



**FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTES**  
to support purchase of Strathmore Mill  
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**AVENUE A MUSIC PROJECT**  
They're Back! / Page 16

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

Year 3  
No. 1

50¢

# The Montague Reporter

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 14, 2004

## Selectboard Asks to Drop Dodge from Chief List

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**MONTAGUE** - The selectboard formally asked Civil Service to remove officer Charles "Chip" Dodge from the certified list of police chief candidates. Board clerk Patricia Pruitt read aloud a letter drafted by town administrator Frank Abbondanzio to Civil Service stating the board's reasoning in the matter. After an off-duty fight with another Montague police officer, Dodge was demoted from sergeant to patrolman in the summer of 2000. In a previous executive session, the board reviewed the circumstances that led to Dodge's demotion and noted that Civil Service upheld Dodge's demotion on appeal. Under Civil Service regulations, a candidate for promotion may be removed from the list for cause. The letter stated that the board wanted to assure both Civil Service and Dodge that this action should not be construed as prejudicial to Dodge's career as a whole, and that it would not affect his future chances for promotion, whether to sergeant or to chief.

Pruitt, who voted for removing Dodge from the list, objected to see **CHIEF** pg. 8

## TURNERS FALLS POSTMASTER REASSIGNED TO HADLEY

BY JOE PARZYCH

**TURNERS FALLS** - The friendly face of Nancy Williams, postmaster since July 20th, 1990, will be absent from the Turners Falls post office next Monday morning, according to postal employee Dean Elgosin.

"Nancy is being reassigned," Elgosin said, "and she's being sent to work in the Hatfield post office. Why? Because her husband Joe is also working out of the Turners Falls post office."

The reassignment will not reduce Nancy's pay, but it is still demoralizing for a career employee, and disheartening to be away from the customers she has grown to know and love.

Williams has worked at the Turners Falls post office since 1972. The problem began in 1987 when Williams was a supervisor, and an auxiliary route opened up. Her husband, Joe, wanted to take it on. She opposed the move, and cleared it with her superiors to make sure it would not be considered nepotism. They ruled it was all

right because Joe wasn't a career employee, and it posed no conflict of interest. To remove even the suggestion of wrongdoing, Williams has been scrupulous about

having someone from the Springfield office come up to count the mail on her husband's postal route during route inspections.

The Springfield district has recently combined with the North Reading office to form

the Massachusetts District. Now, David Couture, manager of Human Resources for the combined district, has ruled that either Joe, or Nancy, must go, because of the U.S. Postal Services' nepotism policy, even though Joe's part time route was originally ruled not to violate the nepotism policy. Couture is enforcing the same rule on postmasters in Cheshire and Great Barrington, and postal employees say these are not the only offices in the state where more than one family member works..

Elgosin appreciates Nancy's helping out at the counter, waiting on patrons, during

see **WILLIAMS** pg. 5



Dean Elgosin works with Postmaster Nancy Williams at the Turners Falls Post Office.

Customer service has been her top priority

## Landfill Committee Recommends Engineering \$

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**MONTAGUE** - The town's landfill advisory committee held its first meeting on Tuesday, October 5th, and the members agreed to recommend town meeting authorize \$20,00 to hire an engineer to help the committee evaluate options for developing the town-owned landfill off Turnpike Road. A special town meeting has been called for Thursday, October 21st, at the Turners Falls High School, and an article for engineering funds for the landfill is on the warrant.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, who chaired the meeting, said the committee would serve to assist the selectboard and policy makers in evaluating options for developing the Turnpike Road landfill. But first, "Should we proceed at all?" Abbondanzio asked.

Greg Garrison, a Randall Wood Drive resident who helped organize neighborhood opposition to development of a regional municipal solid waste landfill at the site in 1992, seemed to favor proceeding with some form of development there.

"The town has a specific resource there," he said. "It's always going to

see **LANDFILL** pg. 8

## Can Railroad Salvage be Salvaged?



PHOTO JAMES DAMON

BY DAVID DETMOLD  
**The PATCH** - Belcher-town developer Mark Kislyuk faced a skeptical zoning board on

Tuesday night, October 12th, who drilled him for specifics on his plan to create 86 apartments and 40,000 square feet

of commercial space in the old Railroad Salvage building on Power Street. The plan had lately been put through what ZBA chair Ernie Brown termed "a major revision" in terms of the configuration of the commercial space, which had been moved, for fire separation purposes, from a horizontal first floor layout to a multistory addition on the building's south face. Fire chief Ray

see **SALVAGE** pg. 10

## A Fascinating Look at Erving History and Lore

BY DAVID DETMOLD

A recent item in the *Around Town* newsletter mentions the town of Erving is planning a limited reprint of "The History of Erving, Massachusetts 1838 - 1988." For the uninitiated, this volume, printed in 1983 in advance of the town's 150th anniversary, provides a detailed, clearly written overview of Erving's history, illustrated with maps and period photographs, and accompanied by a chapter of local folk poetry.



The old Farley Hotel

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ERVING HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The town was named after John Erving, a merchant and royal counselor in Colonial Boston, who purchased see **ERVING** pg. 14

**PET OF THE WEEK****Fall in Love****Patches**

Patches is a seven-year-old female long hair muted tortie cat in need of a good home. Patches was picked on by the cats in her former household, which is why she's at the shelter. Oddly enough, she's getting along just fine with those she shares the cat room with. She also gets along well with dogs and might be OK with older, gentle children. Patches is quick to purr and even quicker to love. Once you sink your fingers into her lovely patchwork coat her warmth will melt your heart too! To learn more about adopting Patches, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at [info@dakin-shelter.org](mailto:info@dakin-shelter.org).

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**Petition Alleges Police Misconduct**

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**LAKE PLEASANT** - At the selectboard meeting on October 12th, a group of Lake Pleasant village residents presented a petition to the selectboard complaining of abusive treatment by a Montague patrolman. The petition was accepted by selectboard chair Patricia Allen, who ruled there would be no discussion of the matter since the complaints against the officer have been referred to the District Attorney, and since the complaints raised personnel issues that would have to be discussed by the board in closed session.

The allegations in the petition, signed by 80 residents of the village, accuse the officer in question of displaying a "consistently rude, aggressive, and belligerent attitude" toward village residents.

Among the petition signers was Mimi York, who said her son had been beaten in the Montague police station while in the custody of the officer in question. "He beat my son in the police station, while in uniform. My son is 16. I called the station at 1:00 a.m. to find out what had happened to him, and I heard my son screaming in the

background, 'You are a disgrace! You shouldn't be allowed to wear a uniform!' The other boy taken into custody with my son was also beaten pretty badly. His face was swollen and bruised," York alleged.

She said her son was charged with assault and battery on an officer, disturbing the peace, and disorderly conduct, and was jailed on a parole violation.

Marge Levenson, a spokesperson for the group, said York's complaint was being handled by the D.A.'s office, but the officer's general conduct was a village concern.

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Gill-Montague  
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Tickets available at Gill-Montague Senior Center,  
Gill Police Department,  
Montague Police Department

**FACES & PLACES***Flagg's nosey cows investigate weird photographer in Gill.*

PARZYCH PHOTO

**SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES October 18th - October 22nd**

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

trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip. All Hawthorne trips leave from the Parking Lot on First Street across from the Police Station.  
**Monday, 18th**  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
1:00 p.m. PACE Aerobics  
**Tuesday, 19th**  
10:00 a.m. Tai Chi  
**Wednesday, 20th**  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 21st**  
1:00 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday, 22nd**  
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics  
1:00 p.m. PACE Aerobics  
**ERVING Senior Center**, 18

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

**Monday, 18th**  
9:30 a.m. Exercise  
9:45 a.m. Library  
**Tuesday, 19th**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Senior Business Meeting  
12:00 p.m. Oil/Watercolor Painting  
**Wednesday, 20th**  
10:00 a.m. Line Dancing  
12:00 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday, 21st**  
9:00 a.m. Aerobics  
12:00 p.m. SHARE deadline  
12:00 p.m. Shopping/Turners  
**Saturday, 23rd**  
8:30 a.m. SERVE Pickup

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

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE FINANCE COMMITTEE

# FinCom backs Strathmore Purchase

**BY DAVID DETMOLD MONTAGUE** - On Wednesday night, October 13th, the finance committee voted to recommend the purchase of the Strathmore Mill by the town of Montague for \$300,000. Town meeting will consider the proposal on Thursday, October 21st, at the Turners Falls High School, 7 p.m. The committee voted three in favor with one abstention to back the purchase of the 133-year-old factory, presently owned by Scott Jones of Western Properties, LLC, and used as a warehouse and office for a paper recycling business operated by the owner's father, Jerry Jones.

Supporting the proposal - in cautious terms - were town planner Robin Sherman, building inspector David Jensen, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, and selectboard member Patricia Pruitt. Sherman laid out the case. "In 1999, when Indek shut down, we lost a number of small businesses that were flourishing in that space. At the time, International Paper offered to sell the mill to the town or to any interested non-profit for \$1," she recalled. "But no one had a concrete plan."

Abbondanzio said the main stumbling block to locating a private developer for the mill at the time was the unresolved issue of hazardous waste. Since 2002, when Jones purchased the complex for \$40,000, the town succeeded in securing an EPA grant for a Brownfields assessment of the site, something IP had refused to permit during its ownership. "To everyone's surprise and delight, the study came back clean. There are no contamination issues regarding hazardous waste at the site," Sherman said.

"All the major plans we have done have identified

Strathmore as a critical component to the future of downtown Turners Falls," Sherman said. "It's a 250,000 square foot building that shares common walls with Esleek Paper, a major taxpayer with 100 employees and a major contributor to our wastewater treatment plant. This building is key to the history, the landscape, and the economic development of Turners Falls and Montague."

Abbondanzio gave a break-

*"The town stands to recover \$53,000 in back taxes on the transfer of ownership."*

*- Frank Abbondanzio  
Town Administrator*

down of figures for carrying costs if the town decides to borrow money to purchase the property. "Assuming temporary ownership and short-term borrowing, the town would spend \$6,000 in FY'06, \$6000, in '07, \$7500 in '08, and \$9,000 in '09," after which point the town would need to amortize the long term cost of the purchase over 10 to 20 years, if a private developer can not be found to purchase the property by that time. Sherman said the town is actively courting developers to see what interest is out there in the project at this time, and may have more news on this before town meeting.

Jensen said the purchase costs are mild compared to the operating costs - heat, electricity, insurance - in keeping the building mothballed until a developer is located, or a decision made to allow MEDIC or some other entity to begin leasing space in the building to bring in rents to offset the town's costs. He could not cite

updated estimates for those costs, but noted the building had formerly cost Indek around \$60,000 in annual heating bills, and perhaps \$10,000 in annual electric bills. Some of the building is in decent, ready-to-move-in shape, Jensen said. He noted, "The Strathmore has a membrane roof system. I have never witnessed a leak in it. It has a relatively long working life left to that roof." He said IP had done a good job of maintaining the building up until the point of sale in 2002. But, he said, "The building will need active maintenance."

These town officials warned the town was likely to face costs with the Strathmore Mill if they purchased it now, in fairly decent shape, or if they were forced to assume control of the building in future years, after it has fallen into disrepair. "The current owner has never paid taxes on the building," said Sherman, "He does not appear to have the resources to maintain the building. He has stated he does not intend on being a long-term owner." Abbondanzio mentioned the recent fate of the GTD property on Meridian Street in Greenfield, demolished at considerable town expense, as one example of what could happen when a mill falls into irresponsible private hands and eventually becomes a municipal liability. Jensen estimated it would cost at least \$1.5 million to demolish the Strathmore Mill. No one suggested how this could be accomplished without affecting the operation of the Esleek Mill, or the Turners Falls Hydro facility, a going concern in the basement of the Strathmore complex.

Finance committee member Marge Levenson said she had come to the meeting determined to vote against the proposed purchase. By the end

she said, "It seems to me you have made compelling points. You are asking us to take a leap of faith. Do you want to make something good happen for the town?" She cited the experiences of Easthampton and North Adams, where old mill buildings have been redeveloped sparking new economic growth.

Levenson made the motion to support the proposed purchase, and it carried with John Hanold's and Jeff Singleton's support. Lynn Reynolds abstained.

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## CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, the article on Erving's new tax rate in last week's paper mistakenly said "assessed property values in town will increase by an average of \$18 in FY'05, with some individuals seeing a much larger increase."

The statement should have read, "assessed property values in town will increase by an average 18% in FY'05, with some individuals seeing a much larger increase." We regret the inaccuracy.

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# Nominations for "Living the Dream" Award at GCC

Greenfield Community College invites nominations for the 2nd annual presentation of the "Living the Dream" Award, honoring individuals who have carried on the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in their community.

The award was created by President Robert Pura, who first announced it in January, 2003 when the college hosted the

annual community event celebrating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Nominations for the "Living the Dream" Award should be made in the form of a letter to President Pura at Greenfield Community College, One College Drive, Greenfield, MA 01301.

The deadline for nominations will be Friday, December 3rd.

The award(s) will be presented on MLK Day, January 17th, 2005, the national holiday set aside to reflect upon the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A selection committee will work with Dr. Pura in naming the successful recipient(s).

For more information, please call Herb Hentz at (413) 775-1809.

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# The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

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## Choosing a Chief

There has been talk lately about the method by which the Montague selectboard is going about choosing a new chief of police. The not-so-recent history of the department has been checkered by a running battle between the board and the former chief, Patrick O'Bryan, sent packing after costly and protracted hearings in 2002, and by the blatant attempt by former selectboard members to manipulate the process by which the next chief would be selected.

After annual town meeting in 2002 turned down the selectboard's proposal to remove the position of police chief from the Civil Service system by a vote of 40 to 34, the board brought the same proposal back to town meeting in October of that year, only to have it slapped down by a margin of 65 to 17. Dissatisfied with that outcome, in January of 2003 the former board tried limiting applicants for the qualifying promotional Civil Service test to just sergeants, but Civil Service ruled there weren't enough sergeants on the force to make the minimum required for the list to take the test - four. The board then demoted acting chief Gary Billings to the position of Staff Sergeant and announced they intended to run the department without a chief for 18 months, to allow time to promote another sergeant from the ranks. At the end of February, 2003, Civil Service said it did not recognize the position of Staff Sergeant, noted that Billings was in effect acting as police chief for the town, and ordered the board to open the police chief promotional exam to all officers in the department. With little time to study, the seven officers who took the rigorous exam last year all failed.

This year, four Montague officers took the test and passed. Sergeant Chris Williams came in first, former sergeant Charles Dodge second, detective Ray Zukowski third, and acting chief Gary Billings came in fourth.

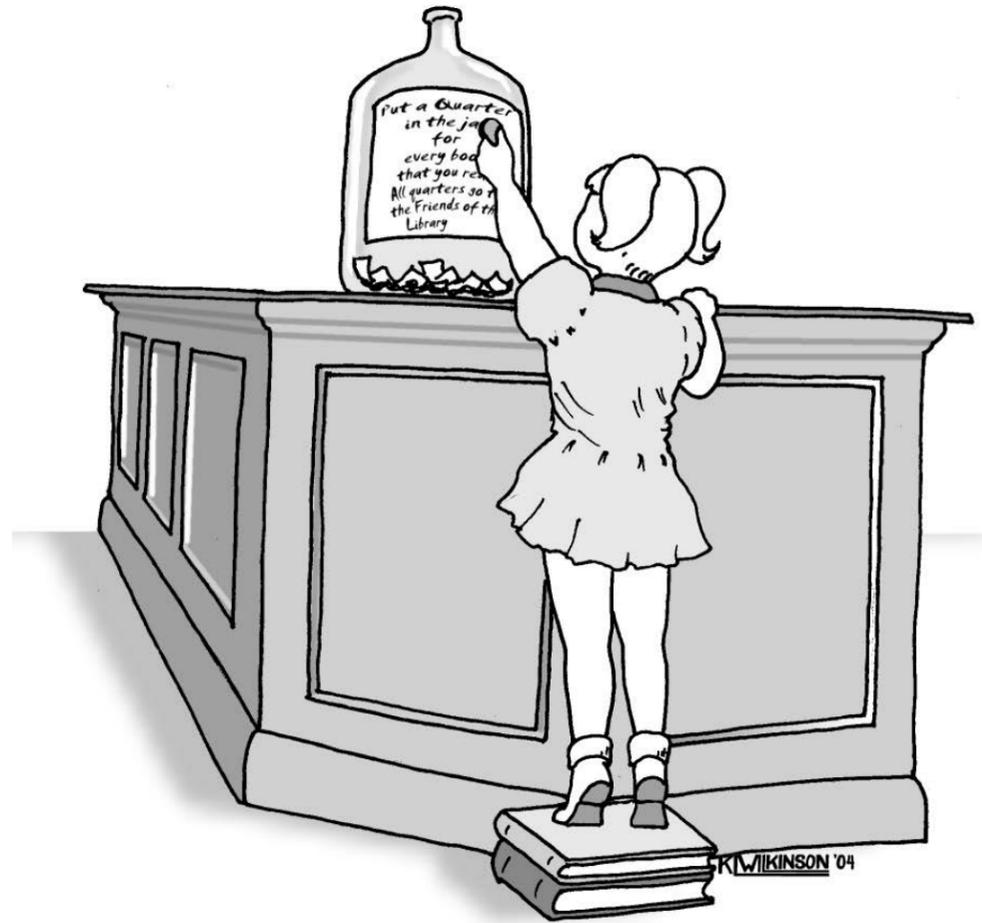
Upon receiving this list of qualified candidates from Civil Service, the selectboard appointed a seven-member search committee to advise them on the selection process. According to Civil Service rules, the board is required to choose from the top three scorers on the exam. The board is not obligated to choose the top scorer, but can weigh the qualifications of the top three in selecting a chief. The board must, however, provide a valid reason to Civil Service if it chooses someone other than the top scorer.

Tuesday, the board voted to ask Civil Service to remove Charles Dodge from the list of qualified candidates. Dodge, formerly a sergeant, had been demoted to patrolman by the board in 2000 following an off-duty fracas with another patrolman. He appealed the demotion at the time, and Civil Service strongly upheld his demotion in April of this year. Due to those circumstances, the board voted 2 to 1 to request his removal from consideration for promotion at this time.

Some say this move is reminiscent of the board's past efforts to manipulate the selection process in favor of the acting chief, who would not be considered for promotion unless the list were narrowed. We believe the board has acting properly, in accordance with the regulations of Civil Service, to narrow the list to the three candidates from whom the next chief could reasonably be selected. Due to Officer Dodge's recent reprimand from Civil Service, and the decisions he made four years ago that led to his demotion, he could not hope to lead the department at this time.

The board made this decision in open session, as it will make the final selection of the chief. That, too, is as it should be. The chief, once chosen, will be accountable to the board, and the board, by its actions in open session, are accountable to us.

## Carnegie Library



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KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



### Saddened by Cartoon's Intolerance

I was saddened and frightened by the political cartoon showing a dialogue between President Washington and Thomas Jefferson. My reaction was not caused by your Bush bashing. Uninformed, mindless Bush bashing is nothing new. I was saddened and frightened by the depth of ignorance and intolerance that lies behind the cartoon. History shows that ignorance coupled with intolerance brings catastrophic suffering to individuals and nations.

The fact of the matter is that the phrase, "separation of church and state," does not appear in the Constitution. It first appears in the early 1800s, in a personal letter from Thomas Jefferson to a Baptist congregation in Danbury, CT. The concern of the Constitution, actually the Bill of Rights, is that in our nation we will not have a state-sponsored church denomination as did most European nations at the time.

If one wants to criticize a president for our national motto, he should point the finger at Abraham Lincoln and all the presidents who came after him. George W. Bush did not invent "One nation under God."

Mocking President Bush, the cartoon seems to claim some knowledge of God and his will. What is the source of that knowledge? How do you know what God wants? Might it not be the intention of the creator of life that unborn babies have a right to life? Might it be that the creator does not want unborn babies sucked out of their life support systems, killed and chopped up for alleged research? And, given the fact that we are created male and female in such a complementary way, both physically and emotionally, and in such a way that engenders new life, might it not be the creator's intention for sexuality that one man should be

with one woman in a committed relationship as long as they both live?

Intolerance is a very dangerous thing. Couple it with ignorance, and you have the recipe for catastrophic human suffering.

- Pastor Kenneth Johnson  
Gill, MA

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number. Deadline is noon on

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GUEST EDITORIAL

# Montague Center Sets the Bar High for Voter Turnout

BY PAUL KAUFMAN

There's a movement afoot in Montague Center I want to bring to your attention. It seems some overachieving folks in our village have gotten the bright idea to challenge themselves and all of their neighbors to achieve 100 percent voter turnout for our upcoming national Election Day on Tuesday, November 2nd.

Now, certainly, it's a sad comment on the general level of turnout nationally over the past decades that such a simple goal may seem so unreachable.

Sure, the polls should be open longer. Sure, we should consider weekend elections, and on-line voting options. But, given the importance of choosing our political leadership for the coming years - in the White House, in Congress, in Boston - it's clear there is no good excuse, save illness or death, for not showing up at the polls on Election Day (and death, in some precincts in Illinois and Texas, for instance, has not always been enough to keep some people from casting a ballot).

"Vote early and often" was a popular Election Day slogan back where I come from on Long Island. People took their voting pretty seriously back then. Today, in most parts of America, nearly half the registered voters don't even bother to vote *once* on Election Day.

But kidding aside, I'm told that here in Montague's Precinct One, in November 2000, we had a turnout of 85% of the registered voters. That's pretty good compared to a lot of places, but not good enough.

We shouldn't be settling for anything less than 100%. Why the heck should we?

Voting is free, it's friendly, and it's the right thing to do.

So, here's a challenge from some of us in Montague Center to the rest of Montague Center. We're going to go down to the library on November 2nd to cast our votes for president and vice-president, congressman, and state legislators and your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to show up and help us hit the 100% mark.

Who knows? If we can swing

it, we might even make the 11 o'clock news. We might even start a trend. We might even be the snowball that starts the avalanche. Maybe in 2008, communities across the country will be trying to out-vote Montague Center. It could happen.

And, one friendly little aside to our sister villages and precincts.

Precinct One, Montague Center is going for 100% turnout. We challenge you to meet or beat our mark.

## Congratulations, Jean Thurber, our 400th subscriber!

**GILL** - Jean Thurber became the 400th subscriber to the Montague Reporter this week and has chosen to receive a \$40 gift certificate to Roberto's Restaurant in Montague as her prize.

"I first saw the newspaper at my daughter's house (in Turners Falls) and I wanted to subscribe last summer," said the Barney Hale Road resident of 28 or 29 years. "Then last week I received another free one in the mailbox and read it cover to cover. Then I gave it to my neighbor and he read it cover to cover. Finally I called to subscribe."

Thurber, a native of Sunderland, loves her rural home for "everything about it."

"Well, I live in the boonies on a dirt road a mile off Route 2. It's a beautiful place and it seems like we have so many places to go and things to do that don't cost a lot of money. I love it here," she said.

Thurber has four children, 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, most of whom live locally.

The *Montague Reporter* thanks our subscribers and our advertisers by awarding every 25th subscriber with their choice of a gift certificate to the advertiser of their choice or 2 free gift subscriptions to the newspaper.

Who will our 425th subscriber be?

## Last Minute Registrations Keep Town Clerk Busy

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**MONTAGUE** - Like town clerks across the country, John Zywna's office was kept busy all day Wednesday signing up a horde of last minute registrants for the upcoming presidential election. "We've had over 100 today," said assistant clerk Deb Bourbeau. As the clock ticked inexorably toward the 8:00 p.m. deadline, one of the last to make it in the door was Rachel Kriete, who had taken a break from her studies at Connecticut College in New London to drive up and register in her home town. She had a harrowing drive. "I missed the exit ramp in Hartford and got lost in the city. While I was driving around, a refrigerator flew off the truck in front of me and almost hit my car."

But she wasn't about to let a few minor obstacles get in the way of exercising her rights

under the 19th Amendment.

"This is the first election I can vote in. It seems like a really important election. So I wanted to do my part." In fact, Rachel got right down to business and filled out an absentee ballot on the spot. Susan B. Anthony would be proud.

Just before 8:00 p.m., Ryan Doherty of Avenue C strolled in with his girlfriend. Zywna signed him up, and updated his census record at the same time. "Are you still a student?"



Rachel Kriete overcame great odds to register for the November presidential election

Zywna asked. Wearing a black bill cap with the words Northfield Police, Doherty replied, "No, I'm in law enforcement now." He was the last person to register to vote for the 2004 presidential election in Montague.

## Williams

continued from pg 1

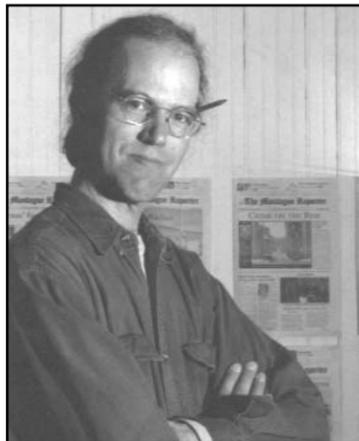
busy hours of the day. Customers also like her willingness to wait on them, and will be sad to see her go.

A customer at the counter, Brian Roberts, said he likes to come to the friendly Turners Falls post office for the good service. Elgosin reports that many Greenfield residents come to the Turners office for the same reason. Folks in Gill like to have Joe delivering mail because he knows everyone and can deliver a letter - if need be - with just the first name, and the road, written for the address, without a house number. He comes to the door to get a signature for a registered letter,

saving the customer a trip to the post office. In the winter, he brings packages marked perishable to the door.

The Williamses have a farm in Gill, raising cattle and horses. Joe also sells fencing and sometimes works as a troubleshooter for a large company. The income from Joe's three hours a day on the postal route won't make or break them; it is the unfairness of the situation that rankles those who have learned about the move.

To register opinions on Nancy's reassignment, readers may wish to address letters to: David Couture, Manager of Human Resources, Massachusetts District, 74 Main Street, North Reading, MA 01889-9994.



SWANSON PHOTO

## HAPPY 2nd ANNIVERSARY, MONTAGUE REPORTER!

With this issue, your community newspaper enters its third year of publication. We send a huge thankyou to all of our faithful correspondents, our office staff, advertisers, and most of all to you, our readers, for supporting the paper from its earliest days.

We (the late night graphic design staff) also most graciously acknowledge the hard work of David

Detmold, our tireless, multi-talented multi-tasker, whose passion to share "the Voice of the Villages" has raised this rag to its position as one of the most informative news sources in Franklin County. Keep up the good work!

Join us in celebrating the 2nd anniversary of the Montague Reporter.

We look forward to serving you for years to come!

## NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

# GMRSD Adds Back \$75,000 to the FY'05 Budget

**BY KENDRA OLSEN** - With the audit of the Gill-Montague Regional School District FY'04 budget almost complete, it appears there is \$67,000 available to add back to the FY'05 operating budget. At their meeting on Tuesday, October 12th, the school committee voted unanimously to take \$8,000 from the excess and deficiency fund (the district's "rainy day" or emergency fund), in order to spend \$15,000 on the mediation program (to match funds from the SCORE grant), \$25,000 on core courses in the high school (to include offering advanced placement courses in the second semester, as well as decreasing class size where necessary), \$8,200 to continue art at the high school during the second semester, and \$27,000 for a reading support specialist for Grade 4 at Sheffield Elementary School.

With all FY'04 paid invoices and outstanding purchase orders now accounted for, the ending balance in the E&D account appears to be \$1 million or better, reported business manager Lynn Bassett and Superintendent Sue Gee at the school committee meeting on Tuesday, October 12th. This is more than double the \$500,000 balance projected at the August 5th meeting, and is a result of reimbursements from the state, for Circuit Breaker (Special Education) and Charter Schools, that the district had been told not to rely on.

"The ending balance will not be definite until we receive the audit report, which is not due until November or December," wrote Gee in a memo to the school committee. "However," she continued, "based on an interview with auditor Kevin Fox, we believe the \$1 million or more figure is reliable."

Gee also wrote that the law requires the district "to return to the towns any [excess and deficiency] amount over 5% of the operating budget. Five percent of the present FY'05 budget of \$14,804,236 equals \$740,212." In other words, any balance in excess of \$740,212 must be returned to the towns.

Last year, the school committee instituted a policy of matching any additional expenditures with an equal deposit into the excess and deficiency (E&D) account. This policy is meant to ensure there will be sufficient funds held in reserve to support any unexpected contingencies in the following year.

Since the school committee approved additional expenditures of \$303,000 in August, at that time it was agreed that \$303,000 would also be put back into the E&D account. This takes up \$606,000 of the balance and leaves an additional \$134,000 available, below the

5% cutoff figure. Following the policy stated above, half of this money would need to be put back into the E&D account, which leaves \$67,000 available for additional spending. When voting for the additional add-ons, the school committee

that with no reading support in grades 4 - 6, the district is "already seeing the negative impact in the test scores," which dropped markedly in grade 4 this year.

Mary Kociela commented she felt that all of the items were important, but she highlighted the \$15,000 matching funds for the Mediation Grant and the money for art at the high school saying, "It seems that those two were already in motion." TFHS Principal Rob Morrill first advocated for expanding the art program, so it could be offered in the second semester as well as the first. Currently, he explained, there are students who were signed up for art in the second semester, but before Tuesday night's meeting there was no funding for a teacher.

"Where would the students go if art wasn't added?" asked member Mike Langknecht.

"The only alternative I have right now is study hall," replied Morrill.

Morrill also spoke on behalf of the addition of "core courses" at the high school, which, he explained, could mean expanding the advanced placement courses to a full year or to reducing class size in other courses. Currently, there are stu-

dents in advanced placement courses, but they only have a teacher for the first semester, he explained.

"If they don't get a second semester, how are they going to get through the test?" asked Montague representative Tony Guglielmi.

"Independent study and possibly some help from the outside," answered Morrill.

Sally Shaw spoke next, "These are such tough decisions," she said, "and the more I hear, the angrier I get that the schools are in this position." Shaw went on to advocate for efforts at the early childhood level, explaining her position that giving children a solid foundation is essential to all future schooling.

Langknecht then suggested breaking the policy on putting the exact amount into the E&D fund as is put into additional expenditures. Because there is still some more expected revenue from a rebate on the energy upgrades for the building project, it was thought that the \$8,000 in additional spending was safe.

Shaw requested that the district continue to search for the \$15,000 matching funds for the mediation grant in other places, but when it came time to vote, the entire committee was in favor of all of Gee's suggested add-ons. Morrill smiled and gave the committee a thumbs-up as he left the room.

*The law requires the district to return to the towns any E&D amount over 5% of the operating budget. Five percent of the present FY '05 budget equals \$740,212.*

**- Sue Gee  
GMRSD superintendent**

*With all FY'04 invoices paid and outstanding purchase orders accounted for, the ending balance appears to be \$1 or more.*

**- Lynn Bassett  
GMRSD business manager**

decided to bend the exact match policy slightly, opting to spend \$75,000 in total, and returning \$59,000 to the E&D fund.

Prior to voting, the school committee discussed how to spend the additional funds. "Having just spent a considerable amount of time looking at our MCAS scores, I need to tell you I am very concerned about reading, particularly in grades 3 and 4," said Gee. She reported

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# Burnham Nominated for Teacher of the Year Award

BY KENDRA OLSEN

At their meeting on Tuesday, October 12th, the Gill-Montague School Committee recognized Betsy Burnham for her nomination for the 2005 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Award. Burnham teaches first grade at Hillcrest Elementary School, although she is teaching a combination grade 1-2 class this year.

Burnham was nominated by Hillcrest Principal Christine

Jutres, who said, "Principals get these notices all the time. This time it felt right to me to have the opportunity to nominate Betsy."

"It was time for us to take notice," Jutres continued, "of someone who takes notice of the children in such a detailed and careful way." Jutres went on to describe Burnham as "an outstanding, educator," and as someone who really "knows the children."



Betsy Burnham

Burnham has been working with children for twenty-five years. She had been working as a reading recovery teacher at Hillcrest, but with budget cuts and staff reductions, Jutres asked Burnham to return to the classroom.

Burnham described the process of accepting the nomination as "interesting." She had to write numerous essays, which asked her to reflect on her teaching. "I wrote very honest

essays," she said. "I don't think I said what the state wanted to hear, but I wrote about [my belief in the need for] funding for early childhood education and programming."

In her closing comments to the school committee, Burnham said, "I do know I love working with children. I have been doing it for twenty-five years, and I love it as much as I did when I started."

# Franklin County Technical School Honored at State House

The Franklin County Technical School was honored at the Massachusetts State House on Tuesday, October 5th as one of seven 2004 Commonwealth Compass Schools, due to its work in improving student achievement. Franklin County Tech is the only high school in Massachusetts to receive this recognition, and the only school selected from western Massachusetts.

The purpose of the Compass School Program is to recognize and celebrate improvement in Massachusetts' schools, and to disseminate information and encourage networking and sharing of ideas, effective practices and models for success. The program is intended to provide a means for Franklin County Tech, and other Compass Schools, to share their expertise with other schools in the state.

A contingent of Franklin County Technical School students, teachers, administrators and school committee members

traveled to the State House to meet Lt. Governor Kerry Healey and Commissioner of Education David Driscoll at a special recognition.

Representatives from Franklin County Technical School will serve as panelists at the Pathways to Improved Performance Conference in Marlborough on November 8th. This conference is aimed at assisting non-performing schools to improve their student performance scores. Franklin County Tech panelists will share the educational methodologies they have developed that have enabled them to achieve these academic successes.

Additionally, Franklin County Tech will open its doors twice during the year, inviting teachers and administrators from other schools to meet with their faculty and staff to share the strategies they have developed in recent years. Faculty members have been working since the summer to prepare a

presentation for these visits.

The entire Tech School faculty has done a tremendous job promoting learning by combining academic education with technical training and in helping students understand the importance of becoming literate, well-rounded individuals. Its students deserve lots of credit as well for their ability to clear the daunting hurdle of MCAS while spending half their time learning their future trades. Specifically, the Tech School credits a number of areas that have contributed to their school's success. These include technical reading and math

support provided students by their Title I teachers; a school-wide writing across the curriculum program; a significant, mandated reading requirement in English classes; an integrated

math curriculum with a strong focus on problem solving; and a portfolio requirement that promotes the integration of academic education and technical training.



Left to right: George Day, Lyla Rozelle, Tom Specht, Commissioner of Education David Driscoll, Richard Kuklewicz, Paul Cohen, Virginia Avery, Steven Johnson, Kevin Worden, and Richard Lane.

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## CHIEF

continued from pg 1

what she termed "ambiguous" wording in the letter. She referenced a clause pertaining to Dodge's future possibilities for promotion within the force that stated Dodge could be considered for other positions "should circumstances change in the future." Pruitt wanted the wording changed to read simply "in the future." Selectman Al Ross disagreed, feeling the letter's intent was clear. In the end he ceded the point and Abbondanzio was asked to redraft the letter with the revised wording.

The decision seeking to strike Dodge from the list was not unanimous. Selectboard chair Pat Allen said she would not vote to send the letter to Civil Service because she felt Dodge's past should be put behind him. She argued that the town should follow the Civil Service list, which ranked Dodge second below sergeant Chris Williams, and above detective Ray Zukowski, who scored third, and acting chief Gary Billings, who scored fourth on the test rankings. Pruitt countered the board was following Civil Service guidelines in requesting Dodge's removal from the list; and recalled the Civil Service verdict on Dodge's appeal - rendered on April 6th of this year - was quite harsh against Dodge's behavior in the summer of 2000.

The town has set up a seven-person committee to

evaluate the candidates for police chief. At the last meeting of that committee, the chair, former Erving police chief David Gendron recommended the town contract with a professional Assessment Center to develop and score a set of "real life" exercises for the candidates. The board urged Abbondanzio to come back with costs and recommendation for the agencies that provide this service, which include the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) and New Hampshire Municipal Resources, Inc. Abbondanzio said this extra layer of evaluation would cost \$1000 to \$3000 per candidate, depending on the number of exercises tested. He mentioned "conducting a press conference," as an example of one "real life" exercise candidates might be tested on by an Assessment Center.

Abbondanzio said the search committee would conduct structured interviews with each of the candidates who remain on the list (Williams, Zukowski, and Billings, if Civil Service allows Dodge to be bumped), and weigh their performance on the interviews, the Assessment Center tests, and the Civil Service test, along with other factors including special skills and educational background. "On the job experience rates up there, too, obviously," Abbondanzio said.

## In other news:

James Errickson, a regional planning graduate student at UMass presented plans, with three other graduate students, to study Turners Falls' existing art spaces with a view toward developing a thriving arts community in the village. Errickson said his group plans to conduct community outreach over the next few weeks by polling existing businesses about their opinion of the village's potential as an arts community. A focus group composed of residents already engaged in the arts has been formed, and a survey of the community at large will be conducted. According to Errickson, Turners Falls is uniquely poised to become a center for arts and artists. "The arts are increasing more than any other industry in our region," he said. "And Turners, with its rents lower than many other places in the region is already becoming a magnet for artists." Although at present the study is academic in nature, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio pointed out that a similar study conducted several years ago helped launch the Millers Falls Streetscape Improvement project.

Steve Fitzgibbons from ComCast, the town's cable provider, came before the board to discuss the potential of creating new "points of origin" locations, besides the three - or possibly four - sites already agreed to in the town's franchise agreement with ComCast.

Points of origin, where live programming can originate for local cable television access, presently exists at the town hall in the selectboard meeting

room, at the newly renovated studio at the Turners Falls High School, and at Crocker Studio on 2nd Street. Additionally, for a to-be-determined cost, a point of origin location can be sited at the Franklin County Tech School, Fitzgibbon said. In proposing other town owned buildings where cable programming might originate, he urged the town to remain close to one of the present sites, to reduce costs to the town. He estimated it would be fairly economical for the town to expand point of origin service within town hall, for example, to include the upstairs meeting room.

Fitzgibbons said his company had studied the town's request to extend cable service to Dry Hill Road, but had determined housing density on that road fell short of their 20 house per mile requirement.

The selectboard approved granting a special one-day outside liquor license for St. Stanislaus Hall for the purpose of holding a benefit on October 24th for the family of Mark Nelson, who was killed on August 18th when his motorcycle was stuck by a car near the 11th Street bridge. The reason for the outside liquor license request was to accommodate an expected overflow crowd. (Over 1000 people attended Nelson's memorial service). The selectboard also approved a motorcycle parade from Lake Pleasant to Turners Falls on the day of the event, though the actual permit for the parade will have to be issued by the Montague police department. Twenty to fifty riders are expected to participate. For more information go to remembermark.org.

## LANDFILL

continued from pg 1

be a target of opportunity for people who want to dispose of waste. As much as I hate to admit it, I would favor the lowest impact alternative, with the highest compaction of waste, to allow for reuse of the site, and the highest possible income for the town," Garrison said. He reached this position by the process of deduction. "Retail development won't work at the site," he said. "It's too far out." Industrial development should be centered on the town's current industrial park. "Build the one you have," Garrison told the committee, which included the chairs of a number of town departments including the DPW, the board of health, planning board, and wastewater treatment plant. "Industrial development would have the same impact on the Turnpike Road neighborhood," as a landfill would.

Looking to the future, Garrison said he favored a municipal reuse of the site after a landfill is capped and closed. "And once the landfill is closed, I hope we never hear about another landfill in Montague again."

Jan Ameen, advising the committee from her experience as the director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, said, "As capacity shrinks statewide," for solid waste disposal, "the income potential of that site will go up, the longer you wait."

In addition to the town's former municipal solid waste

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## LANDFILL from previous page

landfill and pre-existing burn dump, the town owned land off Turnpike Road includes 34 acres approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection for future landfill development. Abbondanzio said the engineering firm Camp Dresser McGee has advised the town that site assignment could cost a developer between \$80 to \$100 million to design, construct, and operate, and has the potential to generate revenue on the order of \$120-\$140 million. Thus, over the course of a landfill's lifespan, the town might be able to realize revenues in the range of \$20 to \$40 million, Abbondanzio said. None of the proposals which came before the selectboard earlier this year projected revenues in this range, he noted.

Garrison was in favor of playing hardball with any potential developers to achieve maximum gain for the town. "Take these guys all the way out," he said.

Abbondanzio spoke in favor of the town retaining ownership of the landfill site, even during the period when a developer might be leasing the space. Despite the possible liability, he said, "With ownership comes control." He pointed out the town had already invested at least three

quarters of a million dollars in engineering costs in developing the site assignment for Turnpike Road.

He also said the town would be unlikely to use landfill revenue to lower the tax levy or offset annual operating budgets. "There are \$50 million in capital projects the town will soon have to address." He mentioned elementary school renovation, a new police station, a new DPW building, "a library project sitting with 40% state grant funding," and the second phase of town hall renovations, along with deferred road and sidewalk maintenance and an upcoming EPA-mandated Combined Sewer Overflow retrofit for the wastewater treatment plant that will likely cost the town upwards of \$3 million.

"Do we need the money?" asked Abbondanzio. "Yes. Do we want it to go into operating budgets and get swallowed up? No."

Town planner Robin Sherman agreed. "There is an enormous backlog of capital projects. If we approve the landfill, it's still not going to fill the hole. We need to look at that in the overall plan for economic development. We have an abundance of natural and cultural resources. We have land for commercial and industrial development. The downtown is starting to take off. Would a landfill impact

that? Would it impact property values. What does it do for the overall picture of the town?"

Deb Radway pointed out the town's master plan had already identified the landfill as a viable project.

Art Gilmore said a committee he had helped organize of town meeting members in Precinct 2 (Lake Pleasant and Millers Falls) had yielded nearly unanimous approval for the landfill development concept. But Gilmore said people he talked to in all parts of town shared a concern about one aspect of the proposed project in particular: truck traffic.

"I've talked with people who are adamantly against it. I've told them I want to hear the whole thing out. People downtown are afraid of traffic down Avenue A," Gilmore said.

The next meetings of the landfill advisory committee are set for November 10th and December 9th at 5 p.m. at town hall, following the special town meeting discussion of funds for engineering consulting services for the landfill advisory committee. The request for \$20,000 for engineering funds to assist the landfill advisory committee is the last item, Article 18, on what is likely to be a very long meeting.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Selectboard Balancing Concerns on Pub Proposal

BY JOSH HEINEMANN

**WENDELL** - At its regular meeting October 6th, the Wendell selectboard tried to balance the request by Wendell Country Store owners Vic and Pat Scutari - who are seeking approval to open a pub adjacent to their store - with concerns of citizens and neighbors of the store. The two issues under discussion were the hours of operation, and the type of license to be granted: beer and wine, or all alcoholic beverages. Between the last hearing and this, Dan Keller had contacted the ABCC and determined that the selectboard has authority to set the hours of operation, within the state limits, in granting the permit for the proposed business, to be dubbed Deja Brew.

The Scutaris said their intention was to serve beer and wine, and to avoid the bar atmosphere that seems to follow a full alcohol license, but that they wanted the full license to allow perhaps a special margarita night, Irish coffee, or Sangria, which they say has less alcohol than wine, but includes brandy. Board member Dan Keller asked if

limiting the startup to beer and wine would be a serious inconvenience, and board member Christine Heard said it would be wise to start small, that another public hearing to expand the license at a later day is not a big deal. She added the selectboard is responding to concerns brought to them by citizens.

Selectboard chair Ted Lewis said any change in Wendell is a big deal, and echoed Heard's sentiment that it would be best to start small and request an extension of the license later.

Craig Townsend, a citizen, said it seemed to him the pub will inevitably create a new social venue in town, and it would be up to the Scutaris to set the tone of the place.

Pat Scutari said one of the reasons she felt confident in doing that is her respect for the ability of pub patrons to maintain their own order; she does not foresee any problems of rowdiness. She said that people who are looking to get drunk will find this pub too boring. The Scutaris have the ability to bar patrons from the store, used very rarely, and Pat said the

threat of being barred from one of the major social institutions in town would be a serious deterrent to disorderly behavior.

She added she had contacted Dan Bacigalupo, the town road boss, and he had contacted the state requesting a survey for changing the speed limit to 30 m.p.h. through the center of town, near the Country Store.

Marianne Sundell, a neighbor, said without enforcement, a 30 m.p.h. speed limit would mean nothing, especially between 10:00 p.m. and midnight.

Sundell said she has lost five dogs on that street, and wondered if there are plans to seek police patrols of this section of town. She said she had given the selectboard copies of the zoning bylaw, Article VI Section E, which says special permits "must not stress the town's capability to service the premises, considering existing roads, town equipment, and other municipal services." Her hand-out continued, "I would suggest that given the current problem of very high speed traffic in Wendell Center at night and the

absence of significant patrols to enforce current or proposed speed limits, this proposal would stress the town's current services and add to the already existing safety hazard posed by traffic patterns in Wendell Center. I request that the town delay the issuing of this permit until such time as action has been taken to fill vacancies on the police department and hopefully also to establish a clear policy concerning acceptable parameters of behavior for officers on patrol in town. Hopefully the time needed to construct the proposed pub will provide the town with a window of opportunity to restore town services so that the project's timeline is not adversely impacted."

Keller said he felt the pub would not stress town facilities, that there are not two openings on the police department and the town is not looking for new officers.

Sundell said traffic is already bad, and Lewis answered that she is talking about late nights, and the selectboard and the Scutaris are not talking about

late hours.

The Scutaris are hoping to be open from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and until midnight on Friday and Saturday, but they wanted their license to allow them 11:00 a.m. opening for some flexibility.

Sundell said she still prefers 9:00 p.m. closing on school nights. Angie Ferris, who owns property near the store, objected to the 12:00 p.m. weekend closing, preferring 11:00 p.m. which she thought would give the pub less of a bar atmosphere.

Jackie Tolzdorf, a resident, preferred midnight closing because that would allow a couple returning from a movie time for one beer and some food before returning home.

The selectboard compromised on the hours 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weeknights, Sunday through Thursday, and 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Pat Scutari asked if they can serve food beyond those hours, and board members, unsure of the law, said they would find out.

## SALVAGE

continued from pg 1

ing in a vacuum. The first I saw these plans was this afternoon. I've got a lot of hard questions."

With an estimated potential of 1000 vehicle trips per day from the combined commercial and residential uses of the building, Brown said, "Traffic is the number one issue. I sat at the light (at the west end of the Bailey Bridge) for eight minutes while the light was red tonight and no one came across. With 1000 day trips you'd have traffic backed up to Avenue A. People will get lost going through the Patch. I wouldn't want to bear the burden of having police or fire or emergency

vehicles getting through there."

Kislyuk, speaking in a thick Ukrainian accent in the echoing Great Hall of the Discovery Center, told the board with their approval he planned to seek financing to provide for a \$4.5 million renovation of the 110-year-old mill, to include replacement of the roof and the removal and replacement of a 1600 square foot section between the 3rd and 4th floor where the yellow pine carrying beams have been weakened by water damage. He said if renovations did not begin soon, "This building will not withstand this winter. If you have big snow, you will have roof down."

Kislyuk plans to install catch



An Architect's drawing of the South Face of the proposed renovation of the Railroad Salvage Building on Power Street

basins and leaching chambers to handle site runoff, before discharging effluent to the Connecticut River. Town planner Robin Sherman said drainage plans would be subject to conservation commission review.

Building inspector David Jensen said Kislyuk's plans to favor 1-bedroom apartments (72) over 2-bedroom units (14) would limit the likely increase to the school age population to between 25 and 30 mostly younger students. He consulted

with Superintendent Sue Gee, who said space for an extra classroom existed at Hillcrest School, although space was tighter at Sheffield.

Tami O'Malley, a resident of the Patch said she came to the hearing "to find out about the traffic through the narrow streets of the Patch." Jensen said the possibility of routing traffic one-way into the site over the Bailey bridge was being explored, which would leave all traffic exiting via 11th Street.

The hearing was continued to October 27th at 7:30 p.m. to give the board time to study the Kislyuk's structural engineering plans for the project, which Jensen said he had not seen yet.

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THE GILL GOURMET

# Polish Pea Soup

BY JOE PARZYCH

**Ingredients:**

- 1 lb package of split peas, rinsed
- 1 tennis ball size onion, sliced
- Enough olive oil or butter to sauté onions
- 2 stalks of celery, sliced in quarter inch pieces
- Handful diced mushrooms
- 3 quarts of water
- 1 handful of baby carrots
- 6 peppercorns, crushed
- ½ of a Polish kielbasa (is there any other kind?), diced
- Pinch of dill weed
- Sauté sliced onions and oil

in a large kettle. While you are hanging around waiting for the onions to sauté, rinse peas and pick them over. Add celery and mushrooms and continue sautéing until onions are golden, stirring occasionally. Dump rinsed peas into kettle, taking care not to get hit by popping oil. Add water and carrots, crushed peppercorns, dill weed, and diced kielbasa. Bring to a boil, turn heat down and simmer, with kettle cover tilted, for 30 to 40 minutes.

When the carrots are done, so is the pea soup. Use a large slotted spoon to remove carrots and kielbasa; set aside. Pour soup into a blender and blend until smooth. Pour soup back. Cut the carrots into smaller pieces and return to soup along with kielbasa. I usually add a dash of Mrs. Dash. Caution is advised. The name Dash apparently comes from the need to dash for a drink of water when using more than a dash of Dash. A nice accompaniment to Polish pea soup is fresh

baguette bread. This may set off an ethnic conflict; so do not tell anyone I suggested it. I made this dish and served it to my grandkids tonight. They asked for second helpings. I also served a baked sliced apple casserole, made with cinnamon raisin bread croutons. My grandson tried it, but my granddaughter refused, said it smelled like burning wood. We will skip that recipe until we go back to the drawing board for a redesign to eliminate the maple, and try turning down the oven during baking.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

- Wednesday 10-6**  
12:56 p.m. Motor vehicle hit something and was leaking gas on 4th Street. Fire department notified.
- Thursday 10-7**  
9:23 a.m. Report of a branch down at the entrance of Sheffield School. DPW removed.  
3:18 p.m. Unwanted person reported at the Exxon on 3rd Street. Subject removed.
- Friday 10-8**  
12:21 a.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Park Street address. Found to be verbal only.
- Saturday 10-9**  
7:54 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle vandalized overnight at a 7th Street address. Report taken  
11:15 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle damaged after a child ran into it in the 3rd Street alley. Report taken.  
7:03 p.m. Report of a domestic disturbance at a Turnpike Road address. Found to be verbal only. Both parties advised of their options.  
11:39 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle vandalized at a 5th Street address. Report taken.  
11:45 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Avenue A, [REDACTED], was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor, failure to use care in starting, and failure to display registration sticker.
- Sunday 10-10**  
2:52 a.m. Report of a 2 car motor vehicle accident on Ripley Road in Montague. Report taken.  
8:18 a.m. Report of an unwanted person at an L Street address. [REDACTED], was arrested on a default warrant.
- Monday 10-11**  
8:55 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle broken into overnight at a Court Square, Montague address. Report taken.
- Tuesday 10-12**  
10:36 a.m. Illegal dumping reported. Someone dumped a couch at the end of Depot Road. DPW removed it.  
11:40 a.m. Walk-in to station reported a fox ran into a motor vehicle on Millers Falls Road four days ago. Report taken.  
6:10 p.m. Report of an unwanted person at an Oakman Street residence. Subject left voluntarily.

## Conversation at the Bernardston Farmers Supply

BY JOSEPH PARZYCH

My daughter was buying some welding gloves as a gift, when I informed the clerk she could now tell people she has customers from as far away as Seattle, Washington. "That's nothing," said the clerk, "We've shipped cat food to Peru." "Use it to raise cats for food, do they?" I asked. "Probably use it for bait, most likely," a customer offered. "The other white meat," the clerk said with a ring of authority. Not a person cracked so much as a smile in this dry exchange. We waited until we got outside to explode in laughter.



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# "Hijacking Catastrophe" Documentary to Air on Local Cable Access Television Stations

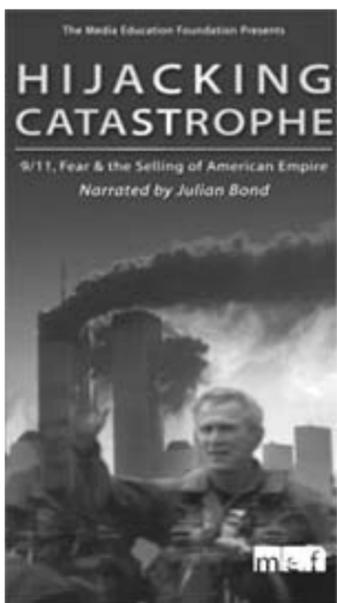
*Hijacking Catastrophe: 9/11, Fear and the Selling of American Empire*, a locally-produced, critically-acclaimed documentary, will be aired on Pioneer Valley community cable access television stations, including Greenfield Community Television and Athol-Orange Community TV, during the week of October 18-23. The New York Daily News has called this film "the best of the Bush documentaries," and the San Francisco Weekly writes, "In almost every way, deeper, more thorough, and more rigorous in its claims than Fahrenheit 9/11."

Narrated by NAACP chairman Julian Bond, *Hijacking Catastrophe* features interviews with twenty prominent voices, a compelling cross-section of writers, scholars, and former government employees. Lt. Colonel Karen Kwiatkowski, a retired Pentagon insider who worked on what she feels was a propaganda campaign, gives a harrowing firsthand account of the Bush Administration's calculated creation and subsequent exploitation of the public's fear of terrorism.

The film examines the post-9/11 push by Neoconservatives to increase defense spending and expand American power through military force, using claims that were later found to be false. Included are clips of Vice President Dick Cheney and other government officials making claims about a global conspiracy, weapons of mass destruction, and the urgent need for preemptive strike.

*Hijacking Catastrophe* is the newest release from the Media Education Foundation (MEF), a Northampton-based nonprofit video producer and distributor dedicated to examining and challenging mainstream media and commercial culture. MEF was founded in 1991 by Sut Jhally, a communications professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

*Hijacking Catastrophe* has been made available for sale at an individual price of \$19.95 at



www.hijackingcatastrophe.org, which is much less than what institutions pay for public viewing licensing fees. This marks the first time that an MEF film has been sold in this way. The nonprofit organization has historically marketed their films to colleges, universities, high schools, and community organizations. Over 8,000 copies have been ordered since the film's June release and demand remains high.

The filmmakers hope this accessibility will ensure that their message reaches as large an audience as possible. The production and release of this film were timed

to coincide with the upcoming November election, and many feel that this film should be an integral part of public discourse surrounding the election. Robert McChesney, author of Rich Media, Poor Democracy calls the film "a vital tool in the campaign to rescue American democracy from its internal enemies."

"We've definitely been taken aback by the intensity of the response we're getting...we seem to have touched a nerve with this piece," says Jhally, who wrote and directed the film with Jeremy Earp. Earp, a doctoral candidate at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst was inspired to produce this film when he saw President Bush assume an anti-intellectual, aggressive demeanor that sought to eradicate what the administration termed the "axis of evil," while advancing American interests through the use of military force.

The film has been well received by the New York Times, the Washington Post, the San Francisco Chronicle, and a number of other major newspapers. "Cogent, concise and engaging," says Michael O'Sullivan from the Washington Post, a "bracing jolt of anti-establishment filmmaking" according to The Oregonian. Historian Howard Zinn calls it "a devastating critique [...] startling,

troubling, but also energizing" and Anita Gates from the New York Times agrees, saying, "the filmmakers are definitely playing hardball."

Local cable access channels will be showing the film in the third week of October, including Channel 15 in Greenfield, Channel 13 in Orange/Athol and Shelburne Falls/Buckland Community TV. Check your local listings for further details.

For further information about the film, visit [www.hijackingcatastrophe.org](http://www.hijackingcatastrophe.org) or contact Kendra Olson, Marketing Manager, Media Education Foundation at (413) 584-8500 ext. 2203.

## CABLE ADVISORY MEETING NEWS

The Cable Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, October 12th, in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center to review criteria for a cable access provider for the town of Montague. The committee will hold a public hearing on November 3rd at 7 p.m. in the same location to receive comment from the public about what a local access provider should do for the town of Montague. Prior to that meeting, the committee plans to post the proposed criteria for review on the [www.montaguema.net](http://www.montaguema.net) corkboard, at the libraries, and in this newspaper



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## ERVING

continued from pg 1

Boston, who purchased in 1751 11,016 acres of unincorporated land along the north bank of the Millers River, between Warwick, Northfield, and the confluence of the Connecticut River, in what was then Hampshire County. This land, known as the Great Farm, formed the lion's share of what would eventually become the three villages of the town of Erving: Erving Center, Farley, and the Erving side of Millers Falls.

The town was not incorporated until 1838, following a resolution from the state legislature to determine the fate of plantations, gores and unincorporated territories throughout the state. Early that year, the citizens met at Alexander's Tavern, in the Center, and unanimously picked the name Erving for the new municipality.

Elisha Alexander, the tavern keeper, came to Erving from Sunderland in 1817, and purchased the lot at the confluence of Keyup Brook and the Millers River which became the center of village activity, with sawmills, blacksmith shop, homes, and the tavern where the earliest town meetings were held.

First mention of a schoolhouse in the Erving landgrant was in 1820, when \$240 was allocated to construct a 23 by 26 foot one-room schoolhouse, which, by tradition, was located on or near #3 North Street. By 1851, the Erving Center school district felt the need to build a bigger school, and after several votes, the townspeople agreed to cap that project with a second story with a large single hall for town meetings, lectures and entertainments.

The history states, "When the most recent town hall was opened officially in October, 1974, few people realized that it stood in the same lot as the first town hall and that, like this one, had a connection with a school building."

A hundred years earlier, the school population in Erving Center had grown, and more room for scholars was needed. Giving the second floor hall over for classrooms, the town voted in May of 1864 to build a new town hall, which stood for a century across from the train station (now the Box Car Diner). This grand, three story structure held two storefronts, a lock-up in the basement, and a stage for theatrical performances on the upper floor.

By 1973 the hall had fallen into disrepair. When a unified elementary school opened in

Erving side that year to educate students from both sides of town, the former elementary school on Pleasant Street in Erving side became the home of the Erving Senior Center, and the former elementary school in Erving Center made way for the new town hall.

The old town hall was demolished in December of 1974. Its site is taken now by a small Town Hall Park. Of the three stone steps that once led to the front door of the hall, two form benches in the park. The third stands upright with a plain inscription reading: "These three stones were once the steps for the town hall."

The history is filled with chapters arranged by subject headings, including railroads, bridges, and burying grounds (Erving has two: the main one on Mountain Road, and the smaller Holton Cemetery in Farley, deeded to the town in 1860, which contains the graves of Erving's only Revolutionary soldiers, Asa Albee and Joshua Austin.)

One chapter details the life of John Smith, the famed Hermit of Erving Castle. Smith, a gentle, well educated man, emigrated from Scotland to New York in 1866. He found his way to the cliffs about a mile west of Erving Center, after finding the land around Rattlesnake Gutter in North Leverett "unsuitable for a home." He lived in a snug cave, with a magnificent view from the nearby cliff top. His "castle" was the destination of many a weekend picnic jaunt from locals who found his lifestyle romantic, and his discourse intriguing. In his declining years, Smith was brought to Montague, where, the history states, he was cared for until he died. He is buried in the Mountain Road Cemetery under a simple headstone that reads: "John Smith, the Hermit of Erving Castle." By his feet lies a marker for the favorite of the many stray cats he harbored, Toby.

For those who wonder how the French King Highway and the French King Bridge got their name, the book explains they were named after the large boulder in the Connecticut River about a quarter mile north of the bridge. This boulder, in turn, was named French King in honor of Louis XIV by an officer commanding a scouting party of Quebecois and Indians during the French and Indian War, who had camped in the vicinity, not wishing to brave the rapids beneath as night approached.

The book provides many such colorful anecdotes, not least among them the tales of the loggers who shoved sixteen million

feet of board lumber or more down the Connecticut River each summer from 1875 to 1915. According to the history, these loggers were "fearless men with tremendous strength (who) guided the loose logs over the water and through the rapids. Logs often piled up on rocks or sandbars in places like the French King rapids, creating "jams" which had to be broken by pike-pole and peavey, or blasted by dynamite. At such times, spectators would line the riverbanks to watch the drivers risk their lives on logs which might roll and crush, or plunge them beneath the water."

This chapter concludes with a note about logging baron George Van Dyke who was viewing one of his log drives on August 8th, 1909, near the Gill neighborhood of Riverside, when tragedy struck.

"Van Dyke and his chauffeur were sitting in their touring car, at the edge of a low bluff where 'the boss' could get a look at the progress of the drive. When they were ready to leave, the chauffeur put the car into low gear instead of reverse and they went over the edge and landed on the rocks below. Both men died at Farren Memorial Hospital."

Soon after Van Dyke's death, boating interests on the Connecticut River successfully petitioned the legislature to put an end to the log drives, which competed with recreational boating at places like Barton Cove.

The development of Erving business and industry is given prominent coverage in the book. The Franklin Grocery, lately in the news for selling a \$1.4 million lottery ticket to an Erving side man, is noted as the one and only grocery store on the Erving side of Millers Falls, "located on the corner of Lester and High Streets. It was originally owned by Eugene Cote, who started operations in October, 1920. In 1927, the business was sold to Mrs. Czelawa Prondecki," who had among her customers a gentleman by the name of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who stopped at the store to buy some gas in 1931, prior to his election as president.

"Following Mrs. Prondecki's death, her son, Edwin, continued operating the business. In 1969, a fire destroyed the building and a new store was soon constructed on the same site.

"At present Edwin's son, Michael, is managing the store, representing the third generation at the Franklin Grocery."

Over by Erving Center, J.E. Stone established a piano case factory on the Wendell side of the

river in 1855, advertising "piano cases and legs,... veneered legs for melodeons and billiard tables." A covered bridge was built for the workmen, and Stone put up a warehouse on the Erving side which eventually became the first building of the Erving Paper Mill. That paper mill got its start in 1909 manufacturing crepe paper napkins. It grew steadily over the years to become the town's major employer, producing a wide variety of paper napkins, towels, toilet paper, tablecloths and hospital supplies.

The village of Farley, midway between Erving Center and Erving side, seems to have been named after the Farley brothers, who picked up where Stone left off in the manufacture of piano cases, after a disastrous fire struck Stone's factory in 1885. Earlier, the Farley brothers established a paper mill on the Wendell side of the river, which

produced cardboard boxes and lithograph paper. In part of the factory, women operated 20 knitting machines, which turned out 10,000 dozens of mittens, annually.

The Farleys also owned large tracts of land on both sides of the Millers River. They built houses for their help as well as for themselves. The large houses on Maple Avenue, "with all conveniences," were the last word in 1890. The towns of Erving and Wendell joined to build the iron bridge at the foot of Bridge Street," the history states.

Anyone who would like to own a copy of this fascinating look at local history and lore is encouraged to contact Carole Lyman of the Erving Historical Commission (422-2282) or town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp, at 422-2800 extension 100, to get your name on the list for the limited print run.



The old Erving Town Hall

### Old Erving Town Hall

They're tearing down the old town hall today  
And I guess I'm feeling kinda sad.  
Remember the good times there? Everyone was so gay,  
The Fourth of July and Christmas - What fun we all had.

If those old weary walls could speak at all  
I'm sure that they would say,  
"So long, folks. For many years I stood so tall  
But now, I've seen my better days."

There's a new one now, all pretty and white,  
And she is sure a lovely sight.  
She'll serve us well, her service is due,  
But she, too, will age one day. Remember that, won't you?

I, for one, will miss the old familiar place,  
They'll clean up good, and won't even leave a trace.  
But I'll keep her in my memory as the years go by.  
What's that? Me cry? No, I've just got some dust in my eye.

- By Nancy Woodbury  
from *The History of Erving Massachusetts*

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## ARTS AND EVENTS CALENDAR

### THURSDAY, OCT. 14TH

A narrated slide presentation of the history of Spiritualism in Lake Pleasant is scheduled at the Montague Book Mill. The program is free and open to the public. Louise Shattuck, whose family roots go back to the beginning of Lake Pleasant in 1870 as a Spiritualist resort, and David James will present the program. Shattuck and James are authors of "Spirit and Spa" which lays out Lake Pleasant's case for being the oldest continuously-existing Spiritualist community in the United States.

### FRIDAY, OCT 15TH

Opening Reception for "Creature Double Feature," which brings sparkling mosaic creatures and primal paintings to Shelburne Falls' Stone's Throw Gallery through October 31st. An artists' reception for Gina Vernava (mosaic creatures) and Nelena Sorokin (primal paintings) will be during the town's Third Friday Gallery Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. The gallery at 1 Deerfield Avenue in Shelburne Falls, is open Wed. through Sun. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 625-2870 for more info.

solo guitar pieces from two followers of Fahey's Takoma school of lyrical modality, \$10, 8 p.m., Montague Bookmill, 440 Greenfield Rd, Montague, 367-9206.

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCT. 16TH & 17TH

Annual Gill Fall Festival and Craft Fair Features a variety of arts and crafts, demonstrations, food concessions, youth activities and the Gill Historical Museum. Offerings include fine and folk art, pottery, quilts, wood-working, fiber art, jewelry, and fleece wear. Fall produce - apples, cider, honey, maple products, and homemade apple pies. Held at the old Riverside School grounds on Route 2 in Gill. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Rain or shine. 413-863-9708 or 863-2212.

### SUNDAY, OCT. 17TH

Hilltown Folk Presents: Tim O'Brien and Underbelly. He is well known for his pitch-perfect voice and amazing talent with multiple instruments. Opening is the high-energy, old-time trio Underbelly, with fiddler Alicia Jo Rabins and multi-instrumentalists Michael Daves and Peter

important to women. Call Susan Dorazio at 367-9356 for more information or write susan-dor@crocker.com.

### THURSDAY, OCT. 21ST

Swedish fiddle duo will appear at Montague Grange at 7:30 p.m. Dynamic young Swedish fiddlers Alicia Björnsdotter Abrams and Emma Reid will give a concert.

### FRIDAY, OCT. 22ND

Social Activists and Shelburne Falls residents Charlie King and Karen Brandow to perform in Northampton to benefit **UNIVERSAL SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE IN MASSACHUSETTS** through the Franklin/Hampshire Health Care Coalition. Tickets are \$20, avail. at Boswell's Books in Shelburne Falls, Broadside Bookshop in Northampton, Food for Thought in Amherst, Odyssey Bookshop in South Hadley, World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield, and at the door. For more info. call (413) 586-0345. 7:30 p.m. at the Northampton Center for the Arts.

### SATURDAY, OCT. 23RD

Music troupe, MAWWAL will present an evening of exciting Middle Eastern dance music at the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House, 7:30 p.m. \$6 - \$12 (978) 544-0240. For more information: [www.wendellfullmoon.org](http://www.wendellfullmoon.org)

### SUNDAY, OCT. 24TH

Family Dances return to the Montague Grange. Favorite Jim Fownes will be the lead-off caller on Sunday October 24th, from 4:00 - 5:30. This season will see the return of other favorites as well, such as Tim Van Egmon and Banjo Mucho. The dance will happen from 4 - 5:30, followed by a potluck from 5:30 - 7:00 and then a full all-out Contra Dance from 7:00 - whenever!

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 24TH

A group of Chinese Buddhist monks and nuns will stage a ritual for "Feeding" hungry spirits from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Smith College campus center, room 208. The event is free and open to the public, wheelchair accessible. Drawing on a variety of musical and operatic styles, the ritual creates a rich and colorful aesthetic and spiritual experience whose purpose is to awaken a spirit of compassion for all beings, including the most neglected in our society. Audience

members are invited to donate non-perishable food items for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

### TUESDAY, OCT. 26TH

Smith College in Northampton will present Nobel Prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26th, in John M. Greene Hall. The event, which is sponsored by the Poetry Center, is free, open to the public and wheelchair accessible.

### ONGOING

Naked Theatre Northampton, a company producing new short plays by local artists, presents Naked Theatre #3 - *Betrayal Can Be Fun!* featuring Kelsey Flynn as Karl Rove. The show plays every Thursday night in October (14th, 21st, 28th) at 8 p.m. at the Elevens in Northampton (140 Pleasant Street). Doors open at 7:30 for pre-show drinks. Reservations are encouraged and can be made by calling the Naked Theatre ticket line at 413-582-3945. Ages 21+ only please. \$9.

### CALLING ALL TEENS!

**Friday, Oct. 15th** - Skate Trip to Belchertown (if weather permits)

**Monday, Oct. 18th** - 3rd Street Digital Arts Program: Come learn about video production and 3-D computer animation. This is a new program for people ages 16 - 21, totally happening every Monday and Thursday from 3 - 5 p.m.

**Tuesday, Oct. 19th** - Avenue A Music Project. Come hang out with your friends and learn about writing and recording music

**Wednesday, Oct. 20th** - Avenue A Music Project

**Thursday, Oct. 21st** - Third St. Digital Arts Project

**Friday, Oct. 22nd** - Open Mic postponed! The previously scheduled open mic will be held next Friday, Oct. 29th, just in time for Halloween.

Call the Center at (413) 863-9576 to sign-up.

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Montague Grange #141

## MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday Oct. 17th

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For more info:  
[www.MontagueMA.net/Grange](http://www.MontagueMA.net/Grange)

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FRI. OCT. 15TH - THURS. OCT. 21ST

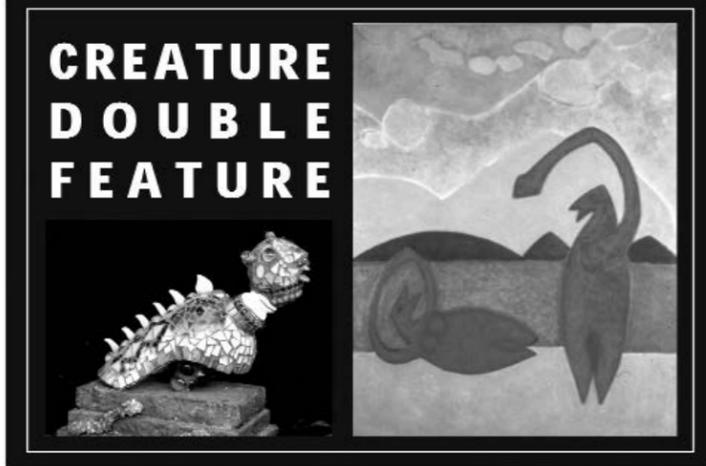
- SHARK TALE** PG  
DAILY 6:00 9:00  
MAT SAT SUN WED 12:00 3:00
- FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS** PG13 in DTS sound  
DAILY 6:00 9:00  
MAT SAT SUN WED 12:00 3:00
- LADDER 49** PG13  
DAILY 6:00 9:00  
MAT SAT SUN WED 12:00 3:00
- TAXI** PG13  
DAILY 6:15 9:15  
MAT SAT SUN WED 12:15 3:15
- THE FORGOTTEN** PG13  
DAILY 6:15 9:15  
MAT SAT SUN WED 12:15 3:15
- TEAM AMERICA** R in DTS sound  
DAILY 6:30 9:30  
MAT SAT SUN WED 12:30 3:30
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[www.shelburnefalls.com](http://www.shelburnefalls.com)



Don't miss "Creature Double Feature" featuring the art of Gina Vernava and Nelena Sorokin at the Stone's Throw Gallery on Deerfield Street, Shelburne Falls. Opening reception Friday, October 15th from 5 to 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, OCT. 15TH - 17TH

Arena Civic Theater presents *Prairie Lights* - An original family musical based on the historic American Orphan Train riders sent from New York to the Midwest to find adoptive parents. Performances at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. & Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Call 413-863-2281, Ext. 3 for more info & tickets.

### SATURDAY, OCT. 16TH

Glenn Jones and Jack Rose:

Siegel. Memorial Hall, Bridge Street in Shelburne Falls. 7:00 p.m. 413-625-2580

### UPCOMING

### TUESDAY, OCT. 19TH

A meeting of the Connecticut Valley Coalition for Women's Lives to talk about the proposed vigil/speak-out calendar for 2004-2005, 6:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Green Fields Market, 144 Main Street, Greenfield. Coalition events are great opportunities for publicizing and furthering the discussion of issues particularly

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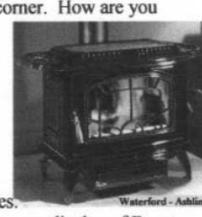
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# Me & Them Produce Infernal Racket at the Teen Center

BY DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** - The reconstituted Avenue A Music Project got together this week for the first recording session in the new Teen Center space, with a fired-up local band called the Me & Them laying down some mindbending thrash punk music. The Music Project is not really on Avenue A any more, they kept the name for old time's sake. Fact is, it's probably a good thing it's not on the Avenue any more, otherwise the cops would have definitely dropped by to have a word with the boys about the decibel level of the music they were pumping out Tuesday afternoon. But its moved to the aqua blue first floor studio of the Brick House on 3rd Street, only a stone's throw away, and as it was, guitarist Kit Henry had barely barreled through the first power chord progression on "Boredom," before Brick House director Mike Bosworth hit the pavement to assure neighbors the recording session would be over soon, the band was throttling back the noise level as far as they could.

"Boredom" was the first of eight original tracks the Me & Them tore through in the 90-minute workout. They weren't letting any grass grow under their feet because their drummer - Eric Woodbury - is about to hit

the trail for an extended road trip to the Southwest, and they'd promised fans a CD before winter. This was the band's last shot at recording one with the current lineup, and - judging by the first takes - the fans won't be disappointed.

As it stands, the Me & Them are Henry, Woodbury, Justin "Midget" Smith on bass, and Nate Greene on vocals. Henry, Smith, and Greene got together at Turners High last September, teamed up with Woodbury at the Music Project and have since played a number of benefit concerts at the Shea, open mics at the Teen Center, talent shows at the high school, and elsewhere. Henry cites Operation Ivy, Nirvana, Green Day (*old Green Day*), and of course the Ramones as major influences on the band's sound, but to a neutral observer the first few numbers sounded like a raunchy outtake from some old Buzzcocks' single, recorded at 45 r.p.m.s and speeded up to 78 with the middle hole punched slightly off center.

They worked through the kinks in the 6-track Berringer mixing board and Cake Walk Home Studio software in the first five minutes. "For some reason, it's not recording," muttered Jared Libby, teen center coordinator. Greene, who had been pacing and tossing off lyrics in a falsetto voice while his bandmates warmed up behind triple sliding glass doors, didn't like this news. "Please, please, please," he begged, directing his remarks to the ceiling. "Everybody's finally



Jared Libby, (left) works on the recording software while drummer Eric Woodbury receives the congratulations of Nate Green, (center) and company, after laying down drums on the first track, "Boredom."

together after so many months, and it's like, 'I'm a computer, I'm going to piss you off.'" He stared through the glass. "Hey, Kit! You know how to work a computer?"

After rerouting a few patch cords, Libby gave the band the high sign. Midget, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt with a "No Gods - No Managers" logo, kicked off the first number with a bass intro. A measure later, Woodbury came in on the drums, and then Henry kicked his distortion pedal and Ibanez guitar into overdrive. Greene, from the other room, sang:

*Have you ever  
Gotten tired of doing the  
same old shit  
Have you ever  
Been so bored you could  
hardly think again  
Have you ever  
Gotten so tired of repeating  
yourself daily  
And have you ever  
Just felt like giving up*

Between verses, Woodbury proved why his services on the drums have been indispensable, leading the band through a frenetic break that pushed the boundary of chaos before slapping everyone back into marching order again. At the end of the song, he remarked modestly that the Dead Kennedy's drummer played the same riff much better than he did.

Woodbury is an interesting character. He has a major nose ring pierced through his septum, and a pair of ear plugs that would be the envy of any Inca nobleman. Asked if he preferred speed metal punk to other idioms, he confessed he tended

at the end of the week, hitchhiking "to see how it is," and may wind up in Mexico or San Francisco after that, as the mood takes him. Woodbury has a few years on the other Me & Them, he's been in bands for the past six years or so, starting with the Dead Rabbit Society. He also played in a band called Ataxia.

When Woodbury leaves, Henry will switch to drums, Midget will take over on guitar, and Jeff "Mohawk" Regish will join the lineup on bass. Until then, the Me & Them will be remixing the 8 tracks they laid down Tuesday, recording the final bass lines and vocals. After Jordan Newton-Gaines completes the cover art in his



Guitarist Kit Henry churns out power chords on "Hepatitis Hata."

toward acoustic style blues and bluegrass on his own time. Woodbury grew up in Erving, made friends at Turners High, but has traveled the country widely, supporting himself by playing guitar on streetcorners. He's heading for Austin, Texas

Stillborn Art Studio in Erving, the CD, tentatively titled "Infernal Racket," should hit the racks in time for Christmas. If you want the latest in spontaneous combustion, don't miss it. For more info on the Me & Them: go to kitwashere.com



Bass player Justin "Midget" Smith:  
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