

## Vested Interest: A police dog's best friend

Charity helps raise money to buy bullet-, knife-proof vests for cop K-9s

By DAVID RAINVILLE  
Recorder Staff

GREENFIELD — Often, police officers have to put themselves into dangerous situations to protect others. The same is true for police dogs.

Police officers rely on their wits, training and equipment for protection. K-9s like Greenfield's Rango and Erving's Badge rely on their handlers. But now, Rango and Badge have another line of defense: their new bullet- and stab-proof vests provided by Vested Interest in K-9s.

"We wouldn't have these vests if it weren't for them," said Greenfield Police officer Timothy Currier. Currier has worked with police dogs since 1995, and is now the handler for Rango, a 3-year-old German shepherd.

"It's a tremendous donation. These vests cost about \$1,000," said Erving Police officer Robert Holst. He's the handler for Badge, a 1½-year old bloodhound.

Holst said he's especially glad to have the vest for Badge. "He's friendly; he doesn't have the aggressive side, so he's not able to protect himself like a German shepherd," said Holst. He said police would be likely to use a more aggressive dog like a shepherd when dealing with an armed suspect.

Currier said police dogs don't realize the danger around them.

"They just want to go, to do what they're trained for," he said. "It's fun for them."

That training includes gunplay. Currier said Rango received most of his training at the firing range, so he's not



Greenfield K-9 officer Timothy Currier, with Rango, and Erving K-9 officer Robert Holst, with Badge, show off the dogs' new bullet- and knife-proof vests that will protect them when pursuing dangerous suspects. Recorder/Paul Franz

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## Town veterans center looking for new home

By ANITA FRITZ  
Recorder Staff

GREENFIELD — The town's Veterans Resource and Referral Center is looking for a new home.

Mayor William Martin said there are several reasons he wants to find a new spot for the town's veterans.

He said one reason is that the state is looking at the space the center currently occupies at 114 Main St. to relocate some of those who will be displaced when the courthouse renovation begins.

Martin said another reason is that planners, the town's economic development director and the town's sustainability monitors will be moving out of the Main Street building into town-owned buildings.

"We don't want to leave one department there," he said.

"It hasn't cost the town anything while we've been on Main Street, because a grant we got a few years ago has covered the \$600-a-month rent we've been paying," he said. "That grant will go through next March, so we won't have to pay much rent until then."

Martin said he'd like to see the veterans center move into another storefront.

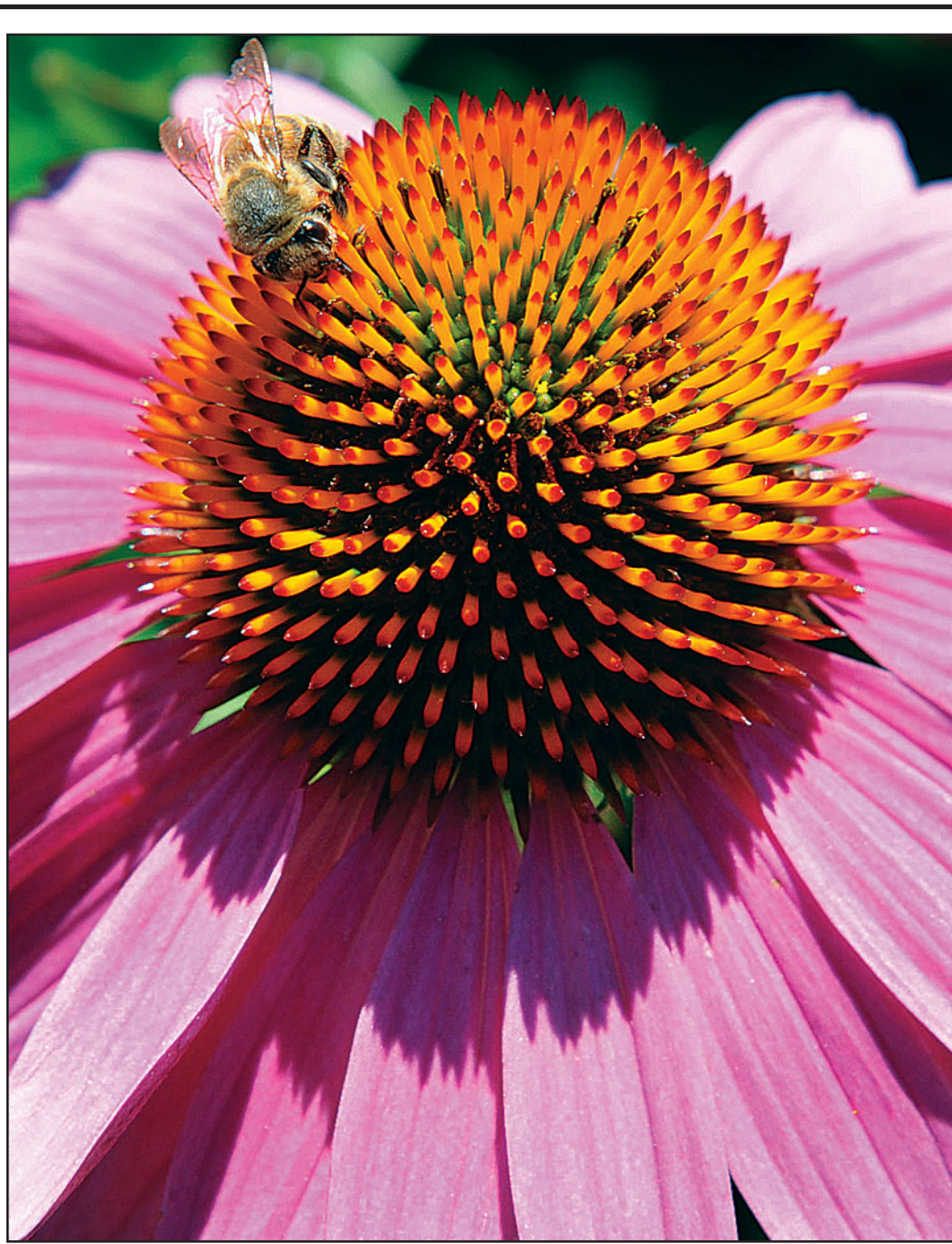
"We want it to be visible and easy to access," he said.

Martin said the town has put out a request for proposals and called Main Street and Federal Street landlords, looking for a spot.

He said the town's planners, along with building and health inspectors, permitting, land use and licensing will move to 20 Sanderson St. to join the Recreation Department.

"We've spent grants fixing up that building and doing energy upgrades," said Martin. "We still have some money left to put in carpeting and do

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## Collection agency

A bee collects pollen from an echinacea blossom on the Bridge of Flowers. Recorder/Paul Franz

## Despite candidates stepping aside, controversy lingers on Orange school panel

Perceived conflicts of interest still remain

By LINDA ENERSON  
Recorder Correspondent

ORANGE — All Orange School Committee candidates with personal ties to school employees have withdrawn their applications for vacant committee seats, but controversy lingers about perceived conflicts of interest.

In a small town like Orange, the question may not be who has personal or professional connections with the school, but who doesn't? And whether those ties create a problem depends on your perspective.

Committee Chairwoman Stephanie Conrod objected to the applications of Christopher Donelan and John Waters for school board vacancies as both men have partners working in the district. Donelan withdrew his application after heated debate at last month's committee meeting. Waters withdrew his application last week, citing "personal reasons."

Also, successful write-in candidate Danielle Crossman dropped off the committee after the conflict issue was raised at her first meeting. She teaches at Mahar Regional School, which shares a superintendent with Orange. She said she didn't want to jeopardize her position at Mahar or create problems for the committee, so she vacated her seat.

Now, Conrod herself has been forced to respond to a report that she may have had a conflict, too: that she received a stipend for teaching a 10-week after-school knitting class while running for School Committee.

She dismissed the suggestion that having a part-time job while running for election is in the same category of conflict as a sitting board member with a family member working in the district.

"I was asked to volunteer and was paid a \$150 stipend," said Conrod. She said because the stipend was small, paid out by a federal grant, and the work was completed several weeks before the election, it wasn't a conflict.

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## Northfield library hosting 'Tracks Along the River' Saturday

"Tracks Along the River" is a hands-on nature program for families about wildlife native to rivers and wetlands.

It will be held at the Dickinson Memorial Library in Northfield on Saturday from 1 to 2 p.m. Naturalist Dawn Marvin Ward will highlight this nature exploration with stories, puppets and hands-on activities for children with adult companions.

**THE PIROZHKOV FAMILY** of Greenfield is within \$460 of raising the \$15,000 needed to go to London for the Olympics. They have been selling T-shirts with their sister's name on them. Their sister, Elena, a prize-winning wrestler is competing for the United States.

They will be selling the shirts today and Saturday at the downtown sidewalk sales and summer festival.

**NOT EVERYTHING IS IN GREENFIELD** this weekend. A summer craft fair with a Ladies Aid bake sale will take place in the

Community Hall in Heath from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

There will be crafts, dolls and handmade rugs for sale, plus a raffle and tag sale.

Morning coffee and luncheon will be downstairs at the Senior Center from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**THE FIFTH ANNUAL HILL-TOWN 6 POTTERY TOUR** will be Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. You will be able to visit eight nationally recognized potters in western Massachusetts.

Christy Knox, Hiroshi Nakayama, Michael McCarthy, Connie Talbot, Mark Shapiro and Sam Taylor are the six referred to in the name of their group. Robbie Heidinger and Eric Smith are also potters in the group. Maya Machin and Jeffrey Lipton are this year's guest potters.

For further information and a detailed map of the potters, go to [www.hilltown6.org](http://www.hilltown6.org).

**AUTHOR J.R. GREENE** of Athol will give a public talk for the Swift River Historical Society in New Salem on Sunday at 3 p.m. His talk

will include a slide show.

Greene has written many books about the towns that were flooded to create the Quabbin Reservoir.

**WINNERS OF THE CIVIL WAR** reproduction quilt contest have been announced. Linda Whitehouse took first place for her quilt titled "Remembrance." It memorializes the abolition movement. Anita Bevis took second prize for a quilt that featured an American eagle.

Machine-quilted first prize was awarded to Anne Markol for "Mary's Flower Garden" in honor of the memory of Mary Todd Lincoln. Second place went to Jennifer Aldrich for Pot Holder Quilt, often sewn for soldiers.

Becki Stratton from Notion to Quilt was the judge.

Kirby Lecy and Nancy Blackmer organized the contest. Prizes were contributed by Massage by Alisha, Maple Grove Farm House Bakery, North Quabbin Community Co-op and North Quabbin Woods.

**THE FREE HARVEST SUPPER** in Greenfield's downtown, so popular last summer, is scheduled for

Irmarie Jones

Just Plain Neighbors  
774-4954



Aug. 19, on the Greenfield Town Common. The planners are seeking donated food, and most important, they need volunteers. If you could volunteer, call 413-773-5029.

Volunteers are needed in many aspects of the supper. More on this later.

**ALSO AUG. 19, BAYSTATE FRANKLIN MEDICAL CENTER'S** fifth annual Wheeling for Healing, bike ride will be held. Registration fee is \$40, \$25 for children 16 and under.

The event features four different courses, beginning and ending at the White Eagle Polish Picnic Grounds off Colrain Road in Greenfield.

I'll have more on this. I just wanted to give you the date now.

**THE INDRA TRIO** will be per-

forming at The Roundhouse, 68 Van Nuys Road in Colrain on Tuesday at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

Traditional African-American spirituals, love songs, and traditional jazz standards will be included.

This is a benefit concert to support programs at the Roundhouse. Suggested donations of \$10 to \$20 are suggested, but no one will be turned away.

If there are any questions, call Rebecca Tippens at 624-5140.

**HELP SUPPORT** local veterans programs and activities in Franklin County.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 232, Greenfield, sells military items (service caps, hat pins, flags, decals, coffee mugs, etc.) for all branches of the U.S. military services.

Not in stock? Items can be ordered and delivered to you.

The chapter has an extensive catalog. For further information, contact Rich Rivers at 413-422-1076.

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