

# Newest neighbors on Central Street throw open their doors



**BY JERRY CARTON**  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Winchendon’s new police station on Central Street was open for a public tour last Saturday and despite rainy weather, several hundred visitors turned out for the event.

The official opening closed the book on a long and winding process some six years in the making. That’s how long it took for the department to be able to move from its increasingly outgrown and musty former headquarters on Pleasant Street to the renovated former district courthouse building.

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Police Chief David Walsh wields the giant scissors to welcome all to the grand opening of the new police station at 80 Front St. Surrounding him are Selectman Austin Cyganiewicz, Town Manager Keith Hickey, state Sen. Anne Gobi, state Rep. Jon Zlotnik, Selectman Audrey LaBrie, Selectman Mike Barbaro and Skip Wood. More photos page 12.

## ConCom votes to allow two-foot drawdown



Due to serious concerns about the structural integrity of a dam down stream, the DPW began the annual Lake Monomonac water level draw down at the Monomonac West Dam on Tuesday to divert as much water as possible from the old White’s Mill Pond dam currently owned by Brandywine Farms Inc. Superintendent Al Gallant verified that three 8-inch boards were pulled to begin the process.

**BY TARA VOCINO**  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — The Conservation Commission postponed approving a three-foot drawdown of Lake Monomonac over the winter, despite pleas from the Winchendon Springs Lake Association that the deeper-than-normal drawdown be allowed on Thursday. Jon Lewandowsky, representing the Lake Association, told commission members the three-foot drawdown in the lake’s water level would help to reduce the amount of property damage caused by winter ice to lakefront properties.

“We’ve gone door-to-door speaking to residents who have shallow wells,” Lewandowsky said. “They depend upon shallow wells for their water supply.”

He said money is a constraint with an increasing mill-foil problem, which decreases

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## Charter changes considered at town meeting

WINCHENDON — Most of the offered changes to the town’s charter by the committee are to make the document gender neutral and to modernize the language.

In many cases, the paragraphs unnecessary to the timely execution of the needs of the town because they have already been superceded, or are arranged elsewhere in the

document, have been deleted.

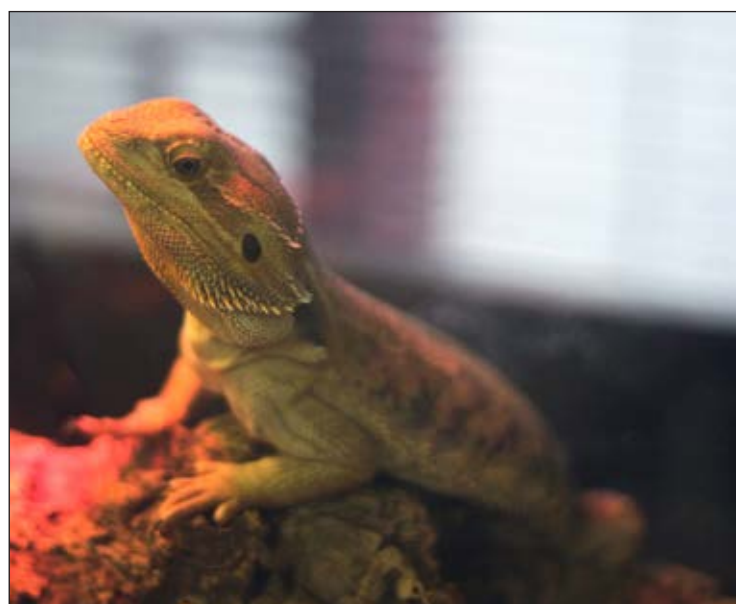
Chairman Judy LaJoie and members David Walsh and Lee Jacoby made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen Monday night as a first look at the proposed changes. The document is posted in its entirety on the town’s website (town-ofwinchendon.com) with the changes highlighted.

Jacoby, an English teacher,

made many grammatical and style changes to the document, modernizing the language and taking down unnecessary capital letters to lower case.

Often, the language could be restated in more modern terms and delete paragraphs of information to a succinct few words.

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A bearded dragon is just one of the critters now sharing Murdock High School with eager science students.

## It’s ALIVE!

### LAB BRINGS NATURE INDOORS

**BY JERRY CARTON**  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — A “live lab” is a new feature in Murdock High School’s biology classes this year and the trio of teachers say it’s been a welcome addition.

Scattered through the classrooms of Sherry Fairbanks, Dylan Gamache and Dave Larson are all sorts of critters including bearded dragons, a couple mice, turtles, frogs, a snake, and various types of fish.

“We’re still in the process of setting up the live-lab,” said Fairbanks, adding, “it has already had a tremendous impact on our students and their level of education. The students have made real connections with the animals and as an educator it is wonderful to be able to talk about adapta-

tions such as camouflage and use live animals to reinforce the concept.”

“When students are hands-on, they’re more invested,” noted Gamache. “They really are ‘hands-on,’ too. They get to hold some of them and see the reactions. We watch the way they act, the way they eat, and that leads to a better understanding of biology,” he said.

Students learned too, some species reproduce quite quickly.

“We had a couple guppies,” Gamache recalled “and then we had a lot of guppies overnight,” he laughed. “Guppies reproduce faster than rabbits.”

The lab became a reality through a grant from Donor’s Choice, an organization

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Delay of game slows down Murdock  
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**WEEKLY QUOTE**  
“Imagination is more important than knowledge.”  
Albert Einstein



# We are the song: GALA hosts music artists

**BY TARA VOCINO**  
WINCHENDON — With winter approaching, about 10 people gathered for a songwriter's café, hosted by the Gardner Area League of Artists, at the History and Cultural Center last weekend.

Each month, musicians have to write an original song about an unfamiliar topic. This month, the theme was global warming and fracking.

Musicians explained the meaning behind each song before performing it.

Singer, songwriter and guitarist Diane Lincoln, of Royalston, who goes by the stage name Linq, performed, "Bully."

"It's about a gay black man who was robbed and beaten so badly that he had to be put in a hospital," Linq said. "I thought of Matthew Shephard, and how he was murdered and tied to a fence."

She sang that no one

is born racist, a homophobe, or a hater.

"It's what they hear and see in schools, churchyards, streets, movies and television," Linq sang. "They learn this stuff at home. It just might change the world."

The victim hung himself after being called queer.

"The hearse rolls by," Linq sang. "Kids catch a glimpse of the ghost that will haunt them for the rest of their lives."

Americana composer, guitarist, singer and songwriter Sonya Heller, of Harlem, NY, performed, "I Do".

The challenge was to use the same chords as the previous song done in the same style.

"Your love is like fruits from the orchard," Heller sang. "Your love is eternal. Your love is shaped like a valentine. I'm tracing your body next to mine."

Rene' Lake-Gagliardi,

of Royalston, said in the lobby Linq's bullying song hit home.

"I know the boy's mother, who lives in Springfield," Lake-Gagliardi said. "It's emotional to hear what the family has gone through. It's nice to hear a tribute of such unnecessary challenges."

Lake-Gagliardi said it is better that Linq does not mention the boy's name.

"It tells everyone's story based on one real situation," Lake-Gagliardi said. "It's more powerful that way. It's heartfelt stuff."

Gardner resident James Clune performed "Extinction" about biblical topics.

Heller commented on Clune's delivery.

"I like your form," Heller told Clune. "I like how you slowed down for the bridge. I like the repetition of it. It is something people can resonate



**Diane Lincoln, of Royalston, who goes by the name Linq, performs "Bully" during songwriter's café at the History and Cultural Center.**



**Winchendon resident Brian Dickens performed an original song about the Gay-Straight Alliance formed at Murdock High School.**

with. It's memorable."

History and Cultural Center President Don O'Neil said it isn't the first time the space has hosted a music event.

"We have photographs, birth certificates, maps

and resident history in the 22-room mansion," O'Neil said.

GALA President Debbie Giordano asked guests if the next songwriter's café should be held on a Friday night or

Sunday late afternoon.

"There are open mics at a lot of other places tonight, and musicians couldn't make it," Giordano said. "Sunday afternoon might be better, but then there's football games."

## OLD MURDOCK ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER

Here is the list of activities happening at the Old Murdock Senior Center for the month of November 2016. As always, lunch is served daily starting at 11:30. Reservations are required and can be made one day prior by calling the Center at 978-297-3155.

November 1: Wii Bowling 9:30; Pool/Cards/ Shuffleboard; Flu Clinic

11-12:00 Please bring your insurance Card

November 2: Wii Bowling 9:30; Chair Exercise 9:30; Yoga 10:00; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard/ BINGO 12:30

November 3: Wii Bowling 9:30; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard

November 4: Coloring 10-11

November 7: Wii Bowling 9:30; Chair Exercise - 9:30; Yoga 10:00; Market

Basket - 12:15

November 8: Election Day - Center Open for Coffee and Bake Sale (no lunches served)

November 9: Wii Bowling 9:30; Chair Exercise 9:30; Yoga 10:00; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard/ BINGO 12:30

November 10: Fallon Rep 10-12; Wii Bowling 9:30; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard

November 11: Center Closed - Veteran's Day

November 14: Wii Bowling 9:30; Chair Exercise - 9:30; Yoga 10:00; Market Basket - 12:15

November 15: Senior Whole Health Rep 10-12; Wii Bowling 9:30; Pool/Cards/ Shuffleboard

November 16: Wii Bowling 9:30; Chair Exercise 9:30; Yoga 10:00; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard; BINGO 12:30

November 17: Wii Bowling 9:30; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard

November 18: Peanut Auction 10:30

November 21: Wii Bowling 9:30; Chair Exercise - 9:30; Yoga 10:00; Market Basket - 12:15

November 22: Senior Wellness Day 9:30-12:30; Wii Bowling 9:30; Pool/Cards/ Shuffleboard

November 23: Shopping - Gardner 9:15; Wii Bowling 9:30; Chair Exercise 9:30; Yoga 10:00; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard/BINGO 12:30

November 24: CENTER CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

November 25: CENTER CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

November 28: Wii Bowling 9:30; Chair Exercise - 9:30; Yoga 10:00; Market Basket - 12:15

November 29: Wii Bowling 9:30; Pool/Cards/ Shuffleboard

November 30: Wii Bowling 9:30; Chair Exercise 9:30; Yoga 10:00; Pool/Card Games/Shuffleboard; BINGO 12:30

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ATHOL | ASHBURNHAM | BALDWINVILLE | BARRE | GARDNER | WINCHENDON



*Courtesy photo*

### GENEROUS DONATION

Now in its second year, the Kiwanis Club of Winchendon is once again providing nutritious food to children at Toy Town Elementary School through its backpack program. The children, identified by the school nurse, are provided a backpack of snacks for the weekend, when they will not be getting the school's lunch programs. The backpacks are returned the following week and refilled. It is a costly program to continue, and Kiwanis appreciate donations of both funds and food.

So it is with great thanks the donation this quarter by the Women's Circle of Giving was accepted by Kiwanis Vice President Jennifer Haddad, who coordinates the backpack program. Circle of Giving representative Patty Delay presented Haddad with \$5,300 toward the local program.

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# Make yourself familiar with ballot questions

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

REGION — Early voting began this week and in addition to the presidential, congressional, and legislative races, a quartet of ballot initiatives await the verdict and one revolving around schools has been getting the most attention.

Approval of Question 2 would allow a dozen new charter schools every year or permit current charter schools to expand, though in the latter case, they couldn't exceed 1-percent of the statewide enrollment in public schools. The referendum has received significant media exposure with an expensive barrage of ads on both sides of the issue.

Winchendon Superintendent Steve Haddad said he opposes Question 2. The Boston Globe has done likewise.

Ann Marie O'Connor Little, who represents Great Schools Massachusetts contended, "Voting yes does not harm local school districts. Cities and towns with new public charter schools will receive more state education

aid if question 2 passes." Haddad took issue with that. "That's not accurate at all," he asserted. "Public school systems like ours would be seriously hurt if Question 2 passes. New charter schools are a threat to public education."

Question 1 would greenlight the addition of one casino in the state. Proponents note the existing casino pulled in \$60 million with about one of every \$5 going to the state's struggling horse racing industry, "sustaining jobs at racetracks and breeding farms," said Gene McCain of the Horse Racing Jobs and Education Committee, adding, "passage will assure that the long tradition of horse racing in Massachusetts survives while bringing in thousands of new jobs."

The Committee for Responsible and Sustainable Economic Development argued, "this ballot question was written by one casino developer for one purpose — his own gain," said chair Celeste Myers, who urged voters to "vote no to postpone the question of gambling expansion until a review

of the costs and benefits of existing Massachusetts gaming establishments is completed."

Question 3, if passed would "prohibit any confinement of pigs, calves and hens that prevents them from lying down, standing up, fully extending their limbs, or turning around freely."

That makes it an easy call for Stephanie Harris, campaign director for Citizens for Farm Animal Protection.

"This will remove inhumane and unsafe products from the Massachusetts marketplace. No animal should be immobilized in a cramped cage. Proper treatment of animals is better for farmers," she said, adding, "From McDonalds to Walmart, retailers are switching to cage-free eggs, the right thing to do at the right cost."

But William Bell of the Portland, ME based New England Brown Egg Council replied, "let the free marketplace respond to consumer concerns" and insisted, "an increase in food prices will 'disproportionately' harm lower income households and can impact their ability to maintain a healthy and

adequate diet."

If okayed, the regulations will not take effect until Jan. 1, 2022.

The final ballot referendum would, if ratified, "allow persons 21 and older to possess use, and transfer marijuana and products containing marijuana concentrate and to cultivate marijuana all in limited amounts and would provide for the regulation and taxation of commercial sale of marijuana and marijuana products."

That's a mouthful, but Will Luzier, a proponent of passage, pointed out, "passing this measure will allow local law enforcement to shift resources and focus to serious and violent crimes," noting, "this is working in Alaska, Colorado, Oregon and Washington, generating millions of dollars for education and infrastructure."

Rep. Hannah Kane looks at the question differently.

"Creating a billion-dollar commercial marijuana industry that, just like Big Tobacco, would make millions on the backs of our communities, compromise health and safety and harm our kids," she insisted.

## 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.com](mailto:ruth@stonebridgepress.com).



Courtesy photo

Senior Leon Gaulin of Winchendon is the new student representative to the Monty Tech School Committee pictured with school counselor Mark Haschig.

## Winchendon senior serving as representative

FITCHBURG — Leon Gaulin, age 16, of Winchendon, is serving as student representative to the Monty Tech School Committee for the 2016-17 school year.

A senior in the engineering technology program, Leon applied for the position, garnered the necessary recommendations, and ultimately, received his classmates' endorsement via a school-wide election.

Leon serves as a cadet captain and a company commander for Monty Tech's Marine Corps JROTC program. He was a member of the JROTC's Cyber-Security team that two years ago won first place in the nation in the All-Service Division of the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot VII finals competition.

A member of SkillsUSA, Leon was part of the engineering technology team that two years ago brought home a gold medal at the organization's 51st annual National Leadership & Skills Competition, held in Louisville, KY.

This year he is serving as a tutor for the newly established Semper Fidelis study club, sponsored by the JROTC program. As an JROTC cadet for four years, he has donated countless hours volunteering and performing community service projects.

"Leon serves as the captain in charge of the program's Cyber Security Team, a.k.a. the Marine Raiders. Last year, he led his team to outscore 1,800 teams from across the nation during three, six-hour cyber security challenges, which resulted in the team earning the right to compete in the National CyberPatriot Competition," said First Sgt. Paul Jorner, JROTC instructor-in-charge and CyberPatriot team advisor.

"Leon has volunteered hundreds of hours supporting cyber-security camps for middle-school students, boot drives for the Salvation Army, the U.S. Marine Corps' annual Toys 4 Tots campaign, and raising money and awareness for Service Dogs for Veterans," he said.

In his role as School Committee student representative, Leon attends monthly committee meetings and reports on student activities and events. He also serves as the liaison between the School Committee and the student body regarding student-related issues and concerns.

"I am glad to serve as the student representative to the School Committee because it gives students a voice in the decisions that affect each and every student. The representative needs to accurately represent the thoughts and opinions of the student body," the teen said. The position also gives students an opportunity to take a leadership role, he added.

School counselor Mark Haschig, who serves as advisor for the student representative position and for the Student Advisory Committee, said Leon is a confident, quiet and unassuming student leader who is highly respected by his peers, faculty and staff.

"He is very involved in numerous school activities, particularly as a student leader and CyberPatriot team member, and volunteers his time for community activities outside of school."

Leon plans on pursuing a degree in computer engineering next year.



Tracy Gambill photo

## POETS GATHER

Gardner Area League of Artists President Deb Giordano addresses those gathered for an afternoon of poetry and reading at the Murdock-Whitney House Museum on a brisk fall afternoon recently. Featured was Ann Marie Meltzer of Greenfield who shared from her newly published work *Coming of Age*.

# Bridge repair MAY be in offing

BY KEITH KENT  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — The Front Street bridge officially taken out of commission by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation is currently under design plans for repair as DPW Superintendent Al Gallant stated it is by far the number one topic based on calls, complaints, and requests.

The bridge while just outside of the town's business district has caused nearly endless traffic congestion down town as a result of the detour created by it, and countless reoccurring near motor vehicle accidents.

The closure of the bridge caused a detour at the intersection of Front, Water, and High streets, rerouted traffic to the intersection of Water, Ash, and Spring streets. This causes any traffic leaving the business district heading toward Old Centre to have to travel Water Street to High

Street, and any traffic from High Street to carefully navigate Water Street onto Route 12 at the tricky three street intersection.

Gallant explained, "I can say at this time, we have set aside between \$350 and \$400,000 in Chapter 90 funds and monies specifically for the Front Street bridge to weld two steel girders and two steel plates. We could have repaired three streets with those funds, but saved it for the project due to the amount of requests we received to fix the bridge as soon as possible."

In an effort to get the project rolling, Gallant said, "In February 2015, I contracted an engineering company to start designing the repair. I also went to MassDOT and spoke with their engineers and asked if there was any way to have the state or feds help the town to pay for this bridge repair. Their reply was yes, but you're 1,132 on the waiting list of requests,

and most likely 7 to 10 years out!" Gallant immediately followed up with, "There is no way this town can wait that long!"

Realizing the severity of the problems caused by the bridge closure, Gallant hired an engineering company to design a fix which cost \$46,000.

The plans were sent to MassDOT Bridge & Engineering.

MassDOT waited 15 days to send it back to another engineering company, as they said they were too busy to review it, and the next engineering company reviewed it with suggestions of what else to fix during the repairs.

"The company I hired is now waiting for the state to give them the final paperwork and OK to begin the bridge repairs. Our lead engineer on the project Peter Reed of BSC Group, with Micah Morrison serving as the senior structural engineer," said Gallant.

BSC is the same engineering company working on the repair design for the Royalston Road North bridge.

The Front Street bridge is just the beginning of the town's bridge problems, according to Gallant. As bridge size is the guiding factor for which funding sources any bridge 10 to 20 feet in length falls under the State Municipal Small Bridge Program. On the larger bridges, the Federal level pays 80 percent, and the State pays the balance. Gallant also explained the Maple Street bridge is not even on the state's radar yet due to the extensive state bridge waiting list.

The MSBP through the state will give up to \$500,000 per year to repair or preserve any small bridge.

Gallant noted, "All paper work for the first round of the town's submission is due by Oct. 31, with a following round of paper work due by Feb. 28, 2017. After looking

at a lot of our bridges and culverts in a two hour meeting with a MassDOT representative however, many will not even qualify for that program, such as the Robbins Road culvert as an example which is only 4 feet in width, and the program requires a 10 foot minimum. In addition to this, the town would be required to front up to the first \$500,000 and it would then be reimbursed by the state, so we would have to find the money before we could begin if a project qualified."

When asked about the Royalston Road North bridge, Gallant added, "That bridge is going to cost over \$2,000,000 to repair. Once repaired, the bridge will be 58 feet in length. Federal guidelines require whatever the original length of the bridge, the replacement must be one-third bigger to allow more water flow to not disturb its riverbanks and or abutments. The only good thing about this bridge is that with the feds paying 80 and the State picking up the other 20 percent, the town won't have to pay anything."

As for a start date for Front Street, Gallant said, "Let's just say we get the OK by the state to start working on the bridge. We will then put it out to bid, which takes 30 days. The contractor that wins the bid will have an amount of time to do it, which could be a year. I would be very upset if the project was not all fixed and repaired by next summer of 2017. I would be physically upset."

In closing Gallant said, I have been keeping the town manager in the loop of every email regarding the progress of this project, and others. We are going as fast as the process allows us, and we are doing everything we can to get this bridge fixed and alleviate the traffic hazards caused by its closure."



Greg Vine photo

## ‘ELLO MATES

He even resembles a Beatle! The tribute band Beatles for Sale helped the local Lions Club raise some much needed funds over the weekend. With so many events on hand, the crowd wasn't as big as was hoped, still organizers were pleased with the outcome and hope the band will return for another engagement at a later time.



WINCHENDON COURIER

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EDITOR: RUTH DEAMICIS

VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

Early birds...

As of Wednesday morning more than 200 people in Winchendon had taken advantage of early voting to cast their ballots.

Good news for people who have varied work schedules, have difficulties with childcare or transportation, or just find it more convenient to stop by on a week-day while running other errands. This year's election just may have the biggest voter turn out in recent modern history.

It is actually a throwback to our earliest history, in the days of our earliest elections having a whole month available for people to stop at the official place of voting to cast a ballot when they could manage to get there was normal. In a day when traveling by horse and wagon was the only way to get anywhere, and news traveled slower than people, it was the only way.

Yet elections did happen, and we will see it happen again this year. Electronic counting means this whole process will take place quickly despite the weeks of previously cast votes; they are being counted as they are cast and will be included in totals at the end. No hang ups for the processing.

People do need to remember we are not casting votes directly for a candidate though, we are directing the electoral college in each state how to cast THEIR ballots. The winning candidate must garner 270 electoral votes to win the election. It has indeed happened in the past that a candidate has seemed to have won by the number of votes cast by us, we the people, yet that candidate did NOT get enough electoral votes to get the election for president. Each state has a set number of electoral votes available.

Massachusetts has 11; Florida has 29, Texas has 38, Ohio has 18, California has 55. So NOW you know why the candidates spend so much time in certain states, trying to win over those voters, but places like Maine and Alaska and South Dakota with only three electoral votes each don't see much of them.

It could come down to only those measly three votes though; it's that close. And it's a legitimate race, there are pluses and minuses on both sides. We aren't endorsing, we just encourage everyone to vote. And as usual we encourage voting in local elections especially, because local elections and state elections make so much MORE impact on daily lives.

Now to switch gears a bit, and apologize and clear up an oops. The Shop Local Saturday coming up in November is the Saturday after Thanksgiving of course and the date is Nov. 26. In our editorial we did a dyslexic typo and had it wrong so please mark your calendars for right the date. We have some really awesome local stores and there are some neat things planned for that day like having smaller local artisans set up in the town hall auditorium and have their goods for sale. Wouldn't handcrafted jewelry or toys make a great gift? Watch our pages for more information as the time draws closer.

Also, to hie back to Fall Fest and the second place pie baking champ explained we had a bit of information wrong about her recipe: "The article that is about the Fall in a small town, has a misquote from me. I never said my secret was to keep everything HOT for the entire process...just the opposite...I keep everything as cold as possible, and then into a HOT oven. In the ingredients, your reporter left out butter, flour and lemon juice. ( this is for the filling)."

So, we now know SOME of her secrets, but if it were all as simple as apple pie, we'd all be champions like her!

Sorry, we do make errors, and we do own up them. That is the most important part; owning it.

POETS CORNER

Hallowed Weaned

BY SHARON HARMON

You must stop this buying candy  
and decorating, you're an adult he said,  
and I just can't take the pumpkin  
printed sheets upon the bed!  
But just one bag of corn candy, I whined  
putting the apples out.  
And maybe just a little costume and  
a funny trick or two.  
You wouldn't want a child to  
be disappointed would you?  
What's with all the corn stalks  
And all the little black bats?  
And why are you cackling at me,  
in that old black witchy hat?  
I'll just carve one more pumpkin,  
I looked at him and said,  
of course I really  
need one sitting by my bed!  
And the 100 corn balls you made? he asked,  
Oh they go quickly for a midnight snack!  
At 52 you're more excited than any  
child has a right to be.  
You really do need to be weaned  
from you're childish fantasy.  
I'll NEVER give up my magical time  
of Halloween!, I screamed.  
So if you come to my house  
and there's not a child in sight  
Just pretend you're once again a child  
and indulge in wild delight....

Technology drives education  
— and the reverse

Every year some 35,000 jobs open in the technology field and several thousand of those are right here in



FROM THE  
SUPERINTENDENT'S  
OFFICE  
.....  
STEVE HADDAD

Officially, we call it the Engineering for the 21st Century Project and you may have heard that in order to fund it we received an \$86,000 grant from Capital Skills, which Governor Baker created last year. Murdock is one of just 25 schools across the state to have been honored by Capital Skills which meant our vision was being recognized and rewarded.

Turn To **SUPERINTENDENT** page **A11**

Don't bet the farm:

People are now beginning to see the end of the horror show that has been the lead-up to the Presidential election. Everyone is tired of all the hullabaloo associated with this particularly nasty race.

Perhaps it is particularly bad because we have neither a gentleman or a gentlewoman running. When I think back over recent presidential contests, the candidates have had a sense of decorum. They treated one another with respect, but more importantly they treated the voters with respect.

Not this time.

So here comes the bad news. With the polarization of America and friends furious with friends and families split between candidates and having been told by both sides to expect armageddon if the other candidate wins, it is going to be hard to walk back all the demonization, lies and fabrications, and overzealousness that have confronted us in this contest.

Anyone who thinks the day after election we are finished with nastiness is definitely wearing his rose-colored glasses.



NOTES OF  
CONCERN

.....  
JACK  
BLAIR

es. The winner will of course enjoy some sense of accomplishment, but from the first day, the newly elected President will face a nation more divided

than at any time since the Civil War. It will be an uphill battle to get anything done. And if the winner doesn't produce on his or her promises, it will be a one term presidency.

The loser will not go quietly away, nor will the supporters attracted to the cause. The vitriol will continue. Every decision will be attacked. Preparation for the next election four years away will begin immediately.

It concerns me that we may be in for four years of the atmosphere we have just seen lead-

ing to this election.

Some of my readers will not agree with my pessimism. Some will believe everyone will all of a sudden forget what they believed about the new president. The negatives will just disappear, and everyone will pull together to help the winner.

Right. Don't bet the farm on that scenario. I hope I am wrong.

Nearing the end...nearly there

11 days. We'll get to that. First though let's talk a little about perspective. Looking for the right mix to treat my chronic asthma and allergies, my doc started me last week on Zolair injections. I have to go every other week for three shots and then, equipped with an epi-pen just in case, have to wait 30 minutes to see if there's a negative reaction. That's no big deal and I'm not squeamish about needles. But here's the thing: I get these shots in the oncology unit at Heywood Hospital. So there I was getting allergy shots while others in the room were doing chemo. Yes, it was a reminder about perspective.

Now, about those 11 days remaining in the campaign. A lot of us have already voted as Election Day has morphed into Election Month which ironically is how it was in the beginning when we were a rural country traveling by horseback. If you're a Democrat like me, you're encouraged by the (very) early numbers and the registration figures in some so-called swing states.

Is there any doubt about the outcome? By all accounts, no, but progressives are going to fret and worry until the last vote is counted to push Hillary over the 270 mark. Everything I know about politics tells me her Electoral College floor is around 320 and her ceiling could approach 360-370, in other words, an historic Electoral College margin. And yet, you never, ever, ever take any election for granted, no matter

what public and internal private polls tell you. You can't. Smart campaigns of course know this and that's why you're already seeing the beginnings of what will be a massive Democratic GOTV (Get-Out-The-Vote) operation, one the fractured and at-war-with-itself Republican party can't match hence it's highly likely Clinton will win by a substantial margin. The GOP had a real shot this time despite the demographics but those voters who bothered to show up in the Republican primaries didn't want a conventional candidate — they wanted a rhetorical bomb-thrower who articulated their own white-hot rage and got what they wanted. On Nov. 9, these people's rage is likely to be heightened exponentially with their candidate egging them on not to accept the probable result. Donald Trump's outlandish screeches about a rigged election aren't so much an attack on my side as they are an attack on one of the founding principles of the Republic. He and his surrogates sound beyond ridiculous when they bring up 2000 because that race was in fact razor-thin. To this day, no one knows who really won, but that was then and this is now. The Trumpians as I call them, for all their howls about loving their country, really don't love it at all and certainly have no respect for the small-d democratic process. They sound like South Carolinians, et al in November, 1860.

All that said, if you think this cam-

paign has been ugly, I fear the worst is yet to come. I just can't envision the Trumpians gracefully fading away, can you? I'd understand if they channel their anger through local elections which would be the right thing to do, but they genuinely don't understand the concept of a diverse and inclusive society. All they do is hate it and so we see the spectre of violence hanging over Trump rallies as he fans the flames of white resentment. They seethe over same-sex marriage, over a woman's right to choose, over, well, you name the social and/or economic issue. Do you think they'll wake up on the 9th and smile and say, "congratulations?" A whole lot of them will do no such thing.

Meanwhile as this hideous spectacle lurches towards its end, there are a lot of other elections this fall as well. Most cities elect mayors in "off years" (a few states do the same for governors) but a few years ago, Baltimore changed mayoral elections to coincide with presidential years, ostensibly because of the cost. Be that as it may, after Jan. 20, President Clinton 45 is certain to be dealing with a Congress that isn't exactly likely to be feeling all warm and fuzzy about her and that is sure to include Democratic Senators like Elizabeth



JOURNEY  
OF THE  
HEART  
.....  
JERRY  
CARTON

collection gets reduced from two days a week to once, that makes a difference. If you decide to close a couple public library branches or rec centers, that impacts neighborhoods. If you open a new playground or new library branch, that too impacts neighborhood in a positive way. Even a change in traffic patterns, closing this street or that, making this street or that one-way — these kind of things affect people daily. To be sure, Presidents grapple with the huge issues of war and peace, but choices mayors make directly affect people every morning. A mayoral election on the same day as a presidential election risks getting lost in the noise but when the proverbial dust settles, Baltimore residents are going to be impacted faster, if not longer-term, by whatever decisions Cathy Pugh will make than the ones made by Hillary Clinton. Local races matter. A lot. 11 more days. Hang in there.

Warren and the old guy from Vermont who will insist she's not progressive enough. The legislative going will be a slog.

Mayors though make decisions every day that impact people right away. If trash

[illegible]

# OBITUARIES

## Janice R. (Lindsay) Joy, 74



LAKELAND FL — Janice R. (Lindsay) Joy died unexpectedly Oct. 6, 2016 in Lakeland, FL at the age of 74.

Janice is survived by her son, Ronald K. Brewer and his wife, Brenda of Winchendon and her daughter Ronda M. Thompson and her spouse, James Shannon, of Winchester, NH; In addition, she leaves behind seven grandchildren, Brennan, Garrick, Amanda, Matthew, Ashley, James, and Andrew, and two great-grandchildren, Mitchell and Maxwell. She is preceded in death by her husband, Lester F. Joy, and siblings, David Lindsay of Irvine, CA, and Judith A. Rogers of Sarasota, FL.

Janice was born on July 26, 1942 in Worcester to Chester and Ann (Fortier)

Lindsay. She lived and worked in the Winchendon and Fitzwilliam communities until moving to Lakeland in 1995. She was an active and dedicated member of the American Legion Post 373 in Baldwinville, serving as an original charter member, then president of the Ladies Auxiliary. She often marched in the area's Veteran's Day Parades and loved participating in the children's Christmas parties.

A private funeral will be held in the Mountain View Cemetery in Shrewsbury, scheduled for a future date.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the American Legion Post 373 at 3 Central St. Baldwinville, MA 01436.

The family would like to thank Polk County FL Sheriff's department for their caring and dedication in helping the family during their loss.

## Thomas V. 'Tom' Bushey Jr., 81



WORCESTER — Thomas V. "Tom" Bushey Jr., age 81, of Worcester, formerly of Gardner, died peacefully Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016 in St. Mary's Health Care Center of Worcester, surrounded by his family.

He was born in Gardner on Nov. 24, 1934, the son of the late Thomas V. Bushey Sr. and Maude (Ward) Bushey.

Thomas was a truck driver, employed by United Co-Operative Farmers of Fitchburg for 20 years, retiring in 1996. He was a former member of the National Guard.

He was a member of the former Sacred Heart of Jesus Church of Gardner. He was also a Fist Degree member of the Knights of Columbus Council #2536 of Otter River.

Thomas spent his life devoted to his family and to farming.

He leaves his wife of 60 years, Marjorie M. (Russell) Bushey of Gardner; three sons, Thomas V. Bushey III and his wife Barbara of Gardner, Douglas W.

Bushey and his companion Linda Fogarty of Templeton and Michael J. Bushey and his wife Karen of Winchendon; one daughter, Linda M. Bushey of Gardner; one brother, Roy Bushey Sr. and his wife Beverly of Gardner; nine grandchildren, Corey Bushey, Christina Adams, Lisa Zuppa, Angel Richard, Shannin Bushey, Sarah Williams, Sandra Bushey, Craig Hill and Nicholas Bushey; 17 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Charles Bushey; and sister, Joan Brothers.

Funeral Services and burial will be private and held at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions may be made to Smile Train, 41 Madison Ave. 28th Floor, New York, NY 10010.

Boucher Funeral Home, Inc., 110 Nichols Street, Gardner is handling the arrangements.

## Genevieve H. (Kondrotas) Dombek, 91



GARDNER — Genevieve H. (Kondrotas) Dombek, age 91, of Gardner, died peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2016 in Gardner Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, following a brief illness.

Born in Brockton on Dec. 27, 1924, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Anna (Milkevicius) Kondrotas.

Genevieve graduated from Commerce High School of Worcester with the Class of 1944.

She was employed in the offices of Simplex Time Recorder of Gardner for 23 years, retiring in 1991.

Genevieve was a member of Holy Spirit Church of Gardner. She spent her life as a devout Catholic who was very strong in her faith.

She enjoyed riding motorcycles with her husband, especially to Lake Winnepesaukee where they spent a lot

of time. She also loved to cook and dine out.

Genevieve was predeceased by her husband of 46 years, Alexander L. Dombek, who died March 30, 2003.

She leaves one son, Jonathan P. Dombek of Gardner; two daughters, Donna M. Evan of Fitzwilliam and Karen A. Andros and her husband Gregorie of Wilbraham; one brother, Joseph Kondrotas of Manchester, NH; one sister, Rita Sarget and her husband Stanley of South Carolina; two grandchildren, Christina and Caroline Adros; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Oct. 8 at 11 in Holy Spirit Church, 50 Lovewell Street, Gardner. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery, Gardner.

Memorial contributions may be made GVNA Healthcare Inc., 34 Pearly Lane, Gardner, MA 01440.

Boucher Funeral Home, Inc., 110 Nichols Street, Gardner is handling the arrangements.

## Rita L. (Lizotte) Gilbert, 95



FITCHBURG — Rita L. (Lizotte) Gilbert, age 95, of Fitchburg, formerly of Winchendon, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 18 in the Highlands.

Rita was born in Fitchburg on July 19, 1921, a daughter of the late David and Emilia (Paradis) Lizotte. She graduated from Saint Joseph Elementary School and later from Saint Bernard's High School, with the class of 1939. Rita attended the Burbank School of Nursing in Fitchburg. For six years she taught kindergarten at Immaculate Conception Elementary School. Until her retirement she worked as a clerk in retail for both Lincoln's and King's Department stores, as well as Mars Bargain Land. She was a longtime parishioner of Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Fitchburg.

Rita loved to play cards and take trips to the beach. Along with her husband, she enjoyed spending her winters in Florida. Nothing was more dear to Rita than spending time with her beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She leaves her children, Richard Gilbert and his wife Kathrine of

Fitchburg, Lisa Safford and her husband Glen of Winchendon, and James Gilbert and his wife Tina of Templeton; grandchildren, Kathleen Sallila and husband Jonathan of New Hampshire, Brad Gilbert and wife Jessica of Westford, Robert Gilbert and wife Katerina of Ashland, Blake, Makayla, Andrew, and Keegan Safford of Winchendon, and Timothy, Philip, Rebecca, and Alexander Gilbert of Templeton; five great-grandchildren, Abigail and Annika Sallila, Owen and Trevor Gilbert, and Vincent Gilbert. Rita also leaves two sisters, Jacqueline Byrd of New Hampshire, and Pauline Vallee of Virginia, and many nieces and nephews.

Rita was predeceased by her husband Lorenzo Gilbert in 2002, her son Philip Gilbert in 1959, and 11 brothers and sisters.

The funeral Mass will be held from Brandon Funeral Home, 305 Wanoosnoc Rpad, Fitchburg Saturday, Oct. 22, in Saint Francis Church, 63 Sheridan St. Burial followed in Saint Joseph Cemetery in Fitchburg.

In lieu of flowers the family request that memorial contributions be made to the Highlands Activities Fund, 335 Nichols Road, Fitchburg, MA 01420.

## Edith McDonald Thomason, 89



CRESTVIEW FL — Edith McDonald Thomason, age 89 of Crestview, Florida went home to be with the Lord on Oct. 19, 2016. Edith was born on May 7, 1927 in Winchendon.

Edith is survived by her loving husband of 50 years, Coy Thomason; two children, Dennis & Debbie Thomason of Holt and Holly Peacher of Pace; four grandchildren, J.L. & Seth Thomason and Chandler & J.C. Peacher; sister Susie and Peter Antonellis and brother Kevin and Linda McDonald; and several nieces and nephews. She was pre-

ceded in death by her parents Richard and Alice V. (LaFortune) McDonald and brother Richard McDonald.

She retired from the Okaloosa County School District as a secretary at Southside Elementary School in Crestview.

Edith was a member of the First Baptist Church of Crestview.

A celebration of Edith's life was held Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016 at Whitehurst Powell Funeral Home of Crestview. Burial followed at Old Bethel Cemetery.

Arrangements are entrusted to Whitehurst Powell Funeral Home in Crestview. Guest book and condolences are available online at [www.whitehurstpowellfuneralhome.com](http://www.whitehurstpowellfuneralhome.com).

## Linda Y. (Nadeau) Wiinikainen, 69



GARDNER — Linda Y. (Nadeau) Wiinikainen, age 69, of 254 Chapel St. died Saturday morning, Oct. 22, 2016 in Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston from complications from multiple myeloma.

She was born in Gardner on Oct. 19, 1947, daughter of the late Alfred and

Lillian (Douvenot) Nadeau. She was a graduate of Gardner High School and a lifelong resident of Gardner.

Linda was a self-employed hairdresser for over 20 years. She was an avid golfer and was a member of Ellinwood Country Club for many years. She was also a member of Amateur Trap Shooting Association, where she won many awards and traveled to many state shoots with her husband, who was getting to be known as Mrs. Wiinikainen's husband. Linda also enjoyed sporting clays. She was an avid fan of the New England Patriots and she and her husband were season ticket holders for ten years. Linda loved brittany dogs and was an avid tennis player.

She leaves her husband, Tom Wiinikainen, with whom she just celebrated 47 years of marriage, a stepbrother Chris Nadeau of Livermore, CA. She also leaves behind Christy Chiapetta of Pawtucket, RI, the daughter, she wished she had.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, Oct. 26 in Wildwood Cemetery, Gardner.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to American Brittany Rescue, 822 Wild Ginger Road, Sugar Grove, IL 60554.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central Street, Winchendon was entrusted with arrangements.

**SEND OBITUARIES at no charge to Editor Ruth DeAmicis, by faxing (978) 297-2177, or by e-mailing the editor at [ruth@stonebridgepress.com](mailto:ruth@stonebridgepress.com).**

**We also invite funeral directors and families to e-mail us a JPEG photograph to print, at no cost, alongside the obituary.**

## Carol M. (Charbonneau) Higgins, 70



WINCHENDON — Carol M. (Charbonneau) Higgins, age 70, of 183 Mill St. died peacefully Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016 at home with her family at her side.

She was born in Holyoke on March 6, 1946, daughter of the late Leonard and Gladys (Fisher) Charbonneau and has lived in Winchendon since the age of 3.

Carol had worked for many years as a cafeteria worker in the town of Winchendon. Many years ago, she had worked at New Hampshire Ball Bearings in Peterborough, NH. She also did adult home care for Montachusett Home Care. She was a member of Winchendon Golden Agers and was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Carol was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox. Her hobbies were knitting, sewing, baking, and spending time with her family and grandchildren.

She leaves her husband of 42 years, David K. Higgins; five children,

Raymond Higgins and his wife Nadia of Charleston, SC, Carol Ann Rice and her husband Lee of Baldwinville, Robert Higgins of Winchendon, Ronald Higgins and his wife Nancy of Winchendon, David K. Higgins Jr. of Gardner and Danielle Higgins of Winchendon; her brothers and sisters, Leonard Charbonneau of Winchendon, Gladys Charbonneau of Connecticut, Hector Michaud of Vermont, Betty Michaud of Worcester, Brenda Michaud of Florida and Michael Michaud of Winchendon; seven grandchildren, three great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Oct. 25 in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central St., Winchendon. Burial followed in Massachusetts Veteran's Memorial Cemetery.

The family wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks to her daughter-in-law, Nancy Higgins for her love and care.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children, 51 Blossom St., Boston, MA 02114.

## Wayne Adam Thomas, 31



WINCHENDON — Wayne Adam Thomas, age 31, of Winchendon, formerly of Lowell and Bedford, NH, died unexpectedly, Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016, after an auto accident. He was the beloved husband of Lori B. (Nolin) Thomas.

A son of Angela M. Thomas of Lowell and the late Wayne R. Thomas, he was born Sept. 17, 1985, in Worcester, and was educated in the Lowell schools, graduating from Lowell High School, before attending Middlesex Community College studying criminal justice.

He made his home in Lowell until 2014 when he relocated to Bedford, NH. More recently he made his home in Winchendon with his family. He was a carpenter with Local 118 and was the union steward for his chapter.

Wayne was passionate about his family, and was the most caring and loving husband and especially loving father. Affectionately known as "the baby" he was the youngest of four sons and had a passion for life. He will be remembered as an achiever, chasing his dreams with

persistence and passion. A great provider for his family, and enjoyed quiet nights spent with them.

In addition to his wife, Lori, he is survived by his son, Juliano J. Thomas and his daughter, Nevaeh Lee Thomas, both of Winchendon; his mother, Angela M. Thomas of Lowell; his grandmother, Martha Torres of Lowell; his brothers, Sean R. Thomas of Boston, Robert E. Thomas of Lowell, and Kenneth W. Thomas and his partner, Erica Correia, of Lowell; his father-in-law, Thomas Nolin of Raymond, NH; his wife's grandmother, Jeanette Nolin of Pelham, NH; his sister-in-law, Keesha Nolin of Lowell; his nephews, Anthony Thomas and Giovanni Thomas; as well as the nephews he helped raise, Jordon Nolin, Austin Nolin, and T.J. Kweedor; as well as his family pets, Twinky and Coka; and his extended family and many friends.

He was also predeceased by his mother-in-law, Sandra Nolin and his stepfather, Derek Lang.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Oct. 25 at the McDonough Funeral Home, 14 Highland St., Lowell.

In lieu of flowers, donations will be accepted to his children in his memory.

## LEGALS

### Town of Winchendon Zoning Board of Appeals PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Wed., November 16, 2016 at 7:05 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl., 109 Front St., Winchendon, MA 01475, on the request to modify Special Permit #16-13 issued to Bryan Day of 35 Island Rd, Winchendon, MA 01475 for an addition more than 50% of footprint as afforded by Article 6 Sec 2.3A for property located at 35 Island Rd, Winchendon, MA 01475 identified as Winchendon Assessors Map M2 Parcel 10 and to hear an application for a Variance from the side and front setback dimensional requirements as outlined in Article 7.2 of the Winchendon Zoning Bylaw for the construction a garage. Said property is located in the R40 Suburban Residential – Neighborhood District. A copy of the application is available at the Dept. of P&D, Winchendon Town Hall. All interested persons should plan to attend.

BY: Cynthia Carville, Chair  
Winchendon Zoning Board of Appeals  
October 28, 2016  
November 4, 2016

# OBITUARIES

## Carol M. (Charbonneau) Higgins, 70



WINCHENDON — Carol M. (Charbonneau) Higgins, age 70, of 183 Mill St. died peacefully Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016 at home with her family at her side.

She was born in Holyoke on March 6, 1946, daughter of the late Leonard and Gladys (Fisher) Charbonneau and has lived in Winchendon since the age of 3.

Carol had worked for many years as a cafeteria worker in the town of Winchendon. Many years ago, she had worked at New Hampshire Ball Bearings in Peterborough, NH. She also did adult home care for Montachusett Home Care. She was a member of Winchendon Golden Agers and was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Carol was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox. Her hobbies were knitting, sewing, baking, and spending time with her family and grandchildren.

She leaves her husband of 42 years, David K. Higgins; five children,

Raymond Higgins and his wife Nadia of Charleston, SC, Carol Ann Rice and her husband Lee of Baldwinville, Robert Higgins of Winchendon, Ronald Higgins and his wife Nancy of Winchendon, David K. Higgins Jr of Gardner and Danielle Higgins of Winchendon; her brothers and sisters, Leonard Charbonneau of Winchendon, Gladys Charbonneau of Connecticut, Hector Michaud of Vermont, Betty Michaud of Worcester, Brenda Michaud of Florida and Michael Michaud of Winchendon; seven grandchildren, three great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Oct. 25 in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central St., Winchendon. Burial followed in Massachusetts Veteran's Memorial Cemetery.

The family wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks to her daughter-in-law, Nancy Higgins for her love and care.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children, 51 Blossom St., Boston, MA 02114.

## Taylor R. Lahtinen, 22



TEMPLETON — Taylor R. Lahtinen, age 22, of Templeton, died Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2016 in Enfield, CT.

He was born in Gardner on May 12, 1994, the son of Keith Lahtinen and Denise (Dube) Woodward.

Taylor graduated from Gardner High School with the class of 2012. He was employed by J. LeBlanc Landscaping as a landscaper.

Taylor's passion was music. He was an exceptional drummer, and loved playing with his band RippedTide. He enjoyed camping, trips to the White Mountains and was an avid fan of the Boston Bruins.

He loved his family, and was a loving, devoted father to his daughter Anna. Taylor's enthusiasm for life, beautiful smile and huge heart will be greatly

missed by all who loved him.

Taylor leaves his mother, Denise (Dube) Woodward and her husband Scott of Templeton; his father, Keith Lahtinen of Gardner; daughter, Annalisa Lahtinen; stepmother, Kim LeBlanc of Leominster; paternal grandmother, Sheila Harris of Gardner; two brothers, Timothy J. Lahtinen and his wife Stephanie of Westminster and Chad LeBlanc of Gardner; stepbrother, Tyler Woodward and his wife Jessica of Fort Meade, MD; one sister, Kaylin Rushia and her husband Pat of Athol; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He also leaves his Godparents, Tom and Heather Dube of Winchendon.

Funeral services and burial will be private and held at the convenience of the family.

There are no calling hours.

Memorial contributions may be made to the A.E.D. Foundation, Inc., PO Box 67, Westminster, MA 01473.

## Charles E. Phillips, 89

WAYNE NJ — Charles E. Phillips, age 89, of Wayne, NJ died on Monday, Oct. 17, 2016. Born in Winchendon, he was a resident of Glen Ridge, NJ and Rindge, before moving to Wayne. He was an Army veteran who served during World War II.

He was educated at Phillips Academy, Andover and Harvard University, undergraduate class of 1949 and Masters in 1951. He worked as an executive at the Wall Street bank of JP Morgan for over 35 years.

He was a member of the Glen Ridge Congregational Church, Glen Ridge and served on the Glen Ridge Board of Education, including several terms as president. He was a Trustee of the Cathedral of the Pines, Rindge; served on the Board of Adjustment for Rindge and was a member and past commodore of the Monomac Lake Sailing Association (MLSA) of Rindge. He enjoyed sports, stamp collecting, bridge, Scrabble and chess.

Surviving is his wife of 29 years, Anita (Sharp) Phillips of Wayne, NJ; his children, Elizabeth Phillips Marrinan

and John Manning Phillips II, and his wife Debora. Also surviving are his three stepchildren, Richard and his partner Penny, James and his wife Gail, and Lauren Sharp. In addition there are five grandchildren, Brian Marrinan, Jonathan Phillips, Daniel Phillips, Christopher Sharp and Allison Bizzoco, and two great grandchildren, Max and Cassie Bizzoco. He was predeceased by his first wife, Joyce Glore Phillips, his daughter, Virginia Phillips and his sister, Lila Jo Phillips.

A Service of Remembrance was held on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016 at the Vander Plaaf Funeral Home, 257 Godwin Avenue, Wyckoff, N.J. (www.vpfh.com). Private cremation will be held.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Cathedral of the Pines, 10 Hale Hill Road, Rindge, NH 03461 would be appreciated.

## Lica A. (Covey) Theriault, 51



TEMPLETON — Lica A. (Covey) Theriault, age 51, of 32 Hubbardston Road, died unexpectedly Saturday evening, Oct. 22, 2016 in Heywood Hospital, Gardner.

She was born in Gardner on Oct. 20, 1965 and was a graduate of Gardner High School. Lica had lived in Templeton for several years.

Lica worked as a woodworker for 16 years and most recently worked as a personal care assistant with Mitchell Bourque of Templeton. Lica enjoyed crafts, crocheting and making blankets, afghans, mittens and gloves for family and friends. She was an avid fan of the New England Patriots and race car driver Jeff Gordon. Lica loved spending time with her cat Panda. Her greatest enjoyment was spending time with her family.

She leaves her husband David J. Theriault; a son Joe Berube and his wife Alexis of Templeton; a daughter Briana Theriault of Gardner; a daughter Holly Ravish and her son Carter of East Templeton; her father Harold A. Covey of Winchendon; her mother Patricia A. LeBlanc of Winchendon; her father George LeBlanc of Gardner; her employer and friend Mitchell Bourque; her brothers Butch Covey of Winchendon, Bill Covey of Winchendon, John Covey of Worcester, Dave Covey of Winchendon and Ed Larson of New Hampshire; her sisters, Michelle LeBlanc of Dudley and Heidi Hagan of Templeton and many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016 at 11 a.m. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central St., Winchendon.

A calling hour will precede the service from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday.

## Paul K. Jacoby Jr., 78



FITCHBURG — Paul K. Jacoby Jr. was born in Winchendon on May 7, 1938. He passed away peacefully on Oct. 16, 2016, at the age of 78.

He graduated from Murdock High School in Winchendon in 1956 and entered the US Army. After receiving an honorable discharge from the service, he met his wife, Raili (Thomasson-Hankilampi) Jacoby, at work in Jaffrey. They married Nov. 26, 1960. After working for several years, he became employed by Aubuchon Hardware at their warehouse facility. He retired in December 2000 after 32 years at Aubuchon Hardware in Westminster.

He leaves behind his wife, Raili, of almost 56 years, two sons, Mitchell Jacoby and his wife, Barbara of Methuen, and Douglas Jacoby and his wife, Wendy, of Lunenburg. He also leaves behind a younger sister, Janice Jacoby of Meriden, CT and five grandchildren Taylor, Carter, Hunter, Benjamin and Hannah.

His funeral was held Oct. 25 with a service at Redemption Rock Church, 3 Hager Park Road, Westminster. Burial followed at the Massachusetts Veteran's Cemetery in Winchendon.

The Curley Marchand Funeral Home, 89 West St., Leominster was entrusted with arrangements.

## Alan J. LeBlanc, 67

ROYALSTON — Alan John "Bobo" LeBlanc, age 67 of Royalston passed away Sept. 25, 2016 at Heywood Hospital surrounded by family.

Born Oct. 17, 1948 in Gardner to Edward and Dorothy (Graves) LeBlanc. Alan leaves behind his partner of 43 years Darlene Sweet and their three children Lori Sweet and her husband Craig Casavant of Gardner, Brandy LeBlanc of Fitchburg and Alan E. LeBlanc of Orange. He also leaves four sisters: Patricia Tenney and Linda Bilodeau of Rindge, Terry LaFortune of Winchendon and Donna LeBlanc of Gardner; two grandchildren, several

cousins, nephews and nieces (including Kim, his favorite), and many friends including the four-legged variety Gronk and Blazer.

Alan was predeceased by his parents, sisters Anne LeBlanc and Joyce Ruckey and by his brother Edward A. LeBlanc.

Alan was a self-employed carpenter who valued craftsmanship over profit. He loved nature, the music of Bob Dylan, and enjoyed many unique hobbies including panning for gold and metal detecting. Above all he enjoyed spending time with his family.

There was a gathering to celebrate his life Oct. 16.

## Joy S. Rosmond, 71



WINCHENDON — Joy S. Rosmond, age 71, of 30 Harvard St. died Monday, Oct. 17, 2016 at home.

She was born in St. Albans, VT on Oct. 5, 1945, daughter of the late Arthur and Marion (Rokes) Sheehan and has lived in Winchendon for the last 15 years.

Joy was a graduate of Rosary Academy in Watertown and she was graduate of Fitchburg State College. Joy spent her career as a cost accountant and financial analyst for a number of companies in the Massachusetts area, including Raytheon, GenRad and Modern Dispersions. She enjoyed drawing, painting, quilting and sewing and

was fond of her pets, especially her late dogs Molly and Stella. Before living in Winchendon, she lived in Townsend, where she raised her family, and then moved to Port Saint John, FL where she lived for four years.

She leaves two children, Laura A. Rosmond and her fiancé Joseph Mahan of Winchendon and William A. Rosmond of Merritt Island, FL; eight grandchildren, Christina and her husband Josiah, James, Miranda, Peter, Haley, Kyle, Dolores and Sydney. Two brothers, Jonathan Sheehan and Ray Sheehan, preceded her in death.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central St., Winchendon was entrusted with arrangements.

Memorial donations may be made to your local pet shelter.

## Judith Ann (Skidmore) Thompson, 72

TOWNSEND — Judith Ann (Skidmore) Thompson, age 72, of Townsend, formerly of Fitchburg died Saturday, Oct. 22, 2016, at her home surrounded by her family and loved ones.

Judith, Judy to everyone who knew her, was born in Westminster, June 7, 1944 she was raised in Waites Corner, Fitchburg. One of five children born to Reginald and Adelaide Skidmore. She attended the Fitchburg school system. Judy worked for the Federal government as a test administrator to the local school systems in Massachusetts.

Judy owned and operated The Task Force, a cleaning company, that serviced various homes, businesses and doctors around central Massachusetts. If asked Judy would say her primary job was a wife and mother.

Judy enjoyed spending time with her family, traveling, reading, Friday night card games and she LOVED Nascar.

Judy leaves her children, two sons and four daughters. John G. Thompson Sr. and his wife Susan of Westminster, Pamela A. Thompson and her husband Myron West of Lunenburg, Sharon M. LeBlanc of Townsend, Kim L. Jeffrey of Townsend and Jason Daniels, Michael J. Thompson and his wife Bobbi Jo of Winchendon and Margaret M. Thompson of Townsend.

She is survived by two brothers and one sister, Reginald Skidmore and his wife Mae Beth of Florida, Michael

Skidmore of Fitchburg and Elaine Tirey and her husband John of California. An honorary sister of the heart, her sister-in-law Joan Danielson of Maryland.

She leaves eight grandchildren John G. Thompson Jr., Lakisha A. Nunez and her husband Richard, Willis J. Wilson and his wife Samantha, Joseph C. Thompson, Brandon M. Lawrence, Addie T. LeBlanc, Kyle M. LeBlanc, Joshua J. Lawrence. She also leaves six great-grandchildren, Cecilia A. Nunez, Savannah R. Thompson, Aurora J. Patterson, Eden Lawrence, Penelope Patterson and Michael E. Wilson.

She also leaves many nieces, nephews and friends that she loved dearly.

Judy is predeceased by John E. Thompson her husband of 40 years; a son, Steven M. Lawrence and a brother Paul Skidmore.

"If flowers grow in heaven, Lord, then pick a bunch for me then place them in our mother's arms and tell her they're from me. Tell her that we love and miss her and when she turns to smile place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for a while"

Prayers of committal will be held 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 28 at the Chapel at Massachusetts Veterans Cemetery, 111 Glenallan St., Winchendon.

Anderson Funeral Home (andersonfuneral.com), 250 Main St., Townsend, is entrusted with arrangements.



STONE-LADEAU FUNERAL HOME

343 Central Street  
Winchendon, MA 01475

Tel: 978-297-0077 • Fax: 978-297-0075

**SEND OBITUARIES** at no charge to Editor Ruth DeAmicis, by faxing (978) 297-2177, or by e-mailing the editor at [ruth@stonebridgepress.com](mailto:ruth@stonebridgepress.com).

We also invite funeral directors and families to e-mail us a JPEG photograph to print, at no cost, alongside the obituary.



# SPORTS

## Delay of game slows down Murdock



Tyler Cota runs around the Clinton Gael defense.



Daunte Pridgen breaks through the Gael defense.

WINCHENDON — It was lightening that postponed Homecoming for the Murdock Blue Devils as the game started in a rain storm Oct. 21 against the Clinton Gaels and continued in the cold on Oct. 24.

In a game wracked with fumbles and dropped opportunities, it was Clinton that won by a five point margin 17-12. The Blue Devils managed touchdowns by Sam Drake and Daunte Pridgen and had the lead at the beginning of the

second half. The defense kept the Gaels in check for some time, but it wasn't enough in the long run. Coach Andy Dupuis was still pleased with the work, both offensively and

defensively, saying the team managed to keep Clinton's best player in check. Murdock travels to Lunenburg tomorrow at 2 p.m., the first game at Lunenburg's newly installed turf field.

## History in the making...

When the World Series resumes tonight at Wrigley Field (how weird it felt to write that), Game 3 will be the first Cubs Series game ever televised. TV, you see, hadn't been invented the last time the North Side team played in the Fall Classic. I imagine you knew that but if you're a baseball fan as opposed to being say, merely a Red Sox fan, you have to agree it's pretty cool to see not just the Cubs but the Indians in the Series as well. Let that sink in, though — the last time the Cubs were in the World Series there was no such thing as television. The Cubs last baseball title came in 1908, Cleveland's in 1948. It's not like either city is bereft of titles — the Blackhawks have won a couple Stanley Cups the last five or six years, three I think, and the Cavs are the reigning NBA champs but baseball, well, baseball is different, different even from Super Bowl titles. It just is, maybe because it's been around so much lon-

ger, maybe because we revere baseball records in a way we don't in other sports, maybe because we have passionate debates about baseball PEDS and Hall of Fame credentials the way we don't with other sports, but whatever the reason, baseball's different. Who out there thinks the Detroit Lions making a Super Bowl for the first time would be as big a story as the Cubs reaching the World Series? Baseball is different. Football is the most popular sport out there? Nah, betting on football is actually what's popular. The Chicago Cubs in the World Series? Win or lose, that's the sports story of the year. Or decade? As for those aforementioned Red Sox fans — Tito or Theo? Whatever happens this week and maybe next, the Cubs are built for a pretty long run of success. My only disappointment about the Cubs' return to the Series? Too bad Wrigley has lights. Wouldn't it have been fun

to see the Series once again played in sunshine? Let's go back to the NFL's plunging ratings. I hadn't really remembered that Nielsen ratings only measure watchers the old-fashioned way — who's sitting in the living room. Those free-falling numbers don't count the many who are watching in sports bars or through various social media platforms. Who knows how many folks are really watching? That said, there's no question viewership is down and while some try to politicize it by citing the Colin Kapernick issue, there are sounder reasons for the drop. Baseball has had a dramatic September and October. Everyone has a couple hundred channels. The games have reportedly been largely unwatchable. A lot of fans have been turned off by the league's exceptionally incompetent response to continuing domestic violence issues and others are increasingly rejecting the on-field violence. All these take

a toll. Ah yes, domestic violence. It sure was classy of the New York Football Giants to disinvite kicker Josh Brown to accompany the team on its trip to Wembley Stadium last week after more details came to light regarding multiple situations where Brown allegedly assaulted his wife, admitting to doing so on more than one occasion. Clearly, the NFL learned exactly zero from the Ray Rice mess a few years back. At least the Ravens had the good sense to cut him. What's taking the Giants so long? The NFL isn't going to go the way of boxing anytime soon I wouldn't think, but the trends are not good and justifiably so. For those who swear football could never ever become a niche sport too, I agree it's unlikely but if this were being written in 1956 rather than 2016, no one would ever have believed the fight game would become a niche sport at best, either. The same would have gone



TALKING SPORTS  
JERRY CARTON

for horse racing which next weekend will hold its Breeders Cup World Championship, as the public relations folks like to call the 14 races spread over next Friday and Saturday. Last spring saw a desultory Triple Crown series but that might've been because the best three year horse this year has been, gasp, a girl. Songbird remains undefeated headed into her showdown with the older fillies on Saturday and 2014 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner and '14 Horse of the Year California Chrome will try to wrap up an undefeated season in the Breeders Cup Classic, the season's grand finale. It'll be an exciting weekend for lots of us, but I suspect most casual fans won't be watching. Their loss. See you next week.

## Mini-Devils extend unbeaten streak

BY BOB POLCARI  
SPECIAL TO THE COURIER

WINCHENDON — The Mini-Devils extended their unbeaten streak by defeating Eaglebrook 43-12 at Alumni Field on Saturday improving their record to 6 and 0. Offensive output was well distributed throughout the team with six different players accounting for 41 points and the defense adding the other two points on a fourth quarter safety. As has been the case in previous games, the Devils started on defense and forced a quick three and out. Murdock started at the Eaglebrook 44 yard line and quickly found the end zone four plays later as Joey Marobella carried it in from nine yards out to start the scoring for the Mini-Devils. Corey Fasulo came on to kick the extra point and the Mini-Devils were up 7-0. After another short offensive series and punt by Eaglebrook, the Mini-Devils took over at the Eaglebrook 37 yard line. Eight plays later Calvin Tenney found the end-zone but the kick by Fasulo was no good so the Mini-Devils were up 13-0 at the end of the first quarter. The second quarter was highlighted by two long Jack Polcari touchdown runs of 54 and 74 yards and a conversion run with an Eaglebrook score sandwiched in between to increase the Mini-Devils lead to 27-6 at the half. The Mini-Devils started on offense in the third quarter put together a long eight play drive before being stopped on fourth down at the Eaglebrook 20 yard line. The defense came through again forcing a punt four plays later and then Riley Kimball popped loose for a 38 yard touchdown on the next play to put the Devils up 33-6. Early in the fourth quarter, Eaglebrook notched their second touchdown of the day to cut the lead to 33-12. The Mini-Devils then drove the ball to the Eaglebrook 9-yard line before being turned away by an interception. However, the Murdock defense stood tall and recorded two consecutive sacks resulting in a safety to increase the lead to 35-12. Fasulo and Cam Monette extended the lead for the Mini-Devils late in the 4th Quarter to 43 to 12. Fasulo hauled in a short pass from Polcari and then raced 50 yards for the touchdown and Monette caught the conversion pass for two points. The Mini-Devils remaining schedule is away on Thursday, Nov., 3 at 4 p.m. versus Millbury, home on Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 5 p.m. versus Uxbridge and away on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. versus Narragansett.

## Long season nearing the finish

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — The first half of a recent contest at Narragansett offered promise for the future of Murdock soccer as the Lady Devils played the Lady Warriors dead even for all but the final 39 seconds of the opening frame, but in the end things went askew and MHS fell yet again. The contest was even at one, Maria Polcari having tallied for the Lady Devils, until just before the break when 'Gansett scored and added three more in a 10-minute span in the second half to assure the win. "It was a good first half and a great goal by

Maria," enthused Coach Jason Marshall, adding, "Gabby (Cote) and Victoria Swanson did great jobs in shutting down Narragansett's scorers." But Marshall noted, "there was a bit of a let-down" in the second stanza. "We let up those three goals in that ten minute span," he lamented. After that though, the Lady Devils finished the contest strongly and had several scoring chances "that we couldn't quite convert," noted Marshall. Swanson was awarded player of the match "for her strong defense in the first half and good ball control and offensive push in the second," said

the coach. On Tuesday, though, things were sideways from the start, score-wise at least, against Fitchburg. Despite the 10-0 final ("shame on the other coach" noted Marshall, MHS had numerous opportunities to tally but simply "couldn't finish," he said. "Victoria played well again and so did Sydney, Cassidy, and Kaileen. Player of the match went to Vicky Lemire for great defense and poise on the field. Murdock hosted Sizer on senior night Thursday. "If we play like we did last week against 'Gansett, we should have a good night," Marshall said Tuesday.

### Athletes of the Week

#### GIRLS

Victoria Swanson played two strong games on offense and defense for the Lady Devils varsity soccer team.

#### BOYS

Sam Drake and Daunte Pridgen scored the touchdowns to get Murdock on the scoreboard in the Homecoming game.

Athletes of the Week is sponsored



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## CLYDE'S CORNER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28  
ANNUAL ADULT HALLOWEEN PARTY: it's spooky in there! The American Legion Post 193 annual Halloween costume party is scheduled 8 p.m. to midnight at the Post, 295 School St. Prizes for the best costumes. Admission is just \$5 per person; so be a big kid again! This is a 21+ event.  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29  
ZOMBIE 2 MILE RUN: outrun them if you can! The annual Zombie run at the Clark Memorial YMCA is already registering runners and seeking those who would be the undead. Race starts at noon. Registration for the race is just \$10 until Oct. 22; \$15 after that date. For more info go to theclarkymca.org or call (978) 297-9622.

KIDS HALLOWEEN: following the Zombie run there will be a kids' Halloween party at the Clark Memorial YMCA. Details are still being finalized, but games and goodies are definitely in the offing!  
EXTENDED VOTING HOURS: For the first time in history, you can now vote early in the general elections. You can vote early Oct. 24-Nov. 3; Monday from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be extended hours on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and again Wednesday, Oct. 27 and Nov. 3 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. to accommodate voters. Voting can be done at the town clerk's office, 109 Front St. For

Turn To **CLYDE** page **A9**

# POLICE LOG

Winchendon Police Department  
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, OCTOBER 17  
12-1:53 a.m.: building checks, secure; 8:16 a.m.: accident (Jackson Avenue) report taken; 10:14 a.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) spoken to; 11:45 a.m.: MV stop (Phillipston Road) written warning; 1:04 p.m.: warrant arrest (Goodrich Drive) further details unavailable; 1:27 p.m.: MV stop (Winchendon Road) written warning; 1:27 p.m.: officer wanted (Beaman Court) report taken; 1:44 p.m.: ambulance (High Street) transport; 2:55 p.m.: officer wanted (Beech Street) refer to court; 3:48 p.m.: accident (Town Farm Road) removed to hospital, summons: Sierra M. Herr, age 18 of 66 Vaine St., Winchendon: negligent operation of MV; 4:06 p.m.: lift assist (Athol-Richmond) assisted; 4:16 p.m.: unattended death (Harvard Street) report taken; 4:20 p.m.: officer wanted (walk in) spoken to; 5:14 p.m.: abandoned 911 call (River Street) spoken to; 5:25 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Royalston) info taken; 5:59 p.m.: ambulance (Lincoln Avenue) transport; 6:12 p.m.: officer wanted (Mill Street) report taken; 6:42 p.m.: intoxicated person (Royalston) removed to hospital; 7:05 p.m.: animal complaint (Pearl Street) refer to ACO; 7:42 p.m.: burglary, B&E (Mellen Road) summons: Amy Carnes, age 38 of 355 Mellen Road, Winchendon: possess firearm without FID card and possess ammunition without FID card; 9:43 p.m.: assist other agency (Main Street) assisted; 11:35 p.m.: child welfare check (address not printed) spoken to; 11:53 p.m.: building check, secure.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18  
12-2:38 a.m.: extra patrols & building checks, secure; 12:05 a.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) spoken to; 2:20 a.m.: officer wanted (Ash Street) call canceled; 2:54 a.m.: burglar alarm (Spring Street) secure; 6:40 a.m.: tree down on wires (Royalston Road North) area search negative; 9:03 a.m.: ambulance (Baldwinville State Road) transport; 9:18 a.m.: suspicious MV (Central Street) arrest: Ian Nault, age 19 of 14 Beaman Court, Winchendon: OUI-liquor and unlicensed operation of MV; 11:29 a.m.: property damage (Mr. Mikes) spoken to; 3:39 p.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) spoken to; 3:58 p.m.: officer wanted (Goodrich Drive) report taken; 4:07 p.m.: unattended death (Oak Street) report taken; 5:12 p.m.: animal complaint (Ipswich Drive) refer to ACO; 6 p.m.: assist citizen (Welch Road) assisted; 6:10 p.m.: burglar alarm (Powell Stone) secure; 6:13 p.m.: fire alarm (Pearl Street) assisted; 6:56 p.m.: assist other PD (Glenallan Street) gone on arrival; 7:10 p.m.: ambulance (Ready Drive) transport; 8:39 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 9:53 p.m.: suspicious other (Town Farm Road) advised officer; 10:29 p.m.: animal complaint (Baldwinville State Road) unable to locate; 10:34 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 11:26-11:40 p.m.: building checks, secure.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19  
12:05 a.m.: MV operating erratically (School Street) unable to locate; 12:26 a.m.: investigation (Toy Town Elementary) secure; 12:28-12:29 a.m.: building checks, secure; 12:47 a.m.: burglar alarm (CVS) secure; 1 a.m.: ambulance (Mill Street) services rendered; 1:21 a.m.: accident (Ash Street) report taken; 5:47 a.m.: assist other PD (Alger Street) assisted; 9 a.m.: general info (Brooks Automotive) assisted; 9:02 a.m.: fire alarm (Winchendon School) false alarm; 11:32 a.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) assisted; 11:35 a.m.: MV operating erratically (Beech Street) unable to locate; 12:20 p.m.: suspicious MV (Linden Street) spoken to; 1:31 p.m.: assist citizen (Benjamin Street) assisted; 2:57 p.m.: harassment (Hyde Street) report taken; 5:59 p.m.: keep the peace

## Accident takes life of new resident

BY TARA VOCINO  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Wayne A. Thomas, age 31, of 32 Mechanic St., died at 5:50 a.m. Thursday in a three-car crash at 70 Gardner Road.

Winchendon Police Lt. Kevin Wolski said Friday there were not any charges pending. Wolski said in a statement a black Toyota Avalon, driven by Thomas, was traveling northbound and passing a northbound JRM Hauling and Recycling truck, driven by Joseph T. Leon, age 26, of 47 Florence Ave., North Tewksbury, when Thomas crashed into a black GMC pickup truck, driven by Wayne Dexter, age 52, of 300 Benjamin St., Winchendon, which was traveling south. Thomas' car was deflected back into the front end of Leon's truck, just south of Teel Road.

Thomas, who had just moved to town from 71 New Boston Road in Bedford, NH, was trapped in the car and was determined to be deceased at the scene, police said.

Dexter was transported by Life Flight to UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester for injuries.

Fire Chief Tom Smith could not comment on the extent of his injuries.

As of press time, Dexter was reported in fair condition.

Leon was not injured, police said.

An ambulance originally responded, but crews quickly called Life Flight to Madison Avenue.

Wolski said he did not know if speed was a factor and forwarded inquiries the Crash Analysis Reconstruction Unit of the Massachusetts State Police.

Trooper Dave Bergeron said the Crash Analysis Reconstruction Unit did not have any information immediately available other than that they responded.

Massachusetts State Police spokesperson Sgt. Thomas Ryan said local police was the primary investigating agency.

Winchendon resident Gerald Sackett reported the crash. Jane M. O'Malley, of 189 Spring St., was one of the many drivers involved in the crash.

Smith said the accident occurred in a residential area and on a heavily traveled road.

"It's a main route that is very common to have accidents on," Smith said.

Traffic was diverted much of the morning into Ashburnham and Gardner by police departments of those towns.

Thomas was removed from his car at 9:23 a.m., and the scene cleared by 11:40 a.m.

(Benjamin Street) assisted; 6:11 p.m.: fire alarm (Gardner Road) accidental; 6:47 p.m.: accident (Elmwood Road) summons: Robert L. Gagnon II, age 21 of 63 Harvard St., Gardner: negligent operation of MV; 7:27 p.m.: suspicious person (High Street) area search negative; 8:14 p.m.: ambulance (Pleasant Street) transport; 8:24 p.m.: investigation (Mellen Road) property seized; 9:08 p.m.: noise complaint (Mason Street) services rendered.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20  
12:52-2:37 a.m.: building checks, secure; 4:03 a.m.: officer wanted (Lake Denison) services rendered; 5:51 a.m.: accident (Gardner Road) report taken; 7:11 a.m.: animal complaint (Otter River Road) refer to ACO; 7:54 a.m.: lift assist (Ready Drive) assisted; 9:44 a.m.: harassment (Spruce Street) advised legal help; 11:46 a.m.: officer wanted (Gardner Road) report taken; 12:17 p.m.: lift assist (Hyde Park Drive) services rendered; 1:28 p.m.: accident (Fairbanks Street) report taken; 1:52 p.m.: animal complaint (Metcalfe Street) refer to ACO; 3:20 p.m.: general info (Lakeshore Drive) refer to ACO; 3:26 p.m.: suspicious MV (Converse Drive) gone on arrival; 3:29 p.m.: unwanted party (Murdock High School) gone on arrival; 4:39 p.m.: officer wanted (Laurel Street) report taken; 5:39 p.m.: property damage (Spring Street) spoken to; 10:09 p.m.: officer wanted (walk in) report taken; 10:13 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Glenallan Street) call canceled; 10:28 p.m.: suspicious MV (Woodlawn Street) gone on arrival.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21  
12:18-5:26 a.m.: extra patrols & building checks, secure; 5:27 a.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) traffic citation; 5:46 a.m.: ambulance (Spring Street) refer to FD; 5:59 a.m.: suspicious person (Converse Drive) unable to locate; 11:30 a.m.: burglary B&E (Front Place) call canceled; 12:53 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) spoken to; 2:04 p.m.: investigation (Mr. Mikes) spoken to; 3:32 p.m.: investigation (CVS) info taken; 3:40 p.m.: investigation (GFA) spoken to; 3:45 p.m.: investigation (Colonial Co-op) spoken to; 3:48 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road)

traffic citation; 4:47 p.m.: suspicious other (Baldwinville Road) report taken; 4:56 p.m.: investigation (Ipswich Drive) spoken to; 5:14 p.m.: animal complaint (Belmont Avenue) refer to ACO; 5:23 p.m.: animal complaint (Linden Street) refer to ACO; 5:56 p.m.: Burglary B&E (Woodlawn Street) report taken; 6:32 p.m.: suspicious person (Mellen Road) unable to locate; 6:43 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 7:05 p.m.: suspicious person (Mellen Road) unable to locate; 7:15 p.m.: runaway (Baldwinville State Road) assisted; 8:27 p.m.: suspicious other (Woodlawn Street) spoken to; 8:57 p.m.: harassment (Beech Street) no cause for complaint; 10:45 p.m.: ambulance (American

Legion) transport; 11:41 p.m.: building check, secure.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22  
12:01-2:23 a.m.: building checks & extra patrols, secure; 12:32 a.m.: registration check (Central Street) info given; 1:35 a.m.: suspicious person (Summer Street) spoken to; 2:32 a.m.: unwanted party (Brown Street) gone on arrival; 9:55 a.m.: animal complaint (Central Street) refer to ACO; 10:54 a.m.: ambulance (Linden Street) transport; 11:20 a.m.: shoplifting (CVS) report taken; 12:01 p.m.: animal complaint (Baldwinville Road) refer to ACO; 12:20 p.m.: ambulance (Monomonac Road West) no FD service required; 1:33 p.m.: ambulance (High Street) transport; 13:39 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 4:01 p.m.: burglar alarm (Powell Stone) secured building; 4:58 p.m.: ambulance (Ready Drive) transport; 5:19 p.m.: ambulance (Willow Street) transport; 7:04 p.m.: officer wanted (Rite Aid) no PD service required; 8:01 p.m.: gunshots heard (Goodrich Street) unable to locate; 8:17 p.m.: MV stop (Lincoln Avenue) written warning; 8:34 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) traffic citation; 9:15 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) traffic citation; 9:44 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) written warning; 11:29 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 11:37 p.m.: officer wanted (Spring Street) assisted; 11:51 p.m.: unwanted party (Cross Street) transport.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23  
1:11-3:42 a.m.: building checks, secure; 4:45 a.m.: burglar alarm (Alger Street) secure; 8:59 a.m.: accident (Main Street) report taken; 9:35 a.m.: suspicious other (Murdock High School) spoken to; 9:49 a.m.: tree down (Central Street) removed traffic hazard; 10:14 a.m.: ambulance (Mechanic Street) transport; 12:25 p.m.: tree down (Baldwinville State Road) services rendered; 1:04 p.m.: child welfare check (address not printed) unable to locate; 1:05 p.m.: threats (Western Avenue) report taken; 1:54 p.m.: tree down on wires (Monomonac Road West) refer to other agency; 3:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Welch Road) refer to ACO; 3:34 p.m.: officer wanted (Cumberland Farms) removed to hospital; 3:48 p.m.: general info (Pleasant Street) refer to ACO; 6:01 p.m.: animal complaint (Hyde Park Drive) gone on arrival; 6:43 p.m.: tree down (Baldwinville Road) refer to DPW; 6:55 p.m.: suspicious other (Lincoln Avenue Extension) spoken to; 9:11 p.m.: MV stop (Main Street) verbal warning; 10:18 p.m.: MV stop (River Street) verbal warning; 10:24 p.m.: MV stop (Central Street) spoken to; 11:31-11:58 p.m.: building checks, secure.

**CLYDE**  
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information contact the town clerk at (978) 297-2766 or email clerk@town.winchendon.ma.us.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31  
TRICK OR TREAT: hours in Winchendon are 5:30-7:30 p.m.

YOGA: yoga classes are held at Beals Memorial Library beginning at 5:15 p.m. For more information call (978) 297-0300 or visit winchendonlibrary.org.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1  
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.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2  
EXTENDED VOTING HOURS: For the first time in history, you can now vote early in the general elections. You can vote early Oct. 24-Nov. 3; Monday from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be extended hours on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and again Wednesday, Oct. 27 and Nov. 3 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. to accommodate voters. Voting can be done at the town clerk's office, 109 Front St. For information contact the town clerk at (978) 297-2766 or email clerk@town.winchendon.ma.us.

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, NOVEMBER 3  
STORY HOUR: On Thursdays at 4 p.m. Beals Memorial Library on Pleasant Street hosts a story/craft hour for preschoolers' and up.


FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4  
CLARK YMCA GALA: The Clark Memorial YMCA of Winchendon presents: 10th annual Wine & Beer Tasting at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. beginning at 6:30 p.m. Dust off your dancing shoes for a Magical Mystery Tour with BEATLES FOR SALE, covering your favorite Beatles' tunes. \$25 per person; \$300 per table of eight (special recognition for sponsorships). Tickets available at the YMCA front desk or email k.pixa@clarkymca.org. <https://www.facebook.com/events/182960122136032/>

STORY HOURS: Toddler Time takes place every Friday morning at 9:15 a.m. throughout the year, with Rhymes, Playtime, and Story time. Immediately following is story hour from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5  
STORY & SONG CELEBRATION: a free program featuring Bates & Tincknell with songs, stories, and a bit of fun for everyone is scheduled at 11 a.m. at Beals Memorial Library, 22 Pleasant St. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library and by a grant from the Winchendon Cultural Council.



Friday's Child



Jesse and Selena are playful Caucasian siblings. Jesse, 6, is a charming and sweet young boy. He is very helpful and aims to please the adults in his life. He is also very bright, and is very interested in learning. He loves to run around, play catch, and play with his toy cars. Jesse has done well in his current foster home and has shown the ability to make connections with both the adults and other children. Jesse is usually very engaged in the classroom when learning about new things. He has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for emotional support inside the classroom.


Selena is a sweet, smart and determined 4-year old little girl who likes to doodle, color and count. Selena has been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. She has some words, but is not yet able to utilize expressive language. She is able to count up to twenty, and she can recognize her letters and colors. Selena is currently enrolled at a center based daycare where she receives Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services as well as other therapeutic supports. She is currently undergoing evaluations to determine her eligibility for special educational services at school.

Jesse and Selena's social worker is open to considering any type of family where the children can be the youngest or only children in the home. The children would do best with parents who can advocate for her needs, seek resources and provide an unconditional commitment to them as they grow. Jesse and Selena will also need a family open to post-adoption contact with their birth parents.


**Who are the Children Waiting for Adoption?**

There are approximately 2,400 children in Massachusetts foster care with the goal of adoption. Through no fault of their own, they cannot be raised by their birth parents. Many will be adopted by a relative or foster parent, but more than 600 have no one to adopt them yet. These waiting children are usually older, or sibling groups who belong together, children of color of all ages, and children with intellectual, physical or emotional difficulties or disabilities. These children have experienced many losses and changes in their lives, and need patient and dependable adoptive parents who can help them grow and thrive in their new family. Free post-adoption support services are available to help.

To learn more about Jesse and Selena, and about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-54-ADOPT (617-542-3678) or visit [www.mareinc.org](http://www.mareinc.org). The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have "a permanent place to call HOME."




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## New business opening this weekend

WINCHENDON — It's a little different for Toy Town, but not all the unusual as the interest in the intuitive and the paranormal continues to rise.

Shows like Ghost Hunters and Paranormal Activity, Long Island Medium and When Ghosts Attack have piqued interest like never before.

So when someone who has had these experiences, who had a gift for feeling the sixth senses offers to share her abilities with others, people are interested.

Lucky Belcamino is a spirit medium, an intuitive healer, a para-psychic, a Tarot reader and is co-founder of New England Paranormal Society based here in Winchendon.

At a very young age Lucky was open to the magical world of psychics and mediums, as the women in her family were gifted shamans and healers. Lucky's maternal grandmother Dorothy Shattuck Runge died when Lucky was just six months old, but visited Lucky when she was age 8 and instilled the "gift" to her by visiting her one night and appearing and whispering to her, "You have it and will know when to use it".

Growing up she was accustomed to seeing magical and mysterious things happening at home when Lucky and her sisters would get together but it never frightened her, only piquing her interests more into that

realm. Many years went by and she never formally used her gifts with others only around family and friends until she was in Gettysburg PA and visited the Gettysburg Orphanage where a little soul had communicated with her and it changed her life. She has been on this path for a while now and is very excited to be offering her services in Winchendon, where she and her wife Candace share a home.

Lucky is a very warm and comforting sensitive who takes pride in being able to provide validation and direct communication with loves ones who have passed on. She has been involved in many open gallery psychic readings and private readings along with hosting psychic and paranormal events around New England.

Lucky will be offering private one on one personal spiritual psychic readings or tarot card readings. She also will be offering guided sessions to help individuals develop their own gifts and assisting in drumming circles with Will her business partner.

Will is a Reiki master and will be available for specialized massage and healing.

The Holistic Mystic on Central will open Saturday and on Sunday afternoon will have a small grand opening. The business readings and massage are open by appointment only and can be reached at (978) 297-1301.

## COURIER CAPSULES

### EARLY VOTING

201 votes were cast in Winchendon during the first two days of early voting this week as Massachusetts joined more than 30 other states in permitting that practice.

Town clerk Judy LaJoie said 111 ballots were cast Monday and another 90 people voted Tuesday. LaJoie is keeping a daily record. "It has been amazing," she acknowledged Wednesday morning.

Early voting continues at town hall every day until Nov. 3, excluding this Sunday, Oct. 30. Tomorrow the temporary polling place will be at the town hall auditorium and is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Monday, where voting will be conducted in the veteran's office at town hall, polls are open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Tuesday (Nov. 1) and Thursday (Nov. 3) of next week, polling hours will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Wednesday, Nov. 2, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Early voting ends on Thursday. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8.

### VENDORS WANTED!

JAFFREY — The VFW Post 5613 Auxiliary will be hosting the annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be held at the VFW Hall on Hathorn Road (off Route 202) in Jaffrey.

\$15 per space rental, \$5 per table rental. Local artists, crafters and vendors welcome. Please contact Tracy at tdespres68@gmail.com or (603) 899-2262 for more information on how to register. Registration deadline is Saturday, Nov. 12.

### SKATE CLUB

Winchendon Skate Club invites all ice skaters to join our club Nov. 5. 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.

### PRETTY IN PASTELS

The Gardner Area League of Artists will host a Pastel Basics Workshop on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at its gallery at 135 Front Str Artist Alicia Drakiotes will lead participants in experimenting with a variety of substrates and soft pastels to create different finished looks to their paintings. Some materials are provided and a list of what is needed will be available after registration. Affiliated with many artist groups, Drakiotes owns a Fine Arts Studio, teaches at the New Hampshire Institute of Art, and has received many honors and awards for her art. The cost for members is \$50 and \$55 for non-members. Go to galagardner.org to register or for more information.

### BOY SCOUT SPAGHETTI

JAFFREY — Boy Scout Troop 33 of Jaffrey will be hosting their Spaghetti Supper on Saturday Nov. 5 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Webster Street. Adult tickets are \$8 Seniors are \$6 and children (10 and under) \$6. The menu includes spaghetti with homemade sauce, tossed salad, the Troop's famous garlic bread, dessert and assorted beverages.

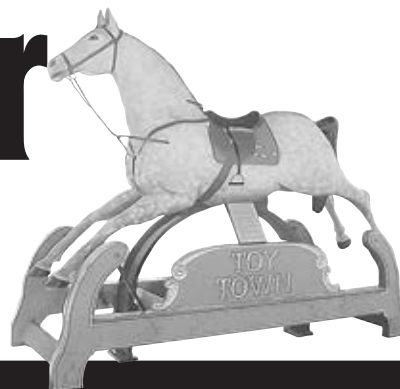
### BASKET SALE

FITZWILLIAM — Gap Mountain Lions Club, themed baskets, silent auction, penny sale, and bake sale, Nov. 12 starting at 9 a.m. and running until 2 p.m. Village Pond Community Center 35 Central Square, Troy NH. Parking is around the common or at the train depot.

# Winchendon Courier Classifieds

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### 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](mailto:ruth@stonebridgepress.com).

### FOR RENT

#### 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.

### GOODRICH APARTMENTS

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### 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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## Winchendon Courier Classifieds



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DRAWDOWN

continued from page A1

property value and water quality. “We’ve kept this lake clear for a long time,” he said. “If we can kill 30 to 40 acres of milfoil, we won’t have to treat it. Those are resources we can use elsewhere.” Lewandowsky said he is concerned that if they do not treat it now, it’ll grow out of control.

He said the association went door-to-door to 156 homes, and 153 homeowners said they were in favor of the three-foot drawdown.

Two residents had issues with a shallow well, and one resident did not answer.

“There is no resident in town not in favor of this,” Lewandowsky said.

Commission member Tony George said it was disturbing for the association to sit in front of the commission and tell people who have a problem with the well that they need to fix it.

“You can’t put a pump into the lake,” George said. “We’re coming into cold season. I do not think anyone wants to do that. To me, that’s not the solution.”

Officials with the Monomonac Lake Property Owners Association, which represents lakeside residents on the Rindge side of the lake, said they would be willing to work with the Winchendon Springs Lake Association to come up with a workable contingency plan to address problems that may arise with wells resulting from a three-foot drawdown.

The association conducted a survey and received a 60 percent response rate.

The Conservation Commission voted unanimously to allow a two-foot drawdown, but continued the public hearing to its next meeting on Nov. 10. At that time, if a contingency plan is developed to help property owners whose well may be affected, the commission could vote to allow the three-foot drawdown, being sought by the Lake Association.

launched in 2000 by New York city public school teacher Charles Best which began at his school, spread across the city and eventually across the country. Murdock received about \$2,500 after Principal Josh Romano, no stranger to googling for grants, (“I’m always looking for free money,” he reminded), discovered Donor’s Choice.

“We thought it would be really cool if we could have a ‘live lab’ here,” enthused Larson.

Fairbanks explained how it came about. After Romano found the program, “we posted on the site at the end of June and by mid-July we were fully funded. The support from donors all over the country was incredible not only from a monetary standpoint but also in their words of encouragement,” she said. Fairbanks and Larson co-wrote the Donor’s Choice application.

The original application said MHS students “need these materials in order to expand our live lab and their overall science experience. The terrariums and aquariums will be set up and maintained by students working collaboratively.”

That sounds pretty dry. But let Fairbanks point out, “Our start came in the form of an informal student question regarding an unwanted pet snake. I, being terrified of snakes said, ‘NO WAY’, but if I don’t take it, who will? The student responded, ‘ah, we’ll just let it go behind our house’. I nearly died. ‘NO, NO NO. We’ll take it. You can’t just let non-native species go’. And so I have a LIVE

snake,” she recounted.

(Editor’s note - when the Courier visited the live lab Thursday, we could make out the head of the snake at one end of the tank and the tail on the far opposite end. It was not a small snake)

“They were,” Fairbanks added of her students, “intrigued, grossed out, interested, and appalled. A couple weeks later, I came upon a giant water bug on the football field and brought it into the classroom. Curious, I did some research and found these bugs eat fish. I was shocked but had to find out if this was true. I purchased feeder fish and...waited. The interest it caused was almost as alarming as the bug’s vicious attack and feeding habits. It was then I realized our students’ science experience could be much more engaging and meaningful with a live lab,” she reflected.

“Absolutely,” agreed Larson. “Sometimes you see their eyes light up...”

As for those bearded dragons? Credit the community for them, as well as a 70-gallon tank and Russian tortoises. There was also a grant from Robinson-Broadhurst.

“We’ve been blessed with funding from them,” Fairbanks noted.

Senior intern Brooke Harris is also enthused.

“I think I want to be a vet and it’s a great experience to be able to work with these animals,” she said, adding she and other interns help feed the varied species as well as keeping the ‘living quarters’ clean.

“I’m having a lot of fun,” she stressed, “and we’re learning a lot. This is a great



Morgan St. Pierre photos

Murdock senior Brooke Harris is interning in the science department and has taken on the task of caring for the miniature zoo.

program.”

Bottom line? “Students experiences vary based on the course in which they are enrolled. Biology focuses on the organisms needs and habitats. Environmental science looks at sustainability and impact of habitat change. Anatomy conducts comparative studies and chemistry

assists in water-quality testing,” said Fairbanks, noting, “this is only the beginning. We hope to be adding a greenhouse, hydroponics center and more in the near future in order to expand on the hands-on learning experience we are able to offer our students at Murdock.”

CHANGES

continued from page A1

In some cases, the description of the duties of a committee were omitted, as that was not considered to be material for the charter, but was better placed as policy elsewhere in town documents.

In only one area was the BOS hesitant to throw its support totally behind the changes.

Selectman Michael Barbaro pointed out that having the town manager only responsible for signing the financial warrants would eliminate any checks and balances. “Members of the Selectmen should also sign the warrant and see it. Just as one more step,” said Barbaro.

The members of the Charter Review Committee agreed to add that language to the section for consideration.

The first change other than modernizing lan-

guage is under Article 2, legislative branch requiring that anyone named to a committee, either special or standing will be required to be registered voters of the town.

The sections describing the makeup and duties of the planning board and capital planning committees were struck from the charter at this point, as the descriptions were deemed to be extraneous and not necessary to the charter itself but policy.

The next actual change is under Article 3 which sets the terms of all elected officers as beginning on July 1.

Only modernizing language was done to the recall section of the charter, no changes to the requirements were made.

Under section 3-2, the Board of Selectmen, the language was changed a bit to reflect that the members were not eligible employees for reasons of health insurance, but are eligible for cer-

tain reimbursements for expenses. The language that states they will serve without a salary has been stricken, leaving a possibility for a change in the future.

Under Article 4, town manager, the language requiring residence in the town has been stricken from the charter.

In addition, the duty of supervising the town accountant is no longer under that jurisdiction.

Under Article 5, Fiscal Procedures, the Capital Improvements Program is spelled out in this section, including the make up of the advisory committee. The schedule of the annual budgeting process is under this section including the preferred presentation.

A section under General Provisions for the removal of a either a town officer of a member of a multiple member body is better spelled out. The person in question cannot be subject to the

provisions of other contracted language such as state civil service law or a collective bargaining agreement. The language states a person “may be suspended by the appointing authority, or after notice and opportunity for a hearing removed from office by the appointing authority for good cause.”

The term good cause could mean, but isn’t limited to, incapacity other than temporary illness, inefficiency, insubordination and conduct unbecoming the office.

But the language doesn’t guarantee a hearing or a right to reappointment.

The changes have been reviewed and confirmed

by town counsel.

The Charter Review Committee, which has been working on the changes for months, was thanked for the hard work. The approval of the changes is article two on the special town meeting scheduled Monday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Murdock High School auditorium.

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## POLICE STATION

continued from page A1

The saga began in 2010 when local voters green-lighted the purchase of the courthouse in a transaction which mandated the then owner to pay for the work needed to turn the building into a police headquarters. That plan dissolved when the state Supreme Judicial Court ruled such “turn-key” deals weren’t legal because they bypassed open bid rules.

Two years later, voters approved spending \$2.75 million for a new station on a site to be determined by a search committee. Eventually, that group settled on the courthouse and surrounding properties, which was bought for \$800,000 and under two million was spent on the renovation process.

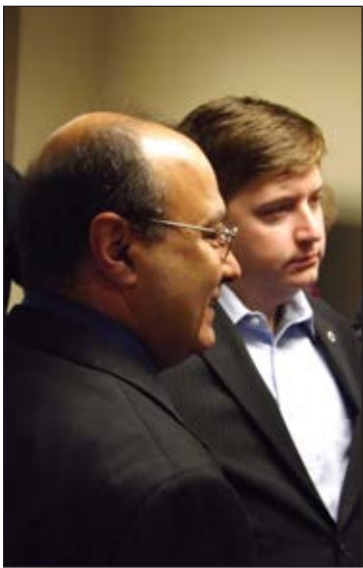
“It was a lot of hard work but it was truly worth the wait and is a great example of Winchendon ‘working together,’” said Chief Dave Walsh, who thanked, “the residents of Winchendon without whom this project would not have been possible.”

The new building includes briefing and interrogation rooms as well as a conference room, a significantly larger dispatch center, separate gender locker rooms for officers and holding cells which are handicap accessible.

Walsh traced the history of what he called the “Classical Revival brick building which was built in 1908 by J. Frank Burt and appropriately named the Burt Building.”

The building has housed a variety of businesses over the last century, including a clothing store and several pharmacies and was home to numerous other entities, including the Artisan Lodge of Masons, as well. There were even dental offices in Room 8 which is now Walsh’s office.

“The second floor still retains most the beautiful popular woodwork and original glass



Selectman Mike Barbaro and Rep. Jon Zlotnik.

transoms with office numbers which are still functional today,” he pointed out.

Back in 1926, the police department was housed in town hall on Front Street, remaining there until the 1980s when it moved into the just vacated Pleasant Street facility. It was in 1937 when the department began using vehicle patrols which previously had all been conducted on foot.

Walsh has been chief for a year which leaves him a long way to go to match the tenure of Robert Callahan, who headed the department for 47 years between 1890 and 1937 before reaching the then mandatory retirement age of 70.

By the 1920s the Winchendon Electric Light and Power company had moved in and some 50 years later, the Winchendon court took over the second floor, subsequently occupying the whole building until the court moved to Gardner in 2009.

Walsh cut the blue ribbon stretched across the entryway on Central Street and spoke to the crowd gathered in front of the station. He pointed out the great support he and the department have received from the Selectboard, Robinson

Broadhurst Foundation, Winchendon School, and the many committees that were involved during the entire process of attaining and renovating the building.

Walsh admitted, “When this first came about, I didn’t totally embrace the older building. I just wanted a building.” He repeatedly heard people comment on the beautiful old woodwork. “Since we’ve moved in, I’ve embraced it,” he said, “to the point where it’s almost an obsession.”

“When the court relocated,” said Walsh, explaining how the department has come to occupy the building, “it was proposed the building would be a suitable site for a police facility. It met the space needs, already had jail cells, handicap access and an elevator. Several committees were established including the Public Safety Development Committee and the Public Safety Works Study Committee.”

In September 2013, the BOS accepted the deed to the building. In October of 2015 construction started and was completed in September of this year.

“This building is rich with history. People I have spoken to have fond memories of shopping or sitting at the soda fountain in the pharmacy. We will continue the stewardship of this building and hope this is a sign of revitalization of the Central Street area,” he said.

Highlights of the day included the awarding of a citation to the police department by the state legislature by state Sen. Anne Gobi and state Rep. Jon Zlotnik.

Chairman of the Historic Commission Corey Bohan again explained the citation his commission had already presented Walsh, for the department’s work in preserving the historic integrity of the 1908 building. But Bohan had a second gift, a photo from the 1940s era with a very proud Winchendon police officer front and center celebrating a successful operation with a large cigar. Bohan said attempts to identify the officer had so far been unsuccessful, but it was important the old photo be part of the collection at the police department.

Among the artifacts at the new police station are a collection of old police equipment, badges and handcuffs now kept as carefully preserved reminders of a different way of life. Walsh said he appreciated the hard work his predecessors had to do in his job.

A Baldwin chain nipper or twister, used from the 1870s through as late as the 1930s,



BOS Chairman Barbara Anderson, Chief David Walsh and Town Manager Keith Hickey.



Superintendent Steve Haddad, American Legion Treasurer David Johnson and Robinson-Broadhurst trustee Bud Fletcher listen to the presentation by Chief David Walsh.

was displayed. An officer would wrap the chain around the suspect’s wrist, twist, and hold the T-shaped handles in order to bring along the apprehended. People would likely break their wrist if they resisted or tried to escape. A mechanical version called the Argus Iron Claw, also on view, replaced it in the 1930s and was used for over 30 years in police departments around the world.

With the help of Winchendon History and Cultural Center President Don O’Neil, Walsh had compiled the history, and had collected photos for framing and was now able to preserve the artifacts to add to the ambiance of the new station.

The building meets the present needs of the police department with room for future growth. The men and women in blue smiled and showed their pride in their new home.

Among its many features, the building has handicap accessibility, an elevator, male and female locker rooms, ample space to secure evidence properly (including locked storage and refrigeration) and improved security with anti-ballistic walls.

The first floor houses the roll call room, dispatch center, interview rooms, three holding cells, a processing room, evidence lockers, and break room. Tall doorways with transom windows perched high above mark entries to offices and conference rooms on the second floor. This floor also has locker rooms, a workout room, and conference room. Officers now have enough space to eat, change, and write reports in separate rooms.

Some officers alluded to the fact that their demeanor is better in the new facility. It isn’t uncommon to see some staff arrive early and leave late because they want to spend time in the building.

Police Chaplain Father Mike Clements blessed the building and those who serve the community from it. “May this building be for them a place of safe haven, a place of hope, a place of justice. May it stand as a testimony of good will and good work.”

As part of the festivities K9 officer Clyde was outside and introduced to those who wanted to meet him. The Kiwanis Club provided free refreshments and Keller Williams Real Maliska Real Estate provided desserts.

When asked, a few of those who toured were glad the police were in their new, expanded quarters.

“This is a great space, where they should be right on Central Street in the middle of town. A very visible presence and so much better for them,” said Skip Wood.

The public should know about an area along the side of the building, in the parking lot, that is designated “Internet Purchase Exchange Location”. This is a spot where online buyers and sellers can meet in person to complete transactions under police surveillance cameras. The security cameras monitor the area 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

(Contributing to this story were Tracy Gambill and editor Ruth DeAmicis)



Handcuffs from another era, badges and photos will soon grace the walls

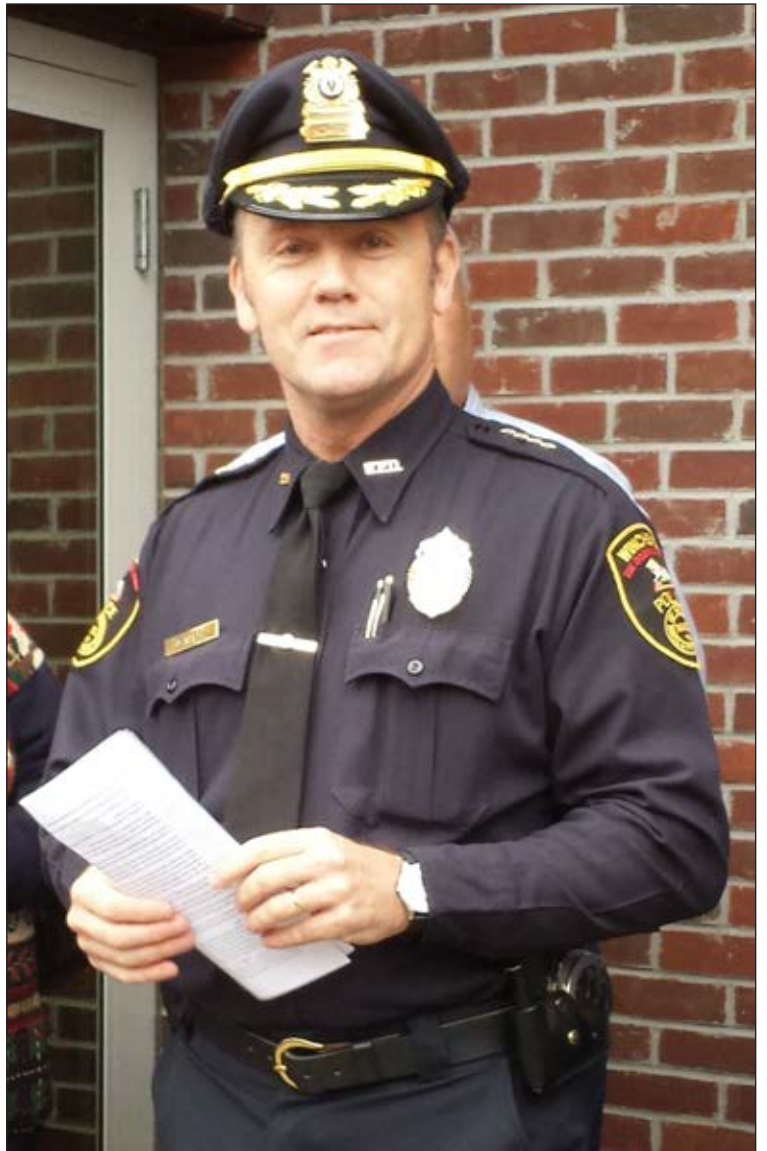


Photos by Morgan St. Pierre, and Tracy Gambill.

Sen. Anne Gobi, Police Chief David Walsh and Rep. Jon Zlotnik with the legislative citation.



The new facade at 80 Central St.



A smiling Chief David Walsh welcomes the public into the new police station.

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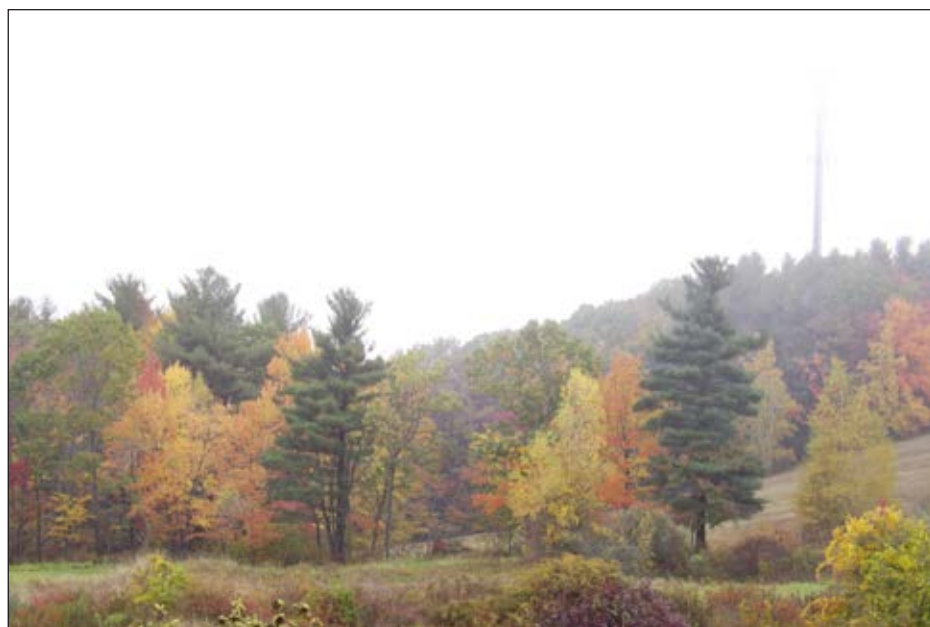
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## Clark GALA on the horizon

When Wendell P. Clark envisioned a community center for his town in the mid-20th century on property right downtown, he wrote that he was interested in the YMCA movement and its tenets.

At first, the Clark Memorial center was set up on its own, but a few years ago the Board of Directors went the Y route, and now the Clark Memorial YMCA offers even more programming, and has the benefit of using materials and training offered by the nationwide non-profit entity.

It's all still locally controlled and locally funded though. The way Clark envisioned it.

The local funding piece is key.

Keeping costs down means there are some needs though; because another piece Clark envisioned was having his community center available to all; no matter their economic ability to pay. To that end, the Clark has a fee structure that includes sliding scales and scholarship programs; and always makes certain everyone has the ability to use the facilities.

That means there must be fundraising to help pay for everyone to keep the programming in place.

To that end, one of the most popular is happening next week as the 10th annual wine and beer tasting, including the silent auction, raffles, and this year the entertainment includes a live band all kicks off on Friday, Nov. 4.

Organizers are excited this year about the plans for the evening.

Kelli Pixa, business manager at the Clark, has been working to plan this evening for months; and is pleased to present this version to the public.

"It's going to be great!" she enthused. "All the proceeds will be used for the scholarship fund so all families and children can enjoy membership, aquatics, gymnastics, before and after school and summer camps. This is important and we appreciate the help."

The Beatles tribute band Beatles For Sale will be on hand; beer samples by Wachusett Brewing and wine samples provided by Westminster Pharmacy and Wine Shop. The cheese pairings will be provided by Winchendon's own Smith's Country Cheese.

Silent auction items will be many and varied, there will be a variety of raffles and there is usually a few surprises in the mix.

It's a great night, and the price is right. This year, the event is being held at American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. in Winchendon. Entire tables of eight can be pre-purchased for \$300; call or email Pixa at [k.pixa@clarkymca.org](mailto:k.pixa@clarkymca.org) or (978) 297-9622.

Individual tickets are \$25 each and can be pre-purchased at the YMCA or at the door. The event begins at 6:30 p.m.

So put on your dancing shoes, twist to the music of the Beatles and support the Clark Nov. 4.

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