



BOS discusses town's financial future

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Winchendon Town Manager Keith Hickey pulled out his crystal ball at Monday night's meeting of the Board of Selectmen and foresaw a stable financial future for the community, despite projected deficits. Hickey presented the board with his five-year forecast, running from fiscal year 2019 through FY23.

"To make a very long story short," said Hickey, "our fiscal year 2019, which is upcoming,

right now has a budget deficit of just over \$284,000. I think that number is deceiving. There are things that we've obviously made estimates on. I've increased some of our costs. I've increased some of our costs by one and a-half percent, others, like the schools for example, by a greater amount. I've plugged in health insurance at four percent. So, there are a lot variables that we probably won't know true figures on until later on in the first quarter of this year."

Hickey stressed that once the figures have been firmed up he will be able to present the board with a balanced budget sometime in March.

"I feel very confident as we sit in January," he said, "that we'll be able to make up that deficit through actual numbers or cost-saving measures, if we have to undertake those."

Included in Hickey's forecast for FY20 is a \$300,000 bond payment, which would go toward the state-approved loan the town secured to cover the \$3.5

million budget deficit discovered by a 2014 audit. Much of that loan has already been repaid.

"I feel very confident we'll pay that (loan) off in fiscal '19," said Hickey. "So, the deficit that's predicted for 2020 of \$478,000 will drop by over \$300,000."

"I included the town's share of the three firefighters from the SAFER grant that we were awarded, beginning in fiscal 2019, and absorbing the total cost in fiscal 2020," he con-

tinued. "I've also included an additional police officer in fiscal '19, along with an additional \$20,000 for some dispatch support. I'm looking to add a new public works employee in 2020, as well."

Hickey said he did not include about \$90,000 in anticipated energy savings in his projections. Those savings should become a reality once the solar array at the former town landfill begins generating electricity for town-owned properties.

Turn To **BOS** page **A7**



Greg Vine photo

Winchendon's Board of Health voted Monday night to condemn this property at 41 Juniper St. The property has been placed into receivership and all residents will be required to vacate the building.

Juniper Street house 'unfit for human habitation'

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

A home that has been the bane of neighbors in the Juniper-Webster street neighborhood has, following a multi-year effort, been condemned by Winchendon's Board of Health.

The board voted unanimously Monday night to declare the home at 41 Juniper St. "unfit for human habitation." The board's decision further declared

"that the danger to the life and health of the occupants is so great as a result of the violations at the property that no delay may be permitted in issuing the condemnation and order to vacate."

Last week, Judge Diana Horan of the Central Housing Court in Worcester placed the property into receivership. R.C. Rheault Construction of Oxford was named receiver.

The property is owned by AKW Circle Trust, which

has had a revolving series of addresses over the years, currently lists is location as Lexington, MA. Stacie Brasco is listed as trustee. Wayne Brasco had been representing the trust in dealings with the town. Neither of the Brascos appeared in housing court last week to argue against the judge's decision.

Board of Health agent Jim Abare, building commission-

Turn To **HOUSE** page **A2**

FinCom discusses capital planning strategies

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

At Tuesday night's Finance Committee meeting, a discussion on allocating a certain amount of free cash to the town's stabilization fund morphed into a discussion of the need to revive the Capital Planning Committee, which has been in stasis for quite some time.

Talk turned to capital planning when the committee started asking questions regarding the process for prioritizing capital expenditures, such as those voted on at the November special town meeting. That spending was paid for out of free cash.

"I would like to see some

kind of priority done for our capital improvements," said committee member Maureen Ward, "because if you say you have 'x' number of dollars and DPW gets this, fire gets this, police gets that, you don't necessarily get enough to do what you really need to do. So, the Capital Improvement Committee needs to prioritize based on need, safety, health; those are the things we should hit first."

"And I'd like to see more transparency at the town meeting," said Ward, "when we have free cash and we're going to buy this, this, and this — who came up with that? Who determined where the greatest

Turn To **FINCOM** page **A3**

BOS supports CDBG application

BY GREG VINE
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Selectmen Monday night voted to continue a public hearing on the town's application for a Community Development Block Grant which would provide fund-

ing for housing rehabilitation, fuel oil assistance, and building façade upgrades. The façade program would something new in the grant request.

Planning and Development

Turn To **CDBG** page **A10**

28th Amendment proposal on ballot

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

Enough petition signatures have been certified to guarantee a spot on the November ballot an initiative which would add a 28th Amendment to the US Constitution aimed at curbing the influence of special interest money in American elections. Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin okayed the required 85,000 signatures just before Christmas.

A statement from American Promise, the organization guiding the proposal said, "we want to get big money

out of politics," specifically calling for the repeal of Citizens United v Federal Election Commission which struck down the Bi-Partisan Campaign Reform Act. In turn, asserted American Promise, that 2009 Supreme Court ruling opened the floodgates for corporations to pour millions of dollars into campaigns for federal offices.

"The greatest threat to a government of, for and by the people is the takeover of our political system by concentrated wealth and power," said American Promise President Jeff Clements.

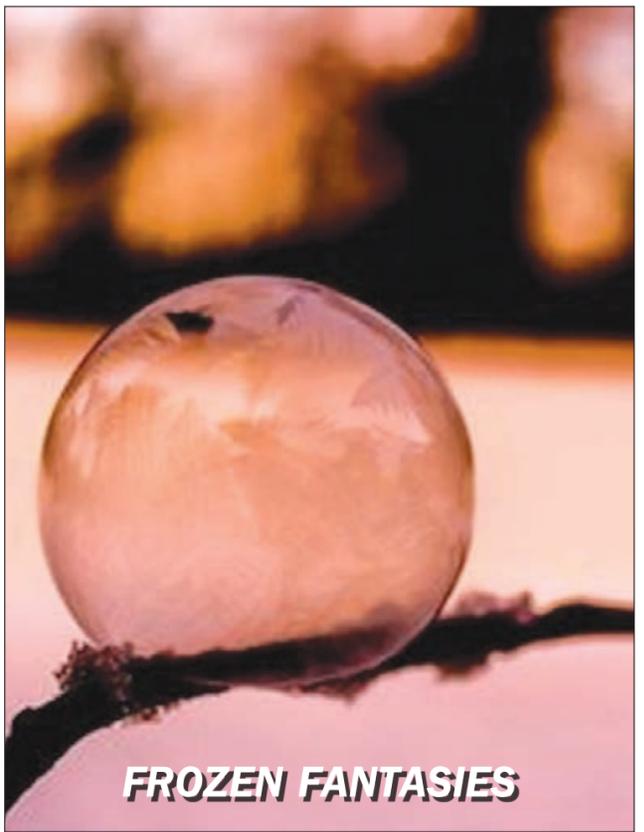
The organization envisions

a 15-person volunteer Citizens Commission in Massachusetts to research and assisting in drafting the details of the proposed 28th Amendment.

American Promise associate director Ben Gubtis was bullish on the prospects in the Bay State.

"Thanks to the support of hundreds of volunteers who collected, sorted and submitted those signatures, 4.5 million Massachusetts voters will have a chance to weigh in on the 28th Amendment in 2018 and stand up for democracy," he said.

Turn To **BALLOT** page **A3**



Shawna Lantille photos

Using a little dish soap, water and a bit of sugar to strengthen the walls, Shawna Lantille use a straw to blow small bubbles, that immediately froze in the cold during the last few days. Mother Nature makes a bit of beauty in the midst of mayhem.



LOCAL

PAGE 2



SPORTS

PAGE 8



WEEKLY QUOTE

And finally Winter, with its bitin', whinin' wind, and all the land will be mantled with snow.

— Roy Bean

Sports heating up as year turns

The varsity boys' basketball team participated in a holiday tournament at Keene State University over the winter break. The Blue Devils won the first two games, qualifying for the championship game. They played a great closing game against Conval High School, losing by only 1 point.

The basketball team is holding a raffle for two tickets to the Boston Celtics vs OKC Thunder basketball game. Raffle tickets are \$10 each. To purchase a ticket, or for more information, please contact Matt O'Malley at mc_omalley@yahoo.com.

The indoor track team, coached by Anthony Findley,

VIEW FROM THE TOWER
SUE POLCARI

Dick Karvonen and Eha Karvonen, have participated in multiple meets over the past several weeks. Although limited depth on both the boys' and girls' teams makes competition more challenging, many of the Murdock track athletes have performed very well

individually. Of note were performances by Alexia Allard in the 55 meter hurdles, the long jump and the triple jump; Adam Digman in the 55 meter hurdles and the pentathlon; Ryan Thira in the 55 meter dash; Richard Swanson in the 600 meter run, Steven Ingman in the 1 mile run, Justin Thira in the long jump and Lilly Digman in the 400 meter.

New school records were set by freshman Alexia Allard (55 meter hurdles) and 8th grader Lilly Digman (400 meter). Congratulations to all!

The varsity cheerleading squad was busy over the winter break learning choreography for its competition routine.

After the unexpected departure in the fall of cheerleading Coach Rebecca Robillard, reportedly due to an injury, Middle School Coach Lisa Paulitsky stepped up to complete the fall season of cheerleading. For the winter season, Paulitsky and Tamara Hayes are combining their knowledge and talent in coaching both the middle school and varsity cheerleaders. Both squads cheer at home football games and are looking forward to par-

ticipating in area competitions. The varsity cheerleaders are holding a Cheer Camp for any child Pre-K through 5th grade on Monday, Jan. 15. To register or for more information email to Murdockcheerleading@gmail.com.

The Key Club fills backpacks at Toy Town Elementary School as they continue to participate in the backpack program which provides healthy food for students who may not have access to sufficient food. Additionally, the Key Club will be participating in "Thirsty 30", a 30 day campaign to raise money to provide clean water to areas that do not have access to clean water. Discussion has also begun regarding the Key Club District Convention in Springfield to be held in April.

Upcoming events at Murdock – come out and cheer for your Blue Devils!!

January 12: Girls JV & Varsity basketball at 5:30 & 7:00
January 16 & January 19: Boys JV & Varsity basketball at 5:30 & 7:00

January 18: Middle School boys & girls basketball at 3:30 & 4:30

January 20: Bottle & Can Drive, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. in Rite Aid Parking Lot

Please visit www.mwlma.org for a full schedule of home and away basketball, ice hockey, swimming, and indoor track events.

Save the date! High school musical: Footloose – March 2 and 3

Giving the gift of learning



Rotarians Peter Sargent and Mike Ellis with Toy Town Principal MaryAlice Aker.

RIGHT: Rep. Jon Zlotnik and teacher Kathy Zalenski pass out the dictionaries to third grade students. The Gardner Rotary visited Toy Town Elementary School to present dictionaries to each third grader. Each dictionary was printed with the students' names.



Courtesy photos

A student takes a look at her new dictionary.



HOUSE

continued from page A1

er Geoff Newton, and Ronald C. Rheault, owner of Rheault Construction, toured the building in May of last year. At Rheault's request, the property was revisited in December in order to catalogue a long list of violations found in the house. A letter to Judge Horan, co-signed by Abare and Newton, stated "the building has indications that a non-licensed individual...made electrical, plumbing, and building repairs in a substandard...manner." The correspondence listed at least 10 violations of building, mechanical, energy conserva-

tion, electric, and plumbing codes.

Pictures presented to the judge included unprotected electrical breaker boxes, cut and hanging wires in the basement, wires holding up pipes, multiple appliances plugged into power strips leading to an outlet multiplier, shoddy plumbing, non-functioning smoke detectors, large holes in walls and ceilings, and a second-floor egress completely blocked by debris. A pile of demolition materials, discarded furniture, and yard waste is piled by the driveway.

Abare said he expected members of the board to sign an order to vacate the premises before the end of this week.

Once the order is served, residents will have 24 hours to leave the home.

While a woman at Monday night's meeting said she and her daughter were currently the sole residents of the home, Abare said there were indications as many as 11 people have lived in the house at one time or another. The health agent said while the town may help cover the cost of moving residents from "point A to point B," it won't assist them in finding alternative housing.

"It won't be putting them in a hotel, or anything like that," said Abare. "The residents can also work with the receiver to assist with their move."

In 2015, about two dozen residents of the neighborhood presented selectmen with a petition asking that occupants be forced from the home. Petitioners complained of disturbing behavior and alleged drug dealing at the residence, as well as the disheveled appearance of the yard and building. At the time, then-interim Town Manager Bernie Lynch told neighbors it wasn't appropriate to ask the town to have the residents evicted.

What turned into a nearly three-year legal effort to address the issue finally ended with the court's decision to place the property into receivership and the board's decision to condemn the home.

"Every Town Deserves a Good Local Newspaper"

TheHeartOfMassachusetts.com

How to Use: THE WINCHENDON COURIER

A STONEBRIDGE PRESS PUBLICATION

NEWS STAFF DIRECTORY

EDITOR
RUTH DEAMICIS
(978) 297-0050 x 100
ruth@stonebridgepress.news

TO SUBSCRIBE, OR FOR SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:

KERRI PETERSON
508-909-4103
kerri@stonebridgepress.news

TO PLACE A BUSINESS AD:

BRENDA PONTRIBAND
1-800-536-5836
brenda@villagenewspapers.com

TO FAX THE COURIER:

CALL (978) 297-2177

TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:

EMAIL: ruth@stonebridgepress.news
44 CENTRAL STREET

TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

EMAIL: ruth@stonebridgepress.news
44 CENTRAL STREET

TO SOUND OFF:

CALL (978) 297-0050 x 100
EMAIL: ruth@stonebridgepress.news

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS:

EMAIL: ruth@stonebridgepress.news
44 CENTRAL STREET

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

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
508-909-4101
frank@stonebridgepress.news

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

RON TREMBLAY
508-909-4102
rtremblay@stonebridgepress.news

OPERATION DIRECTOR

JAMES DINICOLA
508-764-4325
jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com

EDITOR

RUTH DEAMICIS
508-909-4130
ruth@stonebridgepress.news

ADVERTISING MANAGER

JEAN ASHTON
508-909-4104
jean@stonebridgepress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER

JULIE CLARKE
julie@villagenewspapers.com

STONEBRIDGE PRESS PHOTO POLICY
As a community oriented family of newspapers, Stonebridge Press welcomes photos from readers, business owners, and other outside sources for publication in any of its titles. Any photos submitted for publication become the property of Stonebridge Press, and may be displayed in our newspapers, as well as on our Web site. They may also be made available for resale, with any proceeds going to Stonebridge Press and/or the photo re-print vendor.

MORIN REAL ESTATE

Real Estate Brokerage & Consulting
Earning the public's Trust one consumer at a time for over 30 Years

www.morinrealestate.com
978-297-0961

READING NEWSPAPERS IS A QUEST LIKE NO OTHER



CLYDE'S CORNER

Saturday, January 20

CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE: Murdock Middle School holds a can & bottle drive in the parking lot of Rite Aid, Central Street 8 a.m. to noon. Funds raise help pay for the annual camp week for 7th graders.

Saturday, January 27

ANNUAL BONFIRE & FIREWORKS: as you take down your decorations, bring trees and wreaths to the American Legion and pile them as the annual bonfire is already stacking up for Saturday, Jan. 27. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with hot dogs and burgers available; the fireworks go off at 7 p.m. and then the bonfire is lit! No admission charge for this family friendly event, and we need your tree!!!

Friday & Saturday, March 2 & 3

FOOTLOOSE! Murdock High School presents its annual musical, this year the coming of age and bittersweet Footloose. When

a California teen moves to small town USA and finds it too strict for his taste, he finds ways to give a bit of freedom to his fellow students. 7 p.m. both nights, tickets available at the door or in advance by calling Murdock High School.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

SUNDAYS

I N D I V I S I B L E WINCHENDON: The Indivisible Winchendon group meets every Sunday at 12:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St. to discuss and organize creative, effective resistance to the Trump administration over the long term. We are liberal/progressive but non-partisan. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/381174492262359/>

MONDAY

LEGO CLUB: Beals Memorial Library, 50 Pleasant St. hosts a Lego Club for kids aged six-12, 3:30-4:30 p.m. every Monday afternoon the library is open. Show off your creative side. More information about this and other programs by calling (978) 297-0300 or visit

townofwinchendon.com/bealsmemoriallibrary. **TUESDAY**

WINCHENDON NA MEETING: Hosted by UUCW and led by Winchendon residents, in collaboration with the Central Massachusetts area/New England Region of Narcotics Anonymous. This is an open meeting with general discussion and support, for anyone who is in recovery or wants to be. Please pass on this information to anyone you know who might be interested in, or benefit from, a meeting. We're working hard to get the word out! At the UU Church of Winchendon, 126 Central St, downstairs in the parish hall. Begins at 6:30 p.m.

LEARN: Computer classes for adults are offered on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Beals Memorial Library and are open to adults ages 18 and older.

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

TINY TOTS PLAYGROUP:

on Tuesday 10-11 at Beals Memorial Library, 50 Pleasant St. for toddlers aged 0-4. Songs, rhymes and sharing.

WEDNESDAY

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.

BINGO 2! Old Murdock Senior Center hosts Bingo on Wednesday afternoons at 12:15 p.m.

FRIDAY

FREE MOVIES: Throughout the summer, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church holds family movie nights beginning at 7:30 p.m. Bring a blanket, a chair, pillows and a few snacks for a free movie under the stars. Every movie will be a family rated G or PG bundle of fun. In case of bad weather, the movie will be shown the following day, Saturday. Check the Facebook page for the name of each week's movie.

COURIER CAPSULES

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT NEW LONDON, NH—Colby-Sawyer College recognizes 254 students for outstanding academic achievement during the 2017 fall semester. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must achieve a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours in graded courses. Hannah Clark of Rindge, a member of the class of 2018 majoring in graphic design; Melanie Patria of Rindge, a member of the class of 2020 majoring in graphic design; and Erin Mulready of Winchendon, a member of the class of 2018 majoring in nursing.

GRANT AWARDED
Senator Anne M. Gobi

(D-Spencer) and Representative Jonathan D. Zlotnik (D-Gardner) have announced a \$7,500 grant being awarded to Winchendon public schools. The grant was awarded through the Massachusetts Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Partnership Continuation Grants.

The grant funding will be used to create a model site that demonstrates the systematic implementation of evidence-based practices within a tiered system of support. The professional development training will enable Massachusetts educators to better serve students, including students with disabilities, and their families.

"These grant funds will provide pro-

fessional development for our teachers, providing them with new tools in the classroom," said Senator Gobi

"Professional development is key to helping teachers address new challenges they face in the classroom and grants like this make it possible for our local districts to do even more of it," said Rep. Zlotnik.

These competitive grants are in the fifth year of a five year federal funding award designed to increase district/school access to high quality, evidence-based professional development, including face-to-face and online training and technical assistance, products, services, and activities.

FINCOM

continued from page A1

need was?"

"As we've taken these tours (of town departments)," said committee member Christian Orbello, "and we've heard from department heads, I've found that some of the things they tell us to be quite dire, over and above some of the things that have been prioritized. It's not that we want to prioritize for anyone, it's just that we want to see what the process was."

"There should be some kind of group that sits down and weighs the merits," said Ward.

"The charter provides for a Capital Improvement Committee which has, I think, been somewhat defunct," said Committee Chairman Tom Kane. "I did mention this to the town manager, particularly after the town meeting. As

things got shifted, who shifted them? Not that they weren't shifted for good reason, but if there's a committee that's charged with getting as much information as they can and can be objective, then it's the Capital Improvement Committee that gets up on town meeting floor and says 'here's what we want you spend and here's why'."

"I think decisions on capital improvements should be made based on need, not on how much money departments have been able to turn back to the town," said Kane. "That's where representation from various committees - School Committee, Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee - you get a group of people who can be objective about it when they make decisions."

"And also, a couple of folks from the public who really have the knowledge, not just have some free time," added Ward. "The knowledge has to be there."

"Like any committee," continued

Kane, "it's only effective to the extent that it's well informed and well educated about what its charge is. The Capital Improvement Committee should be meeting on a monthly basis. It needs to develop a real good understanding of what the town's needs are."

"As we move forward," said Orbello, "I think having a real vision that we can look at and that the community can feel they have buy-in on and they've helped develop, I think that's part of what a capital improvement committee could do."

"With the positive direction in the last few years," said Ward, "this might be a good time to put things back on the table because folks have a renewed energy right now."

Committee members agreed that the topic should be discussed further at a Tri-Board meeting scheduled for February 22.

BALLOT

continued from page A1

Technically known as 'People Govern, Not Money Initiative', the proposal has been approved by voters in California, Colorado, Montana, and Washington.

The Massachusetts volunteer committee said it collected over 100,000 signatures from all 351 cities and towns in the state. That was news to Ianna Arthen, co-founder of the Winchendon Indivisible chapter.

"This is the first I've heard of it," she told the Courier.

Volunteer Kimberly Wass was excited.

"100,000 signatures mean our vol-

unteers had over 110,000 face-to-face moments of shared civic engagement, most of this outside in heat, cold, sunshine and rain, all within a nine-week deadline. It's really an extraordinary feeling of what is possible, of hope and optimism and the power of individual citizens to create change," she enthused.

In both 2012 and 2014, the state legislature passed resolutions supporting the proposed amendment, urging Congress to do the same and send it to the states for ratification. American Prospect said 150 of those 351 cities and towns have also passed similar resolutions. Nationally, American Promise says 19 states and over 800 cities and towns across the country have done likewise.

Email Us! *What's On Your Mind? We'd Like to Know.*

Email us your thoughts to: ruth@stonebridgepress.com

ACCURACY WATCH

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

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

WINCHENDON
\$220,000 225 Monomonac Rd W, Boutot, Brenda J, and Boutot, Lawrence J, to Allen, Karen A, and Normandin, Carol A.

\$176,500 19 Hall St, Smith, Jack J, to Tambolleo, Michael.

\$176,500 19 Hall St, Smith, Jack J, to Tambolleo, Michael.

\$175,000 160 West St, Purposeful Realty LLC, to Wood, Nathan P, and Wood, Mandy L.

\$58,000 High St, Scanio, Charles J, and Scanio, Kaaren W, to Hatzopoulos, Michael, and Hatzopoulos, Amy B.

WINCHENDON
\$220,000 225 Monomonac Rd W, Boutot, Brenda J, and Boutot, Lawrence J, to Allen, Karen A, and Normandin, Carol A.

\$176,500 19 Hall St, Smith, Jack J, to Tambolleo, Michael.

\$176,500 19 Hall St, Smith, Jack J, to Tambolleo, Michael.

\$175,000 160 West St, Purposeful Realty LLC, to Wood, Nathan P, and Wood, Mandy L.

\$58,000 High St, Scanio, Charles J, and Scanio, Kaaren W, to Hatzopoulos, Michael, and Hatzopoulos, Amy B.

TEMPLETON SENIOR CENTER

16 Senior Drive
Baldwinville
(978) 894-2783

The Templeton Senior Community Center is playing Card Bingo on Jan. 12th at 1:30 p.m. Please call 978-894-2780 to sign up to play.

The Templeton Senior Community Center is having a game day on Jan. 16 from 1-3 p.m. Feel free to bring your favorite board game and join in the fun. Free popcorn and coffee offered to all.

The Templeton Senior Community Center is hosting a nutritional talk with MOC titled *Water an Essential Nutrient!* on Jan. 24 at 11 a.m. Please call 978-894-2780 to reserve your seat by Jan. 22. There are free raffles for all who reserve and attend.

Join the Templeton Senior Community Center on Jan. 26 at 6 p.m. for a Twilite Lounge performance by local artists Denis and Ronnie Cormier. To reserve a seat please call 978-894-2780.

Line Dancing is back at the Templeton Senior Community Center on January 19 from 1-3 p.m. All are welcome to participate.

Local Heroes

FOUND HERE!

HALL RENTALS

Planning a Wedding, Family Gathering, Shower, Birthday, Anniversary, Meat Raffle, Social Activity, Fund Raiser, Business Meeting?

The Winchendon American Legion has a hall for you.

Downstairs hall seating 100.

Recently renovated Banquet Hall with dance floor and stage • Seats 325

Kitchen & Pavilion rentals available

Call after 3:30pm for available dates & reasonable prices
978.297.0754

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Service Directory ads offer sellers the fastest and most affordable way to advertise. From apples to azaleas, Chryslers to condos, the directory is the way to sell!

Give Brenda a call today to place your ad: 800-367-9898

BEAMAN'S BAIT SHOP
Route 202 • 196 Glenallen Street
Winchendon
978-297-2495 • 8am-8pm Daily

FULL LINE OF TACKLE
• FREE T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY •

YOUR AD HERE!
\$10 PER WEEK
FOR 12 WEEKS
+ A FREE 1/4 PAGE AD!

WINCHENDON COURIER

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER: FRANK CHILINSKI
EDITOR: RUTH DEAMICIS

VIEWS

Opinion and commentary from Winchendon and beyond

EDITORIAL

Elegies
and Empires

While the world is swirling over a tell all book about the presidency, we found more to take our attention in two older books. Both were more economic in nature, but wildly diverse in topic.

The first, a quasi-biography of a middle class college professor wouldn't be much of an attention getter at all if you didn't know the rest of his story. You see, he was a hillbilly.

Yes, that term fit.

There is a segment of the population, many of them of Scots Irish descent, who have lived in the Appalachian Mountains for generations and take that epithet with pride. They are intentionally proud of their stubbornness, their pride itself and of needing no one but themselves and their extended families.

That isn't a bad thing. It is an amazing thing. Family is all. Family is important.

But when family is torn apart due to economics. Or family becomes insular and frightening; a place to keep secrets from the outside world because of problems beyond the pale, children become victims.

Obviously, no family is without problems, but families become problems, become part of bigger problems, become underlying problems and become part of a circuitous, failing attitude of...failing expectations.

The book is called Hillbilly Elegy. And while we can, as New Englanders, sniff and say that isn't us, indeed it is. We read it and saw us, saw our failing children in our high schools who don't have any expectations of going to college; who have no idea they could; saw the loss of blue collar jobs with

nothing to take their place; saw the loss of extended families who support one another and are there for one another when one person fails and needs the help of others.

The second book is called Empire of Things and by its title might give one an idea of where it goes.

What is enough?

Are we drowning ourselves with too much?

And just when did we decide that consumerism was the best kind of economics for our country?

What could we be doing instead?

Buying and selling.

Things.

Stuff.

We are drowning in it. Our oceans are awash in plastic we can't destroy, we all have too much clutter, our closets are stuffed, our cupboards are full and yet, and yet, we buy. And we buy.

But what would our economy, based on consumerism, do instead? If we didn't base our economy on the buying and selling of goods, what do we do? And how do we get into a different mindset? A different place?

It's easy to pontificate and say yes, we know we have too much, spend too much, shouldn't be doing it this way; but the answer isn't to just stop because something needs to happen instead. Humans being human will need something else...we just do.

Buying and selling, stuff for ourselves? Weapons for others? Food?

It's a quandary not easily answered but most of us have never even asked the question, so maybe we should at least do that. What would we do instead?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOM: thanks for holiday help

To the Editor:

People often ask, "Why live in such a small town?"

Well, I suppose one of the reasons is the generosity and kindness of the people in a town like Winchendon. The Friends of Old Murdock Senior Center recently held their annual "Winterfest" and raised over \$1,000. These funds will be used to help provide activities, programs and support for our senior citizens. However, we couldn't have raised this or any money without the generous support of our area businesses and friends who donated the holiday baskets, wreaths and gift cards for our many raffles.

A special thanks to the following: Dunkin' Donuts; CVS Pharmacy; Harbour Restaurant; Belletete's Hardware; Dugan's Salon & Spa; Carriage House Restaurant; Crafty Cauldron; River's Edge Restaurant; To Each His Own Design; Flip Side Grill;

C&S Pizza; Nancy's Boutique; Simply Styling; McDonald's Restaurant; Brooks Automotive; Pattie's Jewelry; Gabby's Pizza; D'Ambrosio Eyecare; Toy Town Barber; Mathieu Ford Sales; The Glen Caffe; Michelle & Rick McAllister; Sherri Spooner; Rose & Les Goodrich; Pauline Lashua; Moe Ward; Priscilla & Dave Johnson; Rita & Art Amenta; Nancy & Wally Willcox; Judy Mizhir; Tricia McConnell; Jean Murphy; Margaret Paxton; Mary Laflamme; Les & Allison Gormley, and Sherry Gauthier.

We also want to thank those who designed and set up decorated tables for all to see – a holiday treat for everyone; and, finally, to all those who attended and showed support for our senior citizens. Thanks.

RICK WARD

FRIENDS OF OLD MURDOCK SENIOR CENTER

LETTERS POLICY



Letters to the editor are always welcome, and may be sent to ruth@stonebridgepress.news, or The Winchendon Courier, 91 Central Street, Winchendon, MA 01475. Be sure to include a name and residence. Please refrain from sending letters via fax, and be sure to supply a home address and phone number

to allow for confirmation. Allow at least 48 hours for a response. Letters must be submitted by noon Friday to ensure publication in the following week's issue. Every effort will be made to accommodate late submissions, but inclusion can not be guaranteed. The rules of good taste and libel will, of course, apply to all submissions. Personal attacks will not be published. The editor retains the right to edit all letters.

What makes a successful school?



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

Let me begin this essay by congratulating our seniors who are receiving their college acceptances and offer a special nod to Michaela Benedict who is the second Murdock student in just a few years to gain acceptance to Harvard. About 90-percent of our senior class interested in college had applied by December 1, an almost 10-percent jump over last year, and many of them are now hearing back.

We are proud of the wide range of schools to which they are headed and are proud of our faculty and staff who have been their partners along their

path to this milestone. We congratulate as well a guidance department which has worked relentlessly to help our students find the best choice for them.

Preparing students for life after graduation is the primary responsibility of every high school and while we are of course always striving to do a better job of that, we are nonetheless pleased with what we are accomplishing together.

Many variables need to be in place to make for a successful school. We are fortunate that Ralph Olsen agreed to return to Murdock High School this year. Ralph has instilled a much-needed culture of ownership of responsibility for every adult and student in the building. This has resulted in improved morale and renewed commitment to doing the best we can every single day which benefits everyone. Working with school counselor Jane Greenleaf

and school police resource Officer Tracy Flagg, even to the point of finding individual truants, Ralph has been instrumental in improving attendance which in turn has resulted in improved grades.

Additionally, there is a strong partnership between the Murdock Academy for Success and mainstream faculty, which has enabled students who otherwise might be in danger of not having enough credits to graduate complete courses in an appropriate time. This alliance has worked to help integrate Academy students into the building's academic rhythm as well with mainstream teachers in core subjects spending time in the Academy every day.

The middle school has completed nearly half a year with the new individualized Summit learning program, and while it was a challenge for everyone in the building, teachers are now reporting success story after success story as

students tell them they're re-energized by a new approach to education. We've consistently said that when test scores have remained stagnant, it was necessary to try a different approach. We are enthused about the potential for Summit.

Even sixth grade students are preparing for their entrance into the Summit program next year. As just one example, Nicole Landry's sixth grade science class leans heavily on student-created and directed projects which gives kids a large degree of ownership over what goes on in their classrooms. This will enable them to continue to take leadership roles as their school careers continue.

The bottom line is that we are making important strides to helping our students become the best citizens they can be. To assist them on that road is a role in which we can all take pride.

The kind of man America needs

"When life itself seems lunatic, who knows where madness lies? Perhaps to be too practical is madness. To surrender dreams – this may be madness. Too much sanity may be madness – and maddest of all: to see life as it is, and not as it should be!" – Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, Don Quixote

My favorite musical is Man of La Mancha, based on the great novel by Cervantes. It is the story of man fighting against all odds to right wrongs and vanquish foes, both real and imagined, and to create a world as it should be, not merely accept it as it is.

Last month, America lost – with scant notice – one of the great Don Quixotes of my generation. On Dec. 3, John B. Anderson died quietly at a retirement home in Washington, DC. He was 95.

While we hadn't talked in quite some time, I'm proud to be able to count John among my

friends. He was, in fact, more than a friend; he was my political hero.

Anderson was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1960. During his early years in Congress he voted in lockstep with his fellow Republicans and, in 1964, supported conservative Barry Goldwater for president. In 1968, however, following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the riots that subsequently engulfed Washington, DC, Anderson broke with the GOP, putting country before party, and voted to support the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits racial discrimination in housing.

Said Anderson when casting his vote: "I legislate today not out of fear, but out of a deep concern for the America I love. We do stand at a crossroad. We can continue the Gadarene slide into an endless cycle of riot and disorder, or we can begin the slow and painful ascent toward that



...AND
ONE MORE
THING...
.....
GREG
VINE

yet-distant goal of equality of opportunity for all Americans, regardless of race or color."

He again broke with his party when, in early 1974, he urged Pres. Richard Nixon to "spare the nation one last agony" by resigning, rather than dragging the country through the inevitable bitterness of an impeachment battle over Watergate.

His drift away from conservatism led him to seek the Republican nomination for president in 1980. He was, as we now see in hindsight, one of the last true moderates of the party.

During the early caucuses and primaries he had the courage to stand before the Gun Owner of New Hampshire and

declare his support for gun control and to tell the wheat farmers of Iowa he supported an embargo on the shipment of grain to the Soviet Union following that nation's invasion of Afghanistan.

When it became clear the GOP nomination would go to Ronald Reagan, Anderson opted to seek the presidency as an independent.

As his obituary in the Washington Post put it: "His 'campaign of ideas,' as he called it, crystallized the independent movement and fired up disenchanted voters who wanted a choice other than Reagan... or the incumbent president, Jimmy Carter."

During the campaign, then-Rep. Robert Bauman, a Maryland Republican, told the New York Times, "I detest John's views, but what I detest even more is his effectiveness at espousing them."

Anderson's presidential bid in 1980 was indeed a quixotic

affair. He had little chance of winning – and he knew it. But he felt driven to give the American people a real choice – a choice between a candidate offering creative solutions to America's problems and two others merely offering competing ideologies.

In the end, John captured 5.7 million votes, 6.6 percent of the vote nationwide (15 percent in Massachusetts), and zero electoral votes. But he set the example, for me, anyway, that it is more important to fight the good fight than to simply do or say whatever it takes to win. It is a lesson that has been lost in the stinking partisan morass that is today's American politics.

Maybe he was simply tilting at windmills but, as author Mike Klepper writes: "If you can see something, and it is wrong, you can fight it with a reasonable chance of success. Fighting the nonexistent is worse than pointless: Don Quixote tilted at windmills, but at least windmills are real."



Winter dilemma



NOTES OF CONCERN

JACK BLAIR

I like to watch birds. Since they don't visit me without an invitation, I hang birdseed feeders by windows so I can spy on them. They come in such vivid colors, each with its own personality, and they sometime contest which perch will be utilized that day. I watch some sit in the nearest tree making a determination on when they have the

best shot at an open perch. I also suspect that some birds wait until a known enemy bird abandons a perch and then safely flies there.

Often, there can be a little disagreement, and some wings get ruffled as two birds go at it around the feeding post.

So I invite the birds to find sustenance during the cold months, and in return, they provide me with some entertainment.

Since I do not invite the squirrels but they show up anyway, I am guessing they are getting invitations from the birds. The birds are pretty straightforward: fly straight to the perch, take one seed in their little beaks, and either

stay for a second helping or fly away.

This is not true of the squirrels. They cannot fly up to a perch, so they have to invent ingenious ways to get some seed. The lazy ones just stay on the ground and wait for a clumsy bird to drop a seed. The more adventuresome used to climb the pole on which the feeder sits, but designers of the feeders have invented new ways to prevent that, by making inverted bowls that keep the squirrels from climbing.

We had a particularly adventurous squirrel once who discovered the wire going up our house to our television connection and just climbed the wire to the height of the feeder,

jumped across, had his fill, and climbed down the same way.

A friend with a similar squirrel problem told me he saw two squirrels climb an evergreen close to a feeder, and while one squirrel held the tail of the other, it reached out and got lunch for them both.

Another friend has devised an anti-squirrel approach that he swears by: vaseline on the pole. The squirrels try, but simply keep sliding to the ground.

At our new home, I was able to place the bird feeder just outside my den window, and I can sit in my comfortable chair and enjoy the birds for hours. As of this writing no squirrel has yet conquered my feeder. I got lucky. I found one seven feet

high and placed it away from trees, TV wires, or any other climbing possibility.

I do have squirrels. I watch them, too. They look in my window from the sill seeming to ask: Why?! Maybe they are asking: "How?" Of course, they still get the occasional seed dropped by the clumsier birds, but it is a meager meal indeed.

'Tis been the Season recently, and I've been feeling a little generous, so I do now occasionally sneak out and drop some seeds on the ground. Doesn't seem to bother the birds at all, and the squirrel faces looking in my den window smile more often now.

Consider this a TWEET. Happy New Year.

Thoughts on a frosty morning



JOURNEY OF THE HEART

JERRY CARTON

As I write this on a beyond, far beyond frigid Saturday morning, it's almost hard to believe by the time this column hits the streets on Friday, temperatures might be somewhere in the 50's. Can't come soon enough.

This is my 17th winter in New England. Some have been brutal, some not so much. For all the provincial boasting about how tough people here are, the crowds at the grocery store when even a 4-6 snowfall is predicted aren't any different than those I remember in Baltimore or Washington. Human nature and all that, you know.

Snow is one thing. We got

a lot of it last Thursday, a lot more than was originally forecast but storms can be tricky and so be it (Thanks once again to our awesome plow driver and restaurateur extraordinaire, Seth Silver). Snow can be shoved out of the way and if the forecast is right, a lot of it will be gone when this essay is published.

The cold is something entirely different. I've lived my entire 64-plus years on the East Coast so I've shivered through a lot of cold winters. I've spent some January and February evenings outside, yes, outside, at Penn National racetrack in Granville, PA, and Charles Town racetrack in WV and plenty of icy Sunday afternoons at old Memorial Stadium and the cold at those places was unlike any cold I've ever experienced even though I was younger and healthier. Given those experiences, I was wary of the promised below zero temps today (remember it's Saturday morning) but not intimidated because I have no

plans to venture outside until Monday.

Well, I did go out a few minutes ago, just to look at my freshly-plowed driveway. I wasn't outside for more than a minute. Never have I felt a blast or arctic air like that. Never. Not at frigid racetracks or stadiums. Not in the mountains of Colorado. Nowhere, and yes, I do sometimes wonder why I'm not living in my beloved Orlando. Yes, indeed.

So I can't imagine what it must be like to have to work outside on mornings like this. I instinctively think about racetrack hot-walkers, grooms and exercise riders but there are plenty of other professions where being outside is part of the job description. First responders and mail carriers come to mind and there are others. You dress for it, of course, but even so, my respect for those who have to be outside is enormous. I even feel for those who had to go warm up their cars to get to work indoors. I'm grateful I don't have to do any

of that today.

There are too many people who don't have the luxury of staying inside a warm house with plenty of food and Netflix or a choice of 175 channels or good books. There are too many people who through no fault of their own are dependent on shelters and far, far, far too many of them are veterans. Why this is the case certainly deserves more discussion but for the moment, let's agree we owe a debt of gratitude to those who staff shelters and food banks and whose workplaces are designed to help those folks struggling just to survive.

Bravo.

Anyway, being inside for so long, in my case in part to let my ribs heal, gets you to thinking. I was thinking this Saturday morning how comforting it is to know we are being led by a guy who has assured us he is, in his own brilliant words, "being, like, really smart" and because he is, ahem, 'President', that means "that would qualify as not smart but genius, and very stable genius at that." Doesn't that make you feel better? No doubt. To that I can add nothing. How could I? See you next week.

Accused gets new court date

A probable cause hearing for the Gardner man accused of killing 56-year-old Randy Vaillancourt has been postponed for a month because one of the attorneys working the cause was ill and unable to attend court on Tuesday, the original date set for the hearing. The hearing will now take place on Friday, February 9.

Matthew Vanier, age 33, of 50 Nichols St., #3B, is charged with murder, assault to murder, and battery with a dangerous weapon in connection with the death of Vaillancourt. An autopsy determined the Winchendon native died from blunt-force trauma. Police conducting a wellness check, because Vaillancourt hadn't been seen in several days, discovered the victim's body in his home at #1B Nichols St. in

Gardner on December 9.

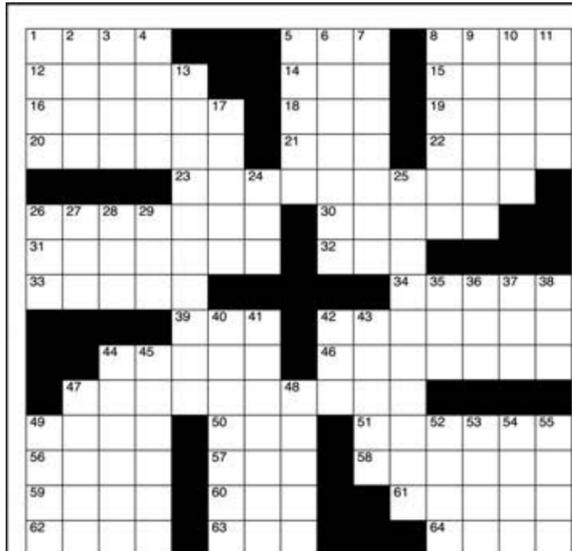
Vanier was initially arrested on a charge of misleading a police investigation shortly after Vaillancourt's body was discovered. Held at first on \$2,500 cash bail, Gardner District Court Judge Arthur Haley ordered him held without bail once the murder charge had been filed.

At his arraignment for murder, Assistant Worcester County District Attorney Anthony Melia told the court that Vanier's bloody fingerprints had been found on a doorknob in Vaillancourt's apartment and that blood-stained clothing and footwear matching footprints found at the scene were found at his parents' home in

Winchendon.

Vaillancourt was convicted of manslaughter in Worcester Superior Court in 1980 at the age of 18. He originally pled not guilty to a charge of first-degree murder in the stabbing death of Susan Young, age 18, of 86 Front St., Winchendon, but later pled guilty to manslaughter. Young was babysitting at the time of the stabbing, but the baby was unharmed. Investigators said she had been stabbed multiple times in the chest. Vaillancourt was sentenced to 20 years in May of 1980.

Vanier remains behind bars at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction until his next court appearance.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Make ale
- 5. Residue
- 8. Female parent
- 12. Succulent plants
- 14. OJ's judge
- 15. Czech river
- 16. Embarrassing predicament
- 18. NHL legend Bobby
- 19. Sunfish
- 20. One who acclaims
- 21. On the ___: running away
- 22. Oklahoma's "Wheat Capital"
- 23. The Golden State
- 26. Merrymake
- 30. Siberian nomads
- 31. Pock-marked
- 32. Baleen whale
- 33. Leaf-footed bug genus
- 34. Treasure
- 39. Tanzanian shilling
- 42. Changed
- 44. Intestinal pouches
- 46. Walked in a celebratory way
- 47. South American mountain chain
- 49. Jai ___, sport
- 50. Consumed
- 51. Firm
- 56. Pubs
- 57. Leafy drink
- 58. Cured
- 59. Northern wind of France
- 60. Tax collector
- 61. Respite from the sun
- 62. American spy Aldrich
- 63. Central Standard Time
- 64. Myanmar ethnic group

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Crush
- 2. Razorbill genus
- 3. "Full House" actress Loughlin
- 4. Bluish green
- 5. Garlic mayonnaise
- 6. Attacks repeatedly
- 7. Secretion
- 8. Special instance
- 9. A handsome youth loved by Aphrodite
- 10. Tree genus in the mahogany family
- 11. Israeli city
- 13. Formed a theory
- 17. Remove
- 24. Type of light
- 25. Repeats
- 26. Certified public accountant
- 27. River in eastern France
- 28. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 29. Special ___: military group
- 35. Ribonucleic acid
- 36. Not even
- 37. Power transmission belt
- 38. Doctor of Education
- 40. Type of nerve
- 41. Types of tops
- 42. Large primate
- 43. Flooded, low-lying land
- 44. Gritty
- 45. Gets up
- 47. Stake
- 48. Not the most
- 49. Swedish rock group
- 52. Expresses pleasure
- 53. Expression of boredom
- 54. Queen of Sparta
- 55. Where Adam and Eve were placed at the Creation

SUDOKU

2	3	9						4
	5		4					
			5					6
			1					
						6		2
1	9			2		7		
3		1			7			8
9	6				5			3
	2			8		1		

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

6	9	1	4	8	3	7	2	5
7	3	4	5	1	2	8	9	6
8	2	5	7	9	6	1	4	3
3	4	1	9	6	7	5	2	8
1	9	5	8	2	6	7	4	3
4	8	3	7	5	9	6	1	2
6	7	2	1	4	3	9	8	5
7	1	4	5	3	8	2	6	9
8	5	6	4	9	2	3	7	1
2	3	9	6	7	1	8	5	4

ANSWER:



Customers can't find you if they can't see you

Get seen every week by thousands of people!

Call us today to reserve your spot 800.536.5836



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.

Police agencies can no longer print the names of people who are arrested or charged with domestic assault related charges. The new law is designed to protect victims, so they are not re-victimised through indirect identification.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

12:42-12:50 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:33 a.m.: suspicious person (Lincoln Avenue), secure; 1:38 a.m.: suspicious mv (Spring Street), spoken to; 2:35-3:39 a.m.: building checked, secure; 5:05 a.m.: traffic hazard (Forristall Road), removed; 5:33 a.m.: ambulance (Mechanic Street), transported; 5:37 a.m.: open door/window (Central Street), secure; 6:12 a.m.: DPW call (River Street), referred; 7:01 a.m.: lift assist (West Monomac Road), services rendered; 7:30 a.m.: DPW call (Russell Farm Road), referred; 7:30 a.m.: DPW call (Mill Glen Road), referred; 8:09 a.m.: erratic operation (Maple Street), unable to locate; 8:34 a.m.: welfare check/elderly (Pearl Drive), services rendered; 8:44 a.m.: extra patrols (Polly's Drive), secure; 8:51 a.m.: FD call (Goodrich Drive), services rendered; 10:29 a.m.: abandoned 911 call (River Street), accidental; 12:00 p.m.: sex offender registration (Walnut Street), info taken; 12:11 a.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive), transported; 1:19 p.m.: officer wanted (Juniper Street), report taken; 1:55 p.m.: ambulance (Central Street), transported; 2:13 p.m.: larceny (Royalston Road North), unfounded; 2:22 p.m.: wires down (Spruce Street), referred; 2:28 p.m.: assist citizen (North Ashburnham Road); 2:43 p.m.: burglar alarm (Spring Street), accidental; 3:44 p.m.: mv stop (Maple Street), citation issued; 4:40 p.m.: noise complaint (Central Street), spoken to; 5:17 p.m.: mv stop (Gardner Road), verbal warning; 6:30 p.m.: mv stop (Glenallan Street), written warning; 6:49 p.m.: disabled mv (Central Street), assisted; 11:23 p.m.: noise complaint (Cedar Street), unfounded.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

12:44-3:26 a.m.: buildings checked,

secure; 9:05 a.m.: animal complaint (River Street), referred to ACO; 10:36 a.m.: disabled mv (Central Street), spoken to; 11:16 a.m.: accident (School Street), report taken; 11:46 a.m.: lift assist (Lakeview Drive), services rendered; 11:47 a.m.: ambulance (Alger Street), report taken; 11:50 a.m.: fire/mutual aid (Ashburnham fire station), services rendered; 12:42 p.m.: assist citizen (Beech Street), referred; 2:42 p.m.: threats (Alger Street), report taken; 2:35 p.m.: assist citizen (Central Street), referred; 3:07 a.m.: harassment order service (Court Street), advised officer; 4:08 p.m.: harassment (Brown Street), report taken; 4:35 p.m.: animal complaint (Ash Street), referred to ACO; 4:40 p.m.: parking violation (Lincoln Avenue), verbal warning; 4:59 p.m.: accident (Central Street), report taken; 5:54 p.m.: mv stop (School Street), verbal warning; 7:03 p.m.: investigation (Town Farm Road), services rendered; 8:16 p.m.: officer wanted (Murdock Avenue), dispersed gathering; 8:45 p.m.: mv stop (Glenallan Street), citation issued; 8:54 p.m.: ambulance (High Street), transported; 9:39 p.m.: lift assist (Lakeview Drive), services rendered; 9:41 p.m.: disabled mv (School Street), assisted; 10:12 p.m.: extra patrols (Spring Street), secure; 10:18 p.m.: mv stop (Spring Street), verbal warning.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

1:40-2:02 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:05 a.m.: transport (Central Street), services rendered; 2:16-2:50 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 3:09 a.m.: lift assist (Lakeview Drive), transported to hospital; 3:16 a.m.: building checked, secure; 11:09 a.m.: missing person (Central Street), report taken; 11:41 a.m.: officer wanted (School Street), transported to hospital; 11:47 a.m.: erratic operation (Gardner Road), unable to locate; 11:48 a.m.: ambulance (School Street), transported; 12:20 p.m.: 911 hang up (Gardner Road), no service necessary; 12:46 p.m.: info/general (town wide), referred to DPW; 2:12 p.m.: intoxicated person (Railroad Street), transported; 3:38 p.m.: officer wanted (Central Street), unable to locate; 4:09 p.m.: neighbor dispute (Beech Street), report taken; 4:30 p.m.: accident (Willoughby Avenue), no cause for complaint; 5:24 p.m.: disabled mv (Central Street), assisted; 6:22 p.m.: traffic hazard (Spring Street), no service necessary; 7:28 p.m.: traffic hazard

(River Street), gone on arrival; 8:36 p.m.: burglar alarm (Glenallan Street), secure; 9:38 p.m.: traffic hazard (Pond Street), assisted; 11:55 p.m.: traffic hazard (Pleasant Street), removed.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

12:00 a.m.: traffic hazard (Teel Road), removed; 1:05-1:45 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 6:50 a.m.: accident (Spring Street), mv towed; 7:02 a.m.: warrant check (Lincoln Avenue), Kristopher S. Ashmore, 33, homeless, arrest based on warrant; 7:34 a.m.: ambulance (Ipswich Drive), transported; 7:35 a.m.: traffic hazard (Beech Street), spoken to; 9:10 a.m.: DPW call (Mill Glen Road), referred; 9:24 a.m.: burglar alarm (Maple Street), false alarm; 9:42 a.m.: accident (Hospital Drive), report taken; 10:45 a.m.: burglar alarm (Spring Street), false alarm; 10:55 a.m.: info/general (Juniper Street), spoken to; 11:42 a.m.: assist other agency (Benjamin Street), info taken; 12:05 p.m.: ambulance (Lakeshore Drive), transported; 1:56 p.m.: property found (Central Street), assisted; 2:17 p.m.: FD call (Benjamin Street), services rendered; 3:27 p.m.: harassment order service (Beech Street), unable to serve; 3:46 p.m.: suspicious mv (Alger Street), report taken; 4:00 p.m.: assist other agency (Westminster FD), assisted; 4:03 p.m.: missing person (Cedar Street), report taken; 5:36 p.m.: burglar alarm (Brown Street), false alarm; 5:46 p.m.: info/general (Elmwood Road), secure; 6:15 p.m.: burglar alarm (Central Street), secure; 6:58 p.m.: property damage (Gardner Road), report taken; 7:21 p.m.: disabled mv (Lakeview Drive), assisted; 8:33 p.m.: ambulance (Juniper Street), transported; 9:17 p.m.: info/general (Central Street), spoken to; 8:36 p.m.: accident (state line store, Rindge), referred.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

2:47 a.m.: investigation (Main Street), secure; 5:35 a.m.: disabled mv (Monadnock Avenue), assisted; 10:17 a.m.: animal complaint (Spring Circle), assisted; 10:27 p.m.: FD call (Central Street), services rendered; 10:57 a.m.: accident (Spring Street), assisted; 11:30 a.m.: info/general (Mill Glen Pond Road), assisted; 12:20 p.m.: traffic hazard (West Street) assisted; 12:31 p.m.: suspicious mv (Crosby Road), spoken to; 1:04 p.m.: animal complaint (Alger Street), assisted; 1:24 p.m.: accident (Central Street), report taken; 2:32

p.m.: accident (School Street), transported to hospital; 2:39 p.m.: accident (School Street), info given; 4:31 p.m.: ambulance (Glenallan Street), transported; 5:15 p.m.: intoxicated person (Spring Street), unable to locate; 6:13 p.m.: officer wanted (Highland Street), report taken; 7:13 p.m.: transport (Metcalfe Street), services rendered; 7:30 p.m.: fire/box alarm (Central Street), services rendered; 7:58 p.m.: FD call (Central Street), services rendered; 8:40 p.m.: suspicious person (Gardner Road), unfounded; 10:10 p.m.: investigation (Harvard Street), info given; 10:19-11:50 p.m.: buildings checked, secure.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

12:13-1:34 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 1:46 a.m.: burglar alarm (Front Street), false alarm; 1:47-2:25 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 2:42 a.m.: parking violation (Railroad Street), citation issued; 3:09 a.m.: parking violation (Juniper Street), citation issued; 8:30 a.m.: burglar alarm (Holly Drive), secured bldg.; 9:39 a.m.: animal complaint (Lakeview Drive), referred to ACO; 9:46 a.m.: DPW call (Highland Street), services rendered; 11:58 a.m.: ambulance (Lakeshore Drive), referred; 12:34 p.m.: disabled mv (School Street), assisted; 4:12 p.m.: fire/CO incident (Front Place), services rendered; 5:20 p.m.: animal complaint (Hale Street), referred to ACO; 5:41 p.m.: office wanted (Linden Street), no service necessary; 7:25-7:50 p.m.: buildings checked, secure; 8:27 p.m.: burglar alarm (Maple Street), secure; 8:42 p.m.: accident (Baldwinville Road), report taken.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

1:46-2:13 a.m.: buildings checked, secure; 5:46 a.m.: DPW call (River Street), referred; 6:24 a.m.: fire/box alarm (Central Street), false alarm; 8:00 a.m.: sex offender registration (Spring Street), assisted; 8:59 a.m.: DPW call (West Monomac Road), referred; 10:00 a.m.: assist citizen (Central Street); 10:22 a.m.: civil complaint (Teel Road), report taken; 10:31 a.m.: officer wanted (Linden Street), assisted; 11:11 a.m.: burglar alarm (Glenallan Street), secured bldg.; 3:56 p.m.: summons service (Spring Street), served; 3:58 p.m.: harassment (Central Street), report taken; 4:12 p.m.: officer wanted (Brown Street), report taken; 5:19 p.m.: ambulance (Benjamin Street), transported; 7:22 p.m.: officer wanted (Graham Street), no service necessary.

Murdock at midyear: progress made

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

About halfway through the 2017-18 school year, Murdock High School Principal Ralph Olsen and Assistant Principal Ralph Borseth are pointing to a lengthy list of accomplishments which they say has made MHS an increasingly progressive place for teachers and students alike.

It all begins with showing up.

"You can't learn if you're not here," observed Olsen who pointed to attendance averaging in the mid 90-percent range, including a 94-percent rate the day school re-opened after winter break on a messy weather day last Tuesday.

"We've taken a more personalized approach," stressed Olsen, reiterating stepped-up efforts to keep abreast of students who might be missing classes for a variety of reasons and responding with home visits when necessary and to maintain a more visible presence in the building, including meeting students at the door in the morning and popping

into rooms throughout the day.

"There's always a little pushback," Olsen acknowledged.

He emphasized the importance of moving the Academic Support Center into a more spacious room which he said is "more conducive to learning. There's more space there."

Because Google classroom is now being used by almost every teacher in the building, students have "access to materials no matter where they are. Students who are absent can easily access classroom materials from home if necessary. Engagement is increased" through the use of the Google technology and the ASC in turn can assess where any given student stands in any given class and assign work accordingly.

"Teachers can better reach out to those who are struggling" with the technology, Olsen pointed out.

Olsen has plans for the ASC. Students are currently tutoring struggling peers there and if Olsen gets his way, those tutors will be getting a paycheck. A

grant proposal has been sent to the Robinson-Broadhurst Foundation to "hire after school student tutors for minimum wage four days a week for the next school year," he revealed.

Additionally, every teacher now has what Olsen called a 'data dashboard' "with pertinent information about students. Educators are able to make better informed decisions about their students," he said, pointing out this comprehensive data "can help head off potential problems" in some cases.

"Data is a very big deal for us," Olsen stressed.

That's not all. Plans are in the works to have MCAS preparation classes next fall in English and math for sophomore students. The reduction of the daily schedule from seven periods to six has allowed for more emphasis on core courses with a goal of bettering MCAS scores.

As for the Murdock Academy for Success, "That's been a lifeline" for some students who might otherwise be at risk of not completing high school

and the data which Olsen referenced is an asset to the Academy as well.

"Kris" (MAS director Provost) has this data available when he meets with teachers so there's a lot of input."

It helps too, there are fewer students "scattered," as Olsen phrased it, during the day.

"We have a zero tolerance policy on all behavioral issues. Any infraction of the rules in the student handbook are dealt with immediately and repercussions are commensurate with the infraction," said Olsen.

Borseth added, "We believe, though in what we call 'restorative justice'. We also try to figure out why things happen the way they do so maybe we can prevent a recurrence."

Olsen grants progress is a process and the responsibility of building a better school revolves in large part around what he calls ownership.

"Everyone is accountable, me, the teachers, the students, and the community," he said.

Talking points as new year starts

BY JERRY CARTON
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

There are several new access points into the Millers River and one is in Winchendon, in Whitney Pond and there's a revamped access in Otter River. That news came from Millers River Watershed Council Coordinator Ivan Ussach during the end-of-year

annual meeting.

"We want to promote people getting out on the river and experiencing the river and the watershed," said Ussach.

Ussach also revealed the Council will promote the additions to what's known as the Blue Trail through kayaks and canoes. A Blue Trail refers to a river adopted by a local community which

seeks to improve recreational options including fishing, boating and hiking. A stewardship guide is being written this winter.

With the holidays now in the rear-view mirror, donations to area food pantries have seen their annual slide.

"During the course of the holiday season, people are incredibly generous for the most part so things like cash and food donations are up and we are able to meet the need fairly easily," noted Winchendon Community Action Committee Executive Director Colleen Laperriere, who added, "Once we progress into February, March then the summer, it's like people forget."

"It's not that they don't care, there just isn't the emphasis on the fact we need to feed people year around," she lamented.

The day after Christmas found Rindge police and fire investigating a bomb threat at Walmart though in the end, officials determined there was no risk to the public. Customers and employees were evacuated shortly after 7 p.m. and the probe focused on the men's bathroom in the rear of the store. Regular business resumed around 8:30 p.m. Police suspected the report may have been a hoax but continued an

investigation.

The gym at MWCC has been renamed as Mount Fitness and the facility held its grand re-opening last weekend.

"Our goal is to create a new energy and push for the fitness center. We want everyone to know we're open to the public," said Director Jared Swerzenski.

"We're a community center," he added.

The Center originally opened in 1995 and now includes a six-lane Olympic sized pool, more than 85 fitness programs and three full-sized indoor basketball courts.

A 'Do One Thing' campaign, encouraging acts of kindness and generosity recently concluded at MWCC.

"People don't have to do anything big. This is literally something as small as holding a door open or simply smiling at someone," said Shelley Nicholson, director of the Senator Stephen Brewer Center for Civic Learning and Engagement.

"When you hear about civic engagement, that sounds big and intimidating. We wanted to break it down to something simple. We had a good mix of students and faculty participating," in the event, she said.



**Dine Local
Shop local...
advertise local.**

Brenda Pontbriand Sales Executive

Winchendon Courier • 860-928-1818x119

brenda@villagernews.com

TheHeartOfMassachusetts.com

OBITUARIES

Kenneth Akey Jr., 83

VERNON, VT — Kenneth Akey Jr., age 83, of 137 Newton Hill Road, Vernon, passed away Friday, Dec. 29, 2017, at home, after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

He was born in Winchendon, Mass. on April 24, 1934, a son of the late Kenneth Sr. and Dorothy Akey.

He was married to Margaret (Lanoue) Akey and they celebrated 62 years together.

He served in the National Guard and was a member of the American Legion.

He was an avid hiker and cross coun-

try skier, having completed portions of the Appalachian Trail. He also enjoyed playing golf with family and friends, and traveling with groups on bus tours and cruises.

He leaves one brother, Ronald Akey, and three children, Steven (Sally) Akey of Cincinnati, Ohio; Patty (Rifet) Hasanbasic of Northfield, Mass., Thomas (Diane) Akey of Winchendon, Mass. He also leaves eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He was a member of the College of Medicine Anatomical Gift Program of the University of Vermont.

No services will be held. Burial will be held at the discretion of the family.

Raymond A. Harris, 79

WINCHENDON — Raymond A. Harris, age 79, of 66 Willoughby Ave., died peacefully Sunday evening, January 7, 2018 in Heywood Hospital, Gardner, with his family at his side.

He was born in Winchendon on March 31, 1938, son of the late Lawrence and Margaret (Hildreth) Harris and was a lifelong Winchendon resident.

Ray was a volunteer with the Winchendon Fire Department for 37 years and attained the rank of lieutenant. He also worked for the town of Winchendon in many different capacities. He was foreman, for many years, of the Winchendon Landfill, which he helped to build. Additionally, he had worked as the town's dog officer, field driver and fence viewer. Ray was the last person to plow the sidewalks in Winchendon with horses.

An avid outdoorsman, his hobbies were camping, fishing, snowmobiling

and doing anything in the outdoors. His greatest enjoyment was spending time with his family. Ray was highly respected, well known and well loved by his family, friends and associates.

He leaves his wife of 50 years, Martha J. (Cook) Harris; two children, Joshua Harris and his wife Shannon of Winchendon and Rebecca Paul and her husband Randy of Winchendon; two brothers, Lawrence Harris Jr. of Rindge and Charles Harris of Keene, NH, seven grandchildren, two great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Two children, Raymond A. Harris Jr. and Christy L. Harris, preceded him in death.

Calling hours in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home, 343 Central Street, Winchendon are Wednesday, January 10, 2018 from 5 to 7 p.m.

A private graveside service will be held in the spring in Riverside Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Winchendon Fire Department, 405 Central St., Winchendon, MA 01475.

Ann Elizabeth Mathieu

WINCHENDON — Ann (McGourty) Mathieu, peacefully entered her final journey on January 5th, 2018. She was the forever-devoted wife of Ralph Mathieu, who pre-deceased her in the year 2000.



Born in Worcester, MA on August 10, 1930. She was the daughter of Hubert McGourty and Mary Ann Ward, the sister of Mary Jane McCarthy (who predeceased her) and Carole Harmon, of Worcester, MA.

Mother of eight, Grandmother of 14, and Great-Grandmother of 4, with one on the way. She leaves her children Carol, Marcel, and Nell Nyffenegger of Marblehead, MA; Jo Ann Mathieu of Winchendon, MA; Lynn, Scott, Mathieu & Katie, Sloane Anne, Sadie Mae; Shane, Molly, Scotty & Vonde Saunders of NH & ME; Ralph (Mat), Kelly, Kalif, Fangfang, & Kyson Mathieu of Jacksonville, IL; Christine, Tom, Nicole Hopkins, Avery & Robbie Williams of North Madison, CT; Elizabeth, Audra, Jamus & Evan Mathieu of Agoura Hills, CA; Tighe, Lorie, Kayla Mathieu & fiancé Tucker Friend, & Megan and Zack Stone of Winchendon; Tracy, Robert, Eric, Stephen, Lauren, and great-grandchildren Jackson and Mira Mae Huffman of Washington, DC; her endearing Godchildren; dozens of beloved nieces and nephews; and devoted caretakers Mary Ellen & Mike Mansfield family; Nancy Romanowski family; and Jeff Marinelli family.

Married and settled in Winchendon in 1952, Ralph ran the second genera-

tion of Mathieu Ford Sales while she flourished as a mother and became known affectionately as "Awesome Annie" in recognition of her numerous accomplishments. They traveled the world extensively, which inspired her to attain an instrument and commercial-rated Pilot's license, which stimulated her creative mind as an artist, then growing her inner self by becoming a Yogi, teaching Yoga into her 80s. These experiences led to the opportunity to becoming a shopkeeper in Boston, and on Martha's Vineyard, importing primitive arts and interiors from the far reaches of the globe. In the 1980s, their love of the Southwest captured their hearts, so they built a home in the early '90s on a panoramic mesa in Lajitas, Texas, overlooking the Rio Grande and the Big Bend National Park.

She will be remembered for her kindness and sweet demeanor, her blessings on the forehead, and her love for life, dance, and family with all its great adventures. As we prepare to bid you adieu, we will remember you lived your life being Awesome. This blessing is for you, Mom.

Flowers will be lovingly accepted at the funeral home, or, donations to the Ralph Mathieu Family Murdock Scholarship Fund would be graciously appreciated at Colonial Co-op Bank, 1 School Square, Winchendon.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 11 a.m. in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 52 Spruce St, Winchendon, MA 01475.

Calling hours are Friday January 12, 2018 from 4 to 7 P.M. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central St., Winchendon.

Steven F. Oates, 67

FITZWILLIAM — Steven F. Oates, age 67, of Fitzwilliam, passed away in the comfort of his home on December 30, 2017 following a period of declining health.



He was born in Winchendon on Oct. 20, 1950, the son of Bertha M. (Beaudion) Holman and Francis J. Oates. He attended area schools and graduated from Monadnock Regional High School, class of 1968.

After high school, Steve joined the Navy. Upon discharge, he jumped into a career of truck driving for DD Bean. He enjoyed all the places he got to experience while on the road. Steve also held positions with CR Bard and worked at Gatorland during his residency in Florida. Until his retirement, he was employed by AGW Construction as a carpenter.

Steve was lovingly called "Cowboy" as he was known for wearing a cowboy hat and boots. He will fondly be remembered as a good and selfless person always willing to give you the shirt of his back. He had a passion for county music and was gifted vocally and with playing the guitar.

Steve will be dearly missed by his mother: Bertha Holman of Fitzwilliam; daughters: Julianna Jackson and

her husband Keith of Swanzey and Nichole Oates and her significant other Chris of Pittsfield; son: Nathan Oates and his significant other Mercedes of Peterborough; eight grandchildren; Hunter Phillips, Hayden LaBrake, Keaghan LaBrake, Sophia LaBrake, Atreyu Chaput, Ashton Borkman, Logun Caron and Haley Oates; sisters: Rhonda Goodnow and her husband Richard of Fitzwilliam, Laurie Bosviert and her husband Mario of Winchendon, and Cindy Devarney of Sylmar, CA; brothers: Ronald Giard and his wife Cathi of Keene and Marshall Giard of Lake Lure, FL; nieces: Melissa Bassingthwaite and her husband Brian of Gilsum and Vanessa Carrier and her husband Aron of Keene, Angela Hickey and husband Ronald from New Jersey; nephews: Todd Goodnow and his with Amy of Milford, Evan Bosviert of Winchendon, Adam Devarney of Sylmar, CA, and Jake Devarney and wife Alicia of Sylmar, CA, and Jeremy Giard and wife Anna of South Carolina.

Steve was predeceased by his son, Jason Oates, and father, Francis Oates.

A graveside service for family and friends will be held in the spring.

For those who wish to make a memorial contribution in Steven F. Oates's name, you may do so to Fitzwilliam Fire and Ambulance, PO Box 725, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447.

Fletcher Funeral Home and Cremation Services has been entrusted with arrangements. To express condolences or to share a memory of Steve, please visit www.FletcherFuneralHome.com.

Sandra C. (Fitzpatrick) Murphy, 78

WINCHENDON — Sandra C. (Fitzpatrick) Murphy, age 78, of 64 Monadnock Avenue, died peacefully Saturday afternoon, January 6, 2018 in Gardner Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, with her family at her side.

She was born in Fitchburg on December 15, 1939, daughter of the late John and Claire (Tellier) Fitzpatrick and was a 1957 graduate of St. Bernard's High School. She had lived in Winchendon

for 41 years.

Sandy worked for many years as a clerk in Fitchburg City Hall. She had also worked at the former Pizza Barn in Winchendon and retired from Simplex. Very family oriented, she loved family activities with her children and grandchildren. Sandy also loved dogs. She had a great commitment to her AA friends and family.

Her husband of 41 years, Albert

Murphy, died June 26, 2017. She leaves three children, Barry J. Smith of Peterborough, NH, Darren P. Smith and his wife Lisa of Gardner and LoriAnn Godfrey and her husband Michael of Winchendon; two stepchildren, James Murphy of Stowe, MA and Kelly Williams and her husband Robert of Winchendon, 13 grandchildren, ten great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

A son, John P. Smith and three brothers, Warren Frisbee, Donald Frisbee and Franklin Frisbee preceded her in death.

Funeral services will be held Friday, January 12, 2018 at 10 A.M. in Stone-Ladeau Funeral Home (stone-ladeau.com), 343 Central Street, Winchendon.

Calling hours in the funeral home will be held Thursday, January 11, 2018 from 5 to 7 P.M.

Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery in the spring.

Memorial donations may be made to American Heart Association, 300 5th Ave, Waltham, MA 02451.

Bertha (Wink) Blanchard, 98

GARDNER — Bertha (Wink) Blanchard, age 98, a resident of Baldwinville Nursing Home, died Monday, January 8, 2018 with her family at her side.



She was born in Brooklyn, New York on June 21, 1919, daughter of the late Otto and Pauline (Zink) Wink, and had lived in Gardner for her entire adult life.

Bertha grew up in

New York, where she

graduated from Girls Commercial High School in Brooklyn. Many years ago, she worked as a secretary in New York City for a law firm and was a former choir member in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn.

After moving to Gardner, she worked for several years as a secretary for the former Superintendent of Public Schools, Frank Chace. She later worked as a secretary for the late Dr. David Russell. Following her retirement, she worked at S. Bent Brothers Furniture Company. Bertha was a member of Faith Lutheran Church having been a member of the former First Lutheran

Church for many years. She was also a former member of Jessamine Chapter Order of the Eastern Star.

Her husband of 55 years, Percy M. Blanchard, died in 1997. She leaves two children, Virginia L. Klemens and her husband Richard of Marietta, GA and Steven M. Blanchard of Gardner; four grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by her daughter, Eileen Lipsky, two sisters, Ida Kweselaite and Lydia Heinrich, and a brother, Edward Wink.

Funeral services were held Thursday, January 11, 2018 in Faith Lutheran Church, 627 Green Street, Gardner. Burial will be in Crystal Lake Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Faith Lutheran Church, 627 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440 or to the Baldwinville Resident Activity Fund, c/o Baldwinville Skilled Nursing and Rehab, 51 Hospital Road, PO Box 24, Baldwinville MA 01436, or to the charity of choice.

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

SEND OBITUARIES at no charge to Editor Ruth DeAmicis, by faxing (978) 297-2177, or by e-mailing the editor at ruth@stone-bridgepress.news.

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

BOS

continued from page A1

"We anticipated that savings to come in fiscal '18," he said. "It did not. But I have been assured...that National Grid will do the upgrades they need to do to turn that solar array on and we'll start receiving our savings in fiscal '19."

Hickey also questioned whether the town's retirement costs will increase as much he is currently projecting.

"There might be an opportunity to sell some town property," he added, "whether it be tax title property or surplus town property, that I have not included in fiscal 2019 or 2020."

"So, while it's concerning

to have a deficit cash flow for next fiscal year, I tried to incorporate everything that would impact our financial status. I still feel confident that when we develop the budget we'll be able to bring a balanced budget forward without impacting services to the community. If tough decisions have to be made, we'll have to make those decisions, but I really don't see that having to occur."

Hickey told the board, "I'm trying to make decisions that are in the best interests of the community long-term, not just one fiscal year at a time."

In total, Hickey's forecast shows town revenues increasing by about \$2.2 million over the next five years, with expenditures rising by about \$2.5 mil-

lion during that same period.

Board Chairman Barbara Anderson questioned the decision to hire an additional police officer, over and above replacing an officer who recently resigned his position.

"The chief needs an additional patrolman on duty during certain parts of the day," said Hickey, "to address the number of calls that are coming in. So, it's something the police chief is going to provide me justification on as part of his budget request. And if that officer is provided for in fiscal '19, that justifications is something I will present to the board and you can deliberate on whether to support it."

"What about the DPW operator?" asked Anderson.

"I think the board remembers, probably two or three years ago, public works was hit with some staffing reductions to try and balance the budget in fiscal '16," said Hickey. "There's been no increase in staffing at public works, so

I'd like to start addressing the staffing to provide them one additional person to assist with winter operations and summer maintenance."



STONE-LADEAU FUNERAL HOME

STONE-LADEAU FUNERAL HOME
343 Central Street
Winchendon, MA 01475
Tel: 978-297-0077 • Fax: 978-297-0075

SPORTS

Games and memories

Every Monday, my hometown Baltimore Sun sports section runs a little feature called "During This Week," or something like that. This past Monday, the paper referenced a game in January 1969 between the Bullets and Lakers which for some reason was marred by some extracurricular activity prompting the ejection of several Baltimore players. This in turn prompted a barrage from the Civic Center stands of candy bars and pennies. Let me tell you why I remember.

The 1968-69 season was my first as a Bullets ball-boy. Usually I was assigned to hang out at the end of the scorer's table, helping Joe D'Amato, who's regular job was with the News-American afternoon paper, keep stats and basically be, well, a gopher.

On this night however I, along with the rest of the guys, was dispatched to retrieve half-eaten Snickers and pennies. You thought maybe Earl Monroe or Jerry West were

going to do that? Sure.

That was a memorable week in Baltimore. A few days later, the 18 point favorite Colts strolled casually into the Orange Bowl to wrap up a spectacular season by crushing the upstart Jets and their shaggy haired, loud mouth quarterback in what was by then occasionally, but by no means universally, called the Super Bowl. Presumably, you know how that turned out.

Two days after that the NBA All-Star Game was played in Baltimore. There was no All-Star weekend in 1969. The game was contested on a Tuesday night. The Big O, Oscar Robertson of the then Cincinnati Royals was the MVP but what I remember best came before the game. Our

ball-boy squad was led, guided, chaperoned (?) by John Gentry, known to all as "Chief" because he was, as he relentlessly reminded, a chief petty officer in the US Navy. ABC was in town and the Chief



TALKING
SPORTS

JERRY
CARTON

and the perpetually annoying dachshund Tiny were going to get their 15 seconds of fame come hell or high water, and the ball-boys weren't going to jeopardize that. So, before tipoff, the Chief gave us an, ahem, pep talk. There we were, resplendent in our white uniforms and blue Bullets jackets, all on one knee, listening to the Chief's exhortations about representing Baltimore, the Bullets and oh yes, him. Bullets coach Gene Shue came into the room, looked around, shook his head and burst out laughing at these earnest youngsters. Right? No. Coach Shue was marveling at the Chief's seriousness. A great memory.

This is what the games can do to us. Sometimes the scores matter a lot less than the side stories. That was often the case for me and I can imagine that's true for many of you as well and that's as it should be. Your life won't change because of who wins any game, not really, but while we all savor wins, frequently the best part of those wins, and losses for that matter, revolve around who we were with and who we shared the experiences with.

As regular readers of this column know, I often mention how I grew up around the racetrack. Thus when the 100th Preakness was run at our home track at Pimlico in 1975, you'd assume my primary memory would be of the race itself; after all, the centennial of anything is pretty cool, right? Well, yes and no. Sure I remember who won. But I remember this too. I didn't bet him. I bet on a horse from California who was way over-hyped and I bought into it. But the real memory is this — I

was in college then and as was the case every May, brought a whole slew of people to the Preakness. One in our group had never been to a racetrack in his life and for all I know, hasn't been back since that day 43 years ago. He of course bet the winner, a colt named Master Derby who to this day remains the longest-priced winner in Preakness history. I remember not knowing who to be more furious with — Ralph or the nowhere-to-be-found Native Guest, on whose nose I put my money. Still can't answer that question.

My favorite baseball game of all time? Easy, June 17, 1967, the night I caught my first and only foul ball, off the bat of the California Angels' Jose' Cardenal. I don't have any idea who won that game. It didn't matter.

The point? Root for your teams, sure. We all do. But remember this: beyond the scoreboard can be the best stories of all. What are yours?

Indoor track has strong individuals, lacks depth

SUBMITTED BY COACH ANTHONY FINDLEY

Happy New Year! It has been a few weeks since I did a track write up. Hopefully it makes it into the local newspaper.

With the changing in the calendar year the same things continue to haunt both the boys and girls track teams, depth! The sheer lack of numbers hinders the teams over all ability to win against perennial track powerhouses Littleton and Lunenburg.

The teams received the typical point winners in both meets from Adam Digman, Lilly Digman, Richard Swanson, Alexia Allard, Steven Ingman, Paige Demanche, Anthony Wolski, Nobalieg Laraba, Justin Manuel, Briahna Bouchard, Ryan Thira and Logan Huff. New contributors to the Devils point totals were freshman Justin Thira and eighth grader Moeketsi Molai. Molai managed to place second behind teammate Digman in the 55 hurdles at the Littleton meet.

While the season endures on, the teams overall performances continue to improve with each member of the team getting faster, jumping higher/longer and throwing farther.

What continues to turn people's heads about Murdock's track team is their individual performances. This weekend caps off an impressive schedule of multi-state meets and developmental meets in which Murdock took home impressive halls. At the Boston Holiday Challenge, freshmen Alexia Allard placed fifth in the 55m hurdles

and lowered her school record, she then went on to place fifth in the long jump.

While junior Richard Swanson placed fifth in the 600m. The most impressive performance out of the meet was by junior Adam Digman who placed third in the Pentathlon just missing the school record by 24 points.

After the Boston meet, the team headed north to Dartmouth College in Hanover NH, for the Dartmouth Relays. The team again turned out impressive performances. Allard was on display in her jumping events and hurdles, placing 13th in the 55 hurdles, ninth in the long jump and then placing fifth in the triple jump in the process set a new school record with a jump of 35'6.5".

Then middle school teammate Lilly Digman put on a display by placing fifth in the 400m, in a time of 1:01.87 also setting a new school record in the process.

The boys also shined with Adam Digman placing 25th in the 55 hurdles, Ryan Thira and Steven Ingman placing 41st in there events the 55 dash and mile. The 4x400 relay team of Digman, Thira, Swanson and Ingman just narrowly missed the podium finishing seventh. The most impressive performance was by Richard Swanson in the 600m who won the seeded section of the race by .02 seconds only to have another competitor in a later heat best him, moving him to second place.

Finally, the Murdock freshmen and sophomores competed in the so adequately named "Freshman/Sophomore meet" today. While Hannah Demanche



Courtesy photo

Back row left to right: Steven Ingman, Adam Digman, Richard Swanson, Ryan Thira, Justin Thira. Front row left to right: Alexia Allard, Lilly Digman

(600m), Paige Demanche (300m), Briahna Bouchard (300m/ Long Jump), Justin Manuel (Mile) all competed and mostly improved in their respective events, the day belonged to Justin Thira and Alexia Allard. Thira finished fourth in the long jump, the highest finishing freshmen, with a jump of 18'1". Allard found her-

self on the podium twice finishing third in the long jump with a distance of 16'1" and second in the 55 hurdles lowering her school record to 9.13, again Allard was the highest finishing freshmen in both events.

The team continues their season against Bromfield on Wednesday.

Scholarship tournament hosted at Murdock

Murdock Athletics Basketball League (M.A.B.L.) had the honor of hosting the first annual 3 vs. 3 Harper Grace Scholarship Tournament at

Murdock Middle High School.

Donald Hunt, founder of M.A.B.L., created this scholarship tournament to commemorate the short but beautiful

life of Harper Grace Lawler, daughter of local Peter and Amanda Lawler (Carvill). With the help of Donald Hunt, league co-founder Staci

Gannon, and Murdock athletic director, Jenna Whitaker, this tournament and fundraiser turned out to be a great success. There were close to 200 donors including T-shirt purchases, players, generous "above and beyond" donors, and some local business donations including Zachary Hagemeyer from Grandscape Complete Outdoor Services and Digital Federal Credit Union.

M.A.B.L. would like to thank the 13 teams

involved, donors, and spectators for all the support shown over the past few weeks. The turnout for this tournament was better than anticipated, and M.A.B.L. plans on making the second annual tournament an even larger success.

M.A.B.L. will be announcing the total amount raised once all donations have been calculated, as they are still receiving donations. Thank you for all the community support.

Karen Drudi from Drudi Designs does all the logos and artwork for M.A.B.L. at no cost.



Your Guide To Local Fuel Dealers.

HI-LO OIL, INC.

- ✓ CHECK OUR LOW PRICES
- ✓ 50 GALLON DELIVERIES AVAILABLE
- ✓ AUTOMATIC OR CALL-INS
- ✓ COMPETITIVE RATES

"Keeping You Warm Since 1989."

(978) 297-4456

OFFICE LOCATED AT
1335 ALGER STREET, WINCHENDON



CURRENT PRICE OF OIL

\$2.599

Delivering quality heating oil at the most competitive price and simplifying the customer experience.

300 High Street, Winchendon, MA 01473
(800) 359-4802 • info@oppureoil.com



Courtesy photo

Tournament champions with Harper Lawler parents. Left to right: Peter Lawler, Kevin Halstead, Andy Erikson, Shawn Collette, Paul Collette, Amanda Lawler

For advertising information
call us
at 978-297-0050

Reframe New Year's resolutions in 2018

Along with singing "Auld Lang Syne" at the start of the New Year, making resolutions is a tradition for millions of Americans. However, while choosing a resolution can be easy, sticking to it can be impossible.

A 2014 YMCA survey found that less than a quarter of respondents kept their resolutions. Many (71 percent) tried, but stated that they fell short of their goals, while 40 percent confessed they gave up within the first few months, even weeks, of the New Year!

This year, Winchendon's Clark Memorial YMCA is encouraging community members to give their New Year's resolutions a boost by creating smaller, more manageable goals that can lead to success of a larger one.

"'Losing weight' is too broad," explains Kyle Scrivines, senior program director. "Reframe that big resolution into smaller, more manageable ones. Resolve to incorporate fruits and

vegetables into at least two meals a day. If you're eating out three times a week, make a goal to only eat out two times a week."

The Clark Memorial YMCA also explains that reframing your goals in a positive way can help you stick to them. For example, you may want to limit your screen time in 2018, but that can be more manageable if you replace it with something positive like volunteering or setting special time aside for family.

"Try not to think about what you're missing, but rather what you're gaining. This can make a resolution feel more positive, and therefore more achievable," says Scrivines.

The Clark also explains it's important to not let yourself get discouraged by setbacks. Even though you may experience some missteps throughout the day—or even the week—that doesn't mean you have to give up.

"Nobody got their bad habits over the

course of a week, so you're not going to change them in a week either!" explains Scrivines.

Change is a process and bad days are part of that process.

Below are four tips the Clark Memorial YMCA recommends that will help 2018 New Year's resolutions stick.

Start small. Break those big resolutions into small, achievable goals. Instead of cutting chocolate out of your diet for good, vow to only have it a few times a week. Or trade your two sodas a day for one soda and a glass of water.

Take it one step at a time. Trying to change too many habits at once can easily lead to frustration. Instead of a New Year's resolution, make a new month resolution. Focus on that one change for the month, and add another (small) change when the new month rolls around.

Choose a facility that focuses on a holistic approach to health. When

it comes to adding healthy behaviors, like increasing physical activity, it's important to find a facility that keeps you motivated. Before committing to a membership, take a tour of local gyms to find the best fit for you. Your facility should not be just a gym, but a community organization that offers more health, more hope and more opportunity.

Talk it out. It's easier to stick to your resolutions if you have a partner or friend working toward similar goals. Team up with someone to set your 2018 goals and help each other establish a game plan dedicated to achieving them. Set specific check-ins to help each other out of slumps and to cheer each other during the high points.

For additional tips or to learn how to get involved with the Clark Memorial YMCA, contact (978) 297-9622 or visit www.clarkymca.org

It's happening: annual expo brings out the anglers

BY GUS STEEVES
STAFF WRITER

If you hear the term "hog trough," you probably think it has something to do with farming.

It doesn't, and it's actually spelled "havg."

It's not a big mud pit, but a mobile aquarium, and the one Daniel Kenney uses as a centerpiece of the New England Fishing Expo later this month is big enough to hold its own boat. Although that boat can't move, people will be able to fish from it, and experts will be using it for training seminars.

"This is not just for the expert outdoorsman, but for people thinking of getting into the outdoors," Kenney said.

He's been running the Expo for the last few years with one key goal – reverting it to what it once was. The event used to be at Worcester's DCU Center, but he moved it to Boxborough in part to "rebrand it" and "downsize it." Over the years,

the annual event had accumulated a host of things that have nothing to do with the outdoors: household items, flea marketers, and just about anything else that was willing to pay the booth fee.

"There's been a lack of traditional sportsmen's shows, so I brought a throwback back," he said, noting area trade shows have "deteriorated" into events of "gadgets and trickery, smoke and mirrors."

Indeed, there's a pretty significant market for this. According to state Department of Fish & Game data, 230,812 people held hunting or freshwater fishing licenses as of June 2016, the most recent available figures.

Beyond that, our area is dotted with numerous popular hunting and fishing sites, although many of the latter have advisories against eating too much fish because of mercury pollution. That's generally not an issue, though, for people catching stocked trout,

which the state does annually starting in March (depending on thawing, of course).

As a whole, outdoor recreation accounts for about \$887 billion and provides 16 million jobs nationwide, of which 120,000 are in Massachusetts, according to the March 2017 issue of Mass Wildlife.

"It may not be intuitive, but more Americans are directly employed but hunting and fishing (483,000) than by oil and gas extraction (180,000)," Fish & Wildlife Director Jack Buckley wrote there. "Although still absolutely valid, we need to move beyond the arguments about the intrinsic value and heritage of our natural resources and fully appreciate their economic value."

While most people do it for fun or for a little food, Kenney noted bass fishing itself is a \$65 billion industry, and that "has been strong regardless" of the rest of the economy. In fact, interest in survival skills like these often spikes when the

rest of the economy goes south.

Several of the Expo's marquee presenters are "people who have done very well in the outdoors industry," Kenney said. "A lot of average outdoorsmen love to sit down and listen to these guys because they're the experts."

Specifically, he's showcasing seminars and demonstrations by four elite bass anglers: John Crews, Matt Herren, Jacob Wheeler and Jesse Tacoronte. But the schedule includes a long list of other fishing-related talks covering specific equipment, angling in unusual locations or under special conditions, personal stories, and a handful of more general talks, such as one on preventing Lyme disease. Although the talks don't include hunting, many of the booths will, with equipment and clothing for a wide range of outdoors activities. There will also be booths from several state environment-related agencies.

Kenney said previous expos

have drawn people from as far as Maine.

"I want it to be a fun time for the whole family," Kenney said. "The kids can catch trout all day and shoot arrows all day. If mom wants to put up with it, they can stay eight hours."

The Expo runs Jan 26-28 at the Boxborough Regency Hotel. Admission is \$10 for adults, free under age 12, with free parking.

Kenney himself is the renowned host of GoFishDan, a nationally known video blog of fishing various New England sites. He is sponsored by Bass Pro Shops, Dexter, Cabela's and Klem's among others, and gives back to his communities through continuing support of various veterans' organizations and Camp Joslin among others. Kenney writes an ongoing fishing column as well, that also appears periodically not only nationally, but also in Stonebridge Press publications.

Valuable collectibles for 2018

As we start a new year, I thought it might be a good time to take another look at which collectibles have been selling well and may continue to sell well during the new year. Some of these items were in my top 10 antiques and collectibles list in 2015. There are additional items in this article though.

Mid-century collectibles and furnishings continue to fetch strong prices at auction. Baby boomers who grew up in the 1940s through 1970s remember many of these collectibles from their youth. Younger collectors also appreciate the sleek lines and simplistic design of mid-century design.

There are many mid-century "baby boomer" collectibles that are selling well. We've auctioned comic books from the 1960s that have brought over \$100 an issue. Older ones can bring even higher prices. A baseball card collection from the 1950s and '60s brought five figures at a recent auction. Older sports memorabilia remains popular too. We sold a baseball with a drawing by George



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

Sosnak that brought \$3,500 at auction in 2017. One card of a star player in pristine condition can bring a figure in that range by itself. Toys remain popular. A toy robot from the 1960s brought a figure over \$500 at one of our auctions a few years ago.

Bicycles are also popular with collectors. Early high wheeled and turn of the century bicycles can bring five figure sums at auction. Many more modern bicycles also realize strong auction prices. Schwinn Sting-Ray "Krate" bikes from the late 1960s and 1970s featured high handle bars and banana seats. Some of these bicycles can bring figures in the thousands. Benjamin Bowden designed the Spacelander bicycle in 1946. The futuristic bicycles were then produced in 1960. There are believed to be only 522 that were produced. They typically sell for five figure sums at auction.

Military items remain popular with collectors. There has always been considerable interest in Civil War memorabilia. I've also seen increased interest in World War II artifacts in recent years.

For example, we sold a diary of a captured American soldier in a German prison. The diary contained information on daily life in the camp and drawings. It brought several hundred dollars at auction.

Coins remain a very popular collectible. Dollar coins, half dollars, quarters and dimes from 1964 and earlier are made with 90% silver. They are worth at least their weight in silver. Coins with rare dates can be worth much more than the silver value though. For example, we sold a silver dollar with a CC (Carson City, Nevada) mint mark that brought around \$500 at auction in 2017. Many old gold coins are worth well over their scrap value as well.

Other collectibles continue to bring strong prices at auction. Old movie, travel, advertising, Rock and Roll, circus, sports and other posters are very desirable. The market is still great for old advertising signs and displays.

Historical memorabilia still commands strong prices at auction. In 2017, we auctioned some postcards written by Alexander Graham Bell to his attorney. They rang up \$1,000.

We continue to pick up some great items for our January 25th live auction.



My Evaluating your Antiques class at Bay Path Evening School is scheduled for March 5. We are scheduling some estate sales for after the holidays. Keep checking www.centralmassauctions.com for details.

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

Print Worthy Moments

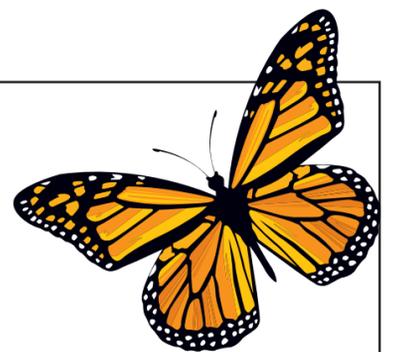
Be sure to hold on to your memories with a photo reprint.
Available From All Of Our Publications.

Options & Prices	
Digital Copy (emailed)	\$5.00
4" x 6" Glossy Print	\$5.00
8.5" x 11" Glossy Print	\$10.00



Call or email Stonebridge Press today 508-909-4105 or photos@stonebridgepress.com

You can also download your photo reprint form at www.StonebridgePress.com



Say it in living color!

The world isn't black and white.
So, why is your ad?



TheHeartOfMassachusetts.com

Gobi January office hours

Tyler Wolanin, district aide to Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) will be holding office hours throughout the district during the month of January. Constituents and town officials are invited to meet with Tyler to express any concerns, ideas and issues they have. Walk-ins are welcome, but to set up an appointment you can e-mail Tyler at tyler.wolanin@masenate.gov, or call at (508) 641-3502. Appointments are strongly encouraged in this winter season so that information on cancellations can be shared. Town groupings

are not restricted to residents of those towns.

Monday, January 15th
Hubbardston Selectboard Office, 11 AM to 12 PM
Barre Municipal Building, 12:30 to 1:30 PM
Hardwick Town Hall, 2 to 3 PM

Tuesday, January 16
Brimfield Senior Center, 11 AM to 12 PM
Wales Senior Center, 12:10 to 1 PM

Sturbridge Town Hall, 2 to 3 PM
Wednesday, January 17
Brookfield Town Hall, 11 AM to 12 PM
West Brookfield Senior Center, 12:30 to 1:30 PM
New Braintree Town Hall, 2 to 3 PM

Monday, January 22
Ashburnham Town Hall, 12:30 to 1:30 PM
Winchendon Town Hall, 2 to 3 PM

Tuesday, January 23

Charlton Senior Center, 11 AM to 12 PM
Holland Town Hall, 12:30 to 1:30 PM
Monson Town Hall, 2 to 3 PM

Monday, January 29
Paxton Senior Center, 11 AM to 12 PM
Spencer, Howe Village 12:30 to 1:30 PM
East Brookfield Town Hall 2 to 3 PM

Tuesday, January 30
Oakham Senior Center, 9:30 to 10:30 AM
North Brookfield Senior Center, 11 AM to 12 PM
Rutland Senior Center, 12:30 to 1:30 PM

CDBG
continued from page A1

Director Tracy Murphy explained that the town is eligible to receive just over \$792,000, but said her department is seeking around \$768,000.

"This year," she said, "we're proposing to apply for \$525,000 for housing rehabilitation projects, which equates to 13 units at \$40,000 each. You'll notice that we're asking for the maximum, \$40,000, because we're finding that \$30,000 (supplied by previous grants) just isn't doing what people need it to do. It's not going as far as it needs to go."

"In addition, we're asking for \$25,000 for fuel assistance," she continued. "This year we asked for \$16,500. I don't think we're going to have a problem spending that."

Murphy said funds for fuel assistance are still available, so anyone interested should visit her office at town hall for an application.

"The third thing is something the Economic Development Steering Committee is helping with," she said,

"and that is implementing a sign and façade program for \$100,000. Maximum program costs would be \$20,000 per project, so if you maximize all of the projects it would probably account for five."

The grant would be overseen by Murphy and the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission.

Murphy said she and the EDSC have a lot of work to do on the sign and façade program before the application deadline.

"In order to do this, we would need to implement some type of design standards," she said. "In other communities, grants can cover up to 80 percent of a project. For the façades and signs, I would propose that we do them on any commercial buildings and any mixed use buildings."

"I have been approached by property owners," Murphy added, "not just downtown but in other commercial areas, wanting to know if there's any money available for this type of work."

"I do know the town offered this type of a program in the '80s," she said. "I know there were some problems with

it. I'm in the process of researching what those problems were to try to eliminate them."

"If we can't nail this program down by the middle of February, then I would have to pull this from the application," she said, "and I would suggest we roll that \$100,000 into housing rehabilitation projects. We have a lot of applications for that."

She urged any business owners who might be interested in a sign and façade program to contact her office.

"I need to hear from you. I need to show Boston that there are people who would take advantage of this program," Murphy concluded.

Selectman Austin Cyganiewicz asked for clarification on what areas of town would be covered by the program. "This would be available to commercial and mixed use buildings all over town, not just in a certain zone?" he asked.

"That hasn't been totally decided on," said Murphy. "I'm going to let the steering committee make that decision but that would be my recommendation because we have small businesses outside of our downtown."

"It sounds like a great program," said Cyganiewicz. "Thinking about Central Street, there's a lot that will be happening in the next couple of years."

"We have had some businesses on Central Street who have expressed some issues with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance," said Murphy, "so we'd like to write into this program that that would be an approved design, just to get them some funding to get that to happen."

"To be quite honest with you," said board member Mike Barbaro, "I'm not a big fan. Most property owners own their property. It's up to them to fix their buildings and they should be paying the costs. I'd rather fix houses than spend it on this."

"I feel like small businesses also need help," said board Chairman Barbara Anderson.

"There are small business loans out there," countered Barbaro.

As a result of questions over whether details of the sign and façade program can be worked out by mid-February, the board voted to continue the hearing until its meeting on February 12.

Winchendon Courier Classifieds

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



• A STONEBRIDGE PRESS PUBLICATION •

MASONRY INC.
Construction laborers or mason laborers. Must have a vehicle and a phone. Company is out of Jaffrey. (603) 532-8471. TFN
JOB SEEKERS
Job Seekers Networking Group hosted by North Central Career Center and Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce. Meetings are open to all job

seekers and are held on Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m. at the Chamber conference room, 29 Parker St. 2nd floor, Gardner. Contact the Chamber at (978) 632-1780.
EMPLOYERS
These help wanted ads are FREE! Contact the Courier to find out how to get help for your business by calling (978) 297-0050 x 100 or email ruth@stone-

bridgepress.news.
FOR RENT
GOODRICH APARTMENTS
Now taking applications. Call for guidelines. (978) 297-0231. TFN
WANTED
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
Drum teacher Leon LaPlante seeks used instruments and drum stands to

help out high school students. (978) 297-1250.
YARD SALES
ATTENTION: yard sale ads here are FREE in the Winchendon Courier. Call (978) 297-0050 and leave a message with date, address and times of your sale and we will add it to the list. Deadline for all sales is Tuesday noon.

LEGALS

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
17SM004388
ORDER OF NOTICE

To: Scott M. Hogan and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C.c. 50 §3901 et seq.: Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, doing business as Christiana Trust, not in its individual capacity, but solely as trustee for BCAT 2014-4TT claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Winchendon, numbered 16 Willoughby Avenue, given by Scott M. Hogan to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. acting solely as a nominee for Ross Mortgage Company, Inc., dated January 23, 2009, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 43728, Page 132, as affected by Partial Release of Mortgage at Book 49942, Page 350, and further affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated March 25, 2016 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 55355, Page 184, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before February 12, 2018 or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act. Witness, JUDITH C. CUTLER Chief Justice of said Court on December 27, 2017. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 17-028753 January 12, 2018

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
2017SM004550
ORDER OF NOTICE

To: Natasha N. Jones and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C.c. 50 §3901 et seq.: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in WINCHENDON, numbered 93 WOODLAWN STREET, given by Natasha N. Jones to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Prospect Mortgage, LLC, dated April 30, 2010, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 45744, Page 112 as affected by a modification agreement dated June 27, 2014 and recorded with said Registry in Book 52639, Page 145, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before February 5, 2018 or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act. Witness, JUDITH C. CUTLER Chief Justice of said Court on December 21, 2017. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 201704-0404-PRP January 12, 2018

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
17SM010036
ORDER OF NOTICE

To: Brandon B. Cordio; Patricia J. Cordio and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C.c. 50 §3901 et seq.: Franklin American Mortgage Company claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Winchendon, numbered 356 Central Street given by Brandon B. Cordio and Patricia J. Cordio to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Franklin American Mortgage Company, dated October 7, 2016, recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds at Book 56107, Page 308, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before February 19, 2018 or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act. Witness, JUDITH C. CUTLER Chief Justice of said Court on January 2, 2018. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 10618 January 12, 2018

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 17 SM 009910 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: Cassie Carter, Individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Valerie J. Carter a/k/a Valerie Carter and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. §§ 3901 et seq.: PNC Bank, National Association claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Winchendon, numbered 37 West Shore Drive, given by Valerie Carter to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Nominee for Fitchburg ME Federal Credit Union, dated October 4, 2010, and recorded in Worcester County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 46446, Page 295, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before February 12, 2018 or you will be forever barred from claiming that you are entitled to the benefits of said Act. Witness, JUDITH C. CUTLER, Chief Justice of this Court on December 29, 2017 Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder January 12, 2018





Candle Tips

Even with the popularity of flameless candles, nothing sets the holiday mood like the real deal. Conventional candles are a valuable decorating tool, and the fragrant luminaries are never more popular than during this time of year. Whether you use candles to create ambiance or to simply fill the air with a pleasant scent, the following tips will help you enjoy the magic of candles during the yuletide season and throughout the year.

Happy Holidays!

Did you know candles don't just cover up odors? They actually eliminate them by burning off the tiny odor particles that permeate the air!

Here's a trick from the swinging sixties: Before a dinner or party, light and then extinguish new candles as they will light more quickly and easily when you are ready to use them.

If you are grouping two or more candles together, be sure they are a few inches apart when burning. If candles are placed too close to one another, they can each create their own draft, causing the flames to flare.

Here's another excuse for burning candles: studies show candlelight induces quiet! Light a few after dinner to help the kids settle down.

Believe it or not, lighting a votive candle on the bathroom vanity prevents steam from fogging up your mirror when you get out of the shower. Try it, it works!

Here's another vintage tip from the cocktail party generation: Extend the life of wax candles by refrigerating them first. Chill candles in airtight plastic bags to prevent wicks from absorbing moisture.

Don't have a long match and need to light several candles? A piece of uncooked spaghetti will do the job!

The next time you light floating candles, place them in warm water instead of cold. This method extends the burn time of floaters.

It's important to trim candle wick to ¼" before burning wax candles. Doing so not only limits soot, but the short wick allows for proper heat of the wax for efficient burning.

Burning candles properly is essential for getting the most burn time and to provide even burning throughout the lifetime of the candle. For example, jar candles should be allowed to burn until the liquefied wax reaches the full diameter of the candle surface. When you blow out the candle too soon, you limit the wax pool to that diameter and shorten the life of the candle. This is important to prevent tunneling down the center of the candle. (As always, burn candles in appropriate vessel and on a safe surface.)

If you are burning cone or bell topped



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

candles, burn for about five to ten minutes the first time. Gradually increase the time with each subsequent burning until the candle is level, then burn as for pillars.

Votive candles should always be burned in a snug fitting, safe holder. Because the candles melt as they burn, the tighter the fit the longer the life of the candle.

Black soot on the glass of a burning votive means the wick is too long. Extinguish the candle, trim the wick and relight.

Always put out a flame when it burns to ½" of the bottom of the candle. I found out the hard way that even tempered glass can shatter and spill hot wax onto a surface if allowed to burn too low to the bottom!

Did you know many candles (even top shelf brands) can fade in color if displayed in windows or exposed to bright lights for an extended period of time?

Burning the candle at both ends

Burning lots of candles means plenty of leftover candle stubs. Before you toss the stubs out, check out these creative ideas to recycle and reuse them.

* Simply place a disk of scented candle wax in a drawer, gym bag or under the seat of your car for an easy instant freshener.

*Or use the leftover stubs as tart wax.

Just pop the leftover wax out of the votive holder and place in a tart burner. Light a tea light candle underneath it and it releases a nice scent for many hours.

*Toss a few stubs in a jar to use in the workshop. The wax can help a stubborn drawer slide smoothly, protect a saw blade from rusting, and lubricate a squeaky door hinge.

*You can even make new candle medley by re-melting assorted stubs in a double boiler. Then pour into votive glass with a wick and cool. Freeze and tap out to use freestanding.

Win Dinner for Two

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press publications? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint! c/o Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Or e-mail kdr@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

FOOD

7 ways to save on food

Food is a necessity and an expense that simply cannot be avoided. A 2012 Gallup poll found that Americans reported spending \$151 on food per week. Around one in 10 said they spent \$300 or more per week, and those with higher incomes tend to spend more on weekly food bills than people who earn less.

Compounding high food bills is the fact that people tend to waste food. According to the American Chemistry Council, roughly 80 billion pounds of food are thrown out every year in the United States. Britons throw away around seven million tons of food and drink per year, says BBC Good Food.

Saving money on food may seem challenging, but it doesn't have to be. With some smart strategies, individuals can reduce their food budgets and still have enough to eat.

1. Store food properly. Pay attention to the correct ways to store food, including promptly refrigerating or freezing items to prevent spoiling.

2. Do your own work. Prepackaged, presliced, or pre-portioned foods take longer for manufacturers to prepare, and those costs are passed on to consumers. Separating foods oneself and putting them into manageable portions may take

a little time, but the savings for consumers could be considerable.

3. Buy in bulk when it makes sense. Bulk warehouse stores can make it easier to stock up on essentials. But they also can entice people to buy items they really do not need. Consumers should only purchase items that make fiscal sense or ones that cannot be purchased elsewhere for less. Always compare the price per weight or per unit when shopping.

4. Stock up on staples. Be on the lookout for sales on items used frequently, particularly staples that can be stored away. Watch for low prices on coffee, oils and canned goods, stocking up when such items go on sale.

5. Embrace dried and canned beans. Beans offer filling fiber and protein for relatively little cost. They also can be added to meat or vegetable recipes to bulk up dishes.

6. Plan ahead. Planning ahead can save big bucks. Peruse sales before leaving the house and spend time visiting a few different stores to save more money. Make use of store coupon apps to preload savings that can be used at checkout.

7. Explore frugal recipes. Skipping meat or other expensive items once in awhile can help reduce food bills. Save



expensive items for treats, which can make you appreciate them that much more. The

same concept can be used for dining out.

It is relatively easy to save

money on the cost of food when consumers make a commitment to being more frugal.

Punch Up The Flavor Of Your One-Pot Meal And Wow The Crowd



You don't have to pull any punches when it comes to creating great pulled pork sandwiches for your guests.

(NAPS)

Low and slow is the way to go when it comes to entertaining. Start marinating the night before, prep the rest of the ingredients in the morning, drop it all into the slow cooker and let the magic begin as the flavors slowly meld and everything turns tender.

Then it's all about the garnishes to contrast the mellowness and succulence of a slowly braised meal. Choose items that will strike the perfect balance by adding brightness and texture:

- Chopped scallions, fresh jalapeños and halved cherry tomatoes add crunch and flavor to your favorite chili recipe.

- Handfuls of arugula, chopped parsley and pine nuts are delicious toppings for your favorite chicken cacciatore recipe.

- Roasted sesame seeds, julienned cucumbers and cilantro cool down your favorite Asian spiced rib recipe.

Try SuckerPunch Pulled Pork the next time you make sliders or tacos:

1 bone-in Boston pork butt
1 to 2 Bottles SuckerPunch Bloody Mary Mix (Regular or Spicy)
Salt & pepper to taste
1 red onion (diced)
3 cloves of garlic (smashed)

DIRECTIONS:

Marinate pork butt in the SuckerPunch Bloody Mary Mix overnight. Coat meat with salt and pepper and place in slow cooker with marinade, red onion and garlic. Cook on low for 7-8 hours until tender and easily shredded with forks. Shred and return to slow cooker. Add some more Bloody Mary mix to achieve desired moisture level, continue to cook on low for one hour or until ready to serve. Stuff buns or tortillas with pulled pork and garnish with SuckerPunch pickles and salsa.

For more recipes and information about SuckerPunch Gourmet, visit www.sucker-punchgourmet.com.



**Renewal
by Andersen**
WINDOW REPLACEMENT  an Andersen Company

Window Special! Patio Door Special!

Special ends on
January 21st

SAVE \$700

on every patio door¹

SAVE \$325

on every window¹

WITH

NO NO NO
Money Down Payments Interest
FOR 1 YEAR¹

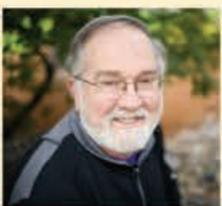
Interest accrues from the purchase date but is waived if paid in full for 12 months. Minimum purchase of four.



- Our patio doors will continue to slide smoothly for years using **Andersen's dual ball-bearing engineering**
- Our **5-point locking system** on our patio doors provides top-of-the-line security and peace of mind
- Our composite Fibrex[®] window material is twice as strong as vinyl so our weather-tight seals stay weather-tight
- We handle the entire process; **we sell, install and warrant our windows and patio doors**, so if you ever have an issue, you're covered

We handle every part of the replacement process

-  **Sell**
-  **Custom-Build**
-  **Install**
-  **Warrant**



“ I would highly recommend Renewal by Andersen. The installation was performed by friendly and professional installers. They arrived on time and answered all my questions. They did an outstanding job and cleaned up after themselves. They gave detailed instructions on operating the windows and made sure I was completely satisfied. ”

– Mark A., Renewal by Andersen customer, Attleboro, MA

**Renewal
by Andersen**
WINDOW REPLACEMENT  an Andersen Company

The Better Way to a Better Window[™]

Call for your **FREE Window and Patio Door Diagnosis**

1-800-209-2746

¹DETAILS OF OFFER – Offer expires 1/21/2018. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$325 off each window and \$700 off each patio door and 12 months no payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 1/1/2018 and 1/21/2018. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky[®] consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available only at participating locations. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. “Renewal by Andersen” and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2018 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2018 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.