kate McGrath, MBA  
Accountant  
413-768-9095



For all your accounting needs  
Accountant Specializing in QuickBooks  
Now accepting new accounting clients

**Good Dirt Pottery Studio**



38 Main Street, Montague  
413-367-0133  
www.gooddirtpottery.com

**Jonathan Abbott**  
SSI / Disability Attorney



If you can't work, let me work for you.

tel: (413) 253-0052 Amherst, MA  
In Home Appointments  
jabbottesq@verizon.net



**SCHOOLHOUSE** from pg 1 consolidated one by one and closed, this old building was eventually donated to the Montague Historical Society.

In addition to their offices in the choir loft of the Montague Grange Hall, the historical society uses the East Center schoolhouse today for storage, keeping Montague artifacts, old newspapers, and photographs safe for future research.

Before I even stepped inside, the brick pattern of the exterior walls mesmerized me. Apparently, I was not the first one to have this reaction.

"It is of particular interest that the masonry has a definite pattern, (tapestry) of which there are very few [examples] today," notes the book, *Montague Schools Then and Now, 1754-1954*, written by the Montague Teachers' Association in 1954.

As we entered the schoolhouse, we stopped to admire the bricks stacked inside the door, stamped Montague Brick Co. Gregory is compiling a history of the brickyards in Montague, and Melonis recalled finding several similar bricks on her walks along the Sawmill River.

Back in the day, before the wrangling of school and town budgets by committees, there was a different method of sorting out how at least some of the resources for building and main-

taining schools was provided.

*Montague Schools Then and Now* states, to build the East Center district school "all labor and material was furnished by the parents of the children who would be attending school.... One story has it that the children of one family could not sit near the stove in the schoolroom because their father would not furnish wood. His reason being that the building wasn't in the middle of the district, therefore he didn't feel compelled to contribute. Old desks still remain at the school." (1954)

And the desks are still there (2011), as is a pot bellied stove, and a huge coffee grinder. A tag on the coffee grinder says, "Used in the old Root Store which was later owned and operated by E. E. Buckmaster. Donated by the Buckmaster Family."

The East Center schoolhouse was among up to 11 other district schools in Montague during the 1800s. Apparently the reason behind building and equipping and staffing so many schools in a sparsely populated town was that travel was difficult at the time, necessitating that more schools be dotted about the landscape.

Around 1879, Montague took a leadership role in the county by consolidating schools and transporting children to and from them. But before then, in Montague Center, there were

small schools situated on Federal Street, Dry Hill Road, Taylor Hill Road, the Meadow Road area, Chestnut Hill, and Montague City Road, among others.

Also, according to *Montague Schools Then and Now*, "School was kept for several years in the old meeting house north of the common. There had been a religious difference between two groups and someone suggested the tearing down of the meeting house. It was destroyed by the mob in 1836."

When was the last time anything else was destroyed by a mob in Montague?

But, I love that in *The History of Montague: a Typical Puritan Town* (1910), reprinted by the Montague Historical Society in 2000, author Edward Pressey simply states, "The meetinghouse was destroyed by a mob in 1834," with no explanation of a religious conflict whatsoever.

The precise date, who cares exactly? Mobs! Pressey's book is for sale through the Montague Historical Society (contact Lillian Fiske at 367-2280, 30 School Street, named after another recently consolidated school). Copies of the book might also be on hand at the Great Falls Discovery Center gift shop or possibly the Montague Bookmill. The Historical Society also sells old maps of Montague and postcards reflecting life in all of the

villages. Contact Fiske for details.

The revenues from sales and membership dues help to purchase proper archiving materials for the many items unique to Montague, but the historical society could use some help with restoring the East Center schoolhouse to ensure those items stay safe and dry. From inside, you can see the sky through the roof in places. Though the documents and artifacts have never gotten wet, and it is clear the old schoolhouse was solidly built by those parents and citizens in 1821, the Montague Historical Society has long wanted to repair the schoolhouse.

An old faded note just inside the door of the schoolhouse says it all: "To restore the old school, we need: possible strengthening of floor, refinishing of floor and wainscot, new ceiling, restoring plaster walls, electrical work, walling in garage door, moving of threshold stone, etc. Can you help? With: cash, volunteer labor, materials..."

Or, as Melonis explained, even just a few strong bodies from time to time would be helpful. There is a nicely painted sign that says Montague Historical Society on it, that should go in front of the Montague Grange, so people know the society exists. There was a time when many members of the historical society

were younger and could take on these projects, but no longer.

The Montague Historical Society office in the former choir loft of the Montague Grange was lovingly re-plastered and restored in 2008 by Frank Roberts, who once sang in the choir there, Melonis noted.

While their space in the Grange has no heat, making winter historical research difficult there, the restored space has boxes and boxes of history in it. Melonis and Fiske are working on sorting it, protecting it, and indexing it – taking some of the material home during the winter to keep up their momentum.

The records range from the Ladies Industrial Society of Montague City to the Montague Thief Detecting Society, and lots of artifacts from the John Russell Cutlery Factory in Turners Falls. Gregory has been scanning documents and taking photographs to create as many digital records as possible.

But, that pot bellied stove and coffee grinder in the old schoolhouse need care and attention, too. The building stopped being a schoolhouse in 1880, and Ray Pierce bought it in 1918 to make it into a shop before donating it to the historical society.

Now, it has a different critical function for the town: preservation of the past. Won't you pitch in? Won't you join?

**THEATER** from page 1

ative challenges into original pieces of transportable theater, these performers are not your run of the mill town thespians. The group focuses on a unique collaborative writing technique they've developed to create plays in which the fantastic meets the mundane.

The members are not only the creators and actors of their work but also serve simultaneously as the stage crew. The group focuses on the premise that "anyone can do anything regardless of budget" according to Ffitch. The company designs and fashions their sets and props from found materials and salvaged goods and operates everything themselves while performing.

"We want to put on a show before we want to do a bunch of fundraising," Ffitch explained. That premise leads each member of the company to continuously develop their repertoire of skills to include things like carpentry,

sewing, papier mache, even welding. This do-it-yourself approach has allowed The Missoula Oblongata to create grand and spectacular theatrical experiences on a shoestring budget (or less)!

I asked Ffitch how she felt about performing their latest piece, *The Daughter of the Father of Time Motion Study*, in a supermarket.

Ffitch told me she and her fellow performers would feel right at home in the oddest of theater spaces.

"It's a place where everyone goes," she noted correctly. "Even people who wouldn't normally consider themselves theatergoers. We like to take a space people say can't be a theater and turn around to say, "Look, everyone! It's a theater!"

Food City manager John Steiner said his market is looking forward to the event, which begins with a local food reception at 7 p.m. on Saturday, November

12th. "We're excited because we're locally-based, and I think they chose us because they wanted a local business," Steiner said.

The inspiration for the performance piece is rooted in time-motion study, a theory used to analyze the efficiency of factory workers in first part of the 20th century. The theory prescribed a set of 18 movements to minimize time lost at work. The play takes place in Antarctica, features both a robot and walrus, and promises to grapple with the big questions of life like: can inefficiency be cured? and what exactly does it take to get oneself on a postage stamp?

The show is brought to Turners Falls as the third installment of the ongoing producer's series of art installations and happenings funded through Turners Falls RiverCulture. The series has featured juried art exhibits in downtown Turners Falls that reimagine the urban space. This is the third installment of the series

after the successful "Solar Sounds" and "River of Lights" pieces.

When asked why the committee selected The Missoula Oblongata for this installment of the series, Jodi Baker, an organizer of the event, said each member of the committee would probably give a different answer. For her, "They have a very experimental, do-it-yourself aesthetic that I think goes really well with Turners Falls."

A reception featuring a local food tasting will precede the performance from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Food City, which has been working to offer more local foods and local growers recently. Concessions will also be available for purchase from the aisles before the show. Now, that definitely beats choosing between a couple of kinds of candy at your typical concession stand!

The event is free, but RiverCulture is requesting that people who plan to attend RSVP

at the RiverCulture website ([www.turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.org)) or by phone at 413-230-9910 as soon as possible.

True to the company's belief in sharing skills with the wider community, The Missoula Oblongata will follow up the performance on Saturday night with an intensive workshop in collaborative writing for theater on Sunday, November 13th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at the Brick House Community Resource Center at 24 3rd Street.

Workshop attendees will learn a condensed version of The Missoula Oblongata collaborative writing process and have the opportunity to realize their visions through the use of found objects. The three-hour workshop will be followed by the performance of short pieces created by participants. Attendance is free, but the space is limited to only 25 people, so be sure to RSVP for this event as well!



**REAL PICKLES**  
Naturally Fermented & Raw

Available by the jar at Upinngil!

[www.realpickles.com](http://www.realpickles.com)  
(413)774-2600 Greenfield, MA

**2ND STREET BAKING CO.**

**Pies!**  
Party Platters & Sweet Breads for the holidays

Tue - Sat 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Check out our Great Lunch Menu  
Now Open Sundays 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Cakes, Pastries, Coffee, Soup and Bread

69 2nd Street Turners Falls 863-4455  
Closed Mondays

**CREATIVE HAIRCUTTING PERMS & COLORS**  
Men, Women & Children

**CASTINE'S HAIR CREATIONS**

**Gift Certificates Available**  
**863 - 2022**

Marie Castine 74 PROSPECT ST.  
Richard DiGeorge (Thursdays) TURNERS FALLS

**Leaf Busters**

Gutter Cleaning and Repairs,  
Spring Cleaning, Power Washing,  
Lawn Maintenance and Odd Jobs

Call for a FREE Estimate

**Justin Hanecak**  
413-512-1553

**Omnibus Designs**  
Plans & Designs for Residential Construction

Charles Bado C.A.D.D. Certified Drafter

PRACTICAL DESIGN SOLUTIONS FOR NEW HOMES  
REMODELS & ADDITIONS

22 Checkerberry Lane, Wendell MA  
Phone: (978) 544-9922 Cell: (413) 824-2318  
Email: bado@crocker.com [www.omnibusdesigns.biz](http://www.omnibusdesigns.biz)

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient

**IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE**  
UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

**413-883-7323**

Easy in-town location  
Secure 24-hour access

**VARIETY OF SIZES THE BEST PRICES**

OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA  
Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire



**POLICE** from page 1  
 hiring Zukowski to be police chief in the beginning of 2006 "made a huge difference" in the whole tone of the police department, improving morale. She hoped Zukowski might continue to participate in the TRIAD project (through the Franklin County's Sheriff's Office) which helps keep seniors safe in the community, especially during widespread power outages like those experienced this week.

Zukowski's letter gave "special thanks to the Public Safety Building Committee for their dedication and hard work."

During Zukowski's tenure as chief, in 2009 the police department was finally – after 40 years

of studies – able to move from cramped quarters in the dark basement of town hall to the new, \$4 million police station adjoining the Turners Falls Fire Department on Turnpike Road.

The selectboard will now have to work out the details of hiring a new police chief, such as ensuring the right civil service forms are in place, and setting a salary for a replacement police chief.

In other news, town planner Walter Ramsey presented a proposal to the selectboard to apply for a Federal Emergency Management Agency natural hazard mitigation grant, to stabilize the roadbed of Millers Falls Road, near Highland Cemetery.

The selectboard approved the proposal. Town meeting will have to vote on whether or not to approve spending \$77,125 of town matching funds for the project, or 25% of the projected total cost of \$308,500.

Ramsey described that area of Millers Falls Road as having been unstable for more than 20 years. The selectboard agreed that if efforts are made now to stabilize the roadway, it could save the town a lot of money by avoiding the cost of repairs if the roadbed collapsed into the river.

Ramsey also presented an opportunity to the board to approve an application for a municipal geographic information system (GIS) for \$1000,

which is 100 percent reimbursable through a Department of Housing and Community Development grant. The board approved, and since it is a peer to peer grant, noted town employees will be able to leverage the expertise of a GIS expert in Northampton to learn the system.

As both town planner and conservation agent for Montague, Ramsey said he would be better able to map habitats and track assessors' records, to cite just two examples of how the system could help him in his work.

Since town meeting authorization was granted on October 20th to allow the selectboard to enter into a lease for up to 30

years for a Turnpike Road landfill solar energy generation facility, Ramsey has been busy sorting through proposals. He has received six proposals so far for a master plan for the whole 163 acres surrounding the town's former landfill site, as well as four proposals for solar projects over the capped landfill itself.

Ramsey acknowledged a "learning curve" on the complex aspects of solar development, but he said the energy committee is getting up to speed and should have selected the best proposals by the November 14th selectboard meeting, if not sooner.

"Stay tuned," Ramsey advised.



**LIVING** from page 1

Monday in Wendell Center, but was still ongoing in outlying parts of town late Wednesday. The National Grid website predicted all of Wendell would be back on line by Friday.

"I wish we had included a shower when we planned this building," Heidkamp said.

I can certainly attest to the spirit-raising effect of a shower after days without one. As I was considering pouring propane-heated water over my head and shoulders from a small watering can, a friend came by to say she had power and did I want to take a real shower? Hot water running from a showerhead is bliss.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said all five town generators came on line (town offices, town hall, fire station and highway garage, library, and town water pump) when the power went out, ensuring that all the town buildings had water and heat. The town hall was opened for anyone who wanted to sleep over on one of the new cots the town bought for emergencies, but no one ended up sleeping there, Keller said. In the storm's aftermath, Keller said town residents came to the emergency operations center at the fire station for fresh water and information.

After the December 12th, 2008 ice storm knocked out power in all parts of Wendell (except Mormon Hollow Road) for several days, town residents, with the assistance of town officials, initiated an emergency management system based on neighborhood captains, who

check on the well-being of their immediate neighbors, help where they can, and report to emergency management director Lonnie Ricketts if they need additional resources.

After Saturday's storm and power outage, Sharon Gensler, a captain on Bullard Pasture Road, checked on her neighbors, and then realized that with phones down, there was no way to call in to Ricketts to report that all was well. And neighbors also just got out to help, captains or not.

A captain who checked in on a chronically ill man found another neighbor already visiting and preparing to shovel snow for him. One woman spent Saturday night and Sunday morning in an unheated house, cuddling under comforters with her tuxedo cat, because her pellet stove needs electricity to run. She eventually decided to accept the next door neighbor's offer of coffee and a warm place to stay for her and the cat, until her son came by to evacuate them to his house once power came back on in Turners Falls.

The long power outage and how to deal with it are the talk of the town this week, and there are several schools of thought in Wendell – either use a generator or find other ways to get by.

Bill and Laurel Facey of Sugarbush Farm in Mormon Hollow use a generator to power their refrigerator and their freezer, which is full of the grass fed beef they raise for sale. They have a gravity feed water system as well as a pumped system, so they are able to wash dishes and shower as usual during a power

outage, but they use candles and flashlights for light and cook on the free-standing propane burner Bill uses to make snacks in the sugarhouse when he's boiling.

One woman said, "I'm glad we're fortunate enough to have a generator – it means we can help our neighbors when they need it." Diemand Farm was doing just that – providing generator-frozen ice to townfolk who needed it to keep perishable food cold, and giving Wendell Country Store space in its freezers to store food that otherwise might have spoiled.

Patti Scutari, Country Store owner, kept the town's only grocery store open during daylight hours for the basic necessities, until power was restored at that end of town at 5:00 p.m. on Monday. "We made cowboy coffee on the propane stove. We used a calculator to figure totals, and propped the drawer of the electronic cash register open to make change. We were busy. It was where everyone came to exchange information.

Scutari said about fifteen people came to help bring the perishable food back from the Diemand Farm on Tuesday. "The Diemands were amazing. We saved almost everything. They were the real heroes," Scutari added.

Heidkamp said that the emergency generator at the library powers only the building's systems, and not the computers or outlets. She wants to look into expanding the generator's capacity so the library can provide more services to people during emergencies.

In our house, we don't have a generator, and are piecing together a system to keep ourselves independent during power loss. We don't keep much in the freezer, preferring to can or dry food for storage, and during an outage, we keep our refrigerator freezer door closed, hoping against hope it won't thaw.

The cool nights this time of year allow us to keep some food in coolers on our screened porch.

Barbara Craddock, our neighborhood captain, gave us three bags of ice to add to our coolers. We cook on the burners of our gas stove, lighting them with matches, but we can't use the electrically-ignited oven, a frustration for two hardcore bakers.

We haul water in white plastic five-gallon buckets from our shallow well, and heat water on

the stove in a stainless steel beer-brewing pot. We wash dishes by hand, quickly, before the heated water cools. The woodstove heats the house.

Josh gets up early and uses the hand cranked radio to listen for school closings, so he knows whether to start the schoolbus and begin his route.

Time slows down with this system, everything takes longer, so it's good that schools have been closed. My own work assignments have been few, to allow us to carry it out.

The non-electric life draws me inward, especially at night, when darkness closes in on our house and the world is no larger than the circle of candlelight, and my own life story seems as much like news as all the other stories in town.



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG**

**Assist Other Police, Trees and Power Lines Down**

<b>Thursday, 10/27</b> 3:15 a.m. Assisted Orange police with breaking and entering at Oriental House on Route 2A. 3:30 a.m. Sent to Renovator's Supply to locate subject regarding cell phone complaint. 8:40 p.m. Report of disabled motor vehicle blocking travel lane of Route 2 at Old State Road. Same towed. 10:45 p.m. Assisted Montague police with male/female domestic disturbance at East Main Street. 11:05 p.m. Alarm at Laurel Lake Road. Found to be in Warwick on Dusty Lane. Same	checked okay. <b>Friday, 10/28</b> 1:00 a.m. Motor vehicle crash on Route 2 on French King Bridge. No injury. Motor vehicle towed. Report taken. 12:00 p.m. Report of fraud at Box Car Restaurant. 12:30 p.m. Mutual aid to Northfield police for stolen motor vehicle. <b>Saturday, 10/29</b> 1:00 p.m. Arrest Lisa Divoll, age 43, of Orange, for operating a motor vehicle after suspension of license on Route 2. 3:10 p.m. Loose dog, black lab, in Erving Center. Returned same to owner. 3:30 p.m. Report of car	off the road on Route 63, Northfield Road. Checked same. Unable to locate. 7:00 p.m. Trees down on Route 2 at Farley Flats. Removed same. 8:25 p.m. Report of trees down on North Street. Removed same. 8:43 p.m. Numerous trees down reported through the town. 11:30 p.m. Route 2 closed to all traffic due to lines and trees down. <b>Sunday, 10/30</b> 2:30 a.m. Report of teens throwing snowballs at plow trucks at Moore and Lester Streets. Checked area. Unable to locate youths.
---	---	---

**B. RUBIN & SONS INC.**  
  
**COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS**  
 Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters  
 Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change  
 194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236  
 10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES  
 MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

  
 • Clay/Stone Sculpture  
 • Pottery  
 • Fine Art Drawings and Paintings  
 BY CHANCE OR APPOINTMENT.  
 TELEPHONE 413.863.9299  
 email: carriagehouse@signedinstone.com  
 65 CANAL STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

SINCE 1888 159 Ave A Turners Falls  
**A.H. Rist**  
 INSURANCE AGENCY, INC. 413.863.4373  
 www.ahrist.com  
**FALL INTO SOME SAVINGS!**

**Site Work**  
  
 • Bulldozer and Backhoe Work  
 • Driveways  
 • Land Clearing  
 • Septic Systems  
 Residential and Commercial  
**L & D Builders**  
 413-648-0110

**Great Rates, Fully Insured!**  
**Greenfield Co-operative Bank**  
 A Great Financial Partner  
**BestLocalBank.com**  
 Reach All Locations 772-0293  
 Greenfield • Northfield • Sunderland  
 MEMBER FDIC MEMBER SIF

**Negus & Taylor, Inc. Monuments**  
  
 People often come to see us because their parents and their grandparents did. We're proud to have that kind of loyalty, and we work hard to keep it.  
 - Gary and Nancy Melen  
**"The perfect remembrance"**  
 MAIN OFFICE 773-9552  
 10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA





JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION  
BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. *How should I change my diet to get more iron? I think I'm a little anemic.*

Iron deficiency anemia is the most common form of anemia. About 20 percent of women, 50 percent of pregnant women, and 3 percent of men do not have enough iron in their bodies.

Some biology: If you have anemia, your blood does not carry enough oxygen to the rest of your body. The most common

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER: Iron Deficiency Anemia

cause of anemia is iron deficiency. You need iron to make hemoglobin. Hemoglobin carries the oxygen from your lungs to the rest of your body.

If you suspect that you are anemic, you should see a doctor and get tested before embarking on a new diet. The following are blood tests you may be given:

- Hematocrit. This tests the percentage of your blood volume made up by red blood cells.

- Hemoglobin. Lower than normal hemoglobin levels indicate anemia.

- Ferritin. This is a protein that helps store iron in your body. A low level of ferritin usually indicates a low level of stored iron.

If your blood work indicates iron deficiency anemia, your doctor may order additional tests to diagnose the cause.

These tests may include:

- Endoscopy. A thin tube with a video camera is passed down your throat to your stomach. This allows your doctor to look for internal bleeding.

- Colonoscopy. Another thin tube with a video camera is inserted into the rectum and up to your colon to check for lower-intestinal bleeding.

- Ultrasound. This uses high-frequency sound waves to produce images within your body. Women may also have a pelvic ultrasound to look for excessive menstrual bleeding.

Some causes of iron deficiency are insufficient iron intake, pregnancy, heavy menstrual flow, frequent blood donation, and hookworms that live in the small intestine.

Another cause of iron defi-

ciency is overdosing antacids and taking medicine for peptic ulcers and acid reflux. These medications can reduce the amount of iron absorbed by your body.

The symptoms of iron deficiency include fatigue, difficulty maintaining body temperature, increased susceptibility to infection, an inflamed tongue, blue color to the whites of the eyes, brittle nails, decreased appetite, headaches, irritability, pale skin, shortness of breath, and unusual food cravings.

There are two types of iron that we consume. There is "heme iron," which comes from meat, fish and poultry. This kind of iron is absorbed more efficiently than "non-heme iron" from plants.

The amount of iron absorbed from plant foods depends on the other types of foods eaten at the same time. Foods containing heme iron enhance iron absorp-

tion from foods that contain non-heme iron. Foods containing vitamin C also enhance non-heme iron absorption. Vegetarian diets are often low in heme iron, but careful meal planning can help increase the amount of iron absorbed by vegetarians.

The Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) of iron for men 19 years of age and older is eight milligrams a day. Women between 19 and 50 need 18 milligrams a day. Women older than 50 need 8 milligrams daily.

A common treatment for iron deficiency anemia is taking iron supplements. You may also be instructed to eat more iron-rich foods. Taking iron tablets with vitamin C improves the absorption of iron. You may need to take iron supplements for several months or longer to replenish your iron reserves.

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

### News from Franklin County Home Care Corp

## How Does Massachusetts Rank in Support for Family Caregivers?

MONTAGUE CITY - A new study from AARP on how well states support family caregivers supporting seniors at home ranked Massachusetts 39th in the nation. Let's just say that leaves plenty of room for improvement.

According to AARP, the economic value of family caregiving was \$450 billion in 2009 - four times the total that Medicaid spent on long term care. If family caregivers do not receive needed support, they're more likely to burn out and reduce their efforts.

The result would put greater demand on government programs that provide long term care.

In 2004, 72% of older people living in the community who received personal assistance relied exclusively on unpaid caregivers. These caregivers face physical, emotional, and financial stress that puts them at risk. Services such as information, assistance, counseling, and respite care can help family caregivers navigate the service sys-

tem. Most physicians have an agreement with Medicare, so payment is assured. They may ask you to sign an assignment so they can bill Medicare.

If you get your flu shot in another location, such as a pharmacy, check first to see if they accept assignment to bill Medicare. They may have you

tem.

In ranking states, AARP measured such items as: the percentage of family caregivers who say they usually or always get needed support; the extent to which the state exceeds federal and state requirements for family leave and mandatory paid sick leave; policies to prevent discrimination toward working caregivers; policies on financial protection for the spouses of Medicaid beneficiaries; and response to family caregiver needs.

sign an assignment form so they can bill Medicare. In one case, an elder was asked to pay for the shot by a pharmacy and sign an assignment form. When the pharmacy received payment from Medicare, they reimbursed the elder.

Whatever you choose, don't forget to get your flu shot this year!

Many caregivers are spouses, some with their own health issues. Others are daughters and sons, more than half (58%) of whom are trying to hold down a job, sometimes taking care of their own children as well.

"It is critical," AARP says, that states "recognize, respect, and support family caregivers." States can help family caregivers by providing supportive services, respite breaks, education and training. In 2009, Massachusetts ranked 31st in the country for the percentage of caregivers who said they usually or always received the social and emotional supports they needed.

In terms of providing legal and system supports, Massachusetts ranked 26th in the nation. Our state allows families the maximum federal spousal protection of \$2,739 in monthly income and \$109,560 in assets as the floor of protection when a spouse qualifies for Medicaid nursing facility care.

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act allows workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave in a year to care for themselves or for a parent, spouse, or child with a serious health condition. There are no federal laws that require private sector employers to provide paid sick leave benefits - and only two states provide paid sick leave. Massachusetts is not one of them.

Finally, the AARP survey examined 16 home care tasks, including administration of various types of medications, ventilator care, tube feedings, and other kinds of help that many people with chronic conditions need. This help is critical for family caregivers. Allowing nurses to train and delegate these tasks to direct care workers can ease the burden on family caregivers. Massachusetts, which only allows nurses to administer medications, ranked 32nd in the nation on delegating tasks.

## Flu Shots

BY CHRIS BARONAS & ANNA VIADERO

MONTAGUE CITY - Flu shots are important for everyone, especially those over 60 years of age. If you are on Medicare Part B, a flu shot is available for free.

Getting your flu shot through your physician's office is usually

**Carol's Beauty Nook**  
29 G Street, Turners Falls  
Open Tue, Thurs, Fri  
Ann Bagnell & Carol Demers  
Gift Certificates Available **413-863-2888**

**Greenfield Imported Car Sales**  
Formerly LaBelle & Leitner  
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS  
**WHERE ECONOMY IS KING**  
AFFORDABLE, SAFE, RELIABLE PRE-OWNED CARS  
Toyota, Honda, Subaru, Hyundai  
413-774-5517  
335 High Street, Greenfield  
greenfieldimportedcars.com (sales)  
GICP.com (parts: 774-2819)

**EDWARDS TREE SERVICE**  
Matthew Edwards  
Certified Arborist  
Tree Climbing Specialist • Pruning And Removals  
Stump Grinding • Practicing Fine Arboriculture  
Residential / Commercial / Municipal  
60 Ft. Aerial Lift • Brush Chipping  
Fully Insured With Workers Comp. • Insurance and Liability  
**WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM**  
Wendell, MA  
Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties  
**413-325-7823 Or 978-544-7452**

**SKIP'S ROADSIDE DINER**  
POLISH, ITALIAN & AMERICAN FARE  
Open 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM Daily • Closed Sundays  
Boston Globe States:  
**Best Polish Food this side of Krakow!**  
24 French King Hwy @ TF Bridge  
863-9991

**NEEDFUL THINGS**  
SELLING QUALITY USED FURNITURE AND COLLECTIBLES  
~ NEW ITEMS ARRIVE WEEKLY! ~  
Open Monday-Saturday • 413-774-7430  
199 Deerfield Street (Rtes. 5 & 10), Greenfield

LOGOS & BRANDING  
GRAPHIC DESIGN  
ILLUSTRATION  
WEB SITES  
COPY WRITING  
BUSINESS STRATEGY  
INTERNET MARKETING  
MISSION & VISION  
**H<sub>2</sub>O**  
BOYSEN HODGSON  
413 303 9193  
www.h2-om.com

**PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU**  
CONSULT US  
PZ  
25 Millers Falls Road  
Turners Falls, MA 01376 (413) 863-4331  
www.pzinc.com  
Visit Our Tip of the Week at [www.pzinc.com](http://www.pzinc.com)  
**INSURANCE**

**Brian R. San Soucie**  
Locksmith - CRL  
Serving the Area for over 30 years Certified • Bonded • Insured  
We Install all Types of Locks & Entry Devices for Businesses and Homes  
28 Montague Street  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
863-2471  
• Dead Bolts  
• Household Lock Sets  
• We Master Key & Re-Key  
• Safe Combinations Changed

**Nina's Nook**  
hours: fri. 2-5, sat. 1-5 or by appointment  
413.834.8800  
naban@verizon.net  
www.ninastudio.net  
125a Avenue A  
Turners Falls  
Home to the 'Omnium Gatherums' story collection project  
Paintings • Sculpture  
Jewelry • Accessories  
and more in a tiny sliver of a store  
art . craft . design



# Ferry Meadow Farm - part XIII

Turners Falls, MA 2017

BY ELOISE MICHAEL

"I'm fine Jason, I guess. How are you?"

"Oh, you know, OK."

"I saw you on StreetLevel," I say.

He seems surprised. "Where?" he asks.

"Paris," I say. "Have you been giving public speeches in other places, too?"

"Oh, yeah," he says. "You saw that? I guess a lot of people probably did."

"Jay," I ask, "why are you here?"

"Wanted to see you," he said.

"And?"

"And maybe ask you for help.

But I really did want to see you," he adds quickly.

I can tell he means it and I feel glad. I realize that I have been wanting to talk to him, too, ever since I saw him on StreetLevel. That day feels like it was years ago, but when I think about it, it's been less than a month.

"How am I going to help you?" I ask.

"Maybe we should catch up a little first," he says, nervously

glancing around at the windows, like someone might be looking for him.

"You need to figure out whose side I'm on?" I ask.

"Well," he begins but doesn't finish.

"Come on in and sit down," I say, walking through the living room to the kitchen. Jason follows me cautiously, then sits down at my kitchen table.

"Coffee?" I ask, standing next to the sink with the coffee pot in hand.

"Thought you didn't drink coffee this late," Jason says, almost like he is laughing at me.

"Well, it seems like I might be up for a while, now that you're here," I lie.

He looks at me and raises an eyebrow. "Sure," he says. "I'd love some coffee."

I put it on and then sit across from him. "So you wanna tell me why you're here?" I ask.

"I told you. I need your help. Maybe."

"Are you in trouble?" "Not exactly," he says. "I mean, there are people who don't like what I'm doing, I'm sure. But I'm not running from the law or anything like that." He laughs and doesn't say more.

"OK," I say slowly, "so what kind of help do you need?"

"Let's talk about that later."

"Still not sure whether you can trust me?"

"Rese, we haven't talked in a

while."

"That's true," I say.

"Wanna tell me about your secret first?" he's grinning like he's laughing at me.

"What secret?"

"Oh, let's see, which one could I be talking about? Hmm, I wonder what I could be referring to."

I'm not going to spill the beans just because he's making fun of me. It would be embarrassing to lie at this point, though, so I say nothing and wait.

"Resa," he says, serious now, "I already know."

"Already know what?"

"About the doppelganger."

Continued next issue

## Turners Falls Water Department Water Bills Mailed

BY NANCY HOLMES – The Turners Falls Water Department semi-annual water bills were mailed on Monday, October 31st. Payments are due by December 1st, 2011. Normal business hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Payments can be made by mail, or in person at the water department offices at 226 Millers

Falls Road. Bills can also be paid online by visiting [www.turners-fallswater.com](http://www.turners-fallswater.com).

To obtain a receipted bill, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and the entire bill with your payment. This bill is due and payable without penalty within

30 days of the bill date.

Any portion of a bill unpaid after 30 days is subject to a \$20.00 late charge.

Properties with unpaid bills after 60 days subject to shutoff.

Questions may be directed to the clerk's office: 863-4542.

## "Play On" Delayed Until Full Power Restored at the Shea

TURNERS FALLS - Due to the continuing uncertainty about when full electrical power will be restored to the Shea Theater, the Country Players have decided to cancel this weekend's performance of "Play On." But the show will go on, next weekend, November 11th through 13th, with show times at 8 p.m. on the Friday and Saturday, and a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m.

According to Shea board president Kim Morin, Western Mass Electric Company informed her this week that the theater is served by two separate grids, only one of which is operational after last Saturday's storm. Consequently, the theater does not yet have the required emergency lights, or the more power-

ful stage lights.

The Country Players Sara Campbell said, "Although we all need a few laughs right about now, we recognize that many of our neighbors have had a rough week and aren't thinking about spending money on theater tickets as they dispose of spoiled food from warm refrigerators. We are committed to giving our audiences a professional-grade performance and need time to rehearse on-stage with our set, and proper sound cues, which play an important role in this production."

Tickets may be purchased in advance on the web site [www.countryplayers.org](http://www.countryplayers.org). Some tickets are available at a discount at [www.whai.com](http://www.whai.com).

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

#### Domestic Disturbance, Robbery, Assault Arrest

Wednesday, 10/26

2:04 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for aggravated assault and battery.

6:38 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Avenue A. Investigated.

Thursday, 10/27

9:42 a.m. Hit and run accident at Gill-Montague Bridge. Referred to other police.

9:28 p.m. Domestic disturbance on Davis Street. Investigated.

10:42 p.m. Domestic disturbance on East Main Street. Arrest of [redacted]

[redacted] for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, and speeding.

Friday, 10/28

8:07 p.m. Robbery of Subway on Avenue A. Investigated.

Saturday, 10/29

2:42 a.m. and 4:15 a.m. [redacted]

Domestic disturbance at Avenue A address. Services rendered.

9:53 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] on a straight warrant, misdemeanor breaking and entering, trespassing, and vandalism, damage, or defacement of property.

1:39 p.m. Threatening, harassment on Third Street. Advised of options.

For 24 hours starting at 3:30 p.m. Montague police dispatch responded to 81 safety hazard calls, 29 traffic hazard calls, and five assist motorist calls, in addition to fielding calls regarding Greenfield issues during the snow-storm.

Sunday, 10/30

5:30 p.m. Threatening, harassment on K Street. Report taken.

8:26 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for

disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, malicious damage to a motor vehicle and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Monday, 10/31

7:54 a.m. Domestic disturbance on Montague City Road. Peace restored.

10:06 a.m. Structure fire on Alice Street. Referred to other agency.

5:08 p.m. Arrest of [redacted] for domestic assault and battery on Fifth Street.

10:44 p.m. Fight on Fifth Street. Services rendered.

Tuesday, 11/1

3:24 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, trespassing, and attempted murder.

5:55 a.m. Domestic disturbance on C Street. Services rendered.

8:59 a.m. Arrest of [redacted] on Central Street, on a default warrant.

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
The Erving Board of Selectmen will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** on a request by **ERVING PAPER MILLS, INC.**, to amend the existing fuel storage license to include the additional storage of 33,000 gallons of liquid propane gas (LP) to the property at 97 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344.

The public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Erving Town Hall, 12 East Main Street, on Monday, November 14th, 2011.

Erving Board of Selectmen  
Andrew N. Goodwin,  
Chariman

**TNT PRODUCTIONS**  
DJ & KARAOKE SPECIALISTS  
We Know Entertainment

- \* Free Consultation
- \* State of the Art Sound
- \* Best Music for all Ages and Occasions
- \* Rental Karaoke System

Steven Therien  
413-522-6035  
[www.tntproj.net](http://www.tntproj.net)

*Now Serving*

**The WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT**

- Homemade Ice Cream
- Daily Specials
- Fresh Salads
- Delicious Burgers

**BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER**  
7 days a week  
Route 2, Gill • 413-863-8210

**T.L.C. TURNS LAWN CARE**  
Specializing in all aspects of Lawn and Property Maintenance.

Located in the Heart of Montague Center.  
**"All Aspects of Landscape Design and Maintenance"**

Residential & Commercial - Fully Insured

45 Main Street, PO Box 926, Montague, MA 01351  
Gary Turn, Owner Phone: 367-0230 Cell: 522-2563

**RIVERSIDE RADIATOR**  
General Auto Repair  
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS and HEAVY EQUIPMENT  
Foreign and Domestic

Propane Filling Station  
Route 2, Gill  
863-4049 1-800-439-4049  
8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

**Renaissance Excavating, Inc.**

COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill  
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462

413-256-6217

fine instruments bought and sold repaired and restored

**Fretted Instrument Workshop**  
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

Private Room Available  
**THE CHURCH STREET HOME**  
24 Church Street, Greenfield, MA 01301

A retirement home for independent senior women of Franklin County since 1942.

Family-style meals, beautiful surroundings, and the security of a hostess on duty at all times.

Visitors always welcome!  
(413) 773-7252

**BARLOW**

- Paving
- Excavating
- Demolition
- Septic
- Power Sweeping
- Landscaping
- Seal Coating

Turners Falls  
413.772.2155  
cell: 325.5596  
[www.barlowpavingexcavating.com](http://www.barlowpavingexcavating.com)

**RENAISSANCE PAINTING**  
SINCE 1970  
LICENSED, INSURED  
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING, ALL PHASES  
POWER WASHING

BRIAN MCCUE, PRESIDENT  
240 GREENFIELD ROAD • MONTAGUE, MA 01351  
PHONE & FAX: 413-367-9896 • RENAISSANCEPAINTINGCOMPANY.COM



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

and maybe more! 8 p.m. Buy tickets online at <http://www.shopwesternmass.com/thrive/>. Proceeds benefit [thriveproject.org](http://thriveproject.org).

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Thrive Comedy Show Party with DJs Ansel Appleton and Eugene Mirman*. 10 p.m. Free.

Montague Grange: *Montague Scandia, Fall Dance Party*, with Stephan Ohlström and Matt Fichtenbaum, 7 - 10 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Heroes in Trouble*, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Now and Then*, acoustic rock, 9 - 11 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Fancy Trash*, 8 p.m.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: fiction and poetry reading, *Sally Bellerose and Gail Thomas*, 2 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *HelpLeif*, a benefit, 7 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: Two indie films on life in Gampo Abbey, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, with *Irina Singh and Chris Queen*, *Buddhist Baseball* and *Lobster Liberation*, 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *Darlingside with Caitlin Canty*, 8 p.m.

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

Thrive Project, Turners Falls: *Open House and Music Show, a benefit for The Thrive Project*, 37 Third Street, [thriveproject.org](http://thriveproject.org), 2 - 5 p.m.

New England Youth Theatre, Brattleboro: Hitomi Kamanaka's documentary film, *Ashes to Honey* (2010), chronicles the lives of people in Iwajima where the majority of the population has been protesting, for the past thirty years, the government's plan to build nuclear reactors across the bay. 7 p.m.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Movie Night, Anchorman*, 9:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Late night chat about the Strathmore*, 9:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: Happening in the History Room with *R.M. O'Brien, Ben Hersey, and Tumble Cat Poof Poof*, 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nexus*, 8 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*, classic rock and dance music, 8 - 10 p.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11th**

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Equalites*, 9:30 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Coffeehouse presents *Last Night's Fun*, Celtic music, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Richard Chase Group*, 9 - 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Ruby's Complaint*, 9:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Pothole pictures presents *Apollo 13*, Tom Hanks, Bill Paxton, Kevin Bacon. Directed by Ron Howard. 1995. Color. PG. 139 min. Music with *Small Change* at 7 p.m. Movie at 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th**  
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Play on!* 8 p.m. Matinee also on Sunday, November 13th, 2 p.m.

Greenfield: *Double Take Fringe Festival*. Eleven different shows at eleven different sites. All within walking distance of each other 6 p.m. See <http://double-take.org/> for full schedule.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940's Hit Parade*, 6:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *2011 Gear Drive*, bring a coat for a kid, get in free, bring gloves or scarf, \$3, otherwise \$5, hip hop, 9:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*, not your father's blues band, high energy guitar based blues, 9 - 11 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Rock 201*, 9:30 p.m.

Food City, Turners Falls: *An Evening of Theater with Missoula Oblongata*. 7 p.m.

Montague Grange: *Square Dance*, Old-time square dance with live music. *Jennifer Stecker* calling with *Jeff & Zac*, the twin fiddles of the *New Apocalypsonians*. All are welcome. 7 - 10 p.m.

Wendell Town Hall: *Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse* featuring *Brian Bender and Friends*, 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *A Night of Acoustic Music* with *Julia Read, Brooke Brown Saracino, Michael Gundlach, Eben Kling, Nathan Hobbs, Tom Cain, and Michael Metivier*, 8 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Pothole pictures presents *An Evening with Cady Coleman*. Shelburne's very own NASA astronaut, chemist, & Air Force officer will present slides and videos from her outer space adventures. Music with *Last Night's Fun* at 7 p.m. Presentation at 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13th**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunday*

*Locals Matinee* featuring *Trevor McSpadden, Pat and Tex LaMountain, and Heather Maloney*, 5 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Crow, Peter Kim & Joe Fitzpatrick*, 8:30 - 11 p.m.

**The Brick House**  
Community Resource Center  
*24 3rd Street is the intersection of resources and resourceful people in Turners Falls.*

**STAY TUNED FOR OUR FALL FREE WORKSHOP SERIES!**

For more information call Erin Myers at (413) 863-9576

[www.brickhouseworkshops.wordpress.com](http://www.brickhouseworkshops.wordpress.com)



**Draft Beer** **Fine Wine** **Great Food**

**Friday, 11/4 9 - 11 p.m.**  
The Equalites  
**Saturday, 11/5 9 - 11 p.m.**  
Now & Then acoustic rock  
**Sunday, 11/6 8 - 10 p.m.**  
Pamela Means

**978-544-BREW**  
57A Lockes Village Road  
Next to the Wendell Country Store  
[www.DejaBrewPub.com](http://www.DejaBrewPub.com)

**The Rendezvous**  
it's electric!

**THURS 11/3 8pm FREE FALLTOWN STRING BAND**

**FRI 11/4 9:30 \$2 The COLONELS**

**SAT 11/5 10pm FREE DJs Ansel A. & Eugene M.**  
(Thrive Project comedy benefit afterparty - see [thriveproject.org](http://thriveproject.org) for St. Kaz show details)

**SUN 11/6 7pm \$10 sugg. don. HELP LEIF (a benefit)**

**78 THIRD STREET TURNERS FALLS THEVOD.NET 413-863-2866**

**EVERY TUESDAY**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Crafty Peeps Prefer the Voo, Craft Night*, 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

**NOW until NOVEMBER 27th**  
Vermont Center for Photography, Brattleboro: *Low Tech/No Tech: A Juried Plastic, Pinhole, & Camera-less Show*. Opening Night Reception: Friday November 4, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. during Brattleboro Gallery Walk.

**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. through December 18th.

**THE LADY KILLIGREW:**  
*Awesome Beer Amazing Food*

**Amazing, Awesome Employees!**

440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA  
7 Days / 8am - 11pm (at least)  
(413)367-9666



*High tide*, by Susan Lirakis, at the Vermont Center for Photography's *Low Tech/No Tech exhibit in Brattleboro*. A *Juried plastic, pinhole, and camera-less show*. Gallery Hours: *Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. through November 27th*

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4th:**  
Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Benefit concert for Irene flood victims. Proceeds to: West County Relief Fund. Live music featuring: *Chris Pierce, Shane Alexander & Sean Ashby*, 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, Reggae Fantastico, 9 - 11 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Colonels and special guests*, 9:30 p.m.

Route 63 Roadhouse, Millers Falls: *Mark Manley Band*, 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5th and SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6th**  
Franklin County: *17th Annual Franklin County Cider Days*. A community event celebrating all things cider. See <http://www.ciderday.org/> for full schedule.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5th**  
St. Kazimierz Hall, Turners Falls: *2nd Annual ThriveFest Comedy Benefit with: Eugene Mirman (Bob's Burgers, Flight of the Conchords, Delocated), Jon Benjamin (Dr. Katz, Jon Benjamin has a Van, Archer), Kurt Braunohler (Delocated, Jon Benjamin has a Van),*

**LAPINE MULTIMEDIA**

DVD~ MINI DVD~DVC~VHS/VHS C/SVHS~BETA~REGULAR/HIGH & DIGITAL 8 MM~HOME MOVIES/SLIDES~CD'S/REEL TO REEL/8 TRACK/WIRE AND OTHER FORMATS.

"MULTIPLE COPIES QUICK AS A BUNNY"

WILLIAM & KATHY WHITE (413-773-7747) LAPINE MULTIMEDIA 21 MOHAWK TRAIL BOX 259 GREENFIELD, MA 01301 LAPINE@VERIZON.NET

**GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE**  
Locally Owned Since 1918

**Local Farmer-Owned**

*Shop with your neighbors Support local agriculture*

Products for your animals, home, farm, garden & yard

269 High St. Greenfield (413)773-9639

**Pipione's SPORT SHOP**

- Fishing supplies; Live bait
- Fishing & Hunting Licenses
- Paintball & CO<sub>2</sub> Refills
- Guns & Ammo

Open 7 am 7 days a week  
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246

Since 1895  
On the Common  
Greenfield, Massachusetts  
Turners Falls, Massachusetts

**McCarthy FUNERAL HOME**

(413) 774-4808  
John C. Davis  
Director

[www.mccarthyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mccarthyfuneralhomes.com)

**The Shedsmith**  
*Sheds, Chicken Coops and More*

Home Repairs and Maintenance

Todd Muller  
413-775-3575

[theshedsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:theshedsmith@hotmail.com)  
[www.theshedsmith.com](http://www.theshedsmith.com)

**Bryan G. Hobbs Remodeling Contractor**

Blown Cellulose Insulation • Airsealing • Energy Audits  
Replacement Doors & Windows • Roofing • Siding  
Home Repairs • Spray Foam Insulation

Call Now for Free Energy Audit  
413-659-0250

Bryan G. Hobbs  
94 South Prospect St.  
Millers Falls



# Hallowe'en on the Ave



Al Cummings looked as dashing as ever, lining up hobgoblins for the Rag Shag parade on Monday.



Becky Fournier of Turners gave her little dinosaur, Logan, a hug on the corner of 5th Street



Jenna Hill of Montague appeared as a fairy princess while her sister, Joslynn braved Twilight on the Ave



Who would dare Silas (l-r), Dexter and Gavin Knight-Richard of Turners to play their spooky tricks?



Ye Gods! It's Luke, Francia, and Corin Wisniewski, all the way from Cheapside.



Kainen Stevens of Millers was the Incredible Dash. Joan Boivin of Bernardston kept a firm grip.



Ready for the Countdown! Eli Petraccia of Erving as Rocketman



Turners trio: Audrianna (vampira), Mercedes (pirate) and Alazay Bassett as a beautiful woman. Rock on!

DETMOLD PHOTOS

## "Spiders! Jump!" at ABNC Annual Meeting



PHOTO ELIZABETH JAKOB

*Eyeballing a jumping spider, Phidippus audax.*

**ATHOL** - Do you have arachnophobia? One way to fight a fear – in this case, of spiders – is to replace it with fascination.

Behavioral psychologist Elizabeth Jakob, PhD, will try to do just that at the annual meeting of the Athol Bird and Nature

Club on Wednesday, November 9th in Liberty Hall, downstairs at the Athol town hall, 584 Main Street.

A buffet supper of lasagna with all the fixings (ABNC members, \$10 per person; non-members, \$12 per person) will be

served at 6 p.m., and the free meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Both dinner and presentation are open to the public. Reservations are required for the dinner; please RSVP to Cindy Hartwell at 978-544-5783 or cindyhartwell56@gmail.com by Sunday, November 6th. No reservations are necessary for the program.

The event will also feature an always popular Chinese auction; participants are encouraged to bring and donate an item for the auction.

In her program, "Spiders! Jump!" Jakob will concentrate on jumping spiders, which she calls

"the most personable of all the spider families." Jumping spiders have eight eyes and excellent vision, Jakob said. She will describe some of the ways in which these spiders use their vision — to navigate, choose mates, and capture prey — and discuss her studies of how their eyes work.

A Connecticut native, Jakob did her undergraduate work at Cornell and earned her doctorate at the University of California at Davis. She currently works in the psychology department at UMass Amherst.

The Athol Bird and Nature Club is an active group of people

sharing an appreciation of nature's many forms. The club manages the Center and maintains a natural history collection. The club holds meetings with speakers, organizes field trips all over southern New England, offers intensive workshops and institutes on specific natural history topics, and organizes regional biological inventories, including biodiversity surveys, bird counts, and butterfly and dragonfly records.

New members are welcome. More information about the ABNC is available on the web at [www.millersriver.net](http://www.millersriver.net).

**TURN IT UP!**

**MUSIC & MOVIES**

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

**Patty Smythe**  
Licensed Massage Therapist

Myofascial Release  
Sports Massage  
Thai Massage

50 Chapman Street • Suite 5  
Greenfield

**413-774-0517**  
pattysmythe@hotmail.com

**RISTORANTE DiPAOLO**

Wednesday Wine Specials • 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs Jazz  
Glass \$5, Bottle \$20, Appetizers \$10

**GREAT ITALIAN FOOD**

Open Daily at 5:00 | Closed Monday & Tuesday  
413-863-4441

**magpie**

- Pizzas
- Entrees
- Salads
- Full Bar & Patio

magpiepizza.com  
21 Bank Row, Gfd.  
413-475-3570

**woodfired pizzeria**

**mww** RACKET FUSION

Montague WebWorks . com

Now powered by RocketFusion

413.320.5336 info@montaguewebworks.com

make the web work for your business

Your Local **STIHL** Dealer

413-367-2481

**Sirum Equipment Co., Inc.**

Sales, Parts & Service  
310 Federal Street (Route 63)  
Montague

Weekdays: 8 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.