

Town gets ‘Green’ designation

WINCHENDON — Town officials were notified last week Winchendon has been designated a Green Community by the state’s Department of Energy Resources. The town was among 30 communities to earn the designation.

That number means more than half the Commonwealth’s 351 cities and towns, covering 64 percent of its population, are now Green Communities, this according to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

The designation means Winchendon will be receiving \$176,000, to be targeted to a number of energy-saving initiatives.

In 2009, Winchendon established a Green Committee, with the stated goal of “improving the energy performance of the town and raising general awareness of environmental issues within the community.”

Some of the funds received by the town will be used for weatherization and lighting

efficiency improvements at the town hall. Similar steps will be taken at the fire station, public works building, wastewater treatment plant, the senior center at Old Murdock, and the town’s two elementary schools. In addition, the town hopes to convert current street light fixtures to LED in order to reduce energy consumption.

The energy reduction plan approved by the state calls on “the Town Manager to be responsible for both the

oversight of (the plan) and for implementation of energy conservation measures within the organization, public works infrastructure, and all of the town buildings except for the schools, where the School Superintendent will be responsible.”

The plan calls for an overall energy savings of 17.3 percent over the next five years.

The town also hopes to reap some energy savings by replacing the boiler at town hall. The replacement

cost, between \$95,000 and \$100,000, is being covered by a grant from the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation.

In the meantime, the Winchendon school department is applying to the Massachusetts School Building Authority to help cover the cost of replacing the two boilers at Murdock Middle/High School. That cost is estimated at around \$180,000. The existing boilers were installed when the school was built in 1994.



Keith Kent photo

The old boiler style furnace to the right, dwarfing the new and much more technologically efficient propane power system to the left in the town hall basement

Town hall furnace swap nearing completion

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — After several decades of service the old oiled fueled boiler furnace at the town hall will finally be taken off line, and replaced with a modern and much more efficient twin unit propane powered system projected to go on line by the end of February if not

sooner.

Town Manager Keith Hickey was pleased to say, “The newer propane powered system is not just rated at about 20 percent more efficient than the old oiled powered system, but has come in much lower in price than what an oil powered replacement system would have cost the project. To replace the oil system,

estimates came in at about \$190,000. The new gas system and installation was priced by our consultant at \$95,000 thus saving nearly \$100,00 in cost.

Hickey confirmed an RFP went out to bid early last fall. Explaining the selectmen were kept in the loop as the project progressed with

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Getting the athletic finances in order

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — There’s no disputing the reality — athletic user fees at Murdock High and Middle schools have been the source of contention and confusion for a very long time — as long as a decade or more.

Multiple solutions and strategies regarding how to assure compliance with the fee rates have been debated

and tried through the years ranging from having team coaches collect them to having checks brought into the school office to the current system of online sports registration and payment.

Fees themselves have changed as well as the years have gone by. At one time, there was a flat \$275 charge per student per sport. (Note: the writer recalls paying \$825 for three sports in 2007-08.) Currently, a family’s first stu-

dent is charged \$160 for a first sport and \$120 for prospective second and third ones. Fees for students eligible for free or reduced lunches and second siblings are assessed \$120 for a first sport and \$80 for a second, with a \$500 maximum family charge. Exceptions are football (\$190) and co-op ice hockey and wrestling (\$200).

But for a long time, user fee charges all too often seemed

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BOS suspend liquor license

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously Monday to suspend the Class 15 liquor license of IGA Central Supermarket. Business owner Mike Szelest, though notified, was not present for the meeting. IGA was closed abruptly Jan. 16.

A previous meeting of the BOS ended in a 2-2 no decision tie whether to allow Szelest to continue ownership of the license as selectmen Audrey LaBrie absent. The Feb. 6 meeting was once again one selectman short as Amy Salter could not make the meeting.

Selectmen Mike Barbaro wasted little time immediately expressing his opinion by saying, “In our conversation two weeks ago with Mr. Szelest, one of the specific points was having him have

that license on the property. I thought that was important if they were going to move forward with the sale. Two days later I see the license for sale in the paper which obviously means he was not planning on keeping that license on site. For whatever reason now he is actively trying to sell the license which after trying to work with him a little bit, ‘I felt like it was a slap in the face’ because he told us he wanted to keep the license in town, wanted to keep it at the plaza. We were very specific that if we were going to let him keep his license, that would be the main point of it. Come to find out it’s in the paper and I just felt like it was a slap in the face to this board so I would like to make a motion that he immediately surrenders his license to this

Turn To **LICENSE** page **A11**

Looking ahead: long term goals approved

BY KEITH KENT
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — School committee members who have been both working diligently behind the scenes and meeting on Saturdays to format and establish strategic goals for the district, outlined and reviewed those goals at the Feb. 2 meeting as part of clarifying, explaining, and approving a district vision.

Presented goals include all school committee members either taking part in one or multiple goals to ensure both a hands-on approach and personal ownership to help ensure success as explained by the committee.

The five goals reviewed fall under state of Massachusetts mandated categories of Leadership & Governance, Curriculum & Instruction, Student Support, Assessment & Effective Use of Data, and lastly Curriculum & Instruction Student Support.

Committee Chair Danielle LaPointe read as follows.

1. By June 2017 the school committee, working with the superintendent, will develop and improve the Five Year Strategic Plan ready for implementation in July, 2017.

2. Beginning in February 2017 and at one school committee meeting a month, the agenda will include a teaching-learning highlight from one of the schools in the district.

3. By July 2017 the school committee and the superintendent will present plans to improve communication with families and the community.

4. The school committee and superintendent will provide families and community with an end of year report concerning the districts effectiveness & student performance beginning in May, 2017.

5. By March 2018 the school committee and superintendent will research on plans to improve or expand programs in the district relating to school to work.

Superintendent Steve Haddad, “I think they are great goals. They align with both my goals and the strategic plan, and we are on our way.”

After a motion was made to accept the goals are read, a roll call vote was taken and the goals were approved by the committee unanimously with LaPointe happily comment-

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LOCAL
Town hall
barricaded

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LOCAL
Celebrating in
cookies and
community service

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Sister Act takes to stage at Monty Tech

FITCHBURG — Monty Tech’s Drama Club will bring the convent to life next month with its production of the musical Sister Act. Performances will be held at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, in the school’s Performing Arts Center.

The musical is based on hit ‘90s movie Sister Act starring Whoopi Goldberg. This zany comedy commences when an aspiring disco-diva witnesses a murder. After being placed into protective custody, the cops attempt to hide her in the one place she won’t be found...a convent! Using her unique talents for performing, she brings the convent to life in an

explosion of powerful gospel songs, high-energy dance routines and divinely funny antics.

Drama Club advisor Bethany Botto is producing, directing and choreographing the show. Deb Moylan of Ashby is musical director, and Jared Moore of Hubbardston is the drama club assistant.

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the school prior to the event or at the door.

Local cast members include Richard Egan and Makaylah Vaillancourt from Ashburnham; Jared Shepard from Templeton and Paige Spivey and Rachel Spivey from Winchendon.



Courtesy photo

Monty Tech’s Drama Club will present the musical “Sister Act” Feb. 17 and Feb. 18. Pictured here are members of the cast.

Learning the ropes in the real world

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Reaching beyond their school doors out into the community, students from the Murdock Academy for Success are interning at various area businesses including Broadview Assisted Living, E-Z Auto, the Winchendon Courier, and Heywood-Wakefield Commons in Gardner.

“This is an opportunity for them to get a taste of the ‘real world,’” said Academy Director Kris Provost.

The program is divided into three eight week sessions with students fan-

ning out to their internships for two hours once a week during the school day.

Two of those students, Jessica Partain and Makayla Wright have headed over to Gardner while Macayla Cochran is at Broadview. Anastasia LaRosa is interning at the Courier and Mateo DelaRosa is with E-Z Auto on School Street.

“I’m doing a little bit of everything,” said Cochran. “I’m sort of like unpaid staff. Sometimes I’m in the hair salon doing nails; sometimes I’m shadowing the nurses. It really gives me a chance to do different things.”

Ed LeClair, who owns E-Z Auto, said he was approached by Provost.

“I looked into it after Kris asked me and decided it was worth doing. I had an internship as a kid, so why not?” he remarked.

Partain and Wright were getting set last week to start their internships.

“I’m interested in cosmetology, actually, we both are,” laughed Partain, adding, “obviously, I’m still pretty young and could still change my mind. That’s what’s nice about the program. You’re not locked into anything. If it turns out the job isn’t what you

thought it would be, you’re free to change.”

“This is a program we really believe in and we believe it will enhance students’ education and potential work opportunities,” said District Superintendent Steve Haddad.

Provost was thinking about future employment for students as well.

“It’s easier said than done, especially if you have no experience as a worker. The people our students interviewed with have, for the most part, been really good about what’s expected of the students. It does no one any good if a student agrees to an internship and then decides to quit. The students need and for the most part get a clear idea of whether their passion for a particular

job matches what is real,” he said

“We’re appreciative of the members of the business community who have agreed to partner with us,” noted Haddad.

Said Provost, “the openness of the companies in the area has been phenomenal. They really seem to want to help our students.”

Job counselor Rebecca Yi agreed, saying at the moment there are more prospective intern partners than there are students available.

When each internship concludes, students will be writing papers and doing presentations about their experience.

“They’re getting credit for it,” added Provost.



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ATHOL | ASHBURNHAM | BALDWINVILLE | BARRE | GARDNER | WINCHENDON



Tracy Gambill photos

One of these horses is not like the others, one of these horses just doesn’t belong. The group tries to pick which rocking horse was not made by Converse.

History fascinates youngsters

BY TRACY GAMBILL
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Wolves visited the Winchendon History and Cultural Center last weekend! Second-grade boys in Paul Musgrove’s Wolf Den, part of Cub Scout Pack 193, learned a bit of the town’s history as they toured the Murdock Whitney House and the toy museum at the Isaac Morse House.

“Welcome to my house,” began curator Mary Bulger. She smiled and quickly added, “This is your house too!”

She explained to the attentive group that this is where some of the history of Winchendon is kept – in the furniture, the pictures, the documents, and the clothing.

As the children inspected the drums, dollhouses, trains, and tea sets, they were told that boys and girls of the past would probably only receive toys at Christmas time...and most likely just one. These seven- and eight-year-olds were not impressed with the notion or with the toy offerings of yesteryear.

Adults in the group were surprised to learn that Morton E. Converse hired a female foreman for his toy factory at the turn of the century. He must have been a man ahead of his time.

As the tour came to an end, most of the boys agreed that the “army stuff” was their favorite part. The Center displays military items connected to Winchendon from all wars going back to before the Revolutionary War.



Wolf den leader Paul Musgrove stands next to his Cub Scouts on the stairs of the Murdock Whitney House.



Cub Scouts learn about toys of the past.

How to Use: THE WINCHENDON COURIER

A STONEBRIDGE PRESS PUBLICATION

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44 CENTRAL STREET

The Winchendon Courier (USPS 685-920) is published weekly for \$45 per year (in county) by Stonebridge Press, 25 Elm St. St. Southbridge, MA 01550 Out of county rate is \$56 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Winchendon. To subscribe call (800) 367-9898. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Winchendon Courier, 44 Central St., Winchendon, MA 01475.

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Fitzwilliam plans concert series

FITZSWILLIAM — Cellist Virginia Burward-Hoy will perform with pianist Vladimir Odínokikh on Sunday, Feb. 19 at 3 p.m. at the Fitzwilliam Community Church. They will be playing a program of Bach, Beethoven and Brahms.

Burward-Hoy received her early training at the Eastman School of Music with Ronald Leonard, and at Indiana University with Janos Starker. She has been a member of the Dallas Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic, Los Angeles Opera and Hollywood Bowl Orchestras. Burward-Hoy has performed solo and chamber music concerts in Canada, New Zealand and the United States, including a solo recital at the Carnegie Recital Hall in New York City. She currently resides in Troy, NH.

Odínokikh received his training at some of Russia's finest music institutes and performed in major competitions and festivals in Russia. His reputation as a soloist and chamber musician developed as he performed with leading Soviet artists and the prestigious Rosconcert and National

Philharmonic of Moscow, Russia's premier performance organizations. He also spent five years performing and teaching in Mexico. He currently resides in Richmond, NH. Odínokikh teaches at the Pakachoag Music School in Worcester, at Franklin Pierce University and serves as a collaborative pianist at Keene State College. He is the organist/accompanist at the Keene Unitarian Universalist Church and the concert and rehearsal pianist for the Keene Chorale and has been a featured soloist at several of their concerts.

We look forward to seeing you all at the concert. We are asking \$10 admittance to support the church and our music program. There will also be a reception with lots of good food downstairs after the concert so you can fraternize with the performers.

We will host a flute concert on March 12 so hold the date open. You won't want to miss it.

ACCURACY WATCH

The *Winchendon Courier* is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page three in a timely manner. If you find a mistake, call (978) 297-0050 during normal business hours. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor's voice mailbox. The editor will return your phone call. Or contact the editor at the following email: ruth@stonebridgepress.news.

Love a Book for Valentine's Day

WINCHENDON — Still looking for a hot date for Valentine's Day? There's still time to try a Blind Date with a Book.

The Beals Memorial Library is pairing patrons with books that are "coily wrapped" in order to disguise the genre, author, and title. The goal, says library Director Manuel King, is to "spark a lifelong love affair with a new author or genre."

The program runs through Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Every time a patron reads a book, they're being asked to fill out a "Rate Your Date" bookmark. Bookmarks that are turned in will be used to choose someone to win dinner and a movie for two, courtesy of the Friends of the Beals Memorial Library.

The event began Jan. 30, with some 50 wrapped books. It has been so popular that more books have been added to accommodate all participants.

King reportedly said the event has been "going gangbusters."

Anyone with questions or who may be willing to go all-in on a Blind Date with a Book can call the library at (978) 297-0300.



Take your pick, and be surprised!

Staff photo



CLYDE'S CORNER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10
SKATE CLUB: Winchendon Skate Club invites all ice skaters to join our club. We skate from 8-10 a.m. every Saturday at the Winchendon School on Ash Street. The 2016-17 season is right around the corner. The Winchendon Skate Club provides educational lessons that teach proper techniques. We offer learn to skate programs for beginners of ice skating and hockey. Find us on Facebook-Winchendon Skate Club or Winchendonskateclub@yahoo.com.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12
ZOOM, ZOOM: the annual Pinewood Derby goes flags down at 11 a.m. at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. Come watch local Boy Scouts and Cubs with their hand made cars vying for the trophies.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14
CAKE AUCTION!: the 8th annual Old Murdock Senior Center cake auction takes place at noon in the dining room at the Center. This is always the very best time of the year, and promises to be another sell out. The cakes are amazing, the crowd is enthused, and who can resist the bidding on the glorious confections? We welcome more submissions too, call the Center at (978) 297-3155 for information.

LEARN: Computer classes for adults are offered on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

at Beals Memorial Library and are open to adults ages 18 and older.

CRAFT FOR ADULTS: On Tuesday nights at 6:30 Beals Memorial Library has an adult craft hour providing a place to meet and do crafts. People bring in things they are working on, and can get help on knitting, crocheting, quilting and discuss different ideas.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
BINGO! Hyde Park residents hold bingo in the community hall every Wednesday night beginning at 6 p.m. It's inexpensive, just two cards for 5¢, and the community is invited! Anyone over the age of 50 is welcome to join in. We'd love to have more players.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23
OPEN MIC: at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. Beginning at 9 p.m. Like to sing? Play an instrument? Willing to jam with a few other musicians? Then come on down and join us at the lower level. Always a good time. Open to everyone! Non-smoking venue.

OUR NEIGHBOR'S KITCHEN: Our Neighbor's Kitchen, Winchendon's Community Supper, is served on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 5:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St. The January meals for Our

Neighbor's Kitchen are: Feb. 23: pot roast dinner with sides and dessert.

Our Neighbor's Kitchen meals are cooked home-style from fresh ingredients. We're supported by voluntary donations at the door, contributions from Winchendon churches and organizations, and many hard-working volunteers.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
GREASE IS THE WORD: Murdock High School presents the musical Grease beginning tonight at 7 p.m. A second performance is scheduled tomorrow night also at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9
BOOK DISCUSSION: Beals Memorial Library has a book club that meets at 5:45 p.m. the second Thursday each month, the next meeting is Thursday March 9 Books are available at the library.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12
BLUE & GOLD BANQUET: the Winchendon area Boy Scouts celebrate their year with the annual Blue & Gold banquet at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. at 2 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29
ANNIVERSARY BLOW OUT: the 10th anniversary of Fire & Iron will be celebrated with the annual spring blow out at American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. beginning at 7 p.m. Come help us celebrate!



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COURIER CAPSULES

SUNDAY CONCERT
FITZSWILLIAM — On Sunday, Feb. 19 at 3 p.m. the Fitzwilliam Community Church presents Virginia Burward-Hoy and Vladimir Odínokikh in a concert of Beethoven, Bach and Brahms cello and piano duets. The church is located on the common in Fitzwilliam, join us after the program for refreshments and to meet the performers. A donation of \$10 is requested to support the music programs. For information: (603) 585-6728 or visit the Facebook page.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
HAMDEN CT — The Nicole Gianino of Ashburnham named to the dean's list at Quinnipiac University for the Fall 2016 semester.

To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

CELEBRATE THE LAND
Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust invites the public to celebrate 30 years of conserving the beauty and quiet of Ashburnham by attending "Celebrate the Land in Ashburnham" Saturday Feb. 11. Outdoor activities

that explore nature and the town's connection to the land occur throughout the day 9 a.m.-3 p.m. All activities begin at Ripple Beach, located in town on Sunset Lake at 13 Blueberry Lane.

The free event starts at 9 a.m. with hikes to explore Paul C. Dunn Woodland Preserve. Led by foresters Joelle Vautour and Mike Mauri, hikers will learn about the large spruce and fir forest more commonly found further north, traverse a glacial esker, and see how active forestry is enhancing wildlife habitat and forest health. Sign up for the walk by going to mountgrace.org or calling (978)-248-2055 x 17.

More family-friendly activities begin at 11a.m. with a cooking fire, hot dogs, and hot cocoa and cider at Ripple Beach. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., attendees are invited to participate in a nature scavenger hunt, gather around the fire, and if conditions allow, skate on Sunset Lake. At noon, hear fascinating stories of the land from local storytellers Chris Gagnon and Todd Goodwin.

To benefit Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and initiatives to conserve the farms, forests, and wild areas in Ashburnham, there will be a raffle drawing at 12:45 with a chance to win snowshoes or an ice fishing set. Raffle tickets are \$10 and can be obtained at the event or online at mountgrace.org.

KIWANIS OF WINCHENDON

presents the annual

St. Patrick's Day Buffet

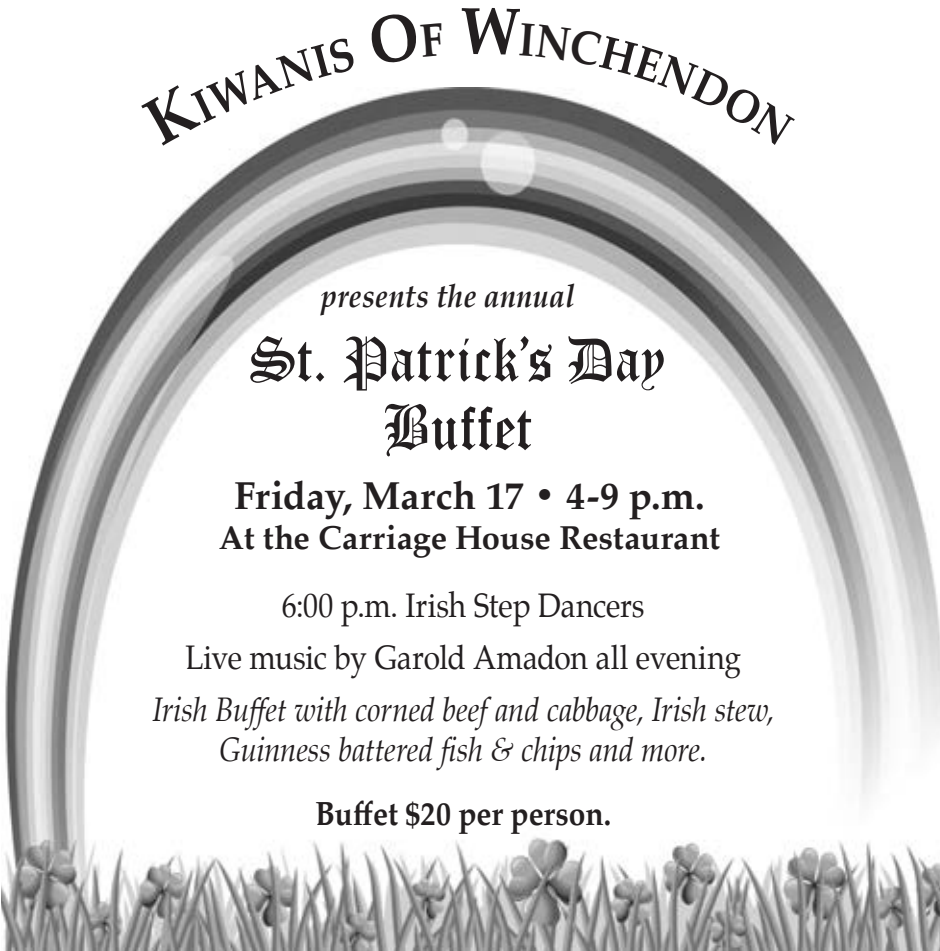
Friday, March 17 • 4-9 p.m.
At the Carriage House Restaurant

6:00 p.m. Irish Step Dancers

Live music by Garold Amadon all evening

Irish Buffet with corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew, Guinness battered fish & chips and more.

Buffet \$20 per person.





WINCHENDON COURIER

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER: FRANK CHILINSKI
EDITOR: RUTH DEAMICIS

VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

\$\$\$\$\$

It's been a few years since a handful of eco minded people agreed to sit on a "Green Committee" since the state mandated it if the town wanted to get it in on the ground floor of a newly minted attempt to encourage cities and towns in an environmentally aware direction. The carrot of course was grant money.

We fumbled around a bit, because not even the state quite know what they wanted (sounds familiar) and the attempt never went much of anywhere.

But the town never gave up entirely. A few small projects were done, some lighting, some insulating, that sort of thing. The transfer station was always in place, encouraging recycling. There were baby steps.

The Powers That Be at the state level got its act together a bit more and sent more guidelines. Development offices in various towns saw the potential, including Toy Town's. We stepped up again, looked at the requirements and moved along. Did the deeds. Followed the instructions.

And it has paid off.

It took us a while, but if you notice, we weren't the only ones who were among those who needed some time. There were 30 cities and towns in this go round who were new to the process and getting it done.

We need to thank the office and Tracy Murphy in Planning for sticking with it; dotting the I's, crossing the T's. Making certain this town did get its act together.

This first grant of a little over \$175,000 is a nice chunk of change, no doubt about that. We can certainly use it in several places.

It of course does come with strings, it can only be used in certain ways but that's ok because we need the things it can be used FOR.

The more economical street lighting as an example. If we do it better, maybe we can turn more on.

That sort of thing.

So, next time you see Tracy, or Jenelle, or Keith Hickey or planning board members or...well, we don't even know who all had input into the making of this dream happening, say thanks. This is a recurring grant process, and we can be assured with these people keeping track, the town will continue to benefit.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grout: the end of a life

To the Editor:

A life was snuffed out on Sunday afternoon in the middle of the road on Central Street. The little dog, just about the same size as a large cat, was killed. There was at least a half pint of blood pooled by the little one's body. He was mostly white, with a fluffy tail.

Was he thrown from a moving vehicle and hit? That's what some people in the neighborhood thought. He wasn't a neighborhood pet, as I know them all. There was no collar and there were no tags.

One of our neighbors took his car and blocked the road by the animal so that no other car would hit the little one. The police officer who came was so compassionate. He gently lifted the animal out of the road before taking statements. After all was said and done, he returned to the little one and again gently picked the dog up and put it in his vehicle. Then, he covered the

blood with sand.

All the neighbors feel so sad for a life lost. If indeed the animal was thrown, or if it was left to run and fend on its own in an unknown neighborhood, then perhaps for some reason the owner didn't know that s/he could surrender the animal at a shelter so that the little might find a happy forever home. No animal deserves to die in the way this little did.

A reminder to anyone who doesn't want their animal, cats can be left at the Better Tomorrow Shelter on Central Street where a forever home will be found.

Dogs, cats, ferrets, bunnies, and other animals can be left at many shelters in the area, including the wonderful Monadnock Animal Shelter just over the border in New Hampshire.

CORAL MAY GROUT
WINCHENDON

LETTERS POLICY



Letters to the editor are always welcome, and may be sent to to ruth@stonebridgepress.news, or The Winchendon Courier, 91 Central Street, Winchendon, MA 01475. Be sure to include a name and residence. Please refrain from sending letters via fax, and be sure to supply a home address and phone number to allow for confirmation. Allow at least 48 hours for a response. Letters must be submitted by noon Friday to ensure publication in the following week's issue. Every effort will be made to accommodate late submissions, but inclusion can not be guaranteed. The rules of good taste and libel will, of course, apply to all submissions. Personal attacks will not be published. The editor retains the right to edit all letters.

THE DONALD... in Presidential Mode



NOTES OF
CONCERN

JACK
BLAIR

All the people who preferred Hillary and were so certain she would win they seemed to stay at home. Of course, Hillary made some serious missteps in ignoring the rustbelt states Democrats have counted on for years. So, these people are angry now and acting out.

Too late folks. Don't ever miss the chance to vote. And even when you do, you don't have the right to try to upend the constitutionally elected president.

All the people who preferred Trump were looking exactly for the kinds of changes he is making. He said he would make them; they voted for him; he won; end of story.

The President owes the press zero. They tried to make him look the fool throughout the process without realizing that their characterization of him made him more attractive to his base.

Now, like Hillary, he made some mistakes. He isn't par-

ticularly presidential. His previous business and playboy life made him an unlikely role model.

The brazen idiots have already started attacking his beautiful family and his wife. The other day someone commented that Melania doesn't speak English very well. They failed to mention she speaks five languages and teaches her young son Barron in other languages, so he can engage in conversations.

President Trump fully understands he was elected to change America. So why would he not? His supporters would turn on him on a dime if he failed to do what he told

them he would do.

Now he gets a pass if he tries to do what he said, but the Congress derails it. Democrats hope against hope that happens. Friends, when you control the Senate, House, White House, most state legislatures and state governorships....do you really think the GOP will put this control at risk over a dust up with Trump?

Here is the way I see it: He is going to do what he said he would do. People are going to be angry (particularly in the minority of states that did not give him the Electoral College). He doesn't give a damn about them, so it will be full speed ahead.

And in my gut, after Obama returned billions of dollars to Iran and released terrorists from Guantanamo, the Iranians are not honoring the deal that was made, and they are going to be in for a very big military surprise. It only has to happen once to cool things off.

The Middle East will find there is a new sheriff in town, and he is not only carrying a big stick but also a very large arsenal of weapons.

I don't know when those who lost the election will get around to accepting the loss, but I feel pretty certain The Donald doesn't care.

Government by tantrum

You take the wins or these days the semi-wins where you find them since God knows they're likely to be few and far between so let's start with something that might be one of those tiny triumphs. All that screeching about "repeal and replace" when it comes to the ACA? Not so fast. It turns out that when they finally got all the power in Washington, it dawned on a lot of Republicans that talk is pretty cheap indeed.

What we're hearing more and more of now is talk about "repair" and while I'm holding my breath to see how "repair" is going to be defined, it almost certainly beats tossing the whole program since there never was any "replace" anyway.

That, my friends, is what passes for good news. False modesty aside, I'm a good writer. I know how to string together a paragraph full of descriptive verbs, nouns, and adjectives but I am running out of words to describe what I'm seeing in Washington and we're only three weeks into this Administration.

It's not just the President who has left me agape, President Trump that is, to say nothing of puppeteer President Bannon — it is as well the utter lack of conscience, integrity, and yes, patriotism of the overwhelming majority of Republican lawmakers as well.

Not all — as I write in advance of



JOURNEY
OF THE
HEART
JERRY
CARTON

Betsy DeVos.

Just two? I wish that were a mere rhetorical question. It isn't. For a minute there, I had thought Lil Marco had grown a backbone. Or Lamar Alexander, a former education secretary himself. Nah. As of this writing, we haven't seen the one more R Senator needed to sink DeVos stand up and say "this woman cannot be SecEd". Not one more. What do you think that tells you about the outcome of the nomination debate over Neil Gorsuch.

Ah yes, Justice-designate Gorsuch, the son of arguably the worst EPA director ever. Let's be clear. This is a stolen seat. Period. A year ago, the Republicans, you may remember, declined to consider the nomination of Merrick Garland. Should Democrats respond in kind to whatever degree possible? Damn right. You can talk all you want about compromise and playing nice but when one side is playing whiffle ball when the other is playing fast-pitch while dismissing the Constitution, that's no level playing field. Some of you may consider

the full Senate vote on the nomination of the jaw-dropping unsuitability of the nominee for education secretary, two GOP members, Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska have committed to saying "nay" to

Are you kidding me?

it hyperbole or extremist if I tell you a non-military civil war is underway but it's not. Under the guise of executive orders, the Administration has declared war on, as I noted a week ago, the fundamental principles of American democracy and it's only gotten worse in the last seven days.

For example, there's a law which says oil and gas companies have to divulge what they're paying foreign governments to set up shop overseas. You can kiss that law goodbye.

Then there was KellyAnne Conway's fable about the "massacre" in Bowling Green. And let's not forget those pesky and soon to be eviscerated consumer protection laws. Rudy Giuliani at least spoke the truth when he acknowledged that was of course in fact a ban on Muslims which Trump issued.

I could obviously go on and on. But think about this — maybe the saddest, if surely not most frightening, aspect of all this is that Trump has chosen to squander the opportunity to be something of the kind of independent President so many people have said they wanted. Sure, he won the Republican nomination but not as a conventional Republican. A rational, thoughtful, reflective, inclusive leader might have tried to take ideas from all across the ideological spectrum and seen if they had worked. But Trump chose to go a different way and we're all the much worse for his governance by tantrum and vindictiveness.

I have friends in the mental health field (disclaimer — two of my children

are among them, though I am not using their experiences since they're still students) who tell me they have patients whose stress and depression levels have skyrocketed as a direct result of the election in ways they've never seen before. No great surprise there. Scary to be sure. Surprising? Not at all.

I've been a news junkie since I was a kid but for the most month or so after the election I couldn't watch the news. I just couldn't. I'd never been so aghast and devastated by any national election in my life. I thought I was in 1972 but that was nothing by comparison. But after a month or so I began to get angry and I talked to a lot, and I mean a lot, of others who were experiencing the same feelings and ever since I've been motivated to do whatever I could in whatever small ways to make a contribution to the resistance. I was proud of my 90-year-old dad when he told me the other day he'd written a check to Planned Parenthood. And so it goes.

I freely admit I have been perhaps annoying redundant to some but I'm going to keep repeating my mantra anyway — do what you can. Flood your legislators' offices with phone calls. Write checks if you can. Volunteer where you can. Keep the faith and never forget that there are more of "us" than "them." We're in this together, right? Yes, we are. See you next week.

No bees will bring us to our knees



ANYTHING
NEAR &
FAR
.....
KEITH
KENT

While many people go about their daily lives with ever increasingly busy work and family schedules, there is a serious problem growing around us that involves just about every aspect of nature's food chain and its crucial supply. The bees are disappearing. Bees are involved in nearly every single aspect of how

both we and other animals obtain essential nourishment. Without pollination taking place, most plants, types of vegetables, and animals including humans along with just about every other creature above water are in serious trouble. Going back just two decades, the rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*) was just about everywhere you looked when you went outside of your house. For that matter, if you had flowering plants just inside your window, you could see these incredible busy little workers trying to actually get through the screens to them. In the time of today, this species is a

rare sight if you're lucky, and is endangered of going extinct. I love to plant vegetables, flowers, and even grow pumpkins, and have noticed the overall absence of a thriving bee population versus 10 years ago. As this columnist is actually bigger than most of the black bears in our area, which also count on our little winged friends for survival, it scares the heck out of me, and so should it you. Scientists claim the rusty patched bee population is down 87 percent nationally. Bees are like farms my friends and the math is easy. No bees = no food. As of Feb. 10, the United States Fish & Wildlife Service is officially adding the rusty

patched bumble bee to the Federal Endangered Species List. Just like the Ashton cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus bohemicus*), which is no longer found in New England, the rusty patched is sadly nearly completely absent from our regional landscape, and may already be gone. The last one officially documented was on Cape Cod in 2009. We once had 16 types of species in Massachusetts. Not anymore. The rusty patched has also become, in the Feds own words, "The first-ever bumble bee in the United States, and the first bee of any kind in the contiguous 48 states, to be declared endangered."

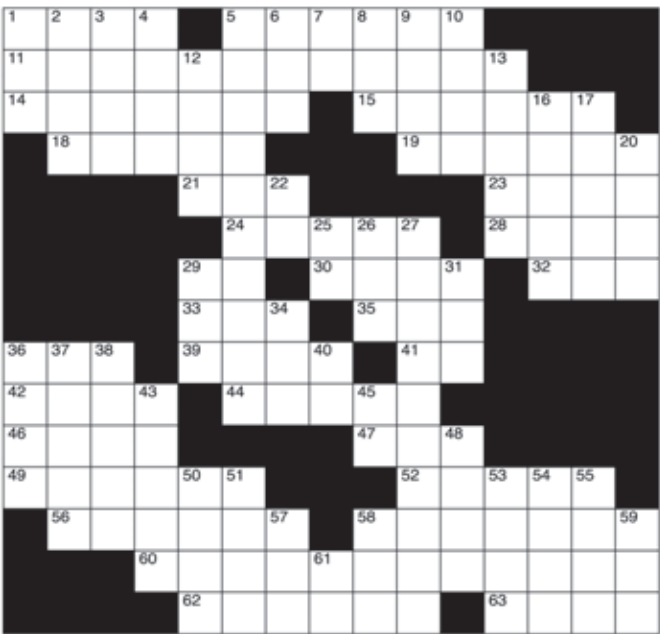
Once happily going about its business, the rusty patched bumble bee enjoyed a range of 28 states. Now that number has dwindled to just 13. The loss of any bees along with other insects not only damages the pollination of our food supply, but the economy. The Federal government estimates the valuation of "Nature's Free Pollination Service" at a minimum of \$3 billion annually. Try to imagine if you will the increase in the price of food at market if we had to pay companies to pollinate fruits, vegetables, and more by either hand or machine on a

national scale. With all this I ask between no food and the amount of extra cost to produce without bees even if we could, do we have your attention yet? What is causing all this? Sure, it's easy to want to blame corporate chemical mega-giants like Monsanto. All the chemicals we purchase to spray bugs have likely had a big hand in this crisis. However, I must ask myself if that is only part of the problem as often just one simple answer only seems to scratch the surface. We have already genetically altered corn about a gazillion times, and continue to do so with tomatoes and other foods to feed an ever increasing global population. The current world wide food supply can only feed a maximum of 8 billion people. We cannot turn a blind eye to this any longer. This is a natural disaster in the making. While we bask in all our computerized and cyber electronic glory, we need to start being better environmental stewards and pay attention to what the bees are telling us ASAP. The bees are disappearing and they are dying off, and according to scientists all over the globe without the bees keeping nature's production cycle in order, they all agree we will do the same.



TOWN HALL BARRICADED

On Wednesday, the parking and side door to town hall was blocked off because the melting ice proved to be a danger to anyone on that side. The front entrance, with its wider portico, wasn't in any danger.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Baseball team

5. Hymns

11. Actor Jared

12. Fragrance

16. ___ Von Bismarck, Iron Chancellor

17. Nordic God

18. Weighed down

19. Coppola's mob epic

24. Nanogram

25. Famed street artist

26. Identifier

27. 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet

28. In addition

29. Micturated

30. Shock

31. Accept

33. Allotment

34. Eras
38. Emerges

39. Cape Verde capital

40. ___, United Arab Emirates capital

43. Small amount

44. Back of the foot

45. Pakrit language

49. Home of "60 Minutes"

50. Condemn

51. Ailed

53. Elevated railroad

54. Rebelliousness

56. Ancient Greek city

58. Clothing company (abbr.)

59. Member of the cabbage family

60. Softens or smooths

63. Mass of coagulated liquid

64. Problems

65. Irish Republic

CLUES DOWN

1. Dress

2. Deadly

3. Says aloud

4. PT Anderson film "___ Nights"

5. Teacher (abbr.)

6. Anesthetized

7. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)

8. ___ and behold

9. French young women (abbr.)

10. Scorch

13. Notre Dame

14. Express disapproval

15. Cars need these

20. Not off

21. Unit of mass

22. You

23. Concealed

27. Parent-teacher organizations

29. Approximately 3.14159

30. Chinese conception of poetry

31. Satisfaction

32. College degree
33. Formerly Ceylon: ___ Lanka

34. Effeminate

35. Something to solve

36. Horses like these

37. Intelligence organization

38. Blood type

40. Exhibition

41. Poisonous plant

42. Aluminum

44. Possesses

45. Penetrate with a sharp instrument

46. Ring-shaped objects

47. Speaks at church

48. Form in the mind

50. Selectors

51. Probability of default

52. 2001 Spielberg film

54. Where to get a sandwich

55. News

57. Modus operandi

61. Exists

62. Politico-economic union



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POLICE LOG

Editor's Note: The information contained in this police log was obtained through public documents kept by the police department, and is considered to be the account of the police. All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

12:04-2:36 a.m.: building checks, secure; 12:14 a.m.: ambulance (Main Street) transport; 7:30 a.m.: general info (Pleasant Street) refer to other agency; 7:52 a.m.: investigation (Spruce Street) info taken; 8:50 a.m.: FD call (Maple Street) no FD service required; 8:56 a.m.: investigation (Goodrich Drive) info taken; 9:23 a.m.: 911 call non-emergency (CVS) non-emergency call; 10:14 a.m.: illegal dumping (Sunny Cove Road) info taken; 10:24 a.m.: ambulance (Monomonac Road East) transport; 10:34 a.m.: MV stop (Central Street) traffic citation; 10:40 a.m.: investigation (Central Street) spoken to; 10:57 a.m.: 911 call non-emergency (North Ashburnham Road) assisted; 11:05 a.m.: larceny (Maple Street) report taken; 11:34 a.m.: animal complaint (Maynard Street) report taken; 1:15 p.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive) transport; 1:17 p.m. investigation (Maple Street) info taken; 2:04 p.m.: MV stop (Front Street) traffic citation; 3:41 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (Glenallan Street) removed to hospital; 4:29 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) traffic citation; 4:39 p.m.: MV stop (School Street) verbal warning; 5:02 p.m.: automatic fire alarm (Murdock High School) services rendered; 5:02 p.m.: automatic fire alarm (Murdock High School) services rendered; 5:07 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 5:27 p.m.: accident (Tannery Hill) report taken; 6:03 p.m.: ambulance (School Street) transport; 6:29 p.m.: fire alarm (Murdock High School) services rendered; 7:56 p.m.: MV stop (Elmwood Road) verbal warning; 8:11 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) verbal warning; 11:07 p.m.: assist other agency (Poland Avenue) unable to locate; 11:40-11:58

Gardner man charged with assault, strangulation

WINCHENDON — Henry Hamel, age 45, of 74 Abbott St. #2, Gardner, was arrested early Tuesday morning and charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon on a person over 60 years of age, strangulation, and armed robbery.

The arrest followed an incident earlier in the evening at 135 Glenallan St. #5.

A police report states that Hamel had gone to the home of a friend who has been Hamel's sponsor in Alcoholics Anonymous for a number of years. He reportedly claimed he was having trouble staying sober.

According to the alleged victim, Hamel took a shower, then the two of them lay down on a bed in the man's small apartment to watch a movie. As they were watching the movie, Hamel allegedly attacked his friend, wrapping his belt around the man's neck.

The man told police Hamel kept repeating, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry."

The alleged victim said he finally broke away from Hamel, telling his assailant he would give him whatever he wanted. He then handed Hamel \$60, after which Hamel fled the scene.

The alleged victim told police that Hamel's wife had texted him earlier in the evening, saying, "Please be careful. I don't want him to try and steal from you. I heard he has been begging people for money all night."

Winchendon Police Lt. Kevin Wolski requested an emergency GPS ping on Hamel's cell phone. A short time later, Sprint reported Hamel to be near his residence on Abbott Street.

He was eventually apprehended by Gardner Police, who transported Hamel back to Winchendon.

While being booked, Hamel reportedly verified the account of the incident given to police by the alleged victim. He said he tried to strangle his friend because voices in his head told him to do so. He also allegedly admitted to using the stolen money to purchase crack cocaine.

Hamel was ordered held without bail at the Worcester County Jail and House of Corrections pending Friday's arraignment detention hearing. A mental health evaluation was also ordered.

p.m.: building checks, secure.

TUESDAY, JANUARY, 31

12:03-1:40 a.m.: building checks, secure; 6:31 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 8:04 a.m.: structure fire (Hale Street) extinguished; 8:43 a.m.: MV stop (Ash Street) spoken to; 9:01 a.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) spoken to; 9:06 a.m.: sex offender registration (Spring Street) unable to locate;

9:23 a.m.: deliver message (Goodrich Drive) delivered; 9:41 a.m.: MV stop (Lincoln Avenue) spoken to; 11:28 a.m.: traffic hazard (Tannery Hill) area search negative; 12:28 p.m.: accident (CVS) report taken; 12:30 p.m.: investigation (Green Street) info taken; 12:49 p.m.: animal complaint (Pine Street) refer to ACO; 3 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street) property returned to owner; 3:12 p.m.: 911 hang up (Gardner Road) accidental; 4:48 p.m.: DPW call (phone) referred; 4:52 p.m.: accident (Glenallan Street) report taken; 6:29 p.m.: MV stop (Main Street) verbal warning; 7:18 p.m.: assault (School Street) arrest: Nicole M. Harty, age 38 of 25 Main St. #4, Baldwinville: A&B with dangerous weapon; and summons: John P. Harty Jr., age 67 of 25 Main St. #1, Otter River: assault and battery; and summons: Derik Athur Merritt, age 34, of 25 Main St. #4, Baldwinville: assault and battery; 8:39 p.m.: ambulance (Cabot Road) transport; 9:29 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 10:02 p.m.: registration check (Glenallan Street) dispersed gathering; 11:52 p.m.: building check, secure.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

12:09-12:54 a.m.: building checks, secure; 1:15 a.m.: officer wanted (Central Street) returned to home; 8 a.m.: accident (Goodrich Drive) report taken; 9:45 a.m.: property found (Railroad Street) services rendered; 9:50 a.m.: ambulance (Highland Street) report taken; 11:41 a.m.: property found (Mr. Mikes) info taken; 12:20 p.m.: assist citizen (Mill Street) spoken to; 12:40 p.m.: summons service (Central Street) served; 12:47 p.m.: summons service (Old Gardner Road) served; 1:53 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) traffic citation; 2:20 p.m.: elderly welfare check (address not printed) spoken to; 5:13 p.m.: burglar alarm (Beachview Drive) false alarm; 5:30 p.m.: runaway (Polly's Drive) report taken; 5:56 p.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive) transport; 7:10 p.m.: animal

complaint (Mill Street) refer to ACO; 7:45 p.m.: transport (Gardner Road); 9:01 p.m.: MV stop (Maple Street) written warning; 9:24 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) verbal warning; 9:56 p.m.: animal complaint (River Street) refer to other agency; 10:03 p.m.: lift assist (Ready Drive) services rendered; 11:47 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) written warning.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

12:01 a.m.: ambulance (Joslin Road) transport; 12:30 a.m.: suspicious MV (Baldwinville State Road) spoken to; 1:12-3:31 a.m.: building checks, secure; 4:01 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 4:32 a.m.: ambulance (Ash Street) transport; 6:40 a.m.: warrant check (Goodrich Drive) unable to locate; 7:49 a.m.: accident (Central Street) no PD service required; investigation (Academy Street) info taken; 9:30 a.m.: assist other PD (Myrtle Street) report taken; general info (Teel Road) assisted; 9:52 a.m.: burglar alarm (Spring Street) false alarm; 12:49 p.m.: accident (Front Street) info taken; 2:29 p.m.: investigation (Goodrich Drive) info taken; 3:44 p.m.: MV stop (Mill Glen Road) traffic citation; 4:09 p.m.: elderly welfare check (address not printed) returned to home; 6:12 p.m.: FD call (Hyde Park Drive) assisted; 7:21 p.m.: investigation (Goodrich Drive) info taken; 7:23 p.m.: disabled MV (Benjamin Street) advised officer; 8:56 p.m.: MV stop (Glenallan Street) traffic citation; 9:34 p.m.: suspicious MV (bike path) spoken to.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

12:48 a.m.: trespass notice (Goodrich Drive) info taken; 2:19-2:31 a.m.: building checks, secure; 5:39 a.m.: parking violation (Front Street) traffic citation; 6:03 a.m.: general info (Monomonac Road East) spoken to; 7:26 a.m.: general info (Pond Street) refer to other agency; 10:29 a.m.: sex offender registration (Brown Street) info taken; 10:55 a.m.: suspicious person (Robbins Road) unfounded; 12:41 p.m.: ambulance (Spruce Street) transport; 3:04 p.m.: ambulance (Pearl Drive) transport; 3:29 p.m.: summons service (Spring Street) unable to serve; 4:05 p.m.: hold-up alarm (School Street) accidental; 4:14 p.m.: MV stop (School Street) verbal warning; 4:20 p.m.: assist other agency (Goodrich Drive) assisted; 4:28 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 4:59 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) verbal warning; 6:52 p.m.: MV stop (Main Street) verbal warning; 7:54 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 8:07 p.m.: animal complaint (Cedar Terrace) unfounded; 10:27 p.m.: property found (Water Street) info taken; 11:22 p.m.: be on the lookout (Elmwood Road) unable to locate; 11:52 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

12:34 a.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) summons: Michelle M. Lussier, age 22 of 4 West Shore Road, Ashburnham: operating MV with registration suspended; 1:29 a.m.: investigation (Academy Street) services rendered; 2:15-2:27 a.m.: building checks, secure; 10:19 a.m.: suspicious person (East Grove Street) arrest: Gary Omer Walker, age 51 of 3 Summit St., Somerville: outstanding warrant, three counts possession class E drug; 10:46 a.m.: ambulance (River Street) transport; 10:55 a.m.: accident (School Street) report taken; 11:31 a.m.: fraud (Pine Street) spoken to; 10:46 a.m.: ambulance (Mill Street) transport; 12:02 p.m.: ambulance (Mill Street) transport; 1 p.m.: ambulance (Brooks Road) transport; 1:13 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Maple Street) advised officer; 2:16 p.m.: drug violations (Central Street) info taken; 5:35 p.m.: suspicious MV (Central Street) no PD service required; 6:06 p.m.: 911 call non-emergency (Hyde Park Drive) spoken to; 6:20 p.m.: suspicious MV (Spruce Street) spoken to; 9:23 p.m.: runaway (Front Street) info taken.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

12:57-3:22 a.m.: building checks, secure; 5:03 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 6:31 a.m.: burglar alarm (Main Street) call canceled; 7:49 a.m.: animal complaint (Mill Glen Road) refer to ACO; 8:57 a.m.: officer wanted (Glenallan Street) unable to locate; 9:45 a.m.: accident (School Street) report taken; 9:56 a.m.: ambulance (Hyde Park Drive) transport; 10:03 a.m.: animal complaint (River Street) report taken; 10:18 a.m.: vandalism (Walnut Street) unable to locate; 10:53 a.m.: investigation (Central Street) info taken; 11:52 a.m.: 911 call non-emergency (Town Farm Road) child playing with phone; 1:51 p.m.: DPW call (Monadnock Avenue) referred; 1:58 p.m.: animal complaint (Central Street) assisted; 2:18 p.m.: harassment (Central Street) spoken to; 2:29 p.m.: general info (Willoughby Avenue) info taken; 4:48 p.m.: MV stop (Maple Street) verbal warning; 5:18 p.m.: ambulance (Ready Drive) transport; 5:31 p.m.: animal complaint (Maynard Street) spoken to; 8:15 p.m.: child welfare check (address not printed) spoken to; 8:54 p.m.: assault (Candy Lane) spoken to; 10:36 p.m.: lift assist (Hyde Park Drive) services rendered; 11:32 p.m.: accident (Central Street) report taken; 11:41 p.m.: stolen MV (Goodrich Drive) report taken.

Murdock Blue Devils and the Winchendon Little League Softball/Baseball Clinic and Little League Registration

Saturday February 25, 2017

Softball from 10-12

Baseball from 1-3

Clinic is for players age 6 - 12

There is no cost for the clinic but pre-registration is recommended to reserve a spot

To pre-register E-Mail

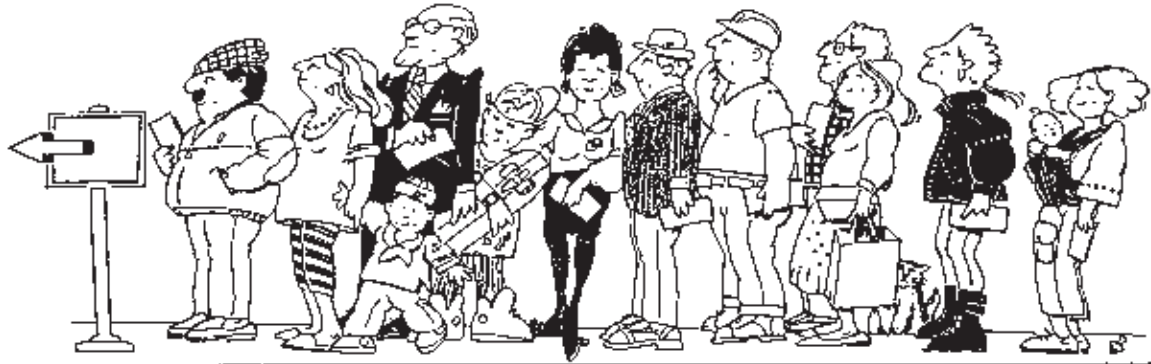
athletics@winchendonk12.org

Basic and Advanced Hitting and Fielding Skills will be Taught

The Baseball and Softball clinics will be hosted by both varsity coaches and players

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<input type="checkbox"/> 104 WEEKS - \$90.00	
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OBITUARIES

Kevin M. Gill, 62

MANCHESTER NH — Kevin M. Gill, age 62, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Jan. 30, 2017 in New Hampshire. He was born in Marlborough and had lived most of his life in Hudson and Baldwinville before moving to Manchester, NH.

His wife, April L. (Pelot) Gill, passed away in 2011. He leaves two children, Joel M. Gill and his wife, Michele of Center Ossipee, NH and Aubrey M. Himmler and her husband, Josh of Wells, ME; his parents, John H. and Therese C. (Richer) Gill of Manchester, NH (longtime Hudson residents); four grandchildren, Bryn and Molly Gill and Connor and Jackson Himmler; his sister, Dianne M. Buczynski and her husband, Michael of Manchester, NH; his niece, Patrice (Buczynski) Bosworth of Lake Orion, MI; his nephew, Michael



Buczynski Jr. of Hudson, NH; his former wife, Sheila (Dearborn) Gill of Wells, ME; five grand-nephews; a grand-niece; and several aunts, uncles and cousins. He was predeceased by an infant baby sister, Patrice in 1963.

Kevin was a 1977 graduate of the Mass College of Pharmacy and served as a pharmacist for many years in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He was the owner of Lucia Pharmacy on Main Street in Hudson for several years. He was a certified counselor in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Kevin also taught math and science in the Winchendon public schools for 10 years.

He was an avid New York Giants fan.

A funeral service was held Saturday, Feb. 4 in the Tighe Hamilton Funeral Home (tighehamilton.com), 50 Central St., Hudson. A private burial will be held at a later date.

Barbara J. ‘Bobbie’ Hagemeyer, 89

WINCHENDON — Barbara J. “Bobbie” Hagemeyer, age 89, of 107 Highland St., died peacefully at home Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017.



She was born in Arlington on Dec. 13, 1927, daughter of the late Harold and Rachel (Chatfield) Moxon. She graduated from Arlington High School, earning a Bachelor’s degree in sociology from Tufts University and later a Master’s degree in education. She had wonderful memories of summers spent at Brant Rock in Marshfield.

As a young lady, she traveled the world at a time when each country had its own unique culture. She taught as part of the Civilian Department of Defense program and lived in Japan, England, Germany, Turkey and France. While overseas, she met her husband Bill.

Bobbie was a 5th grade teacher for most of her life. She taught in Winchendon at the former Streeter School and Memorial School from 1970 until her retirement in 1992.

Bobbie was a longtime member of the United Parish and loved to sing in the choir. Her hobbies were her love

of animals, knitting, playing Scrabble, watching Blue Bloods with Tom Selleck and enjoying the company of family and friends.

She was a loving mother, grandmother, aunt, cousin and friend.

Her husband of 41 years, William F. Hagemeyer, died in 2002. She will be sorely missed by her two children, Mark A. Hagemeyer and his wife Melissa of Winchendon and Heidi J. Byer and her husband David of Winchendon; three grandchildren, Zachary Hagemeyer, Haley Hagemeyer and Benjamin Hagemeyer, a great granddaughter Mya Hagemeyer, a stepson, William A. Hagemeyer of Everson, WA, a stepdaughter Jean Frazier of Lakewood, CO and many family and friends too numerous to mention.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017 in the United Parish, 39 Front St., Winchendon. The Rev. F. Calvin Miller officiated. A gathering followed at Hidden Hills, 18 Lisa Dr., Rindge.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorial donations to the United Parish, 39 Front St., Winchendon, MA 01475.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central St., Winchendon is directing arrangements.

Gerald Paul ‘Gerry’ Muse, 53

TEMPLETON — Gerald Paul “Gerry” Muse of Templeton passed away on Feb. 5th, following a period of declining health.

Born in Gardner on Sept. 12, 1963, Gerry was the youngest son of the late Mary Eileen Keane and the late Wilfred T. “Bill” Muse.

Gerry was born with many developmental and health challenges. As a child, he attended specialized educational programs, and as an adult received services in day habilitation settings. Although Gerry was unable to speak, he could communicate with those close to him through his expressive face and hands.

Gerry leaves his brother, Ron Muse of Winchendon, his wife Christina

Lindley, and their four children. He also leaves his brother, Dan Muse of Torrington, CT, his wife Joyce, and their two children.

Gerry’s family is indebted to his devoted caretakers, Don and Sue Bouchard of Templeton.

Gerry will be laid to rest in Winchendon’s Calvary Cemetery, alongside his parents, in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Gerry’s name to the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism, 1001 Worcester Rd, Framingham, MA 01701.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central St., Winchendon was entrusted with arrangements.

SUDBURY — Paul Leary of Sudbury formerly of Waltham, died Jan. 31, 2017.



Devoted & loving father of Justine Clark and her husband Ryan of Nashua, NH, Colleen Taylor and her husband Karl of Winchendon, and Crystal Van Veen and her husband Jimmy of Pepperell. Adored grandfather of Laila Clark, Armando Hernandez, Lincoln Taylor and Brooklyn Van Veen. Dear brother

of Kevin J. Leary of Sudbury. Beloved companion of the late Margaret Swanson for many years.

A funeral service in celebration of Paul’s Life in the Mary Catherine Chapel of Brasco & Sons Memorial, 773 Moody St, Waltham Feb. 8. Interment with United States military honors was held at Calvary Cemetery in Waltham.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in honor of Paul to the New England Veterans Homeless Shelter, 17 Court St, Boston, MA 02108.

Paul Leary

SEND OBITUARIES at no charge to Editor Ruth DeAmicis, by faxing (978) 297-2177, or by e-mailing the editor at ruth@stonebridgepress.news. We also invite funeral directors and families to e-mail us a JPEG photograph to print, at no cost, alongside the obituary.

COA adds van run to Market Basket

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Though there had been rumors swirling for months about its ultimate fate, the recent formal and sudden closing of the IGA supermarket on Central Street has undoubtedly inconvenienced more than a few people in town and in response, the Council on Aging is ramping up its runs to New Hampshire grocery stores.

Beginning earlier this week, the COA, which had been making just Monday journeys up Route 202, added a Wednesday trip to Market Basket in Rindge. One does not have to be a senior citizen to take advantage of the trips. COA Executive Director Sheila Bettro couldn’t say for sure how many people who frequent the senior center shopped at IGA though she ventured a guess, suggesting “not a lot but this is a service

we’re offering anyone in town regardless of whether they shopped there or not.” While exact numbers of residents who used IGA are impossible to quantify, the reality is that there is no longer a full-service grocery store in town. Not Just Produced, the store on Central Street owned by Beth Hunt has expanded its offerings and while there are several convenience stores and pharmacies, that’s not the same and Bettro

acknowledged as much. “When IGA closed, that was definitely a problem,” she noted, and it was the shuttering of IGA which spurred the COA to boost their transportation efforts. “We knew something had to be done,” added Bettro, and it didn’t take long for the COA to work out the logistics of adding another trip. “You do what you can,” she said.

The Wednesday excursions will start at 9:15 a.m. and return around 1 p.m. Those who want to go can be picked up at their door, but reservations are strongly encouraged by calling Cindy at (978) 297-3155. On Mondays, the run begins at 12:15 p.m. The Monday/Wednesday schedule is in effect through at least the end of February.



Tracy Gambill photo

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF THE CAMERA

Participants take notes at the first class of a three-part digital photography workshop offered through GALA, the Gardner Area League of Artists. Instructor Norm Eggert of Phillipston has taught for many years at the Worcester Art Museum and Mount Wachusett Community College. He is seen here with (from l-r) Diana Bowles of Winchendon, Linda Keech of Gill, and Karen Sugalski of Gardner.

NEW OWNER



Darlene Rossi, Realtor® has purchased and is now owner of Morin Real Estate in downtown Winchendon. Rossi, who has been with the firm for several years, said Rick Morin is “retiring slowly,” continuing to serve his loyal customers.

Rossi, who has three children she has homeschooled, is looking forward to continuing to serve the community.

SOUND OFF POLICY

In addition to the Letters to the Editor section, the Winchendon Courier offers an anonymous forum allowing callers to “Sound Off” about the hot-button issues and topics in their towns. The “Sound Off” line can be reached 24 hours a day, at 978-297-0050. Names may be omitted for “Sound Off” calls only, although you may leave a name or initials. All comments should be made clearly and concisely, to minimize the potential for mistakes. Please remember that libelous comments, personal attacks and material that cannot be verified will not be published. “Sound Offs” may be sent to ruth@stonebridgepress.news, or The Winchendon Courier, 91 Central Street, Winchendon, MA 01475 with “Sound Off” in the subject line. All “Sound Off” submissions are due by noon on Fridays. We look forward to hearing from you!



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SPORTS

Blue Devils headed to Districts

BY CHRIS MARTIN
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — In the Coaches vs. Cancer against Narragansett last Friday, the Blue

Devils were looking for their 10th win to head into Districts, but the Warriors wouldn't let that happen so easily, coming away with a 57-43 victory.



Mat Plamondon photos

LJ Hicks lays the ball up in play against Narragansett.

Fast forward to the Ayer-Shirley game on Monday night though, to close out League play and there it was, a close 60-58 victory. With that win Murdock punched the ticket for Districts for the first time since 2011.

In the 'Gansett game, the Devils would have an early 9-7 lead, but the Warriors would gain control on an 11-0 run to end the quarter.

They then took an 18-9 lead with them into the second quarter and quickly extended that to a 21-9 lead.

Murdock would finally make a little run of their own, cutting the lead to 21-15, but 'Gansett would roar back to head into half time 32-19.

Coming back into the third quarter, 'Gansett picked right back up where they left off, adding a quick four points.

The Blue Devils kept chipping away, and pulled within three at one point in the third, ending that quarter down 38-35.

But in the final quarter the Warriors pulled away and the final was 57-43.

With the win the

Warriors too made a claim to a place in Districts.

Coach Matt O'Malley said, "It was a tough one, we just didn't rebound and rebounding killed us."

Once 'Gansett took over, after trailing by two in the first quarter, O'Malley said, "It's just one of those nights. We struggled offensively, but we got initial stops and then they would get two, three, four shots at the hoop and you're not going to win games letting teams shoot that many times."

"When we dug ourselves that big of a hole in the first half, we exerted too much energy trying to get back in the game, kind of gassed ourselves there."

As they traveled to Ayer-Shirley on Monday, O'Malley said, "We need to get this one, they knocked us out of our district run two years ago, so we need to go down there and get a little pay back."

And so they did. Murdock closed out league play with a 6-4



John Murphy pulls down a rebound in rough traffic.

record and 10-6 overall.

Ryan Kaminsky would have the game winning free throws, with six seconds remaining in the game.

Leading scorers in the victory were: LJ Hicks 18 points, Nick Roy 14 points, Kaminsky 13 points, Spencer Pelkey seven points, Jared Nelson four points and Tyler Cota and John Murphy contributed a bucket each.

A thrilled O'Malley

said, "You know, it was right down to the wire, our guys fought right to the end. It was a big win for us."

At half time the Devils trailed 26-21, then turned it around in the second half.

"We didn't really say anything, they know what they had to do. We came out and put a half-court press on a little bit, that got them going. They knew what they had to do," said O'Malley.

And on getting into Districts, O'Malley said, "It feels great! First time we've been in since 2011 and we have to take care of Wednesday to get into Clark."

This past Wednesday the Blue Devils looked to take care of business against Millbury to move get into the Clark tournament.

Tonight is Murdock's final home game at 7 p.m. taking on North Brookfield, and next Thursday the Devils wrap up their season against Gardner.

Lady Devils play tough against 'Gansett

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON—Progress. That's what Murdock girls' basketball Coach Jim Abare has been looking for and that's what he saw, some at least, last Friday when the Lady Devils played pretty well in a 54-33 loss to Narragansett on Coaches v. Cancer night.

"Baby steps. We played to the end," reflected Abare after a game which clinched a post-season spot for the Lady Warriors.

It wasn't that the contest was close because for the most part it wasn't. 'Gansett led 13-2 after the first quarter and while Murdock scrambled back to cut the deficit to six at 17-11 after three pointers from Molly Murphy and Kaleigh Lauziere, that was as close as the Lady Devils would get because after that, 'Gansett set off on a 21-0 run which lasted deep into the third period.

Neither that spurt nor the final score fazed Abare, who pointed out five different players tallied for his team. Four

(Murphy with three, Jocelyn Garner with two and Lauziere and Julia Shelly) banged home three balls.

"We hung in there, got some perimeter shots and we worked hard right to the end," he noted. "That's what I want to see from them."

Murdock's 33 points represented the team's best output in quite a while.

"We got some shots inside for the first time in about a month," said Abare, whose young team fell to 1-13 overall. Molly Murphy led the Lady

Devils in scoring with 11 points. Garner contributed eight, Kelly Murphy had six, Shelly five, and eighth grader Lauziere scored three.

"I have no qualms about the effort," said Abare, adding, "I thought Kelly had her best game of the year. Jocelyn came back and made those couple big threes from the outside and really battled on the boards. And then the young kids came in — Kaleigh, Jasmine (Larose), Shae (Dupuis) — they all did some good things for us.

Narragansett, (9-6, 7-2 league) is a real good team."

Having hosted Ayer Monday and visited Sizer Wednesday, the Lady Devils close out the home portion of the schedule tonight when they host North Brookfield. Tip off is 6 p.m. The 2016-17 season, MHS Hall-of-Famer Abare's fourth coaching his alma mater, ends next week with games at Bromfield Monday and Gardner Thursday.

Giving credit... being honest...

I'll be the first to freely admit I really dislike the Patriots in large part because I'm old and never thought much of the AFL especially after Super Bowl 3 (Jets-Colts). The AFL was always the "other" league. That said, to whatever degree I still care about football at all, which isn't a whole lot anymore, I do have to concede that was one hell of a comeback they turned in Sunday night and, as all have noted, one hell of a catch from Julian Edelman on a play where a seemingly sure interception would have clinched for the Falcons. When you're down 28-3, you probably shouldn't win and Atlanta's clock management was awful, but the Patriots are, as you might have noticed, pretty good. Five championships in 16 years doesn't come close to matching the five in seven years won by the Packers between 1961 and 1967, including the first two Super Bowls, and it doesn't match a bunch of Yankee teams or Celtics ones for that matter or even what the Jordan Bulls did, but in an era of supposed parity, it's awfully impressive. Atlanta was by far the toughest opponent New England faced this season and even down 25, the Patriots never panicked so you've got to give them the credit they're due.

I did notice owner Robert Kraft's snarky post-game comment about it having been a long two years, an unmistakable reference, of course, to Deflategate. I thought Kraft was better than that. I mean, you're a grown-up.

As a corporate entity, the NFL has to be happy the game turned out to be a thriller given the desultory season, complete with plunging TV ratings it capped. There were too many



TALKING
SPORTS

JERRY
CARTON

mediocre games played by mediocre teams and the Thursday night package should disappear though it won't. There are still too many concussions and the league has reportedly sometimes been messing with the concussion protocol. Roger Goodell seemed more fixated on the whole Deflategate nonsense than on head injuries and domestic violence issues. The NFL is still far and away America's favorite sports league but cracks, most notably in the number of eyeballs, are starting to show. Let's see how, or if, the 32 bazillionaire team owners respond.

As for fan bases, New England fans are ecstatic while in Atlanta, I'm quite sure the 'Dawgs losing to 'Bama matters more. It is the South after all and in the South the SEC rules 24/7/365. You think Bill Belichick is unpopular? You should hear what the proverbial 'they' say about Nick Saban everywhere in Dixie outside Tuscaloosa.

Anyway, football season is over.

Spring training starts next week. Now that I can get into. It's been an entertaining winter but frequently puzzling as well. There turned out to be no huge market for hitters — last year's NL home run champ is still in limbo and the reigning AL home run leader returned to the Orioles after evidently getting, well, not much of any offers. No one clamored for Jose Bautista who then returned to the Jays at a discount. Only Edwin Encarnacion drew significant interest and went to the defending AL champion Indians. Aside from him, the market was quieter than a lot of these guys' bats. Go figure.

I can also get into basketball, which leads me to this: tonight's game against North Brookfield is the final home contest of the year for the Murdock Lady Devils (6 p.m. tipoff). The season concludes next week with games at Ayer on Monday and 15 minutes away at Gardner on Thursday. That latter contest will wrap up coach Jim Abare's fourth campaign at his alma mater, where he's enshrined as

a Hall-of-Fame athlete himself and later went on to a highly successful couple decades coaching at Gardner. The Lady Devils haven't won much in these four years, its been a tough go for a variety of reasons but the impact Abare has had goes far beyond basketball. That has including taking players on visits to colleges since it seems like he knows just about everyone everywhere and it never mattered that basketball wasn't this student or that one's primary sport. Former players have told me they look back and as they've become adults, now recognize and appreciate what he was really teaching them. Maybe more on-court wins will start happening next winter since there is a talented young crop on the roster, but on a larger, more important field, Coach Abare's definitely been a winner. I just hope the community, school and town alike, understands how fortunate it has been for Murdock and Winchendon that he returned. That's bigger than winning any football game for sure. See you next week.

SPORTS SHORTS

SIGN-UPS SCHEDULED

WINCHENDON — The following dates have been set for signing up for Winchendon Little League. Sign up will be held at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. All new players must have a copy of their birth certificates in order to register. Baseball players' birthdates must fall between May 1997-Aygyt 2012; Girls softball birthdates must fall between January 1997-December 2011. Cost for registration: T-Ball: \$40; Minor league: \$60; Major league: \$70; Junior, Senior and Big leagues: \$80; there is a family cap at \$200.

Winchendon Little League will be holding registration for the 2017 season at the Winchendon Legion on the following dates/times;

Friday, Feb. 10: 5-7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 11: 10-noon

Sunday, Feb. 12: 10 a.m.-noon

Visit our website or Facebook page for more information or instructions on how to register early!

www.facebook.com/winchendonll

SKILLS WORKSHOP

WINCHENDON — On Saturday, Feb. 25 the Murdock Blue Devils and the Winchendon Little League will hold a combine softball and baseball clinic and Little League registration. Softball will be 10 a.m.-noon; baseball 1-3 p.m. Clinic is intended for players age 6-12. There is no cosyt for the clinic, but pre-registration is recommended: athletics@winchendonK12.org. Basic and advanced hitting, fielding and skills will be taught. Hosted and taught by both varsity players and coaches.

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Celebrating in cookies and community service

BY TARA VOCINO
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — It all started in 1912, when Juliette Lowe met Lord Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, during a trip to England. Struck by the programs, and seeing how well they could be adapted for girls as well as boys, she returned to her home in Savannah eager to begin.

The first troop of 18 broke all conventions of the time by including a mixture of ethnically and economically diverse girls, according to the official website.

Lowe's nicknames was "Daisy," and that is the what the very youngest scouts are designated, some of the first troops organized in 1972.

And in Winchendon, the program continues to be a strong, viable place for young women to learn independence and to grow.

The Girl Scouts have been busy selling cookies in their 105th year this winter and doing community service.

"We get to learn new skills we don't get to learn in other programs," Sadie Michelson, age 11 and a member of Troop 11694, said. "We made cat blankets for A Better Tomorrow, and eyeglasses cases for Murdock Senior Center."

Girl Scout leader Tina Santos said the girls learn good skills, have a bridging ceremony to advance levels, and receive badges and patches on their green vests. First-year junior leader Christine Lagasse said each badge has five requirements, such as learning how to write poetry, helping the younger girls as a junior aide, and being a scribe. The parents, who serve as leaders, form a sisterhood, Santos said.

Emma Bourque, age 10, who



Tara Vocino photo

The Girl Scouts sell cookies this year this year and perform community service projects from September to May.

is also in Troop 11694, said the Scouts picks up trash and earned a bronze award when they planted 150 tulip bulbs at Toy Town Elementary School playground.

Maia Drake, age 11, in Troop 11694, said the Scouts donated shopping bags to the Community Action Center. And Starr Desmond, who is a Brownie in Troop 64509, said the Scouts donated catnip toys to A Better Tomorrow, wrote cards, and shipped junior mints for overseas soldiers in Afghanistan.

Santos said cookie sales last from Jan. 13 to March 5 for \$5 per box. New flavors: S'mores, which is GMO-free,

and Toffeetastic, which is gluten-free, are \$6. The Scouts sell candy and nuts September and October. Santos said the girls sold about 200 boxes of cookies this past Saturday at Market Basket in Rindge.

Lagasse said although the Scouts sell cookies, they earn badges when they learn how about staying fit, how to read food labels, and exercises to burn sugar. Each year, the girls receive a membership pin with the troop number, crest, and insignia on their vests.

"The badges go at the front of their vests, and when they do fun activities, they can earn 'fun patches'," Santos

said. "They often swap pins when they get together."

Sadie said a tentative date to switch over from one level to another, such as from Brownies to Juniors, is May 8 at Oakmont. Seven out of 14 Daisies are bridging; five second-year Juniors are bridging; and Cadets will work on independent projects, although they're a combined group, Santos said.

"We cross the stage like we're graduating," Sadie said.

Parent and Juniors co-leader Michele Michelson said the girls place flags on Memorial and Veterans Day at Calvary and Riverside cemeteries on Glenallan. Tina Sevigny

runs the service unit, which consists of: Winchendon Westminster Ashburnham Girl Scouts.

While Daisies and Juniors have each had turns selling at Market Basket, this weekend the Cadet Troop 30045 will be there on Saturday, Feb. 11 9 a.m.-3 p.m..

Brownies are in second and third grade, Juniors are in fourth and fifth, Cadets are in sixth and seventh, Ambassadors are in eighth and ninth, grade, and Seniors are in ninth to twelfth.

The Girl Scouts dues are \$35 per year. For information, visit gscwm.org, or visit open houses at various schools.

The changing antique market

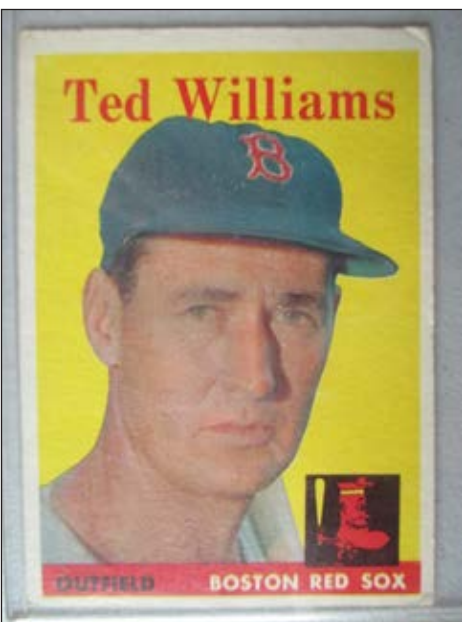
I've been selling antiques and other personal property for over 30 years now. Over the years, I've seen prices on many items continue to climb while other prices have dropped.

Furniture used to be one of the strongest sellers at every auction. Prices for period furniture from the 1700s and early 1800s could easily bring prices in the thousands of dollars. Mission oak furniture also was very desirable. I consigned a mission oak desk by Gustav Stickley to another auction house before I became an auctioneer. It brought \$5,000. Despite some drop in prices there are still plenty of buyers for period furniture and mission oak.

Oak furniture from the early 1900s was very desirable. There were many local dealers who would either sell it the way they bought it or refinish it. Lighter oak was more popular with consumers and refinishing it could increase the value. Even used dining room, bedroom and other mahogany, cherry and maple sets would sell well at auction. Tastes have changed now. If you look at estate sale listings, you can find traditional style dining room sets from the 1920s and up in many sales. As you would suspect, prices have fallen. Fortunately, as one style falls out of favor something else often takes its place. Mid-century modern design furniture prices have grown stronger over the years. Mid-century modern design furniture prices by Scandinavian, American and other designers remain very strong. A modern design chair with a wire frame by Platner brought thousands of dollars in one of our auctions.

Stamps were popular collectibles 30 years ago. Stamp prices have fallen in many cases but there are some that are still very valuable. Older U.S. stamps that are uncanceled can still bring strong prices. We had a collection of more desirable stamps bring well over \$10,000 at one of our auctions a few years ago. Older stamps from the mainland China may also be valuable. Even some of the newer Chinese stamps from the 1980s can sell for thousands.

Silver dimes, quarters, half dollars



and silver dollars from 1964 or before are worth at least the price of silver. Silver prices spiked to nearly \$50 an ounce in 2011 which resulted in coin prices skyrocketing. Rarer coins such as those with low numbers of mintage have numismatic (collector) value well above silver prices. When the Comstock Lode became the first major silver strike in the United States, a U.S. mint was opened in nearby Carson City, Nevada to produce silver coins. Silver dollars with the CC mint mark are very desirable. We sold several Carson City silver dollars from one collection that brought thousands of dollars at auction.

The prices of many collectibles continue to rise. Thirty years ago, there used to be only a small number of auction bidders for 1960s and earlier comic books, baseball cards and toys. Groups of these collectibles could sell for well under \$100 that could now bring 50 times that today.

I'll be making a presentation on antiques from 11 a.m. to noon on Feb. 21 at Goddard House in Worcester. The public is welcome. Registration has begun for my "Evaluating Your Antiques" class at Bay Path's Evening School on March 6. Other events continue to be scheduled. See www.centralmassauctions.com for more information on other upcoming events.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111), info@centralmassauctions.com

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FINANCES
continued from page A1

to be mere numbers.

There were reports, some anecdotal, some proven, of checks being lost or misplaced, with some subsequently found in various drawers in the building. There seemed to be no definitive record of who had paid and who hadn't. Coaches chafed at having to be perceived as being the proverbial bad guy because they were instructed to collect fees and more than one emphasized to the Courier they were not the least bit pleased having been saddled with that responsibility.

At other times, multiple coaches said they resented being told students were ineligible to participate because of user fee issues, though despite that admonition, there appears to be no record of students in fact being turned away.

Bottom line — chaos seemed to rule. Not so much anymore.

"We've made a lot of progress on getting a handle on this," said business manager Rich Ikonnen, pointing out that \$14,555 in user fees was collected for the fall 2016 seasons of cross country, cheer-leading, field hockey, football and boys' and girls' soccer. So far this winter, \$4,860 in user fees have been collected. Additionally, some \$350 in user fees owed from last fall (2015) and spring (2016) have been paid.

Not everyone can so easily afford the fees so for families enduring economic struggles, there is an 'Athletic Fee Payment Agreement', which stipulates a weekly, monthly or otherwise agreed upon schedule. "This seems to be working well," said Ikonnen.

He acknowledged that when he stepped into the business manager's job last summer, "there was a lot of confusion, a lot of valid questions. We're doing a lot better now."

In another aspect of athletic finances, the school took in more than \$12,000 in gate receipts during the fall '16 seasons and over \$2,700 so far this winter.

"Not as many kids are sneaking in the back door," at basketball games, either, said one school official, who declined to be identified so they could speak freely. Between user fees and ticket sales, the athletic department has collected \$34,912 through January this school year.

Many a dreary winter's afternoon has been brightened by the thought of the first flowers of spring. From thumbing through floral seed catalogs to forcing indoor blooms, few simple pleasures compare to brilliant blossoms.

Looking ahead to beautiful flower gardens, this week's column highlights the "how to" of forcing beautiful blooms from branches and bulbs. Included is a listing of seed catalog resources. So, curl up with a hot drink, grab a pen and paper to take notes, and prepare for some horticultural inspiration!

(Heading) Branches: From Buds to Blooms

Bringing budding branches indoors and forcing them to bloom is a surefire way to infuse a bit of spring into your winter-weary space. Nearly any shrub that blossoms in the spring is suitable for forced blooming. Here in New England, a perennial favorite is the forsythia. The hardy, bright yellow flowers and long, woody branches make for an impressive live winter centerpiece. Other popular



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

candidates include pussy willow, flowering dogwood, as well as peach and apple trees.

To do: Prune branches that are beginning to bud from healthy, mature shrubs. Cut at an angle below a node, snipping evenly around the plant until you have several suitable branches. (As a bonus, the pruning will promote more blooms in the spring). Once inside, submerge the branch under water and make a fresh, angled cut on the bottom; if you split or smash the cut, the branch will take in more water. Immediately after cutting, place in a clean vase with room temperature water. If your house is dry, you might want to increase the humidity by loosely wrapping the branches in plastic wrap for at least the first few days or until buds begin to respond.

Keep branches in a cool area, changing water every few days. Before long, the buds should open and you'll be treated to the fragrance and color of springtime for several weeks.

Note: Expect Pussy willow to bloom in about two weeks; Forsythia, two to three weeks; Apple, three weeks; Flowering Dogwood, three weeks.

Seed Catalogs

A garden can enhance an outdoor living space like nothing else, and planning a garden is almost as enjoyable as reaping its many benefits. While online seed catalogs are readily available, few indulgences compare to cozying up on a chilly winter's day with a seed catalog and dreams of a budding spring garden. Thankfully, many seed companies still offer old fashioned catalogs to thumb through!

With a flurry of catalog offerings on the market, choosing those that suit your needs can be a pleasant challenge. The following catalog company offerings allow for perfect perusing,

planning and planting - of a spectacular spring garden!

ANNIE'S ANNUALS & PERENNIALS, LLC
801 Chesley Ave
Richmond, CA 94801
(888)266-4370
anniesannuals.com. Click Order Free Catalog.

The catalog is filled with exclusive plants, new introductions and photos of demonstration gardens in bloom! (Plant catalog only, no seeds)

W. ATLEE BURPEE & CO.
300 Park Ave.
Warminster, PA 18974
800-888-1447, Fax 800-487-5530
burpee.com. Click on Request a Catalog at bottom of page.

Good general catalog; one of the best known US seed companies. Free catalog.

BAKER CREEK HEIRLOOM SEED CO.
2278 Baker Creek Rd
Mansfield, MO 65704
(417) 924-8917
rareseeds.com. Click on Request Catalog.
Their catalog has over 1300

SEE A PHOTO YOU WOULD LIKE TO ORDER?

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508-764-4325 or drop us an email at
photos@stonebridgepress.com



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Serving the communities of Winchendon, Ashburnham, Athol, Gardner, Fitchburg, Leominster, Westminster, Templeton, Phillipston and southern N.H.



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HELP WANTED
PART TIME
Gas attendants at Valero. Inquire at Valero to fill out an application. On site. Flexible hours. For information call (978) 320-6375. TFN
CNA/LNA

OUTSIDE ADVERTISING SALES REP.

Energetic salesperson needed to develop advertising prospects and sell newspaper advertising to local businesses. Responsible for meeting deadlines, and working to meet sales goals of territory. Must be driven with the desire to succeed, and possess self-motivation. Salary plus commissions. Previous sales experience is required. We are looking for a conscientious person with excellent customer service skills. Newspaper experience a plus.

Please send resume to:

Alberta Bell
The Gardner News
309 Central Street • P.O. Box 340, Gardner, MA 01440

Broadview is seeking enthusiastic, motivated, and caring individuals to join our staff. Looking for CNA/ LNA candidates to fill part time positions on our 3-11 shift and our 11-7 shift. We have a very unique, employee friendly environment that includes free meals during every shift! If interested email Lindsey at Lconnor@broadviewassistedliving.com.

JOB SEEKERS
Job Seekers Networking Group hosted by North Central Career Center and Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce. Meetings are open to all job seekers and are held on Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. at the Chamber conference room, 29 Parker St. 2nd floor, Gardner. Contact the Chamber at (978) 632-1780.

EMPLOYERS
These help wanted ads are FREE! Contact the Courier to find out how to get help for your business by calling (978) 297-0050 x 100 or email ruth@stonebridgepress.com.

FOR RENT
WINCHENDON
One-bedroom apartments from \$625. Clean, parking, quiet, walking distance to stores. No pets. Call (978) 297-3149. 2.10

GOODRICH APARTMENTS
Now taking applications. Call for guidelines. (978) 297-0231. TFN

ROOMS FOR RENT
Downtown Winchendon, immediate occupancy: located on second floor in secured, peaceful, friendly, well maintained, quiet & drug free building. Independent group of older gentlemen to co-habitat, hallway & bath facilities are shared. 1 parking space, dumpster use, heat/HW included, electric included (except AC in summer). \$475 per month. References, income verification, first & last to move in. Applications available: Dick's Place Barbershop, 298 Central St. (978) 297-2281.

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WANTED
Motorcycles, ATVs, scooters. Cash paid for good deals. (978) 297-1800. 11.1.16

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
Drum teacher Leon LaPlante seeks used instruments and drum stands to help out high school students. (978) 297-1250.

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91 Central Street, Winchendon, MA 01475

Fax Coupon: 978-297-2177
For more info., call 978-297-0050



LICENSE

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board at this time.” Selectmen Austin Cyganiewicz then followed with, “I agree. I think we are trying to do our best to work with the owner of IGA. As much as the excuses were which were presented, I think we still wanted to do our best because the board is interested in looking out for the people and businesses of Winchendon. Unfortunately, it doesn’t seem like it is going to work out in this case. The business owner left his

employees without jobs, and presented a difficult situation for the community and basically that’s all I have to say.” Barbaro replied, “And again he is not even here. Again, what does that say, that he doesn’t respect what we do. If your license is on the line, I would think you would show up to defend it, or at least say something about what he was trying to do. I don’t think he is taking us seriously or cares.” Town Manager Keith Hickey informed the board the legal requirement for notice was filled by notifying Szelest about the meeting to discuss his license by both certified

and regular mail, and the stub was signed proving he accepted the notification so he was aware of the meeting. It was then Barbaro brought up the point, “He is going to make money on a license that he is possibly going to transfer, where if we have him surrender it, the person who wants to apply for it can save themselves a significant amount of money by applying by going through the regulatory process. He could sell it, we could turn them down, and it would just delay the process. This way it is clean.” LaBrie asked, “If we vote to have Szelest surrender the

license what is the time frame, and does he have the option of appealing the discussion to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission?” Hickey replied, “The board can decide on the time frame at this meeting and make a decision, and yes, he does have the option to appeal the decision to the ABCC.” LaBrie then asked Hickey, “Is there any sense of if Szelest has anybody interested in purchasing the license from him?” Hickey replied, “I have heard nothing specifically from him. There has been some discussion of interest-

ed parties, but at this point there has not been an application submitted to the town to transfer that license to another party.” Selectboard Chair Barbara Anderson called for a vote. All members present, Barbaro, LaBrie, Cyganiewicz, and Anderson voted to immediately suspend the class 15 liquor license of the former IGA Central Supermarket. Hickey closed with, “We will notify the owner of the former IGA in writing tomorrow morning that the board voted and his license has been surrendered immediately.”

AHEAD

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ing, “These are accepted and we are going to be rolling.” MSBA SOI: Haddad approached the committee requesting a vote to allow him to notify the Massachusetts School Building Authority with a Statement of Interest, that he would be applying for the MSBA to assist the district with what Haddad referred to as, “Some upcoming major repairs.” Haddad read a copy of the proposed letter to the MSBA dated Feb. 3. The letter of application explained two needs for major repairs at MMHS involving the need to replace two boilers, and the building’s roof.

The boilers have been leaking from different sections, with various sections having already been replaced. Haddad explained, “To disassemble the boilers to repair them would create a high cost. As the boilers are 22 years old there is a risk that the new seals would not align properly during reassembly. Other items which have needed multiple replacements on the boilers included the cones, burners, and flue.” Describing serious roof leaks at MMHS Haddad said, “There are multiple reoccurring events every year where various sections of roof have had to be patched to prevent leaks all around the building.

MMHS is now 22 years old, as believe it or not the first graduating class was back in 1995. The boilers run hard every day, so they take a beating. New boilers would be much more efficient.” After brief discussion committee members voted unanimously to allow Haddad to submit the paperwork. NEASC: MMHS Principal Josh Romano outlined a detailed plan for the district to have its accreditation confirmed by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, which has more than 2,000 member schools. The process costs about \$20,000 over a two year period, with the final accreditation costing about \$3,300 as

part of the overall cost, and will take place Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 2018. Romano commented, “I like to plan ahead.” Romano explained, “This is an outside agency to give a validation of our school’s programs with a set of standards.” The program ensures the schools are meeting the needs of all students, and the town’s tax dollars are being spent properly.

When addressing the self-reflection component Romano said, “It sounds light and fluffy, but it’s actually the intense hard part of it that takes a while.” The school staff will divide into seven sub-committees, each being responsible for doing a self-study of the school in an area. It will include a survey of staff, of students, parents, a collection of student work, and the writing of the report for the team of educators who will be sent to the school. The second component will be a peer review, with a 12 member team visiting Winchendon. It will include an examination of student work, interviews with students, parents, teaching and support staff, administration, and school committee, student shadowing, a facilities tour, and class observations. Romano was complimented for addressing the process and requirements very early by committee members. Romano replied, “I didn’t want to see us

be awesome at 18 of 19 things, and then get rated needs improvement because we didn’t have that 19th thing.” MASC & Family Skate Night: Haddad announced, “We have developed a great relationship with the Winchendon School. In March, Stephanie Rondeau is taking 18 to 20 students to Cape Cod for the Massachusetts Association of Students Councils. We have asked John Kerney, the Head of School, if we could borrow two vans and he has agreed to do that. We also allowed them to use our auditorium for two days in the fall for their play.” Further explaining the relationship, Haddad went on to say, “We are also working on the details of a Family Skate for faculty & their families to be held at the Winchendon School Ritchie Arena. We are working on confirming a tentative date of Saturday, Feb. 18, during the hours of 2-5 p.m. with details forthcoming. Everybody will be invited. We have worked so hard in the district to get so many things done during the first part of the year, and I think people need to celebrate.” Munis Software: Business Manager Richard Ikonen said there was recently a meeting with the town manager, town accountant, and the Abrams Group to discuss the new version of Munis software and chart of

accounts changes. The roll out will be July 1, and the system will go in to test mode within the next few weeks so “we can identify any areas of concern we may have.” There will be a meeting Thursday, Feb. 9 at 3:30 p.m. to investigate data integrity. “It appears they have transferred our data in to the test mode, and we will run some numbers to make sure everything looks like it should,” Ikonen said. Ikonen also said there will be an audit on the end of year report finalized December 2016. Included will be SPED grants, Title 1 grants, the report, and food services. Haddad also told committee members that they were beginning to look in to the Chartwells contract for food services as rebidding eminent. Tracey Barrows, who serves as a paraprofessional for the district at the Memorial School, was announced by Haddad as the February 2017 Blue Devil Cool Award winner. Committee member Lawrence Murphy said, “Tracey was once a student of mine, and the same things that make her Blue Devil Cool now, made her Blue Devil Cool even then.” There will be a joint board meetings scheduled with the BOS Monday, Feb. 27, at 6:30 p.m. of the School Committee, FinCom, and the Audit Committee.

FURNACE

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all developments Hickey said, “There was no need for them to really have to make a formal decision. They were satisfied that we had done our due diligence as they were always kept in the loop.” Further explaining the project Hickey added, “When the bid came back higher than we could afford for the oil system, the consultant came back with the propane option, and eventually the bid and wining contractor was awarded to Guardian Energy Management Solutions of Marlborough.” Hickey also confirmed, “The cost of this project was primarily paid for with a grant from the Robinson Broadhurst Foundation” saving taxpayers nearly \$100,000 in costs. The replacement project was scheduled three years ago according to Hickey who said, “There was money approved at town meeting to borrow. Shortly after that, the town’s financial challenges began to come up and the state would not allow the town to borrow additional monies. A grant was then applied for with Robinson Broadhurst, and that money was

approved in 2015, and then sat there until this past fall.” Items such as any asbestos insulation found will be completely removed, new fuel tanks and new fuel lines installed, along with all and any new electrical wiring needed. Hickey also explained the old oil tanks need to be dug up, and will be dug up by the employees of the DPW helping to keep the project cost down. Hickey also added, “While we are confident there is no contamination, we will obviously still test the ground to make sure. Additionally, a little more asbestos was found, and if it costs a bit more to remove, we will absorb that additional cost as it has to go.” With the new dual unit system, one unit is 70 percent a powerful as the much larger older boiler. If that 70 percent is no longer enough due to day to day seasonal heating requirements, the second unit will then come on to assist the first. It was confirmed that at the still currently low oil prices, the total 2016 oil expense bill for the town hall was \$13,640. At a 20 percent projected savings, the total 2017 fuel bill if prices stay consistent would come in at \$10,912 and yield a first year savings of \$2,728.

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Brian K. Bartlett & Kimberly D. Casavant a/k/a Kimberly D. Bartlett** to Beneficial Massachusetts, Inc. dated April 25, 2006, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38850, Page 339; said mortgage was then assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust by virtue of an assignment dated February 25, 2016, and recorded in Book 55048, Page 296; of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 01:00 PM on **February 21, 2017**, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of 15 Royalston Road North, Winchendon, MA 01475. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:
THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL PROPERTY, TO-WIT: A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF ROYALSTON ROAD NORTH IN WINCHEDON, WORCESTER COUNTY, AND BEING SHOWN AS LOT 4 ON A PLAN ENTITLED, ‘PLAN OF LOTS PREPARED FOR PHILIP W. CASAVANT AND PAUL W. RICE, WINCHENDON, MA, SCALE : 1 INCH -60 FEET - OCTOBER 20, 1986, BRIAN M. SZOC, 32 PLEASANT STREET, GARDNER, MA 01440. WHICH PLAN IS RECORDED WITH WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS, PLAN BOOK 565, PLAN 16, BOUND AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING

AT A STONE MONUMENT IN THE NORTHERLY LINE OF ROYALSTON ROAD, NORTH AT THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LOT 3 ON SAID PLAN; THENCE NORTH 55 DEG. 39 MIN. 58 SEC. WEST BY THE NORTHERLY LINE OF ROYALSTON ROAD, NORTH 118.60 FEET TO A STONE MARKER: THENCE NORTH 55 DEG. 02 MIN. 29 SEC. WEST, BY THE NORTHERLY LINE OF ROYALSTON ROAD, NORTH 325.16 FEET TO A POINT IN THE NORTHERLY LINE OF ROYALSTON ROAD. NORTH AT A CORNER OF LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF LAWRENCE J. AND ELIZA OUVAL; THENCE NORTH 61 DEG. 04 MIN. 48 MIN. EAST BY SAID DUVAL LAND 71.70 FEET A BLAZED BIRCH; THENCE BY VARYING COURSES BY HARD GROUND BY SAID DUVAL LAND 638.00 FEET MORE OR LESS, TO AN IRON PIPE AT THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LAND NOW DR FORMERLY OF PHILIP W. CASAVANT, IN LINE OF LOT 1 SHOWN ON SAID PLAN; THENCE SOUTH 76 DEG. 39 MIN. 05 SEC. WEST BY LOT 1 ON SAID PLAN, 124.94 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE 23 DEG. 35 MIN. 55 SEC. WEST, BY LOT 1 AND LOT 3 ON SAID PLAN, 210.00 FEET TO A STONE MARKER IN THE NORTHERLY LINE OF ROYALSTON ROAD, NORTH AND THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING 87,500 SQUARE FEET OR LESS BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED FROM KIMBERLY D. CASAVANT F/K/A KIMBERLY D. GIRARD, TENANCY NOT STATED TO KIMBERLY D. CASAVANT AND BRIAN K. BARTLETT, J/T BY DEED RECORDED 07/31/00, IN BOOK 22840, AT PAGE 351, IN THE REGISTER ‘S

OFFICE OF WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.
Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.
Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier’s or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier’s or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC, (“DG&L”), time being of the essence. The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale-date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date. The premises is to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, leases, tenancies, and rights of possession, building and zoning laws, encumbrances, condominium liens, if

any and all other claim in the nature of liens, if any there be.
In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder, providing that said second highest bidder shall deposit with the Mortgagee’s attorneys, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein. If the second highest bidder declines to purchase the within described property, the Mortgagee reserves the right to purchase the within described property at the amount bid by the second highest bidder. The foreclosure deed and the consideration paid by the successful bidder shall be held in escrow by DG&L, (hereinafter called the “Escrow Agent”) until the deed shall be released from escrow to the successful bidder at the same time as the consideration is released to the Mortgagee, whereupon all obligations of the Escrow Agent shall be deemed to have been properly fulfilled and the Escrow Agent shall be discharged. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
Dated: January 13, 2017 U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust By its Attorney DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC 100 Cummings Center Suite 225D Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 921-2670 www.dgandl.com 53111 (BARTLETT) FEI # 1078.01947 01/27/2017, 02/03/2017, 02/10/2017
January 27, 2017
February 3, 2017
February 10. 2017



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