



## Winchendon's hidden homeless: beginning a dialogue

BY TARA VOCINO  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — With winter quickly approaching, it is time to think about the hidden homelessness problem in Toy Town.

The Board of Health will host a public forum on Monday, Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. in the Old Murdock Senior Center, 52 Murdock Ave., to better prepare for the inevitable winter conditions.

Representatives of the homeless themselves, Police Chief David Walsh, Director of Housing Authority David

Connor, YMCA Director Mike Quinn, Rep. Jon Zlontik (D-Gardner), Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer), and Town Manager Keith Hickey will all have a chance to speak.

Organizer Lionel Cloutier said they want to gather as much information as possible so the burden doesn't fall on Council on Aging Director Sheila Bettro's shoulders.

"It's a public hearing," Cloutier said. "We need input. We need input."

Homeless often go to the Council on Aging or

Community Action Center when they find themselves in a tough spot. The Council on Aging provides vouchers through United Way for cheaper housing.

For example, they can stay at Peaceful Acres in Templeton for \$10 a night or Rodeway Inn in Westminster for \$49 per night with the voucher in hand.

With a population of 10,200, five people were officially reported homeless this year. With November approaching, Cloutier said the number will

quickly increase.

"We had a doozy last winter," Cloutier said. "We had the drought. Now, we'll gain rain in the form of snow this winter."

Bettro placed a young couple with two boys and a 74-year-old woman on Maple and Linden streets.

She said there was an 83-year-old woman walking around in 30 below zero temperatures without shoes and only a nightie when police discovered her. Police took her into protective custody and put

her in the cell for the night. She wandered into the street and forgot where she was going.

"I thought, 'no way. Not in my town'," Cloutier said. "There are no reasons why residents shouldn't have a place to go. We are not rich, like some cities. We don't have a good place to put them, but we have got to find a way."

Cloutier said police should notify that someone is homeless instead of locking them up.

"It makes the person feel bad," Cloutier said. "It's not

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Morgan St. Pierre photo

Cody Arington is ready to face the music.

## New challenges face Murdock band director

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — There's a two-tiered challenge facing new Murdock Middle and High School band director Cody Arington. For starters, Arington hails from Arizona, so navigating his first New England winter is certain to be an interesting experience.

More substantively, Arington is in charge of rebuilding the school's band program which currently has

just four high school members.

Arington, though, is unfazed.

"I have a plan," he said. "It will take a few years and I've got to get them into the classroom (band is an elective) but we're going to get it done. As students get to know me there will be more participation."

That optimism stems in part from the more than 20 middle school band participants giving the high school a pipeline should those

students choose to stay at Murdock.

Additionally, "kids recruit other kids," Arington noted. "When kids see their friends having fun, it makes them want to be a part of that activity. Also, because the class is an elective and realistically some kids are just filling their schedules, I'm firm in class but at the same time I'm trying to make it fun and creative for them."

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## New digs for Winchendon lawyer

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — You've read about Dave LaPointe in these pages before, as the drummer for the BIG Random band, as the dad of a young woman who used this newspaper as a platform to discuss her struggles with mental illness, and as the new co-owner of the famed Sargent house.

What you haven't read yet is about Dave Lapointe the lawyer but as we continue a series of ongoing stories of local businesses, you're going to read exactly that right here.

It's been a circuitous route to practicing law. One of 10 children, college wasn't an automatic option after high school

and though LaPointe's interest in the legal profession had been sparked by a mock court competition, he joined the Army where he served as a military police officer, an experience which would come in handy down the road.

"I was in the last class where it was okay to be 5'6"," laughed LaPointe.

Then came a civilian tran-

Turn To **LAPOINTE** page **A12**



Attorney David LaPointe

## Art show starts tonight

BY TRACY GAMBILL  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — The Cornerstone Church on Route 140 in Winchendon will host its sixth annual Art Show on Friday, Oct. 14 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 15 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The free two-day

event is open to the public and will feature more than 100 entries of art, music, and writing.

Pastor J. Lillie, the Worship Arts pastor at the church, founded C.cada (Cornerstone Christian Artist Day Apart)

Turn To **ART SHOW** page **A12**

## School system due for next state review

BY KEITH KENT  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Superintendent Steve Haddad told the School Committee last week the district has received its formal request from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education to begin gathering information and reports for the required comprehensive assessment.

Haddad read, "The Winchendon public schools has been selected for a comprehensive and district review. Under provisions of Chapter 15, Section 55A, by the Center for District and Social Accountability at DESE, this

review is an important opportunity for reflection, self-evaluation, continued learning, and growth. The review focuses on the six standard practices as defined in state regulation."

Haddad has named Kristina Mecelicaite, director of pupil services, as the liaison with DESE.

Mecelicaite defined the six different categories for self-assessment as leadership & governance; curriculum & instruction; assessment, human resources & professional development; student support; and financial & asset management.

Mecelicaite said, "Those six standards also have 24 indica-

tors, and those indicators each have another six to seven additional things underneath. All in all, it is about 120 things that have to be voted on, by our district selected committees of school committee members, teachers, administration, and guidance."

Continuing with the daunting state mandated task, Mecelicaite also explained the WPS will be required to find and define five quality assessments the district, and 24 documents submitted with the six standards are to be submitted by Oct. 26.

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Morgan St. Pierre photo

The season may be shorter this year, some say the colors aren't as vibrant with less rain; but you wouldn't know it to see these beauties.



**LOCAL**  
On the  
High Seas  
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**SPORTS**  
Improving  
the stats  
**PAGE 8**



**WEEKLY QUOTE**  
"Once in a while you have to take a break and visit yourself."  
- Audrey Giorgi



# Students on the upside: Upward Bound

**GARDNER** — When Sanjiv Sundaramurthy headed off to the University of Arizona this fall to study physics, he brought everything he needs for his dorm room, including first-hand experience with college life and free, transferable college credits toward his bachelor's degree thanks to the Upward Bound Math and Science program at Mount Wachusett Community College.

The 2016 Gardner High School graduate just completed his second year in UBMS, a year-round federal TRIO program administered by Mount Wachusett Community College for Gardner, Athol and Winchendon students.

More than two dozen



Courtesy photo

From left, Chandler Giuffre of Athol, Nathaniel Gagnon of Winchendon and Sanjiv Sundaramurthy of Gardner, were among the area Upward Bound Math and Science students recognized for their academic achievements by Mount Wachusett Community College's Division of Access & Transition.

high school students participated in the program's six-week residential component, which took place this summer at Fitchburg State University and included academic courses, extracurricular activities, career exploration and field trips.

The students were recognized for their academic success during an awards ceremony Aug. 4. Sundaramurthy was joined by Chandler

Giuffre of Athol and Nathaniel Gagnon of Winchendon as the event's featured student speakers.

This fall, Gagnon, who earned 30 college credits through UBMS, plans to continue his studies at MWCC before furthering his education in the field of biomedical engineering. Giuffre, who completed an associate degree in liberal arts pre-engineering and physics and earned his high school diploma this spring through MWCC's Pathways Early College Innovation School, transferred to UMass Lowell fall to continue studying physics and math.

"UBMS is such a great program," Giuffre said. "This program has allowed me to grow and

develop into who I am today."

Fagan Forhan, assistant dean of K-12 Partnerships and Civic Engagement, congratulated the students on their achievements and thanked the many parents and grandparents in attendance for the encouragement they've provided.

The UBMS program is offered to students who have an aptitude for math and science and are in grades 9 through 12 at Gardner High School, Athol High School and Murdock High School in Winchendon. Two-thirds of the students are from low income or first-generation college families and have an identified need for services. The supervised residential compo-

nent acquaints students with campus life while providing an opportunity to grow academically, socially and culturally, said Angele Goss, director of MWCC's UBMS and North Central Mass Talent Search programs.

The students attended workshops on leadership and careers, took part in a variety of recreational and educational programs and went on field trips to colleges, universities and museums.

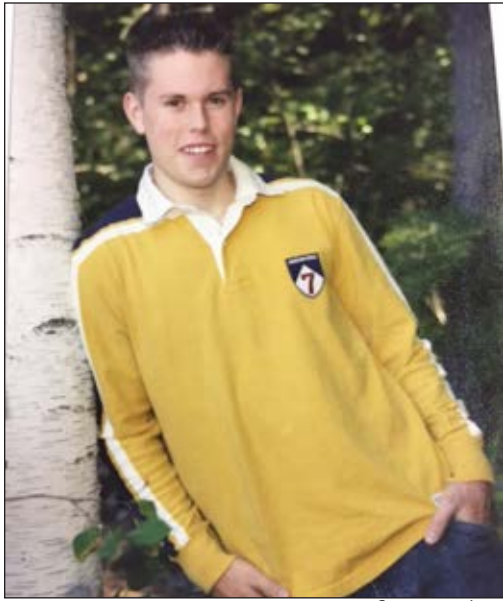
MWCC's North Central Massachusetts Upward Bound Math and Science program began in 2008 with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. In 2012, the college received a five-year, \$1.3 million grant to continue funding the program.

## MORRISSEY GRADUATES

**FITCHBURG** — Christopher Morrissey is a graduate of the cosmetology program at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School. He was an honor roll student throughout his course of study, and an active participant in Skills USA, receiving numerous awards.

He is currently a licensed cosmetologist, employed by St. Cyr Salon and Spa in Worcester.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jon Morrissey of Winchendon and Theresa Morrissey of Gardner. His future plans include attending college and owning his own business.



Courtesy photo

Christopher Morrissey

## KITTY KORNER



Meet Peaches & Cream! These adorable sisters are approximately 1-2 years old. Peaches is all orange with medium length hair and Cream is orange and white with short hair. They were surrendered to us due to financial difficulties. They are both gentle, affectionate and playful. They enjoy each others company very much and the shelter plans to adopt them out together. Both girls are

up to date on their vaccines, spayed, tested for FIV/Felv, and microchipped. If you would like to meet them, A Better Tomorrow Shelter for Cats at 202 Central St. is open Wednesday 6-8 p.m., Saturday noon-2 p.m., and by appointment. For an adoption application, please visit [www.shelterforcats.org](http://www.shelterforcats.org) or call (774) 641-1271.

## CLYDE'S CORNER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

**COMEDY NIGHT:** The CAC is hosting a comedy night with three comedians at the American Legion, 295 School St. beginning at 7 p.m. Adults over 21 recommended. Raffles and more, cash bar, \$25 per person. The proceeds will be split between the Winchendon Police Department K9 program and the CAC. Come out for an evening of fun and frolic and benefit two worthy causes.

**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.

**CCADA ART SHOW:** The Cornerstone Church on Route 140 in Winchendon will host its 6th annual Art Show on Friday, Oct. 14 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The free two-day event is open to the public and will feature over 100 entries of art, music, and writing. A café and ticket auction are open both days of the event. There will be performances on Friday evening from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., including poetry readings, Rainboe the Clown, J. Lillie, and Elijah Haas.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

**BEATLES TRIBUTE CONCERT:** Studio Two will hold an event at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St. sponsored by the Winchendon Lions. The event begins at 8 p.m. Advance tickets are \$15 and available from Lions members, at the Legion and at To Each His Own Design; tickets at the door will be \$20. Raffles, auctions and more. Support the local Lions and their service projects.

**TEA PARTY MYSTERY:** every weekend in October the Escape Room at the Isaac Morse House is on Thursday and Friday nights 4-10 p.m.; Saturday noon-10 p.m. and Sunday noon-6 p.m. You must pre-register, walk ins will not be accepted. To register go to [winchendonescaperoom.com](http://winchendonescaperoom.com). Cost is \$25. To benefit the Winchendon History & Cultural Center.

**TOY TOWN MARKET:** The Toy Town Outdoor Market (formerly the Toy Town Farmers' Market) is now open! Plants and in-season vegetables are available, along with items made by local artists and craftsmen. Located at 126 Central St. (the front lawn of the UU Church, across from the Clark YMCA), vendors will be there Thursdays 4-7 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. through the end of October.

**OPEN HOUSE:** the Artisan Lodge of Masons welcomes all to an open house at its lodge on School Street, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Come learn more about this most prestigious organization.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

**GALA POETRY EVENT:** an afternoon of GALA poetry 2-4 p.m. featuring poet Ann Marie Meltzer of Greenfield sharing from her evocative book titled "Coming of Age." An open mic follows and we invite you to share your own words, a favorite poem by another, or simply enjoy. A sign-up sheet available for anyone wishing to participate in the open mic. Time allotted approximately five minutes depending on how many sign up.

Light refreshments. Murdock-Whitney House, 151 Front St. GALA members: \$2 (bring GALA membership card); non-members: \$3. Contact Paula J. Botch at (978) 575-0863 or email [cohen5kids@yahoo.com](mailto:cohen5kids@yahoo.com) for more information.

**FREE TOY MAKING WORKSHOP:** learn about the history of Toy Town, then make your own toy drum at the Isaac Morse House, 135 Front St. from 2-5 p.m. Then play with Walden Whitham on your new instrument. There is no cost, or need to register, but only materials for the first 50 people will be guaranteed. Light refreshments. Sponsored by GALA and the Winchendon Cultural Council.

**CCADA ART SHOW:** The Cornerstone Church on Route 140 in Winchendon will host its 6th annual Art Show Saturday, Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The free two-day event is open to the public and will feature over 100 entries of art, music, and writing. On Saturday, Poetry in the Parlor is scheduled for 10-11 a.m. Project workshops run from noon-2 p.m. and include card making, adult coloring, and kids' puzzles. Winners of the ticket auction and People's Choice Award will be announced at 2 p.m. and there will be a special themed competition, titled "What Will the Future Hold?"

**BLESSING OF THE PETS:** in honor of St. Francis, patron saint of animals, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 52 Spruce St., will hold a special blessing of the animals in the rectory yard beginning at 1 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the event will move to the church basement. All pets must be tethered, leashed, tanked or crated, and it's hoped there may be a visit by Clyde the K9 for his blessing too. Open to all.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17

**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](http://winchendonlibrary.org).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

**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.

**PAPERWORK MOUNTAINS:** Are you feeling overwhelmed by the volume of records that you need to keep for your child? Family TIES is presenting "Let's Get Organized" RSVP is imperative. 7 p.m. at Memorial School Cafeteria. For more information contact the special education offices at the schools at (978) 297-1850 or email [sepac@winchendonk12](mailto:sepac@winchendonk12).

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

**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, OCTOBER 20

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

**TOY TOWN MARKET:** The Toy Town Outdoor Market (formerly the Toy Town Farmers' Market) is now open! Plants and in-season vegetables are available, along with items made by local artists and craftsmen. Located at 126 Central St. (the front lawn of the UU Church, across from the Clark YMCA), vendors will be there Thursdays 4-7 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. through the end of October.

**BOOK CLUB:** Beals Memorial Library hosts a book discussion group the second Thursday of each month at 5:45 p.m. The book is available to borrow at the library, call for details, (978) 297-0300. Always welcoming new members.

**TEA PARTY MYSTERY:** every weekend in October the Escape Room at the Isaac Morse House is on Thursday and Friday nights 4-10 p.m.; Saturday noon-10 p.m. and Sunday noon-6 p.m. You must pre-register, walk ins will not be accepted. To register go to [winchendonescaperoom.com](http://winchendonescaperoom.com). Cost is \$25. To benefit the Winchendon Historic & Cultural Center.

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

**GARDEN CLUB:** The Winchendon Garden Club meetings are held at 1 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month from April to December at the Ipswich

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# Mylec fights to hang onto TIF

WINCHENDON — Mylec owner Randy LaPerriere plans to be back before selectmen Monday night, seeking their continued support for a tax increment financing agreement approved by voters at a 2010 town meeting.

The agreement gives Mylec a break on its property taxes over a 20-year period in exchange for the company's move from what is known as White's Mill to the Hillview Business Park located on Gardner Road, and for a commitment to hire 20 new permanent, full-time employees. Half of those jobs are supposed to be given to low- and moderate-income individuals living in Winchendon or the immediate area.

Mylec will pay an increasing percentage of its property tax bill every four years until paying the full assessment at the end of the 20-year period.

LaPerriere also agreed to invest \$3.5 million in a new building and another \$1.5 million in new equipment. In addition to relocating his company, LaPerriere has fulfilled this commitment.

Efforts to hire on new employees,

however, have fallen short. In addition, Town Manager Keith Hickey told selectmen at their last meeting the town has yet to receive a report on job creation and retention, a document the TIF specifies should be submitted annually. The report is also supposed to provide information on new investments in the company.

In July, Mylec was decertified from the state's Economic Development Incentive program. To be enrolled in the program, the company had to commit to adding 21 new employees. The state says just one new worker was added to the company's workforce by the end of 2015.

He told selectmen at their Oct. 3 meeting that "the time frame for job creation just wasn't realistic. The plant wasn't up and running soon enough to make new hires."

The company lost one of its biggest customers when the Sports Authority shuttered all 450 of its stores nationwide and in Puerto Rico in July.

Last Friday, state Sen. Ann Gobi (D-Spencer) and state Rep. Jon Zlotnik

toured the Mylec plant as a nod to National Manufacturing Month. LaPerriere invited selectmen to join the lawmakers on their tour but no one from the board made an appearance. The company owner did admit to some disappointment that none of the selectmen was able to make it.

LaPerriere told Gobi and Zlotnik, while he has yet to make substantial additions to his workforce, Mylec does its best to do business with local retailers and manufacturers.

"When we built the two rinks, most of the business went to Belletete's," he said. "We get a lot of our shipping boxes from New England Woodenware. When people visit us for business we take them to local restaurants. And when people are here for dek hockey games or tournaments they spend money at local businesses."

While LaPerriere is appealing Mylec's decertification from the Economic Development Incentive program, he said continuation of the TIF is crucial.

"Losing the TIF would be a game-changer."

## 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).



Tracy Gambill photo

## SERVING IT UP

The Winchendon Unitarian Universalist Church is revamping Community Dinners once again. The popular community dinners are held every other Thursday night at the church, and will now announce the menus ahead of time. On Oct. 27, the dinner will include roast pork with all the trimmings. The dinner is open to all, and is a focal point for gathering and meeting others for an evening of talk and social interchange. A free will offering is appreciated, but not mandatory.

## ON THE HIGH SEAS

U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Alexander P. Akre

PACIFIC OCEAN — Seaman Dean Brazawskis, from Winchendon receives the Sailor of the Day award from Capt. Greg Huffman, USS John C. Stennis' (CVN 74) commanding officer, and Command Master Chief Benjamin Rushing. John C. Stennis is underway conducting proficiency and sustainment training.



# Reading to the youngest encouraged



Audrey Batista-Lin, age 14 months, is very happy with the new book given to her by the Rotary Club.

BY TARA VOCIINO AND APRIL GOODWIN  
COURIER CORRESPONDENTS

Winchendon — Children learned the fundamentals of reading early on when they chose a picture book, courtesy of the Montachusett Area Rotary Club, during an open house in the Pre-K pod at Memorial School on Tuesday.

The Rotary Club donated 250 books to 90 students ages 0 to 18.

Winchendon resident Amanda Johnson chose "Duck, Duck Goose" by Tad Hills (Random House 2007) to read to her son, Travis Dack, 3.5 years, that evening.

"I liked the duckies," Travis said.

But Amanda Johnson said it went beyond the duckies.

"Books give Travis purpose," Johnson said. "Reading gives him family time and structure."

She reads to him nightly for 20 minutes. He also enjoys books on tape.

McDonald said. "It teaches him focus. Hopefully, it'll make him want to read on his own when he gets older."

Sally McDonald said Liam usually wants her to read another book to him.

It takes her 15 minutes to read a 20-page book.

Rotary Club past President and Literacy Chairman Joan Ficarra said reading is like the fundamental of learning.

She presented books to the children with other Rotarians, Andrea Mitchell, Joanne Rossley and John Pachaco.

Ficarra said the Rotary Club has helped to eradicate polio in 99 percent of all countries internationally, except Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Alternative Lifelong Learning Director Suzanne Michel said Winchendon was identified as one of the communities to be served through the Dolly Parton Foundation, where children ages 0 to 5 have a book mailed to the home each month.

And they are high-quality books.

"Every book is picked by an educator based on merit awards that it received," Michel said. "They're high-quality pieces of literature mailed home every

month." Michel said parents can sign up their children at the preschool office.



As part of the open house, Zachary Smith, age 10 and his sister Ari, age 3, play in a sandbox.



Mat Plamondon photos

Three small children are excited by the choices in free books.

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## WINCHENDON COURIER

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER: FRANK CHILINSKI  
EDITOR: RUTH DEAMICIS

## VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

## EDITORIAL

## Hiding in plain sight

There's a meeting planned at Old Murdock Senior Center Monday. It's important, but you probably won't think much about it, that it concerns you especially or anyone you know.

Think again.

We as a small town don't have a visible homeless problem. We don't have anyone sleeping in a doorway on Central Street. As they do on Boylston Street in Boston. (We have first hand knowledge of that, trying to get into a building around a sleeping body). But we do have a huge problem with the hidden homeless.

The young man who is sacking out on a friend's couch, and moves to another friend's basement next week; or a girlfriend's house the week after that.

The young woman who sacked out in the back room of her workplace for a few nights hoping no one would notice.

The brothers who angered their stepfather and got kicked out of their home and are sleeping in their shared car for now, getting themselves back and forth to part time jobs and one of them to their college classes.

The young mother with two kids who can't scrape together enough for first, last and security for a home of her own so she's still at her mother's house.

The college graduate who is just starting the first job an hour's drive from here who also can't quite get it together to get an apartment closer to work and is still in their childhood home, even though mom and dad are only tolerating the situation...for now.

And the perennial "roommates" who come and go and go and go and change like the windblown leaves as they move here there and everywhere, often leaving without paying their fair share of where ever it was they last "shared" a place.

Recently divorced, battered relationships falling apart, people who have not planned well when a situation arises, illness, loss of an income, people living paycheck to paycheck with no savings...the causes can be as varied as the people it affects. But it is here.

And while only five people were "placed" because of homelessness and identified by authorities within the last year, the proud and the unknown were not. The ones who camped at Lake Denison for the allotted time period, struck their camp and drove out, then made a u-turn and drove back in to camp for another week.

The ones who are right now out in the woods, secluded from sight in tents in at least two areas known to authorities. There are probably others.

In one instance, food was generously left, canned food. The fellow didn't have a can opener to eat it.

In the not too distant past, the concept of homelessness wasn't handled in quite the same ways. There were institutions called Poor Farms, where the destitute could live, and work on the farms to raise their own food. If they were too old to work, they could still live there and do what they could. No one was especially pleased to be there, but it was a legitimate way to handle a problem. There were orphanages for children without families, often relatives would take them, as was the case with the elderly. Most homes were multi-generational and often included a wider range of relatives. Aunts, uncles, grandparents, parents, cousins, and immediate family all under one roof was the norm.

We have become more insular as a society, expecting more privacy for the family unit, but that has meant giving up some things too, such as a sort of built in babysitting circle; more adults involved in the care and raising of children, buffers among the players so to speak, and yes, closeness among the players too.

Going back to multi-generational homes and extended family homes would actu-

ally not be the worst case scenario for many families. Giving Uncle Joe a place, Grandparents the master suite, or raising cousin Rachel with your kids might sound strange but could be a very good thing in the grander scheme of things.

If Rachel and her mom both moved in someone else could help with the chores and perhaps pay a bit toward expenses, help with childcare and ease some other burdens too. Another adult in the house could be both helpful and, dare we say it, fun.

If grandma moves in the grandkids get to know her better, she might have dinner ready for everyone after work, childcare after school might be solved at no cost to the family and a few other benefits like you worrying about her and her health and welfare will be eased. Her worries about how far her check will go each month, even if she helps out with expenses a bit will certainly be less than living on her own.

If it's grandfather instead of grandmother, it could be Mr. Fix-it who has all those little annoying chores around your house taken care of it instead, is still there for your kids after school and maybe gets them to all those soccer practices, piano lessons and karate; and becomes another adult role model for them.

Aunt Marie likes to sew and fixes all your clothes, Uncle Henry teaches your kids about the stars...

Not every situation is ideal of course, we know families can also be annoying and blatantly bad news, but if extended families came back into style it is also possible some of those bad eggs might have been salvaged earlier on.

It's something to think about.

In the meantime, the meeting about addressing the very real problem, even if it isn't visible on Central Street, is Monday, Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. If you have any ideas, it would be great to hear them.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## OWC: next mailing soon

To the Editor:

Hello Everyone!

Happy Autumn!

Let's send our service men and women some holiday cheer and show them that we are thankful for their service. Thanksgiving and/or Christmas themed items. They LOVE home baked items. They also love cards, notes, pictures and drawings - especially from the school students.

We have had a specific request for dark chocolate from one person and cleaning supplies - like wipes - from another person.

Hope to see you and some of your friends and neighbors at the American Legion Post 193 on School Street from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5.

As always, we are in need of money for postage for the packages. Check out our Facebook page or the website ([www.winchendoncares.com](http://www.winchendoncares.com)) for ideas on other items to donate.

Thanks. See you there.

LARRY & LINDA SORDONI  
OPERATION WINCHENDON CARES

## It's not the rhetoric, it's the experience

Many of you might not agree with this and that's okay but here's a simple truth — there are a lot and I mean a whole lot of people in politics, whether elected or appointed, who really are looking out for the greater good. They're not flame-throwers or publicity whores. They work and compromise with people who both share and don't share their personal ideologies. Too often their efforts are neither recognized nor appreciated but they really are out there and they deserve our respect. Sometimes it's hard to look past this desultory national campaign but it's true. And by the way, that goes as well for about a zillion people who work in government offices on every level. Period.

Anyway, I'm writing this on Monday morning so by the time it's published on Friday who knows what might have happened in the interim. What I do know is this — while the last couple weeks are likely to be a spectacle we've never seen before in presidential campaigns, it's all going to be white noise because, really, who's left to convince? Who's undecided

at this point? Seriously?

There are, however, a couple points worth noting. Locker room talk? The way Donald Trump talked on that now famous tape wasn't okay then and it's not okay now. I don't talk like that. In my circle, local and extended, none of the guys I know do either. I have a mother, sister, daughter, and granddaughter. I have a female editor and female photographer and female friends. They all deserve better. As a civil society we all deserve better and it's up to males to educate other males about not behaving that way. Don't you agree?

As ugly as that tape is, and though it was mildly amusing to see all those holier-than-thou-family-value-oriented conservatives suddenly jumping ship as if they'd just last weekend found out their party's candidate is a boorish sexist adolescent, the tape isn't the primary factor which disqualifies Trump from the presidency.

What disqualifies Trump from the presidency is really quite simple — he doesn't know anything about policy or gov-

ernment. During Sunday's frequently cringe-worthy debate, he kept screeching that Hillary didn't do this or that as a Senator, as if she could dictate to the other 99 and to President Bush. Normally, I'd write that off as hyperbole, routine campaign rhetoric but in Trump's case, who knows what he actually knows? Or thinks? Not much has happened in the last 16 months to make me think he knows much of anything about public policy. And as an aside, it looked to me, the way he was wandering around, like he was stalking her on stage. That's a bad visual when you're presumably trying to get women to support you.

I will give Donald credit, sort of, for one thing he mentioned. Before the debate I posted on my Facebook page a lament we weren't likely to hear anything about cities which is, as I've written before, because I worked for a big city mayor, my personal issue, but lo and behold Donald brought them up. He didn't indicate he had any solutions, not rational ones anyway; he didn't talk about UDAG grants or enterprise zones or

homesteading or community policing, though he made clear in the last debate he does like stop-and-frisk despite the fact it's unconstitutional, but at least he said the word "cities." Hey, it's something. I've seen mayoral candidates do less.

In any event, because demography, organization and a sophisticated ground-game Get-out-the-Vote operation matter so much at this point since voting is already underway and because she's blessed with arguably the least qualified major party nominee in history as an opponent, it's pretty certain Clinton will win. To be sure there are those who will dispute this but none of those people have ever made a cogent argument as to where Trump's path to 270 lies. Vague generalizations are easy — they require neither thought nor analysis, merely emotion. Not to delve too deeply into inside baseball but take Pennsylvania. Hillary's likely to emerge from Philadelphia and the surrounding area with something in the neighborhood of a half-million vote advantage, (and yes, I can explain why and



JOURNEY  
OF THE  
HEART  
.....  
JERRY  
CARTON

how), and that lead will easily offset parts of the state where political leanings would be right at home in Mississippi. Those college-educated suburban women you always hear about? They're overwhelmingly and most assuredly not for Donald Trump.

It's true too Hillary's not the most progressive nominee in the history of the Democratic party but in this era of polarization and minimalist ideas when it comes to the role of the federal government, she's the best option and at least she knows what the hell she's talking about. That would normally seem to be a pretty low bar for a presidential candidate but in this bizarre year it's enough. You want loftiness? Not this time. But just think — this newspaper comes out Friday, Oct. 14. In just 26 days, the 2020 campaign can finally start! How cool is that? Ha. See you next week.

## If Voting Made Any Difference, They Wouldn't Let Us Do It

The American people are being guilted, bullied, pressured, cajoled, intimidated, terrorized and browbeaten into voting.

We're constantly told to vote because it's your so-called civic duty, because you have no right to complain about the government unless you vote, because every vote counts, because we must present a unified front, because the future of the nation depends on it, because God compels us to do so, because by not voting you are in fact voting, because the "other" candidate must be defeated at all costs, or because the future of the Supreme Court rests in the balance.

Nothing in the Constitution requires that you vote.

You have no moral obligation to vote for the lesser of two evils. Indeed, voting for a lesser evil is still voting for evil.

Whether or not you cast your vote in this year's presidential election, you have every right to kvetch, complain and criticize the government when it falls short of your expectations. After all, you are overtaxed so the government can continue to operate corruptly.

If you want to boo, boycott, picket, protest and altogether reject a corrupt political system that has failed you abysmally, more power to you. I'll take an irate, engaged, informed, outraged American any day over an apathetic, constitutionally illiterate citizenry that is content to be diverted, distracted and directed.

Whether you vote or don't vote doesn't really matter.



FREEDOM  
WATCH  
.....  
JOHN W.  
WHITEHEAD

The police state will continue to trample us underfoot.

It hasn't mattered whether there has been a Democrat or Republican in the White House. The abuses have continued. We're being subjected to more government surveillance, more police abuse, more SWAT team raids, more roadside strip searches, more censorship, more prison time, more egregious laws, more endless wars, more invasive technology, more militarization, more injustice, more corruption, more cronyism, more graft, more lies, and more of everything that has turned the American dream into the American nightmare.

What we're not getting more of: elected officials who actually represent us.

It's no longer a question of which party will usher in totalitarianism but when the final hammer will fall.

So no, America, it doesn't matter if you vote.

What matters is what else you're doing to push back against government incompetence, abuse, corruption, graft, fraud and cronyism.

Don't be fooled into thinking that the only road to reform is through the ballot box.

After all, there is more to citizenship than the act of casting a ballot for someone who, once elected, will march in lockstep with the dictates of the powers-that-be. Yet as long as Americans are content to let politicians, war hawks and Corporate America run the country, the police state will prevail, no matter which candidate wins on Election Day.

Turn To **FREEDOM** page **A11**



# Kick-off for 16th year Oct. 21

GARDNER — The United Way Youth Venture program is returning to schools across north central Massachusetts this fall to continue the great work being done by students in the community.

During the past academic year, students throughout the region took a stand against the problems of the world and worked together to help those in need through the United Way Youth Venture program. These young members of the community have taken on some of the toughest issues facing society, from ALS to global hunger, and have created new opportunities for the community such as building

a community garden and enhancing STEM education in schools. More than 70 new and previously launched Venture Teams were active across the region, from Ayer to Winchendon, with nearly 6,500 students participating in the program's workshops.

In the coming months, students mostly ages 10 to 22 will devote their time and talents to create service-oriented Venture programs and accomplish many goals during a short time span. Collectively, teams in the last academic year raised nearly \$10,000 to support their causes through a variety of community fundraising events. In addition to raising significant funds,

some students have taken their Ventures far beyond expectations, said Lauren Mountain, associate director of UWYV.

For instance, the Leominster High School-based Venture LEAD, which started three years ago in the wake of the Newtown shooting, has implemented a 700-page mental health curriculum into the Leominster school district this fall with three full classes of a mental health promotion elective. The founding members of LEAD look forward to the whole state integrating their curriculum. Another Venture, Holiday Spreaders, recently made its 33rd consecutive monthly visit to Leominster Crossings,

helping to ensure Alzheimer's patients at the facility have a consistent support group.

"Not only have these Venturers accomplished inspiring feats as teams, but they have proven on an individual level that they have become leaders in the community in their own right," Mountain said. "No Venturer exemplifies this more than Rafaela Lopes, lead Venturer of GO Make a Difference. When Lopes first started this Venture three years ago, she was a shy student who had big dreams of volunteering in Haiti, but was unsure of her abilities. Not only was she successful in organizing a service trip to Haiti to help those in

need, she has personally been recognized as one of the top youth service leaders in the country. In May, she was awarded the Newman Civic Fellow award by Campus Compact for her leadership in service."

"When I first heard about UWYV I thought it was too good to be true, but making the decision to join has changed my life completely and forever," said Lopes, who is earning an associate degree at the college. "Throughout the years, UWYV gave me numerous opportunities and also gave me the chance to learn, to teach, to make a difference locally and globally and to make my dream come true. I real-

ly recommend everyone I know to get involved because it was the best thing that happened to me."

To learn more about United Way Youth Venture and become involved, visit [mwcc.edu/uwyv](http://mwcc.edu/uwyv).

To support the UWYV program, consider sponsoring a Venture Team attendance at the upcoming UWYV Fall Kick-Off event on Oct. 21, in which MWCC will host approximately 300 students from across the region for a series of inspirational and skill-based workshops. To become a sponsor or donor, contact Mountain at (978) 630-9201.

## Toy making workshop and poetry this weekend

BY TRACY GAMBILL  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — With everything else going on at the Isaac Morse House, it's important the programs keep going so the organizations remain visible. With that in mind, it's going to be fun, fun, fun this weekend as Gardner Area League of Artists will host a FREE Toy Making Workshop on Sunday, Oct. 16, from 2-5 p.m. The program is for children ages 8-12 who must be accompanied by an adult.

The afternoon will begin with a tour of antique toys displayed in the WHCC Toy Museum at 135 Front St. Participants will learn about the history of toy making in Toy Town before they make and decorate their own toy drum in the gallery. This is a perfect example of how well the two groups are matched.

Children will then get to play their drums along with Walden Whitham and friends. Whitham has been a music educator and performer for over 30 years. Adults may enjoy music pro-

vided by Whitham as the children participate in the workshop. Popcorn and cider will be available. Pre-registration is not required, though only the first 50 children can be guaranteed materials to make a drum.

The program is sponsored by the Winchendon Cultural Council.

If you don't have an excited child to take advantage of this activity, something more sedate may attract you, as a Poetry Open Mic will also be held Oct. 16, from 2-4 p.m., at the Murdock Whitney House, 151 Front St. All are invited to share their own words, a favorite poem, or simply listen to others. The program will begin with Ann Marie Meltzer of Greenfield sharing from her book of poems titled "Coming of Age." Light refreshments will be available and the cost is \$2 for GALA members and \$3 for non-members.

The next event planned is a Songwriters Workshop & Café scheduled Friday, Oct. 21 at the Winchendon History & Cultural Center, 151 Front St..

The theme of the workshop is global warming and Sonya Heller will give tips on writing songs from 6-7 p.m. The fee is \$10 and those wishing to participate must sign up on the website or call Bethany at (774) 212-0112. The public is invited to listen to the performances at the Songwriters Café, formerly known as the GALA Coffeehouse, from 7-9:30 p.m. It will feature Heller and Linq (Heartfelt Indie Folk). Admission is \$2 for GALA members and \$3 for non-members.

As construction continues on the Carriage House, volunteers, materials and donations are always welcome. To that end, and to raise funds for a track lighting system in the new gallery, GALA is also looking for donated items for an online auction. Anything is welcome but some ideas include paintings, prints, sculpture, crafts, jewelry, gift certificates, tickets, services, music CDs, tools, toys, furniture, and camping supplies. Donations may be dropped off at the gallery on Sunday, Oct.

30, between 2-5 p.m. Donor item forms and more information are on the GALA website.

GALA has plans for various exhibits, workshops, art parties, jam sessions, music lessons, Songwriters' Café, poetry open mic, and a gift shop. Curious passersby have stopped to find out more about GALA and its activities and a few have become members.

GALA President Deb Giordano is excited by the potential she sees in being part of Winchendon.

"We want to welcome Winchendon residents to be a part of our association. We need and want to support Winchendon residents and have them get involved and give us their ideas or offer classes. We're looking for high-end, high-quality craft workshops."

Information on membership, events, artists, and more can be found at [galagardner.org](http://galagardner.org). For questions or to arrange a drop-off time for auction items, call Giordano at (978) 407-1419.

### CLYDE

continued from page A1

Drive community building. New members are always welcome. For more info please call Lorraine 978-297-1760.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

POLICE STATION OPEN HOUSE: see the new police station at 80 Central St. from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Hot dogs in the parking lot by Kiwanis of Winchendon; desserts provided by Keller Williams, Maliska Group. Come see the new home of Winchendon PD.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

SENIOR WELLNESS DAY: Oct. 25, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Old Murdock Senior Center, 52 Murdock Ave., Winchendon. Health screenings, dental screenings, glaucoma screenings, fire & police departments, housing authority, mini massages, and refreshments. Much, much more is expected.

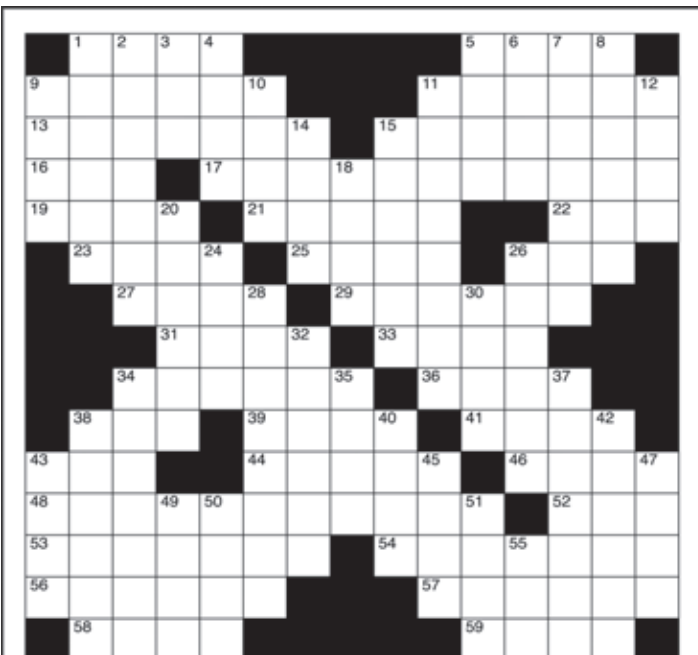
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

GAME NIGHT: game night at Beals Memorial

Library is taking place on Wednesday, October 26, from 6-8 p.m. Participants determine which game they would like to play.

TEA PARTY MYSTERY: every weekend in October the Escape Room at the Isaac Morse House is on Thursday and Friday nights 4-10 p.m.; Saturday noon-10 p.m. and Sunday noon-6 p.m. You must pre-register, walk ins will not be accepted. To register go to [winchendonescaperoom.com](http://winchendonescaperoom.com). Cost is \$25. To benefit the Winchendon Historic & Cultural Center.

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](mailto:clerk@town.winchendon.ma.us).

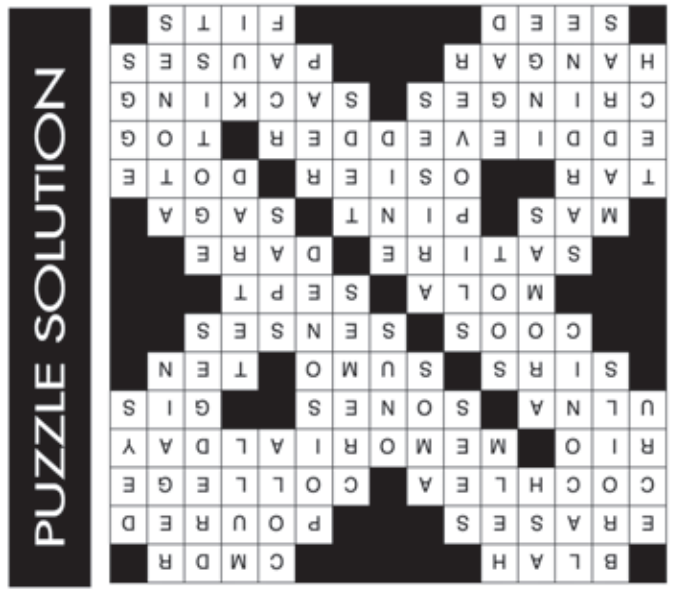


### CLUES ACROSS

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Nonsense (slang)                   | 31. Sunfish                            |
| 5. Military leader (abbr.)            | 33. Clan                               |
| 9. Removes                            | 34. A form of comedy                   |
| 11. Streamed                          | 36. Defy                               |
| 13. Inner ear cavity                  | 38. More (Spanish)                     |
| 15. Where to go after high school     | 39. Sixteen ounces                     |
| 16. Olympics host                     | 41. Adventure story                    |
| 17. A day to remember fallen soldiers | 43. Liquid distilled from wood or coal |
| 19. Forearm bone                      | 44. Michigan ghost town                |
| 21. Bypass surgery pioneer F. Mason   | 46. Fond of                            |
| 22. Judo garments                     | 48. Pearl Jam frontman                 |
| 23. Gentlemen                         | 52. Clothes                            |
| 25. Large wrestler                    | 53. Flinches                           |
| 26. Large integer                     | 54. Giving the axe                     |
| 27. Makes a soft sound                | 56. Where planes are kept              |
| 29. Some claim to have six            | 57. Intervals                          |
|                                       | 58. Plant's unit of reproduction       |
|                                       | 59. Equips                             |

### CLUES DOWN

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Cooks by exposure to direct heat                 | 28. A sweater pulled over the head        |
| 2. Using few words                                  | 30. Relaxing places                       |
| 3. Wood   | 32. Gets up                               |
| 4. Steer  | 34. Canned fish                           |
| 5. Soft drink                                       | 35. ___ Blyton, children's author         |
| 6. Consider   | 37. A conceited and self-centered person  |
| 7. Clears from a river                              | 38. Fine-textured cotton fabric           |
| 8. Claim again                                      | 40. Turner and Kennedy                    |
| 9. Beige  | 42. Repents                               |
| 10. Witnesses                                       | 43. Smartphones, tablets, etc.            |
| 11. Spiked  | 45. A way to garner                       |
| 12. Partidge actor Susan and Marmaduke director Tom | 47. Eat them for breakfast                |
| 14. ___ and Andy, TV show                           | 49. Former Tigers third baseman Brandon   |
| 15. Fraiche and de Menthe are two                   | 50. Oh, God!                              |
| 18. Burden  | 51. Canadian flyers                       |
| 20. Olfactory properties                            | 55. One legged Chinese mythological demon |
| 24. Carbon particles                                |   |
| 26. Set of four                                     |   |



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## POLICE LOG

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

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

12:05-3:10 a.m.: building checks, secure; 1:05 a.m.: ambulance (Cabot Road) refer to FD; 2:22 a.m.: officer wanted (Glenallan Street) report taken; 2:52 a.m.: assist citizen (Glenallan Street) assisted; 5:53 a.m.: unattended death (Morse Avenue) services rendered; 8:06 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street) refer to ACO; 9:37 a.m.: keep the peace (Glenallan Street) assisted; 11:11 a.m.: ambulance (Hyde Park Drive) false alarm; 11:47 a.m.: lift assist (Grove Street) services rendered; 12:17 p.m.: suspicious person (Central Street) area search negative; 2 p.m.: town bylaw violation (Ipswich Drive) spoken to; 2:20 p.m.: suspicious other (Glenallan Street) spoken to; 2:27 p.m.: general juvenile (Whitney Street) removed to hospital; 2:30 p.m.: animal complaint (Fuller Drive) refer to other agency; 3:46 p.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) report taken; 4:23 p.m.: general info (Tucker Street) services rendered; 4:33 p.m.: ambulance (Elmwood Road) no FD service required; 5 p.m.: suspicious other (Jameson Way) report taken; 5:27 p.m.: accident (High Street) report taken; 5:34 p.m.: structure fire (Harrisville Circle) services rendered; 8:31 p.m.: repossession of MV (Ash Street) info taken; 8:43 p.m.: repossession of MV (Central Street) info taken; 9:23 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 9:33 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 11:08 p.m.: investigation (Glenallan Street) spoken to.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

1:19 a.m.: larceny (Webster Street) report taken; 2:11-2:21 a.m.: building checks, secure; 6:35 a.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 8:41 a.m.: ambulance (Hyde Park Drive) transport; 10:37 a.m.: animal complaint (High Street) refer to ACO; 11:15 a.m.: investigation (School Street) info taken; 11:39 a.m.: ambulance (Chestnut Street) no FD service required; 12:11 p.m.: officer wanted (Linden Street) report taken; 12:39 p.m.: ambulance (Hyde Park Street) transport; 12:58 p.m.: trespassing (Dunkin Donuts) spoken to; 2:15 p.m.: MV stop (Elmwood Road) verbal warning; 2:33 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Spring Street) unable to locate; 3:48 p.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) report taken; 5:12 p.m.: suspicious other (Cedar Street) report taken; 5:34 p.m.: MV stop (Lincoln Avenue) verbal warning; 6:29 p.m.: general juvenile (Clark YMCA)

dispersed gathering; 7:14 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Island Road) unable to locate; 7:18 p.m.: ambulance (School Street) no PD service required; 8:19 p.m.: investigation (Glenallan Street) no PD service required; 8:19 p.m.: extra patrols (Bike path) services rendered; 8:30 p.m.: investigation (Laurel Street) spoken to.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

12:28-5:36 a.m.: extra patrols and building checks, secure; 5:52 a.m.: MV stop (School Street) verbal warning; 6:02 a.m.: MV stop (School Street) verbal warning; 6:40 a.m.: MV stop (Central Street) traffic citation; 8:38 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 8:47 a.m.: sex offender registration (walk in) assisted; 9:02 a.m.: trespass notice (Royalston Road North) info taken; 10:30 a.m.: sex offender registration (Spring Street) assisted; 10:33 a.m.: assist other PD (East Street) assisted; 11:14 a.m.: arrest (Spruce Street) Justin Gordon Taft, age 26 of 65 Mill St., Winchendon: based on warrant; 11:36 a.m.: officer wanted (William's Pkg. Store) services rendered; 11:49 a.m.: animal complaint (East Street) assisted; 12:13 p.m.: animal complaint (Baldwinville State Road) services rendered; 12:20 p.m.: harassment (GFA) report taken; 1:32 p.m.: property lost (Baldwinville Road) refer to other agency; 3:33 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 4 p.m.: harassment order service (Spring Street) served; 4:07 p.m.: disturbance (Citgo Repair) unable to locate; 4:14 p.m.: ambulance (State Line Campground) transport; 6:03 p.m.: general info (Lincoln Avenue) unable to locate; 6:25 p.m.: larceny (Glenallan Street) report taken; 7:20 p.m.: extra patrols, secure; 7:27 p.m.: property damage (West Street) report taken; 7:30 p.m.: suspicious person (Highland Street) unable to locate; 9:22 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 9:43-11:58 p.m.: building checks, secure.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

12:17-7:10 a.m.: extra patrols & building checks, secure; 12:44 a.m.: ambulance (Lakeview Drive) services rendered; 5:50 a.m.: officer wanted (Lakeshore Drive) advised officer; 6:49 a.m.: suspicious person (Winter Street) unable to locate; 9:27 a.m.: disabled MV (Gardner Road) unable to locate; 10:32 a.m.: fraud (Pleasant Street) advised civil action; 10:40 a.m.: summons service (Walnut Street) served; 10:47 a.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) removed to hospital; 11:19 a.m.: burglar alarm (Cedar Street) secure; 11:42 a.m.: assist citizen (walk in) assisted; 11:59 a.m.: harassment order service (Spring Street) unable to serve; 1:10 p.m.: traffic hazard (Maple Street) spoken to; 1:18 p.m.: summons service

(Brown Avenue) unable to serve; 1:29 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 2:04 p.m.: extra patrols (Elmwood Road) services rendered; 2:32 p.m.: suspicious MV (Waterville Plaza) info given; 3:21 p.m.: disabled MV (Central Street) gone on arrival; 3:45 p.m.: officer wanted (Glenallan Street) spoken to; 3:49 p.m.: investigation (Maynard Street) info taken; 4:26 p.m.: harassment order service (Spring Street) served; 4:28 p.m.: fire alarm (Spring Street) assisted; 4:44 p.m.: ambulance (Toy Town Pub) transport; 4:58 p.m.: general info (Beech Street) advised officer; 5:23 p.m.: open door (Central Street) secure; 5:25 p.m.: traffic enforcement (Baldwinville State Road) services rendered; 6:37 p.m.: animal complaint (Alger Street) refer to ACO; 6:49 p.m.: disturbance (Central Street) spoken to; 6:53 p.m.: MV stop (River Street) spoken to; 7:01 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 7:06 p.m.: MV stop (Baldwinville State Road) verbal warning; 7:12 p.m.: MV stop (Spring Street) verbal warning; 8:25 p.m.: ambulance (Mill Street) transport; 8:44 p.m.: suspicious MV (River Street) spoken to; 9:11 p.m.: suspicious MV (Gardner Road) spoken to; 9:18 p.m.: disturbance (River Street) unable to locate; 9:43 p.m.: suspicious MV (Hale Street) spoken to; 9:47 p.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 10:10 p.m.: disabled MV (Spring Street) secure; 10:40 p.m.: suicide threats (Lake Denison) services rendered; 11:15 p.m.: ambulance (Hale Street) transport.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

12:48 a.m.: carbon monoxide incident (Front Street) false alarm; 1:14 a.m.: suspicious person (Front Street) unfounded; 1:34-2:39 a.m.: building checks, secure; 6:02 a.m.: disabled MV (Spring Street) gone on arrival; 7:33 a.m.: fire alarm (Washington Avenue) services rendered; 8:31 a.m.: accident (Spring Street) report taken; 10:11 a.m.: loitering (Rite Aid) info taken; 10:23 a.m.: officer wanted (Beech Street) advised civil action; 10:39 a.m.: harassment order service (Cross Street) unable to serve; 10:42 a.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 11:13 a.m.: extra patrols (Central Street) services rendered; 11:16 a.m.: property found (School Street) info taken; 12:06 p.m.: extra patrols (Toy Town Elementary) services rendered; 12:58 p.m.: registration check (Central Street) no PD service required; 1:04 p.m.: burglar alarm (Whitney Street) secured building; 1:04 p.m.: officer wanted (Central Street) spoken to; 1:07 p.m.: suspicious person (Central Street) area search negative; 2:31 p.m.: general info (Harrisville Circle) info taken; 6:07 p.m.: ambulance (Sunset Court) transport; 7:34 p.m.: ambulance (Old Centre) transport; 7:53 p.m.: suspicious

person (Elm Street) unfounded; 8:19 p.m.: suspicious other (Irving Station) services rendered; 10:01 p.m.: vandalism (Christo's Place) report taken; 10:33 p.m.: suspicious other (Baldwinville State Road) area search negative; 10:39 p.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) defective alarm; 11:21 p.m.: lift assist (Central Street) refer to FD; 11:58 p.m.: building checks, secure.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

12:37-2:41 a.m.: building checks, secure; 2:35 a.m.: MV stop (Gardner Road) verbal warning; 2:56 a.m.: suspicious other (Hale Street) secure; 3:11 a.m.: ambulance (Chestnut Street) transport; 5:38 a.m.: burglar alarm (One Stop Plaza) call canceled; 7:08 a.m.: property lost (Island Road) assisted; 7:41 a.m.: summons service (Island Road) served; 12:52 p.m.: road rage (Central Street) info taken; 3:01 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street) transport; 3:12 p.m.: harassment (Maple Street) spoken to; 4:10 p.m.: officer wanted (Beech Street) info given; 5:17 p.m.: harassment (Family Dollar) report taken; 5:54 p.m.: mental health issue (School Street) assisted; 7:08 p.m.: MV operating erratically (Baldwinville State Road) info taken; 7:37 p.m.: burglar alarm (Brooks Road) secure; 11:07 p.m.: ambulance (Juniper Street) transport; 11:36 p.m.: general welfare check (address not printed) spoken to; 11:57 p.m.: building check, secure.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

12:37-2:49 a.m.: building checks, secure; 3:17 a.m.: suspicious person (CVS) unable to locate; 8:19 a.m.: vandalism (Banner Place) services rendered; 8:52 a.m.: MV stop (School Street) spoken to; 10:15 a.m.: ambulance (Cornerstone Church) transport; 10:18 a.m.: animal complaint (Main Street) returned to home; 12:09 p.m.: burglar alarm (Teel Road) false alarm; 1:43 p.m.: harassment order service (Cross Street) served; 2:21 p.m.: assist other agency (phone) assisted; 2:44 p.m.: suspicious other (Highland Street) advised officer; 4:34 p.m.: ambulance (Mechanic Street) transport; 5:09 p.m.: disabled MV (American Legion) assisted; 5:13 p.m.: investigation (Highland Street) no PD service required; 5:45 p.m.: ambulance (Spruce Street) services rendered; 5:55 p.m.: traffic hazard (American Legion) assisted; 6:29 p.m.: noise complaint (Central Street) spoken to; 9:20 p.m.: ambulance (School Street) transport; 10:12 p.m.: ambulance (Pond Street) transport; 11:05 p.m.: burglar alarm (Central Street) secure; 11:46 p.m.: property damage (Spring Street) advised officer.

## Resident indicted in Rite Way case

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Winchendon resident Dwayne Pelkey, a company manager at Rite Way transportation, was among those indicted last week in what Attorney General Maura Healey's office alleged was a scam to bilk some \$19 million from Mass Health.

Pelkey, age 49, was charged with one count of larceny over \$250 and one count of reporting a false claim to Medicaid.

Also indicated were company owner Michael Davini of Rindge (two counts of larceny over \$250, four counts of making false Medicaid claims and one count accepting kickbacks) and managers Gary Carbonello of Leominster (two counts of larceny over \$250, two counts of making false Medicaid claims and one count of accepting kickbacks) and

Lynn McGuire of Abington (one count of larceny over \$250, one count of making a false claim to Medicaid and two counts of perjury for allegedly lying to a grand jury).

Healey said during a four-and-a-half year span between April 2011 and September of last year, Rite Way repeatedly billed Mass Health for transportation services which had never been provided, including claims regarding inpatients as well as people who had never used Rite Way or were dead on the dates the company was allegedly used.

Davini's attorney, Michael Angellini, said, "this is essentially a billing dispute."

Healey's office released a statement saying, "we allege that in order to rack up millions of dollars in payments from

the state, this company orchestrated a massive false billing scheme for transportation services they never provided or were not necessary. To protect the integrity and success of our Mass Health program we need to make sure companies are not intentionally taking advantage of taxpayers and the patients who are truly in need of those services." Based in Westminster Rite Way, which served clients in Winchendon as well as other areas in the state, abruptly suspended service in September 2015. The company had been under investigation by the AG's office since 2013.

Health and Human Services secretary Mary Lou Sudders said, "In the fall of 2013 Mass Health identified allega-

tions of fraudulent billing" by Rite Way, adding, "Mass Health then suspended all payments to Rite Way and subsequently terminated its contract. We are pleased with the outcome of the investigation and hope it signals the actions of Rite Way are reprehensible and will not be tolerated by Mass Health."

Rite Way's billing jumped from almost \$376,000 in fiscal year 2012 to \$15.7 million in fiscal year 2015.

"It's not a billing issue when you're talking about kickbacks we allege," said Sudders.

Those charged will be arraigned in Worcester Superior Court at a later date.

## No clowning around in Toy Town

BY TARA VOCILO  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — Police are monitoring a nationwide scare tactic where people dressed as clowns have threatened or scared people, spurring a Facebook thread.

But to date, it's all been a continuing hoax.

Clowns have reportedly been seen on Highland Avenue and Belmont Street on Oct. 5 and Oct. 6, police said, and at the Irving Gas Station on Route 140, Jordyn Danielle Clark posted on Facebook.

Clark claimed she drove into the Irving station to get a snack, but when she saw the people dressed as clowns, one of them pumping gas, she drove away again.

Kelly Coolidge Beauvais wrote on the department's Facebook page that causing a disturbance or creating a hazardous situation can be a crime and subject to arrest.

"It was a prank that's sole purpose was to invoke fear on a community," Coolidge said Tuesday. "Not to mention it pulled all of our police resources and canine unit away to look for a clown that may or may not have been."

Police released a statement that they responded to reports of clown sightings on Highland Avenue and Belmont Street. They searched on foot and in patrol vehicles, but no suspects were

found. "We believe these reports to be hoaxes," they wrote. "Law enforcement information networks have shown that although there have been a small number of legitimate incidents of violence involving suspects dressed as clowns, the overwhelming majority of reports and threats have been fictitious or non-violent pranksters who do not understand the ramifications of their irresponsible actions."

Police said the School Resource Officer Tracy Flagg will have a heightened presence at the schools to ensure students, teachers and faculty are safe.

Although they take reports seriously, the clowns do not pose an immediate danger to the public.

Police will continue to monitor the situation.

"We understand this may cause fear and anxiety for some people," police wrote.

Winchendon resident Brian Dickens did substitute teaching at Toy Town Elementary on Oct. 5.

"Every other kid is totally mortified of it," he wrote. "Big bummer."

Nathaniel Gagnon posted that he came home from his girlfriend's house on Oct. 6 and halfway down the back road, there was a wooden chair in the middle of the road.

"I heard that last night, kids were stopping cars and approaching vehicles with weapons," Gagnon wrote.

But this too, was a hoax.

## Addictions counseling program sponsoring forum

GARDNER — Mount Wachusett Community College has launched a new substance abuse counseling certificate program and is hosting a free community forum with NARCAN® training to bolster public resources and address the opioid crisis that is impacting our region, the state and the nation.

The free forum, Opiates in North Central Massachusetts: Education for Community-Wide Crisis Response, will take place on Monday, Oct 31 from noon to 2:30 p.m. in the North Café at the Gardner campus. The public is encouraged to attend.

State Senator Jennifer Flanagan will serve as moderator. Panelists will include Fitchburg Police Chief Ernest Martineau, Michelle Dunn, co-director and president of Alyssa's Place, Jack Maroney, CEO of Recovery Centers of America at Westminster, and Tamara E. Perini, MSW, LCSW UMass

Memorial-HealthAlliance Hospital, and representatives from the Worcester County District Attorney's Office.

The forum, part of the college's continuing Tea Time Speaker Series, is sponsored by the MWCC Diversity Consortium, Gateway to College, and Project Healthcare, a workforce diversity pipeline program funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health. Following the forum, Michael Ellis of Heywood Hospital will provide free NARCAN® training for participants. The prescription drug blocks the effects of opioids and can reverse an overdose.

"Today's opioid users can be co-workers, family members, neighbors, friends, children, students and members of the community," said Sharmese Gunn, senior learning specialist with MWCC's Gateway to College program and forum coordinator.

"Learning how to detect early use is one way to combat the epidemic that has plagued the region, and being prepared and educated can help save lives."

Earlier this year, MWCC developed a new substance abuse counseling certificate following discussions with area healthcare providers. The 27-credit certificate program prepares students to obtain credentials in Massachusetts as a certified alcohol and drug counselor and to seek employment within the industry. Area facilities are poised to open or expand to serve the needs of clients in various stages of recovery. Courses include Issues of Chemical Dependency in Family Systems, Addictions Counseling, Psychopharmacology and a practicum.

For more information about the free community forum, visit: mwcc.edu/response.



# OBITUARIES

## Arthur J. 'Buddy' Gilbert, 76



WINCHENDON — Arthur J. "Buddy" Gilbert, age 76, of 61 Hyde Park Drive, died Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016 in UMass Memorial Medical Center, University Campus, Worcester.

He was born in Winchendon on March 19, 1940, son of the late Red and Irene (Raymond) Gilbert and was a lifelong resident of Winchendon.

Buddy worked as a machine operator at H&R for 28 years until his retirement. He previously worked as a carpenter at Ft. Devens, a cook at Franklin Pierce College and as a mail truck driver from Gardner to Keene, NH. Buddy proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army and as a member of the Massachusetts National Guard for 22 years. He was a member and past commander of Eugene M. Connor Post 193 American Legion. His hobbies were

golfing and bowling.

He leaves his wife of 54 years, Toni K. (Lafrennie) Gilbert; two sons, Scott J. Gilbert of Winchendon and J. Michael Gilbert of Gardner; one brother, Raymond Douglas Earle of Florida; two sisters, Dot Plouffe of Gardner and Sharline Ford of Gardner; one granddaughter, Kerry Hall, one great granddaughter Sophie Hall and several nieces and nephews.

Military funeral services were held Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016 in the Massachusetts Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, 111 Glenallen St., Winchendon.

Memorial donations may be made to a veterans organization of one's choice.

Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central St., Winchendon is directing arrangements.



## JoAnne Rowe, 86



LUNENBURG — JoAnne Rowe passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016, after a long illness.

JoAnne was born on July 11, 1930 in Winchendon, a daughter of the late Albert and Marguerite (McDonald) Monette. JoAnne was a 1948 graduate of Lunenburg High School, where she was an outstanding basketball player. Upon graduation, she enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, where she eventually served as a receptionist for Harry S. Truman's Secretary of Defense, Robert A. Lovett. While serving at the Pentagon, of the many dignitaries she greeted, the most memorable was British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Having been chosen to model the newly-designed woman's Marine Corps uniform, she made numerous public appearances, including on NBC's The Today Show.

After completing her Marine Corps Service, she embarked on a modeling career in New York City and later established her own fashion design company, Sari of Italy, which was noted for high fashion rainwear.

JoAnne met the love of her life, Robert Rowe, with whom she shared many enjoyable years sailing and traveling. A person of many artistic talents, JoAnne was also a gourmet cook, hosting many dinner parties at her home. Many family and friends remain in awe of her and the full life she lived. JoAnne was an inspiration to her family and friends and was deeply loved. She will be greatly missed and never forgotten.

She leaves three sisters, Janet Setliff of Terre Haute, IN, Victoria Marien

of Lunenburg, and Michelle Neal of Colorado; two brothers, John Monette and his wife Alice of Ashburnham, and David Monette of Jaffrey; a brother-in-law, Paul Desmond Sr. of Lunenburg; and a sister-in-law, Anne Monette of Fitchburg. She also leaves a number of nieces, nephews and cousins, as well as her beloved dog, Mickey.

JoAnne was predeceased by her husband, Robert Rowe, one sister, Norma Berndt, and two brothers, Albert Monette Jr. and Ronald Monette.

The family would like to express their sincere thanks to all the extraordinary "Special Angel" caregivers who tended to her in her final days, as well as her dear friends, Joan Quinlan, Holly Johnston, Wendy Vowles and Lynn Maye.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, Oct. 14, 2016 at 11 a.m. at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 111 Glenallen St., Winchendon. Family and friends are invited to attend.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to one of the following: The Lymphoma Research Foundation, (<https://community.lymphoma.org/donatenow>) or the Sterling Animal Shelter, (<http://donatenow.networkforgood.org/sterlingshelter>), c/o Animal Shelter Inc., 17 Laurelwood Road, Sterling, MA 01564.

The Lunenburg Chapel of the Sawyer-Miller-Masciarelli Funeral Home ([masciarellifuneralhomes.net](http://masciarellifuneralhomes.net)), 763 Massachusetts Ave., Lunenburg has been entrusted to direct funeral arrangements.

## C. Pauline (Levesque) Hilow, 84



LEOMINSTER — C. Pauline (Levesque) Hilow, age 84, of Leominster was peacefully taken to her final resting place in the arms of the Lord on Oct. 6, 2016 in the Keystone Nursing Home, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

She was born on Oct. 18, 1931 in Leominster, the daughter of the late Leo J. Levesque Sr. and Esther (Bilow) Levesque.

Pauline was a loving and devoted wife of 55 years to David J. Hilow. They began their married life together in Boston where she worked as an executive secretary and bookkeeper throughout her career. She was the recording secretary of the Business and Professional Women's Club in Leominster for many years.

Pauline loved and nurtured her family every day of her life. She is survived by her two children and their families: her son, Larry D. Hilow of Fitchburg; her daughter, Judy A. Khallady and her husband, Tibary of Leominster; granddaughters, Stephanie Hilow of Milford and Sarah Khallady of Leominster; grandsons, Daniel Hilow of Fitchburg and Zachary Khallady of Leominster; three sisters, Phyllis Goguen of Winchendon, Rachel Mangiacotti of Leominster, and Nancy Smith of Arizona. She holds her grandson, Michael Hilow in her arms in heaven.

In addition to her parents and grandson, Pauline will be met in heaven by her brother, Leo J. Levesque Jr., her sister, Priscilla A. Levesque, and many aunts, uncles, brothers- and sisters-in-law.

Pauline's husband, children and grandchildren were the apples of her eye. She loved to cook and bake for them

as her heart and soul was in her kitchen. She served as the neighborhood mother to all of her children's friends and served with great joy as a Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader for many years. Pauline was an avid gardener, assisting her husband in his vegetable garden and caring for her geraniums, gladiolas and hydrangeas. She was also very talented at embroidery, sewing and playing Scrabble. Pauline and David travelled the world together, visiting the entire United States and other countries, including Alaska, Canada, France and Morocco. She loved the ocean and often vacationed in Rye Beach, Plum Island, and Salisbury. In her youth, Pauline traveled with her siblings to upstate New York where she visited her many aunts and uncles. She was known to paint the town with her sisters and aunts in their day. Pauline cherished her lunch visits with her sisters and their countless trips to the Christmas Tree Shop. She really did love a bargain.

Most of all, Pauline loved the Lord and the Blessed Mother and honored them both in her undying faithfulness and devotion. She was a devout Catholic, a member of the Women's Guild of the Holy Family of Nazareth Parish. Even when words could no longer be spoken, she would listen and nod in agreement and acknowledgement of her daily prayers.

The Mass of Christian burial was held Wednesday, Oct. 12 in Holy Family of Nazareth Church, 750 Union St., Leominster. Burial followed in St. Cecilia's Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Holy Family of Nazareth Church Building Fund, 750 Union St., Leominster, MA 01453.

Simard Funeral Home, 14 Walker St., Leominster ([www.mackfamilyfh.com](http://www.mackfamilyfh.com)) was entrusted with arrangements.

## Elizabeth E. (Marchant) Gilchrest, 85



LUNENBURG — Elizabeth E. (Marchant) Gilchrest, age 85 entered into the joy of the Lord on Sunday, Oct. 9, 2016 in her home. Elizabeth was born Nov. 22, 1930 in Fitchburg daughter of Albert and Jennie (Anderson) Marchant.

She was a graduate of Lunenburg High School, class of 1948, had been a member of the Fitchburg Assembly of God Church, where she had been the pianist, a Sunday School teacher, and involved with the Woman's Ministries. She had been the pianist for the Sunday Chapel services at The Gables. She hosted many Ft. Devens families for Sunday dinner and loved nature. She had attended the New Life Church in Leominster. She had worked in the Lunenburg public school's cafeteria and had worked in the Cedar Street Home for retired women.

Her husband of 56 years Roger G. Gilchrest died in 2007. She leaves her

son Gary and wife Gwenn Gilchrest of Gardner, daughter Pamela and husband Kevin Barton of Murfreesboro TN, and Peter and his wife Tira Gilchrest of Lunenburg, two brothers: David Marchant of Fitchburg and Robert Marchant of Kennedy TX, three sisters: Helen "Nancy" Buckner of Winchendon, Irene Hulsman of Vista CA, and Edith Snyder of St. George UT; eight grandchildren: Rebecca Lee, Serena Bettez, Benjamin Barton, William Gilchrest, Russell Gilchrest, Eric Barton, John Gilchrest and Olivia Gilchrest, 12 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and her sister-in-law Mary Jane Smith. She was predeceased by a sister Louise Rucker.

A funeral service was held Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016 in the Aubuchon-Moorcroft Funeral Home, 132 Woodland St., Fitchburg. Burial was in South Cemetery Lunenburg.

The family wishes to thank HealthAlliance Hospice and The Visiting Angels for their compassionate care during Betty's illness.

## Francis E. Simkewicz, 85



BRADENTON FL — Francis E. Simkewicz, age 85, a resident of Bradenton, FL and a former resident of central New York, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 4, at the Blake Medical Center in Florida.

Frank was born in Winchendon, the son of the late Francis and Agnes (Kotowski) Simkewicz.

He was a graduate of Gardner High School in Gardner and later served in the United States Marine Corps.

Prior to his retirement, he was employed in the advertising sales department of the Syracuse Post-Standard. He was formerly the advertising manager for the Oswego Palladium Times.

Frank loved golf, playing the accordion, skiing, and being with his grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his first wife,

Sandra F. Simkewicz, his second wife, Helen B. Simkewicz; and a son, Jonathan Simkewicz.

He leaves behind a daughter and son-in-law, Niesha and John Anderson of Oswego; four grandchildren, Tyler Sheffield, Connor Sheffield, Hannah Anderson, and Sonja Anderson; and a very close friend, Joy Lastra of Bradenton.

Funeral services were held Monday, Oct. 10 in St. Peter's Church, Oswego. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery in Dewitt.

Memorial contributions can be made to 5005 Campuswood Drive, East Syracuse, NY 13057; or at [www.wish.org](http://www.wish.org) [www.daincullinan.com](http://www.daincullinan.com) Dain-Cullinan Funeral Home in Oswego was entrusted with arrangements.



## Alice G. (Sandstrom) Johnson

WALTHAM — Alice G. (Sandstrom) Johnson of Waltham died Sept. 24, 2016.

She was the wife of the late Richard S. Johnson, devoted mother of Lisa M. Gauthier of Winchendon, grandmother of Jessica Lee Rufo of Newton and August G. Gauthier of Winchendon. Great-grandmother of Jailee Klien, sister of Pamela Sperry and her husband, James, of Burlington and the late Thomas Sandstrom. Aunt of Douglas and Daniel Sperry of Burlington, Scott Aiken of Sunapee, NH, Leanne Sandstrom of Newton and Candace

Wilson of Exeter, NH.

Family and friends will honor and remember Alice's life by gathering for her funeral service on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 11 a.m. in the First Lutheran Church of Waltham, 6 Eddy St., Waltham. Burial will follow in Mount Feake Cemetery, Waltham.

Memorial donations may be made to First Lutheran Church, 6 Eddy St., Waltham, MA 02453 or to Brookhaven Hospice, 6 Beach St., Framingham, MA 01702.

## Irene P. (Antil) Setevdemio, 95



ASHBURNHAM — Irene P. (Antil) Setevdemio, age 95, formerly of 119 Center St., died peacefully Sunday morning, Oct. 9, 2016 in Wachusett Manor Nursing Home, Gardner, with her family at her side.

A lifelong resident of Ashburnham, Irene was born on Oct. 31, 1920, daughter of the late Saluste and Cora (Lafreniere) Antil. Irene was a 1938 graduate of Cushing Academy.

Irene worked for 26 years as an engraver at Simplex Time recorder until her retirement. She was a lifelong member of the former St. Annes Church. Irene enjoyed dancing and traveling to Maine.

Her greatest enjoyment was spending time with her family.

Her husband, Joseph A. Setevdemio, died in 1989. She leaves two children, Ronald J. Setevdemio and his wife Sylvia of Ashburnham and Nancy Wakefield and her husband Rick of Richardson, TX; four grandchildren, six great grandchildren and a special niece, Gaynel MacManus. Her brothers, Edmund Antil and Saluste Antil Jr, predeceased her.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016 in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central St., Winchendon.

Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Winchendon.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Denis Church, 85 Main St. Ashburnham, MA 01430.

## COURIER CAPSULES

### CLARK PLANNING EVENT

WINCHENDON — On Friday, Nov. 4 beginning at 6:30 p.m. the Clark Memorial YMCA of Winchendon presents its 10th annual Wine & Beer Tasting at the American Legion Post 193, 295 School St.

Dust off your dancing shoes for a Magical Mystery Tour with BEATLES FOR SALE, covering the favorite Beatles' tunes of the 60s.

The evening starts off with complimentary wine and beer samples accompanied by appetizers. As always there will be fabulous raffle and silent auction items. Wine tastings will be provided by Westminster Pharmacy & Wine Shop. Beer tastings provided by Wachusett Brewing Company. Cheese tastings provided by Smith's Country Cheese.

Cost to attend is \$25 per person. To sponsor a full table of eight is \$300 and it includes a company logo, early entry to the event and a sponsor listing in the event program.

Tickets are available at the YMCA front desk or by email to [k.pixa@clarkymca.org](mailto:k.pixa@clarkymca.org). Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/182960122136032/>

Proceeds from the evening's events go directly to the YMCA Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund allows ALL children and families to enjoy membership, aquatics and gymnastics programs, before/after school and camp through our financial assistance program. Please join us and help support youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

More about BEATLES FOR SALE at [www.BeatlesForSale.net](http://www.BeatlesForSale.net).

### VENDORS WANTED!

JAFFREY — The VFW Post 5613 Auxiliary will be hosting its 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 [tdepres68@gmail.com](mailto:tdepres68@gmail.com) or (603) 899-2262 for more information on how to register. Registration deadline is Saturday, Nov. 12.

HARD TIME OF YEAR FOR SOME  
The holiday season is a festive and joyous time, but for those who have

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**STONE-LADEAU FUNERAL HOME**

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**STONE-LADEAU FUNERAL HOME**

343 Central Street  
Winchendon, MA 01475

Tel: 978-297-0077 • Fax: 978-297-0075



## SPORTS

## Hard to find excitement this year

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — It's not exactly a secret that finding wins has been elusive for the Murdock Lady Devils varsity soccer team this fall, though there have been a flurry of goals, but Coach Jason Marshall remains focused on building a long-term successful program irrespective of the score of individual games this fall.

The Lady Devils have more

than two dozen players on the roster but many have made their soccer debuts this fall so growing pains were inevitable. "I'm in this for the long haul," Marshall promised.

Some games are educational for Murdock like last week's contest vs Maynard. MHS trailed just 2-0 at the half before eventually falling, 7-0 but even though the score was close at the break, "they were content to send balls through and chips and run into them," Marshall said of Maynard, add-

ing, "it was a similar start to the Tahanto game. They took control and passed well around the back and middle half of the field."

But the coach was encouraged by the way his defense responded and noted "Emily (goalie Kiberd-Pervier) was coming off the line early and was doing good. About halfway through, she didn't feel well and we switched to Izzy (Alcantara) in net. Despite having little training, she did a stellar job making saves and

keeping the game in check."

The second half looked much like the first, aside from the Lady Tigers offense breaking through, "though we did do a good job trying to make passes out of the defensive end. Kaileen (Dibble) played well early on. Robyn (Ufema) did a good job late. Katrina (Yang) was working toward getting those 50-50 balls and as usual, Michaela (Benedict), Hanna (Seghir) and Maria (Polcari) continued to try to lead the team, working themselves to

the dropping point," marveled Marshall, who added Alcantata was honored as player of the match for taking over in net with such little experience.

Murdock visited West Boylston and Trivium earlier this week and host Narragansett next Wednesday.

"It takes time to build a winning program," Marshall reflected. "We've got kids who are just beginning to play soccer. We're patient."

## Bunny hopping for joy as she leaves for NYC



Tracy Gambill photo

A bevy of her friends were waiting to wish her well on her adventure.

BY TRACY GAMBILL  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

FITZWILLIAM — Bunny Baldwin, age nine of Fitzwilliam and a student at The Dance Center of Winchendon, has landed the role of "Molly" in the nationwide tour of Annie The Musical.

Bunny is currently taking classes at The Dance Center in ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, contemporary, and musical theater. She has been dancing since the age of three and is no stranger to being on stage. Last December she was in Kenny Rogers' Special Holiday Show in Concord, NH. She was also casted as "Molly" in Annie and as young Cosette in Les Miserables at Theatre at the Mount in Gardner during the 2014 season.

There will be six other orphans in the 25 member cast, directed by original lyricist and director Martin Charnin and choreographed by Liza Gennaro. The show is on tour for nine months and will stop in more than 35 states and in Ontario, Canada. The tour conveniently wraps up at the Wang Theatre in Boston for two weeks in May.

Joyce Baldwin, Bunny's mom, teaches musical theater, acrobatics, and tap at TDC. She is also the vocal team coach and competition team choreographer. They heard about the open call for Annie auditions in July while at the All American Talent Nationals in Cape May, NJ. On a whim, they decided to go to New York City for Bunny to try out with about 400 other children.

"She definitely has the bug. She loves it," beamed mom. "I've been trying to find her more opportunities."

When Bunny received the phone call with the good news, she jumped up and down and screamed. "Then she got

quiet and asked if we had the money to do it," her mom said. "That's just the kind of kid she is." All was well when Bunny learned that she actually gets paid to be in the show.

In addition to performing, the seven young orphans will work with a tutor and spend an average of three hours



Bunny excitedly poses before cutting her cake.

each day on school lessons. Their 'classroom' may be backstage, on a bus, in a hotel room, or on a plane.

TDC owner and artistic director Nancy Bonanno is proud of and excited for Bunny. "I think it's wonderful. She has worked so hard. I'm going to miss them like mad!"

"Bunny had her first solo vocal when she was six and we knew then..." said Amanda Couturier, one of Bunny's teachers. "It's amazing. What an opportunity!"

About 75 of her dancer friends surprised Bunny with a send-off party at TDC. Everyone shared in the excitement with comments like "she is so talented," "we're really excited for her," "this is awesome," and "she can make a career out of this."

"I am SO excited!" Bunny grinned. "I'm looking forward to performing, the lights in my face, and signing autographs."

offered in Gardner and Athol and are facilitated by Pat Neville, MAEM, CPE, Hospice chaplain.

To register for the Nov. 7 meeting or for more information about the Bereavement Support Groups call (978) 632-1230 x 384.

The Gardner bereavement group meets the second and fourth Mondays at the offices, on the second Monday it is an evening meeting from 6:30-8 p.m.; on the fourth Monday it is an afternoon meeting from 2-3:30 p.m.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

AMHERST — Approximately 5,500 students received bachelor's degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst this spring. The following local students were among them. ASHBURNHAM: Veronica Phelps, Christopher Cotter and Lauren Ouellette. BALDWINVILLE: Kayla Gauvin. GARDNER: Michael Nicholson, Shayla Thomas, Crista D'Angelo, Patrick McGonigal, Marie Goo, Ericka Pultorak, Victoria L'Heureux, and Jennifer Porn. TEMPLETON: Kelsey Gagnon and Alex Hentnik. WINCHENDON: Garret Shetrawski, Nicolas Schultz, and Joseph Lison.



Courtesy photo

## IMPROVING THE STATS

Donovan Campbell (64), J.R. Nicolson (20) and Dom Iannacone (behind ball carrier) are closing in on the Athol ball carrier. The game against Athol was won 28-8 to let the Murdock Middle School Mini-Devils improve to 4 and 0 on the season.

Credit where it's due.  
What, no credit?

Oh, the wailing. Throughout Red Sox Nation, you heard the mournful dirge — this guy didn't step up, that guy didn't do this or that. Well. Maybe that was because the Cleveland Indians were better. You sure haven't heard that from the provincial New England fans. The Indians had a better record over 162 games and they were the better team in the ALDS. Period. Why's it so hard to give them credit? There's no shame in losing to a better team and in the crapshoot that's baseball's post-season, there's no shame in losing to a hotter team either. The Sox gave their fans a fun summer by returning to the playoffs. In Baltimore, Boston, New York, and Toronto, we all had an exciting September pennant race and it says here that should be enough. Remember, in the end, they're just games.

Then there's the beloved-in-New-England David Ortiz. Ortiz is wildly popular, almost revered in this part of the world. Elsewhere, eh, not so much. Sox fanatics will howl that's because of his clutch hitting. In part, no doubt. But there's also this — the

TALKING  
SPORTS  
.....  
JERRY  
CARTON

fact is Ortiz once failed a drug test. He admitted it. Maybe he was completely clean the rest of his career, but once you fail, there's going to be skepticism. It's the price you pay for cheating even once.

Let me equate it with another sport. Earlier this year, when Nyquist won the Kentucky Derby, there were quite a few people who looked at the colt's trainer and said "hmm?" Doug O'Neill, you see, has been found to have cheated as well hence his successes are going to be viewed with raised eyebrows especially since Nyquist hasn't won a race since and will be retired after the Breeders Cup next month.

Bottom line: cheating, even cheating once, isn't okay. At all. Cheat even once and it's inevitable you're going to be looked at differently. Don't like it? Then don't cheat. Ever. Hall of Fame for Ortiz? Today's HOF electorate likely would balk as they have on others. Some have said so. Five years from now, with a prospectively younger electorate? They might be more benevolent. We'll see. Did he have a great career? He did. How much of it was legit? Who knows? We'll never know.

This is the reality of sports. My favorite tennis player is Maria Sharapova but I don't

buy for one second her version of how she came to be suspended. It's true the ban was shortened but my assumption is the WTA really didn't to lose her as a drawing card for two full years. Beyond the Williams sisters, Sharapova fills the seats more than anyone. Not so long ago, Dustin Johnson took a six-month break from the PGA Tour for "personal reasons." The Tour rarely comments on presumed or suspected punitive action so who knows? A guy named Rick Dutrow won the Derby and Preakness back in 2008 and other horses in his barn were winning at an exceptionally and unlikely high rate. Dutrow's out of racing now, having received a lifetime suspension when the extent of his cheating came to light. To this day, I want to believe Pete Rose never bet against himself, but am I entirely sure? No way.

So as fans what do we do? We root and cheer anyway. You do. I do. We all do but while we do, remember it's probably better to be cautious about whom we revere. Remember Chuck Barkley's long-ago admonition: "we ain't no role models"? To be fair, some are, but many aren't. Maybe that's why I prefer equine athletes to human ones? They don't knowingly cheat. The humans around some of them, yes, but the horses themselves? Nope. I'll take them over the two legged athletes any day of the week, but that's just me. You can adore whomever you like. See you next week.

## CAPSULES

continued from page A1

suffered the loss of a loved one it can be difficult and painful.

"GVNA HealthCare is here to help those struggling with this emotionally challenging time of year," according to Karen Bernhardt, BSRN, MA, Hospice director. "We are pleased to announce the Hospice program will be hosting a special Bereavement Support Group meeting entitled "Grief and Loss during the Holiday Season."

The meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 7 from 2-4 p.m. at the Gardner office, 34 Pearly Lane.

"GVNA also offers Bereavement Support groups to the community several times a month and is open to anyone who has experienced a loss," said Bernhardt.

The groups are

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# After a year, the little restaurant that could

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — It's not easy to survive in the restaurant business — in fact, some industry surveys suggest as many as 90-percent of first year startups go belly-up before they reach their first birthday. That's not the case with the River's Edge which celebrates a full year in town on Monday.

"I've loved every minute of it," enthused ebullient owner Seth Silver. "It was a big challenge, but challenges are fun and we're appreciative of the response we've gotten from the community. They've taken us in. Without this community's support, we'd never have made it."

Silver said one of River Edge's selling points is menu flexibility.

"If you come in and you want something that's not on the menu, we'll do our best to make it for you. The thing that makes us unique is customers can basically create their own meals. Custom-created, you might say. If they ask, we can make it happen. We like playing around



The crew at the Rivers Edge is ready and waiting to serve.

Morgan St. Pierre photo

with the menu anyway as we figure out what people like the best."

Tastes are individual but floor manager Amber White, who's been on the team since before day one, easily identified the favorite breakfast item. "The 'Best of Vermont' (apple, bacon, egg, and Vermont sharp cheddar cheese in a wrap) is the most popular. Definitely, and at lunch, it's the burgers," she said.

Some people's tastes are quite predictable to the point where they even have their own key on the cash register, she pointed out.

"People like what they like," Silver pointed out.

Opening any business leads to ups and downs and Silver recalled coming in early one morning, very early since they open at 6 a.m., to find the paper towel holder had fallen off the wall and

somehow turned on the faucet in the sink directly below it.

"You can guess the rest," said Silver ruefully. There was a lot of water spilling out with the faucet having been running all night. "Things happen," he shrugged. "You deal with them."

Silver didn't open in town with any specific expectations. "I'm not one to set expectations and that way I don't have

to worry about being let down. What we do every day is try to be consistently good."

And listen. "We do listen," remarked White. "We like the feedback we get. We can't get better if we don't listen. We're a restaurant, but we're really in the people business."

Working in a restaurant was a new career course for White who had previously managed a gas station which did have a convenience store.

"You have no idea how far Amber has come in such a short time," Silver stressed. "I can stay in here and cook because I know whatever is happening outside that door," as he gestured to the swinging door which separates the dining room from the kitchen, "Amber can handle it. She's a great leader."

White in turn praised the staff, "Brian, Andrew and Jenna are with Seth in the kitchen and Stacy, Kathy, Ashley, Hannah and Lori are out on the floor. It's a good team and you need that because if you don't have a good team that can work together, customers will notice. It'll take

away from the experience and they may not want to come back," she explained.

Silver wants multiple generations to keep coming back. "One night we had four," he recalled, "no five," White interjected, "right, five," he laughed, "generations of a single family here. That's what we need. That's what every restaurant needs."

Last month's expansion to Friday and Saturday night dinners has been well-received, Silver said. "It's a whole different thing than breakfast and lunch but people seem to like it so far," he noted, "but we always have room to grow."

To celebrate the one-year anniversary, Rivers Edge has introduced a pumpkin tortellini. In addition, the restaurant will be closed on Wednesday, Oct. 19 as well as the regular Tuesday close. And with that extra day off?

"I'm going hiking," Silver exclaimed.

"I'm going to sleep," deadpanned White.

Rivers Edge will re-open Thursday at 6 a.m.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS



Tabitha Fournier

Athol Savings Bank is proud to announce the promotion of Tabitha Fournier to the role of branch manager at the Bank's Convenience Center located in Athol.

Fournier has been with Athol Savings Bank since 2008, and most recently held the position of assistant branch manager at the Gardner branch. She has also held the position of branch supervisor.

"Tabitha's talents and experience are valued, and her involvement through this new role will provide the team with enhanced support as they provide customers with financial solutions," stated Athol Savings Bank President and CEO, Daniel J. Zona.

Fournier currently serves as treasurer for the Gardner Service Unit of the Salvation Army and is on the Board of Directors for the North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce. She resides in Winchendon.

Athol Savings Bank has promoted Kellie Ballard to the role of branch manager at the uptown branch located in Athol. Ballard will be responsible for monitoring everyday branch operations, regulating Bank policies, and addressing customer inquiries.

"We are grateful for the many years that Kellie has dedicated to serving



Kellie Ballard

Since 1991, Ballard has held numerous positions with the bank including teller supervisor, teller, and accountant. Most recently, she held the position of assistant branch manager at the Ashburnham branch. Ballard resides in Orange.

ATHOL — Athol Savings Bank is pleased to welcome Donna Manuel as an assistant branch manager at the Convenience Center located in Athol. She is responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations within the branch, keeping all policies and regulations in order, and addressing customer inquiries.

Manuel joins Athol Savings Bank with over 20 years of banking experience. Most recently, she spent 10 years as a branch relationship manager and vice president at Enterprise Bank after also serving as a branch service manager and assistant vice president.

"Donna will be instrumental to our Athol-based team, and we look forward to watching her skills and experience compliment our ongoing efforts to provide convenient financial solutions to

our community through her positions at Athol Savings Bank. She will continue to make a positive impact as she assumes this new role," stated Athol Savings Bank President and CEO, Daniel J. Zona.



Donna Manuel

Athol Savings Bank is the largest mutual savings bank based in

Massachusetts' North Quabbin region, where it has fostered a friendly, small-town banking environment since 1867. The full-service bank has eight offices located in the communities of Ashburnham, Athol, Baldwinville, Barre, Gardner and Winchendon. All deposits are insured in full through the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) and the DIF (Depositors Insurance Fund). Athol Savings Bank can also be accessed via its mobile app and at [www.atholsb.com](http://www.atholsb.com).

customers," stated Athol Savings Bank President and CEO, Daniel J. Zona.

Manuel actively supports the Nicholas James Foundation for Autism in Leominster and resides in Ashburnham.

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Greg Vine photo

Jennifer Lee and Rebecca Robillard accept congratulations and a citation from Rep. Jon Zlotnik during the ribbon cutting ceremony at the opening of their new business, the Crafty Cauldron on Central Street over the weekend.



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# First Friday celebrates diversity



Courtesy photo, Brian Dickens

Evan Foisy plays guitar while Jay Pereira sings "Fools Rush In" by Elvis Presley at the First Friday on Oct. 7 at town hall.

BY TARA VOCINO  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — A Winchendon resident is bringing music, poetry, artwork, comedy, painting, fiction, storytelling, drama and art on the first Friday of each month throughout the fall.

Organizer Brian Dickens, who serves as a member of the Parks and Recreation, said he sought to revive the event that the Beals Memorial Library put on last decade.

The First Friday event had a featured speaker and someone displaying their artwork, whether that was visually, musically, or written.

Fast forward 10 years later, Royalston resident Evan Foisy and Winchendon resident Jay Pereira performed a duet, Gardner resident Eva Richards performed an original poem, and Murdock High School Principal Josh Romano spoke on Friday, Oct. 7 at town hall.

The next First Fridays scheduled are Nov. 4 and Dec. 2.

Foisy, who is a Christian artist, performed "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong.

He also played "Yet, I Will Rejoice," a song he wrote when he was going through a rough time.

"It speaks of when I went through some hard times after high school, that I had to remain joyful in the Lord," Foisy said. "Though the world around you may seem to be falling apart, you have to know that God is not only with you, but for you. Keep your head up."

For information, visit [evanfoisy.bandcamp.com](http://evanfoisy.bandcamp.com). Jay Pereira joined in a duet with Foisy, and they sang "Fools Rush In," by Elvis Presley and "Hallelujah," by Leonard Cohen.

"It was a good time," Pereira said. "Evan played guitar. I sang backup vocals."

Pereira sings tenor in chorus at Murdock High School. And bass in the Chamber Singers.

She said having a safe place to perform is key.

"Not in front of the entire school where we might be embarrassed for having feelings," she said. "I find putting on a concert, speaker, art gallery gives our town a better environment. Some people see this as a small town with nothing to do. That's not the case."

Pereira also is a Parks and Recreation member. She said local musicians are often under appreciated, and it is nice to have a place to perform.

Romano spoke about a subject that he is passionate about – Star Trek, a science fiction series that came out in the '60s.

"It celebrates diversity," Romano said. "And the theory of acceptance. People think it is like Star Wars, but it is not as much about action. It's more about the lessons you learn and how the characters are handling things."

Dickens said the featured speaker's topic can be intense. Opioids were the topic last year.

Featured speaker slots are open for both the November and December events.

Dickens said artists can talk about personal stuff. "This is a place where people can go with no alcohol and perform original stuff," Dickens said. "It's a place where people can hear poetry and listen to music."

He explained the historic room used to have wrestling matches in the 1900s and Henry David Thoreau referenced the room and the Black Bridge in "Walden Pond."

Dickens said the event is different from open mics in that it does not have the same set repeatedly.

## MVOC reopens drop in center

BY JERRY CARTON  
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — The Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center continues to operate in Winchendon three days a week (Tuesdays for drop-ins and the food pantry, Wednesdays have counseling sessions and Thursdays, when coordinator Mike Anderson is on site, intakes and other paperwork are the focus) and the Courier will have a more detailed story next week but in the meantime, MVOC Executive Director Bill Edson reaffirmed the organiza-

tion's commitment here.

"Winchendon has always been a very active place and we take very seriously our responsibility to the veteran community there," he stressed, adding the all-women's Cathy's House residence in town remains filled to capacity.

"We had been operating on a five day a week schedule in Winchendon but economically we couldn't sustain it. You do have to think like a business, what's cost-effective, and we felt like we could justify three days without jeopardizing our programs," Edson said.

Additionally, "the Stallings campus in Winchendon, like our Center here in Gardner, is a place where veterans can feel at home, where they can be with other vets. I've heard 'oh, you see the same people over and over'. Yes, of course you do. Isn't that the idea?" he mused, noting, "our centers work to help veterans reintegrate into society.

It's a process and our center here and at Stallings do see a lot of the same guys and sometimes women too. We're all working together. There's a lot of peer support."

He's not a veteran but Winchendon deputy fire chief Ricci Ruschioni does a lot for those who are and for his efforts, and those of his co-members at the Fire and Iron group, he was recently honored with the Scott Hodgskins award.

"You've met Scott, you know he's deserved to have an award named after him," Edson noted, "and Ricci and his club deserve to be recognized. They're always doing some event or another. One day they brought in enough food for the pantry to feed eight people. No one had asked them to — they just did it. They just want to help and make whatever difference they can," marveled Edson.

"Another weekend they might be off

doing a ride to support efforts to slow the rate of veteran suicides. The weekend after that they might be back organizing food drives for vets. How can you even begin to say 'thank you' enough," he asked rhetorically.

"And Ricci isn't interested in attention. He's rally humble about it but we really appreciate everything he and his club have done."

Edson acknowledged regardless of venue, "it's challenging. These veterans have been through a lot and the VA system is sometimes pretty hard to navigate. But if we can help them get access to the services they need and we have people who can pick up the phone and know who to call, then we're doing our job. It helps if you're calling from an organization like ours as opposed to veterans trying to do this on their own. So yes, it's challenging but challenging in a positive way," he said.

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**ARINGTON**

continued from page A1

Understandingly Mecelicaite called it all, "A little bit challenging."

The DESE will be coming to interview all committee members, teachers, teacher leaders, high school students, conduct classroom observations, write a report sent to Haddad for review for any inaccuracies or clarifications. A final report will be posted several months later with recommendations based on the findings.

Mecelicaite in summary said, "I believe we will have their report by the end of April. Besides all the work we have to do, I believe there is something good about it. We are a young administrative team. We think we know a lot of times where and how we go. But I think this particular report will highlight where we need to go and get even better, to do what we need to do with the students."

Switching gears, Haddad introduced a new system of recognition for the adults in the school system.

Haddad explained, "We have created a new award, called the Blue Devil Cool award for outstanding service to our Winchendon public schools, students, and staff. Tonight I would first recognize Martin Johnson. Martin is the first recipient of this award, for all his hard work and dedication."

Haddad added, "We asked the members of our admin team, 'Who should be recognized?' and everybody said the same thing, Martin Johnson!"

In a laudable vote of support Haddad said, "This guy is amazing. He does everything well, and he does it quick. He fixes leaky pipes and the roof well in to the night, helped us develop a sign,

began the Toy Town Paint Project at 5 a.m., gets to work very early, and works very hard while he is there. He is known as the Energizer Bunny!"

Haddad then summed up all of Johnson's great work with, "Thank you Martin for never saying to fix, repair, and make our schools better." Members of the committee also complimented Johnson on all his great works, and how lucky they felt they were to have him in their district.

Second receiving the award from Haddad was Suzanne Michel, director of Pre-K and ALL programs with Haddad saying, "Suzanne is receiving the award for going 'above and beyond' in her service to both our students and our staff. We had a case recently where a principal fell ill, and Suzanne was right there as the next woman standing up and she was right there!"

Haddad went on about Michel's great works and dedication by saying, "I have a few words I would like to read. She attends to both students and parent's individual needs both during and after school hours. She has been known to be on the phone with a parent for up to two hours, and she has absolutely been a wonderful asset to our administrative team. Parents are large often talk about how well she meets student's needs no matter if it is social, physical, emotional, or educational, to the point where if parents hear Suzanne is overseeing a program, they want their students to be there."

Haddad continued, complimenting Michel for how she has helped less experienced staff with how to speak with parents, doctors, or agencies, such as DCF, in obtaining the information that will be the most

helpful to the student's education.

"There is nothing to big or two small for her to tackle, and is always interested in researching solutions, when others have seemed to exhausted their resources." Haddad closed with, "This woman is in the front lines with students, and adults. We can't thank her enough for her for what she does every day, and people are lucky to get to work close to Suzanne because she could teach us all about work ethics, priorities, and how to be a true team player."

School Committee member Larry Murphy followed up with, "It is amazing watching her work. How she works and relates to the chil-

dren, the adults, and the staff really is magic. I stopped by Toy Town to watch her one time and immediately thought to myself, she doesn't need me at all, and she is doing an awesome job! You are another great example of Blue Devil Cool and that we serve students here, and that is our focus."

Haddad has found two new ways to work with the town departments to help both the schools and the towns.

He described the current phone system as incomprehensible, out of date and unwieldy.

"As many of you know if you call the central office and ask for me, we only have two phones. If you call one of the numbers, they have to call in

to my office, and then I have to go out in to the lobby to take the phone call. We have been in talks with the town manager, and he also complained about some of the phone systems at the town hall. We advised him that we are going to incorporate a new phone system at a cost of about \$62,000 and Mr. Hickey and I are hoping we can get a better deal if we seek to do our phone lines along with the town hall as well."

In addition to the possible joint phone work, Haddad informed the committee, "Our town manager informed me of new portable video cameras owned by the town, and that the town would let the school borrow them to take to their

press box to show sporting events, which could be played for parents on the towns public access channel, and again that is Blue Devil Cool."

Finally, it was with both sadness and great respect that the School Committee accepted the resignation of member Gregory Vine. Vine submitted his resignation due to accepting new employment and associated time requirements. Members and the superintendent very graciously thanked Vine for all his hard work, and advised him he is welcome to come back in the future if time allows.

The next meeting of the school committee will be Thursday, Oct. 27, at 6 p.m.

**FREEDOM**

continued from page A4

In other words, it doesn't matter who sits in the White House, who controls the two houses of Congress, or who gets appointed to the Supreme Court: only those who are prepared to cozy up to the powers-that-be will have any real impact.

As I document in my book *Battlefield America: The War on the American People*, the nation is firmly under the control of a monied oligarchy guarded by a standing army (a.k.a., militarized police. It is an invisible dictatorship, of sorts, one that is unaffected by the vagaries of party politics and which cannot be overthrown by way of the ballot box.

The government's agenda remains unchanged no matter who occupies the Executive Branch.

So how do we prevail against the tyrant who says all the right things and does none of them? How do we overcome the despot whose promises fade with the spotlights? How do we conquer the dictator whose benevolence is all for show?

We get organized. We get educated. We get active. If you feel led to vote, fine, but if all you do is vote, "we the people" are going to lose.

If you abstain from voting and still do nothing, "we the people" are going to lose.

If you give your proxy to some third-party individual or group to fix what's wrong with the country and that's all you do, then "we the people" are going to lose.

If, however, you're prepared to shake off the doldrums, wipe the sleep out of your eyes, turn off the television, tune out the talking heads, untether yourself from whatever piece of technology you're affixed to, wean yourself off the teat of the nanny state, and start flexing those unused civic muscles, then there might be hope for us all.

For starters, get back to basics. Get to know your neighbors, your community, and your local officials. This is the first line of defense when it comes to secur-

ing your base: fortifying your immediate lines.

Second, understand your rights. Know how your local government is structured. Who serves on your city council and school boards? Who runs your local jail: has it been co-opted by private contractors? What recourse does the community have to voice concerns about local problems or disagree with decisions by government officials?

Third, know the people you're entrusting with your local government. Are your police chiefs being promoted from within your community? Are your locally elected officials accessible and, equally important, are they open to what you have to say? Who runs your local media? Does your newspaper report on local events? Who are your judges? Are their judgments fair and impartial? How are prisoners being treated in your local jails?

Finally, don't get so trusting and comfortable that you stop doing the hard work of holding your government accountable. We've drifted a long way from the local government structures that provided the basis for freedom described by Alexis de Tocqueville in *Democracy in America*, but we are not so far gone that we can't reclaim some of its vital components: think nationally but act locally.

There is still a lot Americans can do to topple the police state tyrants, but any revolution that has any hope of succeeding needs to be prepared to reform the system from the bottom up. And that will mean re-learning step by painful step what it actually means to be a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

*Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. His new book Battlefield America: The War on the American People (SelectBooks, 2015) is available online at www.amazon.com. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.*

**Friday's Child**



Julian is a friendly and loving 8-year-old boy of Hispanic descent who enjoys the attention and closeness of his caretakers. He is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and with the help of his Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) he continues to develop his academic and social skills. Julian is active and enjoys playing with his toys and going to the playground. Julian is a unique child and has been described as being "in his own world." With the support of his therapist and school counselor, Julian is developing his social skills and learning to communicate his feelings. Julian benefits from clear structure and boundaries. He needs consistent reminders about "personal space."

Julian would do well with a family with older or no other children. Julian needs a family that is able to provide him with the attention and support he desires. Julian is part of a sibling group of three and shares a relationship with his siblings. An appropriate family would need to be willing to maintain contact including visitation with the family that adopt his siblings. Julian would bring a lot of joy and laughter to the right family!

**How do I adopt a child from foster care?**

To adopt a child from foster care, you must go through a training, interview and matching process. To begin, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE), for referrals to agencies in your area. After submitting an initial application, a social worker will meet with you, then refer you for the Massachusetts Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP) training. After completing the MAPP course, you'll have meetings with a social worker who will conduct your "homestudy" to explore adoption possibilities with you and begin to match you with a waiting child. It's important to balance patience with persistence to make a match that will build a lifelong family.

To learn more about Julian, and about adoption from foster care, call the 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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## HOMELESS

continued from page A1

their fault.”

Cloutier said he would like the police to have a direct number to call to help homeless find housing.

Betro said she would like to have a one-stop shop so people do not double dip on available resources.

“If we can get a working way of doing things, everything would fall into place,” Betro said. “Right now, there’s no accountability. No one knows where anyone is.”

She said Gobi and Zlontik will talk about available funds.

Betro told the Selectboard federal and state senior housing does not have elevators, and there are lengthy waiting lists for low-income housing.

“We need to plan ahead for our seniors’ needs,” Betro told the Selectboard. “Elderly residents want to age in place and at home.”

Homeless can use the Clark Memorial YMCA at certain times when there are not children present. The Senior Center has a shower, which would allow for more privacy, but it’s not in use currently.

“With funds from the Salvation Army, we can set that up,” Cloutier said, who also serves as vice chairman of the Conservation Commission.

He said some families live at Lake Denison or in tents.

The first public hearing was held on June 24, 2015, where 27 people attended, according to the sign-in sheet.

The second meeting was on Oct. 8, 2015, where nine people attended, also according to the sign-in sheet.

## LAPOINTE

continued from page A1

sition to the Winchendon police and at last the opportunity for college. LaPointe earned a degree in history, gained a teaching certificate and spent the next decade in the classroom.

The legal dream had never died though, and LaPointe enrolled at MSLAW.

“That was a great time for me,” he recalled recently. “It was the perfect fit for me and taught me skills I’ve used every day.”

“Mike Coin was instrumental in my success there. I can’t say enough good things about him,” LaPointe noted.

Until July when he and wife Danielle bought the Sargent home on the corner of Central and Monadnock, LaPointe had practiced out of an office above Family Dollar.

Location aside, he stressed his solo practice is “very client centered. At the same time, especially in family law, things can get very emotional. Lives are being turned upside down and more so when kids are involved so while you want to be as zealous as you can for your clients, you need to

be able to stay detached enough to do the job for them. You can’t get emotionally attached,” LaPointe said.

That was likely hard to do when he represented a soldier on active duty in Iraq through a divorce. Many of those negotiations were conducted via email and satellite phone.

“My biggest concern during all of this was the fact he was searching for IED’s every day and then he had to deal with the emotional aspect of ending his marriage,” LaPointe reflected.

Most cases obviously don’t have that kind of drama but regardless of the genre, LaPointe is still using techniques he learned as an MP.

“You were an investigator. You were putting a puzzle together and that’s what you do when preparing a case,” he explained. That includes getting to know and hopefully developing a professional relationship with all the players including the prosecuting district attorneys.

“I like the challenge of being that zealous advocate while understanding the hard job they have too,” noted LaPointe.

The practice was moving steadily along downtown but “business has been booming” since the relocation.

“We’re grateful for that,” he said and added, “Danielle has been irreplaceable. I’m serious about that. I could never do this without her. The successes we have are in large measure because of her.”

Working where you live? “It’s different to work at home, but this feels like it’s where I belong here in the loft. Our energetic and complete commitment to our clients hasn’t changed and won’t change,” promised Dave LaPointe.

It’s been a hectic time for the LaPointes who’ve also recently become the parents of daughter Juliette. They feel blessed when it comes to family, of course, but for all the changes that go with a move and a new baby one constant has remained. When it comes to the courtroom, “my favorite two words are always ‘not guilty,’” Dave LaPointe assured.

LaPointe law office is now located at 518 Central St. The phone number is (978) 297-2390.

The office will be celebrating its official opening (“in what we lovingly called the ‘lawft,’” laughed Dave LaPointe) on Sun. Nov. 6 between noon and 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served and guests will be able to tour the historic Sargent house as well.

## ART SHOW

continued from page A1

in 2010. He had noticed there was a wealth of untapped talent in the community and not much in the way of encouraging these folks to do something with their gifts. So he came up with C.cada to help people discover, develop, and deploy their artistic talents. The third Saturday of each month is typically when the group gathers to work on art.

Members of C.cada span from pre-teens to retirees and work in a variety of mediums including paint, photography, sculpting, knitting, music, and writing. Crafters of all skill levels create side by side and share workshops to encourage everyone to expand their interests and stretch their abilities.

Over the years, the group has shared its art with the larger community at Toy Town’s 250th Anniversary Celebration, several Art in the Park shows, and at the annual Summer Solstice and Fall-fest celebrations. C.cada also did a mural of a train and Winnie the Pooh in the pediatric department at Heywood Hospital in Gardner.

A café and ticket auction are open both days of the event. There will be performances on Friday evening from 6:30-7:30 p.m., including poetry readings, Rainboe the Clown, J. Lillie, and Elijah Haas. On Saturday, Poetry in the Parlor is scheduled for 10-11 a.m. Project workshops run from noon-2 p.m. and include card making, adult coloring, and kids’ puzzles. Winners of the ticket auction and People’s Choice award will be announced at 2 p.m. and there will be a special themed competition, titled “What Will the Future Hold?”

## ARINGTON

continued from page A1

“Basically, we want to have a creative music ensemble,” he stressed.

Not every band student is merely filling their schedule. Arington said he has students who enthusiastically love music and for example, those interested in guitar and other instruments as well for that matter will get the opportunity to write their own songs.

“Right now we’re learning the basics,” Arington pointed out, “but they’ll get to write their own music.”

Arington himself likes a variety of folk music, rock, jazz and movie scores, so he’ll be encouraging students to branch out too.

“I’m a percussionist, but they’ll find their own place,” he predicted.

As for the geographic distance from Tempe to Winchendon, “I wanted a change. I looked at schools in Oregon, Washington, and Minnesota too, but this

seemed like exactly the right fit,” he enthused.

“I love forests and here there are plenty of trees. In Arizona, there’s a lot of desert,” he laughed.

Arington’s also enjoying collaborating with music/chorus teacher Aly Galipeau.

“She’s fantastic. Aly has a way with kids. She’s already got a rapport with them so she’s a built-in recruiter,” he remarked.

It’s also not like Murdock is his first challenge, either.

“It was a challenge” in Arizona as well. “We eventually got about 30-percent of a 300-student school involved. That’s what I want to see here. I didn’t have any expectations coming in but I’ve done this before. I’ve got experience building a program and we’re going to lay the foundation and build from there,” said Arington.

That doesn’t sound like someone who plans on being fazed by the region’s winters.

“Not at all,” said Arington. “I’m looking forward to getting this program rebuilt.”

# LEGALS

### Legal Notice

#### Winchendon Conservation Commission

Lake Monomonac Annual Drawdowns Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will re-open the public hearing on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:40 pm to consider the Notice of Intent filed by Town of Winchendon Department of Public Works Superintendent Albert Gallant to conduct annual water level drawdowns of Lake Monomonac. The hearing will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.

The Notice of Intent is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon (3pm – 6pm on meeting nights), or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537. October 14, 2016

### Legal Notice

#### Winchendon Conservation Commission

6 Hyde Street; Assessor’s Map 4, Lot 148

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:35 pm to consider the Notice of Intent filed by property owners Arthur and Katherine Carron for proposed work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at 6 Hyde Street; Assessor’s Map 4, Lot 148. The project entails the upgrade to the septic system serving an existing 4-bedroom dwelling. The meeting will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.

The Notice of Intent is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537. October 14, 2016

### Legal Notice

#### Winchendon Conservation Commission

606 School Street; Assessor’s Map 1, Lot 245

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:25 pm to consider the Notice of Intent filed by property owner Catherine Mizhir dba All American Builders, Inc. for proposed work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering and Isolated Vegetated Wetlands at 606 School Street; Assessor’s Map 1, Lot 245. The project entails the construction of a new single-family house. The meeting will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.

The Notice of Intent is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537. October 14, 2016

### Legal Notice

#### Winchendon Conservation Commission

143 Laurel Street; Assessor’s Map 5D-1, Lot 75

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:15 pm to consider the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by property owners Christopher and Elizabeth Duguay for proposed work within an Intermittent Stream and associated 100-foot Buffer Zone at 143 Laurel Street; Assessor’s Map 5D-1, Lot 75. The project entails the installation of a 12”-diameter culvert and construction of a new driveway and 32’ x 26’ (704 square feet) two-bay garage. The meeting will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.

The Request for Determination of Applicability is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537. October 14, 2016

### Legal Notice

#### Winchendon Conservation Commission

59 Beech Street; Assessor’s Map 5B-3, Lot 156

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:10 pm to consider the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by property owners Karen and Christopher Kowlzan for proposed work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone and 200-foot Riverfront Area at 59 Beech Street; Assessor’s Map 5B-3, Lot 156. The project entails the construction of a 20’ x 26’ (520 square feet) driveway consisting of pavers. The meeting will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.

The Request for Determination of Applicability is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537. October 14, 2016

### Legal Notice

#### Winchendon Conservation Commission

6 Island Road; Assessor’s Map M-6, Lot 9

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Winchendon Wetlands Protection Bylaw, the Winchendon Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7:05 pm to consider the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by property owners John and Stephanie Divito for proposed work within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Lake Monomonac at 6 Island Road; Assessor’s Map M-6, Lot 9. The project entails the construction of a 32’ x 12’ (384 square feet) deck. The meeting will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium of the Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street.

The Request for Determination of Applicability is available for public review at the Land Use Office, Room 10 (first floor) of the Winchendon Town Hall on Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 9am – 12noon, except for 3pm – 6pm on meeting nights, or by calling the Conservation Agent for an appointment at 978-297-3537. October 14, 2016

### TOWN OF WINCHENDON

#### Planning Board

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of Chapter 40A, The Winchendon Planning Board will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at 7:05p.m.in the Town Hall Auditorium (second floor), 109 Front Street, Winchendon, MA 01475 to consider the following proposed amendments to the Winchendon Zoning Bylaw:

A. To amend Article 5.1 Basic Requirements by adding new section entitled *Additional Requirements* to include the following: *Any proposed use may be subject to the Site Plan Review provision of this Bylaw per Article 12.*

B. To amend Article 5.2.1 Residential Uses for the Planned Development District to allow the following as a *use permitted as a matter of right*: 5.2.1.A. Single family detached dwelling, 5.2.1.B. Two family attached dwelling and 5.2.1.H. Accessory dwelling unit.

C. To amend Article 5.2.2 Commercial Uses for the Planned Development District to read 5.2.2A Retail store or larger scale retail services *larger than 15,001 sq.ft. including sales room or market for sale of merchandise to the public and to be allowed by a matter of right*,

5.2.2B Small scale retail services *that does not exceed 15,000 sq. such as barbershop, dry cleaning, tailoring, shoe repair, caterer, print shop, photography, crafts and to be allowed by a matter of right*, 5.5.2.C. Convenience *without gas station and to be allowed by Special Permit.*

D. To amend Article 5.2.2 Commercial Uses for the C2- Neighborhood District to allow 5.2.2P. Self-service storage facility as a *use permitted as a matter of right.*

E. To amend Article 12 2.1E to read: Any use requiring a special permit in accordance with section 5.2 Schedule of Use Regulations if required by the Board of Appeals *and does not qualify for an exemption under Article 12.3 of the Zoning Bylaws.*

Copies of the draft revisions are available to be viewed in the office of the Department of Planning and Development Room 17, Winchendon Town Hall, 109 Front Street, Winchendon during normal business hours. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Alternative translation and accommodation for disabled persons is available by advance request to the department at (978) 297-5410

By: Guy C. Corbosiero  
Chairman Winchendon Planning Board  
October 14, 2016  
October 21, 2016





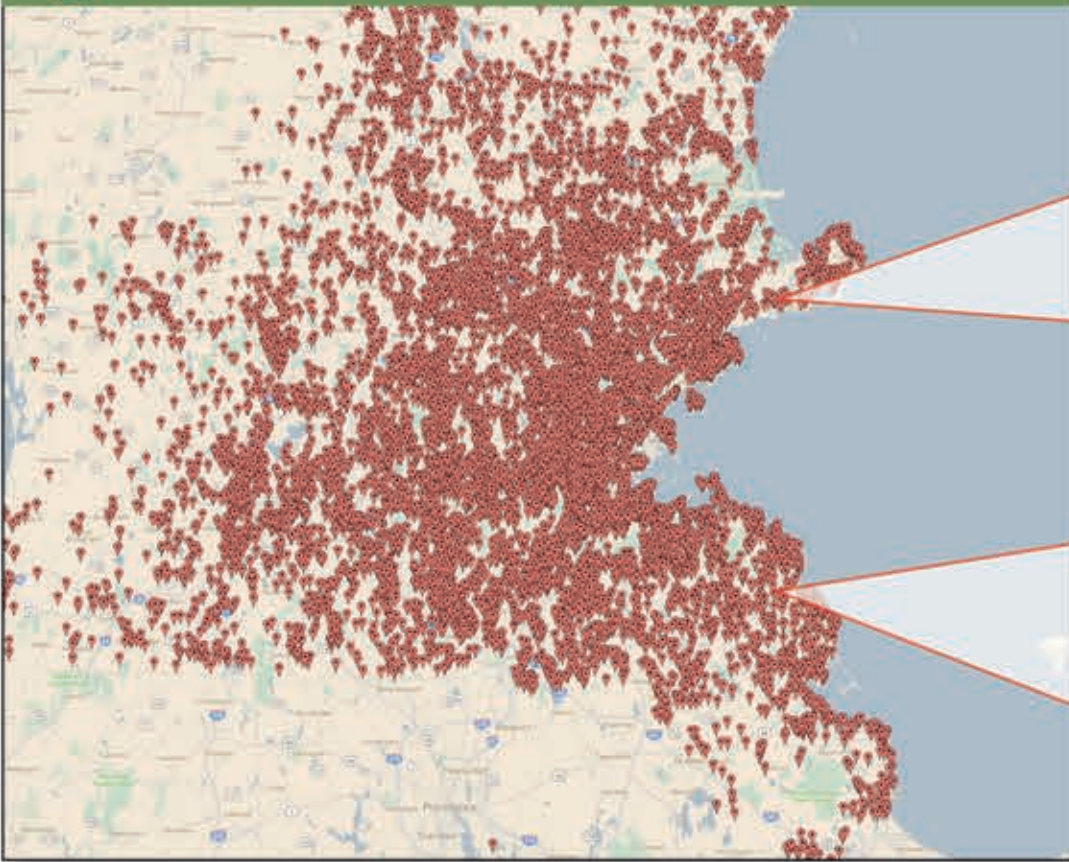
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## Still making a difference after 138 years

WINCHENDON — Though it isn't the oldest existing business in Winchendon, the Courier is definitely among an elite few.

It has had its offices in several places, on upper Front Street, where it housed a print plant as well in the earlier days, on Walnut Street, on Front Street and in a couple of different spaces on Central Street.

At different times in its history, it has employed as many as 40 full time people, printers, lay-out artists, sales people, editors, reporters, linotypists, circulation people, and administrative staff.

Today, the newspaper is done with one editor, who also does ad sales, and a handful of freelance writers and photographers. The printing and administrative work is done at a centralized location elsewhere; work that can be done off site because of the miracle of computerized access.

Winchendon, a town of a little more than 10,000, could easily support a daily newspaper on its own with the amount of news it generates. The activities of the public schools, a private school, and a regional technical school, an active YMCA with its myriad sports teams, active town sports teams such as Pop Warner and Little League and a handful of adult sports, town politics and activities, alone could fill the pages. Then there are churches and their activities, service groups such as Lions, Kiwanis and Masons, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and the scouting program through the Cornerstone Church. There are activities at the lakes and state owned properties. The new artists group and its gallery and programs, the Winchendon History and Cultural Center and its programs.

Unfortunately, there is also bad news, police logs, fires, and the stuff of modern life we must live with, with trepidation.

Then there are the businesses and the stories about new and improved products and services. The personal interest stories, the adventures, the human interest stories.

Then, just beyond the borders there are colleges, a hospital and its programs, several theater programs, and activities by other non-profits and groups of interest to Winchendon residents.

It's easy to see why the weekly pages fill up so fast; and usually not everything gets in. Why a daily would do well and would be well-received. It would take more manpower, and the support of the community; including advertisers to see that happen.

In the meantime, the Courier will continue to fill its pages with hyper-local news. Enjoy.

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