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WINTHROP

SUN TRANSCRIPT

EST. IN 1882

50 CENTS

THURSDAY,
December 5, 2024

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TREE LIGHTING IN FRENCH SQUARE



Winthrop children and residents gather with Santa in French Square for a photo during the annual tree lighting. See more photos on Pages 5 and 6.

Council fails to move forward with fire station site selection

By Adam Swift

The next step in the effort to build a new fire station to replace the town's current, aging facilities remains up in the air.

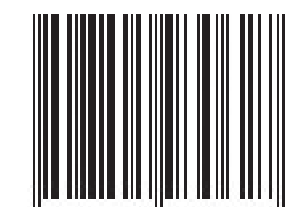
At Tuesday night's council meeting, Council President Jim Letterie failed to get a second on a motion asking the council to select a preferred site for a new fire station from between the old middle school on Pauline Street and the town-owned basketball courts on Walden Street.

About 1,100 residents took part in a recent survey asking for their preferred option, with about 55 percent choosing an approximately \$41 million option for the old middle school, while the remainder selected the approximately \$35.6 million option on Walden Street.

Last year, voters rejected a debt exclusion proposal to build a new fire station next to the current police station at the site of the Wadsworth Building.

See FIRE STATION Page 4

INDEPENDENT



Newspaper Group

DEATHS

Michael Coleman
Leo "Sonny" Coluntino
Patrick Everett
Obituaries Pg. 10

NEWS Briefs

PROJECT PLAY'S HOLIDAY HOP & COAT DRIVE

This Saturday, December 7 from 4:30-6:00, young children and their grownups can celebrate the holidays with a FREE kids concert by Evan at Music at the Blissful in the festive & cozy Adriana's Cafe! There will be free hot cocoa & crafts for the kids, plus kids food specials and beer/wine for purchase. Fun for the whole family!

Please bring gently used winter clothing and/or accessories to donate to local families in need (in partnership with Mi Amore). Thank you to our sponsor, Realtor Jenny Golic of Lantern Residential and our hosts at Adriana's Cafe!

PUBLIC INVITED TO USS CONSTITUTION'S ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

The public is invited to attend USS Constitution's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 6, 2024, starting at

See NEWS BRIEFS Page 3



Briella McFarland and Ava Rogowicz keeping warm on a chilly evening in Winthrop.



Former Speaker of the House Bob DeLeo (right) with Vikki Mucci, and Carol and Anthony Maniglia.

Council votes to maintain single tax rate

By Adam Swift

The town council voted to maintain a single tax rate for residential and commercial property, as well as not to provide for a residential tax exemption for FY25 at its regular meeting on Tuesday night.

At the beginning of the meeting, Nate Cramer from the municipal financial offices gave a pre-

sentation on the FY25 tax classification for the town.

"Every year, we go through an exercise to discuss the advantages or disadvantages of staying with a single rate versus a commercial rate," said Council President Jim Letterie. "We have very much relied on personal property taxes, we have a small commercial base of under 6 percent, we are one of

the smallest in the state. That makes it very hard to have a split tax rate, the advantage is just not there and other cities surrounding us like Revere and Boston and Saugus and such have that huge commercial base that enables them to do that."

During his presentation, Cramer reviewed the valuation of residential and commercial properties from FY24 to FY25.

Over the past fiscal year, Cramer said the residential valuation increased by 4.4 percent while the commercial valuation increased by 4.5 percent.

Over that time, the average value of a single-family home in Winthrop increased by about \$10,000,

See TAX RATE Page 2

WIHA presents its 2024 ornament

Special to the Transcript

The Winthrop Improvement & Historical Association (WIHA) is proud to present its 2024 Holiday ornament. This year's design honors the Winthrop Art Association's "Art in the Park" art shows.

The Winthrop Art Association (WAA) has been a cultural resource for our town for the past 55 years. Their membership totals over 150 artists, providing a supportive community to Winthrop's artists of all ages and mediums, with classes, events, and exhibit opportunities.

The members of the Winthrop Art Association were invited to submit their ideas for the 2024 ornament. WAA President Dawn Mahoney's design was chosen for its beauty, and the fact that it uniquely depicts a Winthrop event. The "Art in the Park" shows are held throughout the summer. They are a valuable opportunity for WAA artists to exhibit. Just as important, they are a treat for the Winthrop public to browse on a beautiful

summer day.

Winthrop Improvement & Historical is dedicated to keeping history and the arts vital and vibrant in Winthrop. It is an honor to recognize the Winthrop Art Association for all they have done for our community.

The "Art in the Park" ornament is available for purchase at Webster First Federal Credit Union, Shirley True Value Hardware, Woodside Ace Hardware, the Winthrop Book Depot, Simon's Winthrop Book Store, the Winthrop Public Library, the Winthrop Meat Market, Swett's Liquors, the Senior Center and the Clock Tower Gallery at the E.B. Newton.

The price per ornament is \$10. All proceeds benefit the Deane Winthrop House.



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WINTHROP POLICE BLOTTER

The following incident reports are among the calls to which the Winthrop Police Department responded on the listed dates. The log is a public record and available for review. All persons who are arrested or charged with a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

-- An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Main St. for the civil moving infraction of speeding. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

-- An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Veterans Rd. for the civil moving infraction of a stop sign violation. The officer issued a citation to the operator for that offense, as well as for the civil moving infraction of not having his license in his possession.

1844: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Revere St. for the civil moving infraction of a red light violation. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

2004: An officer stopped a motor vehicle at Main and Marshall Sts. for the civil moving infraction of an expired registration. The officer issued a citation to the operator for that offense, as well as for the civil infraction of having an expired inspection sticker. The motor vehicle was towed.

2016: An officer dispersed a person in a motor vehicle from Hannaford Park, which is closed after dark.

2051: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Main St. for the civil moving infraction of a red light violation. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

TUESDAY, NOV. 19

0142: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Dolphin Ave. for the civil moving infraction of a stop sign violation. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

0200: An officer issued parking tickets to 13 vehicles without resident parking stickers on Somerset Ave.

1028: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Main St. for a civil moving infraction. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

1045: An officer issued a citation for a town by-law violation to a person on Putnam St. regarding an animal complaint.

1242: An officer issued a parking ticket to a vehicle without a valid inspection sticker at Locust and Cross Sts.

1657: The Animal Control Officer responded to a call from a person on Shore Drive who reported that a Black Lab puppy was wandering around. The dog was reunited with its owner.

2018: An officer

stopped a motor vehicle at Winthrop and Lincoln Sts. for the civil moving infraction of a one-way violation. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

2043: An officer stopped a motor vehicle at Revere St. and Crest Ave. for a civil moving infraction. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

2256: A tow company reported the trespass tow of a motor vehicle from Governors Park.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20

0116: An officer issued a parking ticket to a vehicle without a resident parking sticker on Shirley St.

1023: Officers responded to a request for medical aid at Governors Park and arrested Julio Cesar Mendez de la Rosa, 28, of Lawrence, on four outstanding warrants and for the criminal offenses of: trafficking in more than 36 grams, but fewer than 100 grams, of heroin; illegal possession of a Class B controlled narcotic substance with intent to distribute; and tampering or destruction of evidence. A motor vehicle was towed.

1651: An officer stopped a motor vehicle at River Rd. and Lewis Ave. for the civil moving infraction of a stop sign violation. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

1756: An officer responded to a landlord/tenant disturbance on Temple Ave. The officer restored the peace.

1914: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Cross St. for the civil moving infraction of a stop sign violation. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

2010: An officer stopped a motor vehicle at Main and Beal Sts. for the civil moving infraction of a crosswalk violation. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

2058: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Washington Ave. for the civil moving infraction of an obscured registration plate. The officer issued a written warning to the operator.

2105: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Main St. for a civil moving infraction. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator, who said he was lost.

2313: A tow company reported the trespass tow of a motor vehicle from

Governors Park.

THURSDAY, NOV. 21

0142: A tow company reported the trespass tow of a motor vehicle from Governors Park.

0913: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Washington Ave. for the civil moving infraction of violating the hands-free law. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

1023: An officer ordered a tow for a small boat that was halfway in the roadway at the marsh on Morton St.

1100: An officer stopped a motor vehicle in Metcalf Sq. for the civil moving infraction of a number plate violation. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

1241: An officer issued a parking ticket to a vehicle parked in excess of the two-hour limit on Somerset Ave.

1424: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Veterans Rd. for the civil moving infraction of speeding. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

2337: An officer issued a parking ticket to a vehicle without a resident parking sticker on Locust St.

FRIDAY, NOV. 22

0138: A tow company reported the trespass tow of a motor vehicle from Governors Park.

0306: A tow company reported the trespass tow of a motor vehicle from Governors Park.

1240: An officer assisted the parties with the exchange of papers at a motor vehicle accident on Woodside Ave.

SATURDAY, NOV. 23

1155: An officer responded to a report of a motor vehicle blocking a driveway on Locust St. The officer issued a citation to the owner for the civil infraction of an unregistered motor vehicle. The vehicle also was uninsured, which is a criminal offense. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator for that offense and the vehicle was towed to private property.

1334: An officer directed the operator of a truck parked on the sidewalk on Cottage Ave. to move the truck.

1450: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Revere St. for the civil moving infraction of a red light violation. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

1503: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Revere St. for the civil moving infraction of a red light violation. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

1529: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Revere St. for the civil moving infraction of a red light violation. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

1737: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Veterans Rd. for the civil moving infraction of speeding. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

1927: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Veterans Rd. for the civil moving infraction of speeding. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

1950: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Veterans Rd. for the civil moving infraction of speeding. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

2014: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Revere St. for the civil moving infraction of speeding. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

2046: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Revere St. for the civil moving infraction of a red light violation. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

2132: An officer issued a parking ticket to a vehicle parked in the Fire Lane on Shirley St.

2145: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Revere St. for the civil moving infraction of operating without headlights after dark. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

2330: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Main St. for the civil moving infraction of a red light violation. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

2347: An officer dispersed a group of teens from the cemetery on Kennedy Rd.

SUNDAY, NOV. 24

0008: An officer stopped

a motor vehicle on Main St. for the civil moving infraction of speeding. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

0120: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Pleasant St. for the civil moving infraction of a marked lanes violation. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

0127: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Main St. for the civil moving infraction of a red light violation. The officer gave a verbal warning to the operator.

0139: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Shirley St. for the civil moving infraction of a stop sign violation. The officer issued a citation to the operator. An officer directed a licensed passenger to take control of the vehicle.

0328: An officer directed a person playing music loudly in her home on Hermon St. to turn it off for the night.

1226: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Washington Ave. for the civil moving infraction of speeding. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

1552: A caller reported finding a lost dog. The person brought it to the station where the dog was retrieved by the owner.

1849: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Shirley St. for the civil moving infraction of speeding. The officer issued a citation to the operator for that offense, as well as for the civil infraction of not having his license in his possession.

1917: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Veterans Rd. for the civil moving infraction of speeding. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

MONDAY, NOV. 25

0035: An officer stopped a motor vehicle on Pleasant St. for the civil moving infraction of speeding. The officer issued a citation to the operator.

0156: An officer issued parking tickets to 13 vehicles without resident parking stickers on Woodside Ave.

0230: An officer dispersed a person from Hannaford Park, which is closed after dark.

Tax Rate // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

according to Cramer.

While the tax rate for FY25 will decrease from \$10.45 to \$10.32 per \$1,000 of valuation, there will be a slight increase in the FY25 tax bill for the average single-family home from \$7,181 to \$7,196, according to Cramer.

There is a slightly larger increase on the commercial tax bill from \$4,889 to \$5,105 for a commercial property valued at just under \$500,000.

Cramer said there is good news for the town when it comes to new growth.

"New growth are properties that have never been taxed before, whether it is a new building or somebody added a deck that wasn't there before," said Cramer. "For the second year in a row, it's about double what it was in years past."

Cramer praised the assessor's office for picking up much of the new growth that has not been

identified in the past.

In voting to maintain the single tax rate, Letterie noted that there isn't the commercial base to warrant a split tax rate at this time.

"We like our community the way it is, but it would be great to have some more commercial business so we can shift the burden a little bit," he said. "In our situation, it feels like if we shift the

burden, it hurts the taxpayers even more because now the prices go up and now that's non-tax deductible money that is being spent."

Looking at the numbers from the past, Letterie said a split tax rate would have an impact on single-family homes of about \$10 to \$20 per year, while having an impact on small commercial businesses of between \$300 to \$400.

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ZONTA CLUB NEWS & NOTES

Courtesy Photo

bers recently delivered Market Basket gift cards to the local school districts of Chelsea, Everett, Winthrop, Revere and Saugus. These gift cards will be distributed to needy families this Holiday Season.

The Zonta Club of Chelsea and North Shore mem-



Zonta Members Mary Jane O'Neill and Barbara Lawlor are delivering the Market Basket gift cards to Kelli Conway, Payroll Coordinator of the Winthrop Public schools.

Atlantic Works Gallery hosts 'Jingle Bells, Batman Smells' holiday showcase

Special to the Transcript

Atlantic Works Gallery announces that its December will be an exhibition by Eric Hess and elfin friends called Jingle Bells, Batman Smells. The exposition is a subjective and kitschy look at the objectivity of Christmas in the early 21st century. Objects are great!!!

Work will be photography, installation, conceptual art and objects from Hess's unusual holiday collection. During the opening reception there will be a performance piece involving a 6ft mischievous living Christmas Duck that is inspired from one of Hess's most beloved and somewhat creepy holiday ornaments. The duck will be more naughty but still nice. There will be a station for people to pose for portraits inspired by The Awkward Family Christmas Photos series. Tacky sweaters, turtlenecks and hats will

be provided. Screw the nice list this year, let's go crazy!!

As a child I, Eric Hess, had a stern and scary Marine captain, corporate-leader father. Living with him could be like walking on eggshells, you didn't know what mood he would be in. He could be great fun but a lot of the time he was mean. His fun could mean as well. Once a year Dad, who we called The Great Santini, would melt away and this cross man would hoist all the glittery, plastic, cheap ornaments from Caldor's and scatter them all over the house. This was much to the chagrin of my architect mother, who designed our modern, 1970's home. It was like he was Scrooge after the ghosts, and I was Tiny Tim with a fat goose to eat. He was The Grinch and I was the hurt little dog riding into Whoville. It always felt joyous and festive to his fantastical, gay son(me). To this day

I still have a love of the chaos and fascination with weirdness of the holiday season. This show is for my Dad who passed away 15 years ago.

Eric Hess has been a photographer living in Boston since 1999. He came to Beantown from New York City to attend The New England School of Photography. He has had his studio in East Boston for 23 years and is one of the founding members of Atlantic Works Gallery established in 2003. He works professionally as a photographer and makes art in several mediums. He has been a member of The Biennial Project, a humorous, conceptual art and performance collaborative that has shown and performed in places like Venice, Havana, New York City but not Worcester.

In conjunction with the holiday theme of this show Atlantic Works , in

See SHOWCASE Page 4

School committee to hold special meeting on override

By Adam Swift

The school committee is hosting a special meeting on Monday, Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. at the Shapiro Center at Winthrop High School to discuss a potential school override request.

In November, voters rejected a \$4.95 million school override that would have helped address budget shortfalls over the next three years.

Since that time, the school committee and the administration have been working to bring an override request back before the voters.

The Dec. 9 meeting will allow for public comment on a potential override vote, as well as discussion on the school committee's Nov. 26 budget subcommittee report on a proposed override and a potential vote by the full school committee on an override request.

The override request would then move to the town council for approval to be placed on an election ballot.

During the Nov. 26 meeting, the budget subcommittee voted 2-1 to come back with another \$4.95 million override request for voters some time in February.

During this past Monday night's school committee meeting, there was a discussion on the override request.

Budget subcommittee Chair Gus Martucci said he was in favor of coming back to voters with a lower figure than the \$4.95

million that was rejected in November.

"I don't think we should be going back with the same number," said Martucci. "My recommendation at the meeting was to back out the \$1.6 million for the (education) stabilization (account) and do a \$3.4 million override."

Town Council President Jim Letterie said he agreed with Martucci's approach at Monday's school committee meeting. Letterie added that the school's could still put money into a stabilization account, just at a lower amount for the time-being.

Letterie said he would also be working with the council on some changes in financial policy about how the town allocates free cash so that it can contribute to the stabilization account.

"I think we have to work together a little harder with (Superintendent of Schools Lisa Howard), who has been working incredibly hard to find that every nickel and dime we can," said Letterie. "Going to a lower amount is not saying that we didn't need the money from the beginning. We still want to start a stabilization account for education, but we know what we need for next year, and we have to make the public aware of the consequences of getting nothing."

If a \$4.95 million override is rejected again, Letterie said it would have a huge effect on the children and the community.

"It would affect all departments, because the

town will have to make serious adjustments to try to help put in any way we can, which will have a ripple-down effect on every department," said Letterie. "I would rather go in with a lower amount realizing we are still doing everything we can."

Howard said when a school department enters a school year several million dollars below the current level with a budget that is primarily salary with little mandated expenses, it would lead to cuts in staffing.

"If you have to cut anywhere from two-and-a-half to three million dollars out of a salary budget, it is not as easy as taking the highest salaries and cutting those because teachers have professional status, there are rules around that," she said. "So when you are looking at teachers, it's sort of the lowest people on the totem pole."

Staffing cuts would mean class sizes would skyrocket, Howard said. Budget cuts could also lead to sizeable increases in fees for athletic and extracurricular programs, she said.

"No one is taking this lightly, it keeps me up at night really concerned about how we can make sure we get this through, regardless of what that looks like, because without it, we are really in big trouble," said school committee member Julie Barry. "I think we really need to articulate that extremely well and at a high level."

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News Briefs // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

3:00 p.m.

This free event will feature a visit and photo opportunities with Santa Claus, complimentary hot chocolate and cookies, holiday music, ship tours, and remarks from the ship's commanding officer.

Boarding of USS Constitution will begin at 3:00 p.m., and the event will conclude at 6:00 p.m.

Guests can witness the ship's gun firing during evening colors, a ceremony marking the lowering of the American flag at sunset, scheduled for 4:11 p.m.

The tree-lighting ceremony will commence at 4:30 p.m., photos with Santa Claus will be available immediately afterward.

USS Constitution is

open for free public visitation Wednesday through Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

As the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat and America's Ship of State, USS Constitution played a vital role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, safeguarding American sea lanes from 1797 to 1855.

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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Need a Mammogram?

If you are due for your breast cancer screening, please join us on **Dana-Farber's Mammography Van!** The American College of Radiology recommends a mammogram every year if you are age 40 or older.

Lawrence Larsen Rink
 45 Pauline Street, Winthrop, MA 02152
Wednesday, December 18
7 AM to 3:15 PM

The mammography van offers digital screenings (3D mammography). The van comes to you, and our friendly, professional staff provides easy access to a vital screening. The entire process takes less than 20 minutes.

Pre-registration is required. To schedule your mammogram or learn more, please register online, call 617-632-1974 or email mammo_van@dfci.harvard.edu.

This van day is hosted in conjunction with the Winthrop Department of Public Health & Clinical Services. Dana-Farber's Mammography Van possesses a valid license and certificate of inspection issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

HarborCOV
 Communities Overcoming Violence

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

HarborCOV is collecting toys for children ages 0-22 who have experienced domestic violence.

Many of these children would not otherwise have holiday gifts. Thanks for helping make the season brighter for them!

Please drop gifts off at:
Winthrop Department of Public Health
 45 Pauline Street, 1st floor
 Winthrop, MA

or
Larsen Rink Lobby
 Winthrop, MA

Please contact juliana@harborcov.org with any questions

www.harborcov.org

PRESIDENT: Stephen Quigley - stephen.quigley@reverejournal.com
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OUR Opinions

REMEMBER THE NEEDY ON YOUR SHOPPING LIST

Americans already have been spending a record amount of money thus far this holiday season, spurred on by the extended “Black Friday” (we are using air quotes because Black Friday sales began in early November), Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday shopping days.

However, amidst our zeal to find the “perfect” gifts for our family members and friends, we hope that our readers make the effort, no matter how small, to remember those in need this holiday season.

As we noted in this space two weeks ago, homelessness is at an all-time high in this country. For example, almost one-in-eight New York City school children experienced homelessness during the most recent school year.

The simple reality is that for far too many of our fellow Americans, the holidays bring little or no joy.

There are countless ways by which each of us can make the holidays brighter for those who are less fortunate, ranging from toy drives to food banks to Salvation Army Santas. With Christmas fast approaching because of the shortened holiday season, we urge everyone who has the ability to do so to make that small effort to help those for whom the holidays are just another day.

HOPEFULLY, MUSK WILL BRING US SELF-DRIVING CARS

Everyone concedes that Musk unquestionably is a visionary who already has revolutionized the automobile industry. He was named Time Magazine’s Person of the Year for the success of Tesla, which made electric vehicles available to the mass market. Tesla has done more than any other company in the world to address the existential threat of climate change caused by fossil-burning fuels.

Two months ago, Musk held a publicity event for the press and investors to showcase his plans for self-driving robo-taxis, which he said will be available by 2027. Self-driving vehicles will be powered by AI and Musk’s companies have committed to buying billions of dollars of AI computer chips from Nvidia, the American chip company founded by another visionary, Jensen Huang.

A few months back, we wrote of our visit to San Francisco and mentioned that we drove in autonomous electric taxis operated by Waymo, which was founded by Google. Our experience, as has been the case with everyone who has used Waymo, was amazing.

Waymo is now expanding to Los Angeles, Phoenix, Austin, Atlanta, and Florida and clearly is the industry leader in robo-taxis.

Self-driving electric vehicles represent the future -- and it is coming faster than anyone ever expected thanks to Nvidia, whose AI chips will be key to the revolution. Self-driving electric vehicles not only will be good for the planet, but they also will benefit each of us in our everyday lives -- they will be safer (all but eliminating the carnage that exists on our highways today), they will reduce our auto insurance and repair costs, and they will allow for greater independence for both the young and old for whom driver’s licenses are iffy propositions.

Although Waymo is doing great things with robo-taxis, a car manufacturer such as Tesla can scale-up production to meet the mass market. We would note here that GM tried the robo-taxi field with its Cruise fleet, but it presently is on hold because of safety issues.

Although Waymo already has a huge lead on Tesla, we have no doubt that once Elon Musk sets his mind to it, Tesla will catch up to -- and surpass -- Waymo. And, we hope, the sooner the better.

3A COMPLIANCE IS THE RIGHT PATH FOR WINTHROP

Dear Editor,
Recently, Town Council voted (4 to 3, 2 abstain) to reject the zoning plan recommended unanimously by the Planning Board to bring Winthrop into legal compliance with Section 3A/MBTA Communities Act. In doing this, the Town Council voted to violate Massachusetts state law -- a law signed by Charlie Baker with near unanimous approval by our state legislature.

Is this “No” vote truly a win for Winthrop? What happens next?

One possible outcome is that the Planning Board will be asked to propose another plan. After all, the recent “no” vote was not a

rejection of the law itself but of the plan put forward by the board. This endeavor would require a new overlay district to meet compliance; previously presented areas and plans are no longer viable.

Another scenario is that the State could appoint a “Special Master” to decide for us.

Currently, we are following Milton’s path: towards being out of compliance by our deadline (12/31/2024), and likely facing a lawsuit from the state Attorney General. Remember, Milton is a wealthier town than Winthrop and can more easily afford this. On top of this, the new economic package just signed by the governor places even more grants out of reach of those who are not in

compliance with MBTA 3A. Our community needs more state funding not less. How do our residents feel about paying high legal bills? Where will that money come from? Will our taxes rise significantly? With less aid from the Commonwealth we’ll certainly be faced with 2 and 1/2 overrides and requests for debt exclusions.

None of these scenarios are pleasant. In our view all of them are worse for the town than saying yes to Plan A. We can’t sugarcoat this: not complying with 3A will have negative long-term effects on the financial well-being of our town.

We have a zero-impact plan in front of us. The duty of the Town Council is to follow the law, and approve a common

sense plan crafted with Winthrop’s needs in mind. Once again, by refusing to approve a plan that gives us credit for our existing housing, the Town Council is not upholding state law.

The Town Council should revisit and approve the plan put forward by the Review Board. Then we can move on to address the many critical issues still facing our town. These include the town’s overall budget and the funding shortages facing the school system.

That would be the real win for Winthrop.

**Joe Aiello
Leonora Foley
Scott Mahoney-Wright
Cassie Witthaus
(Representing Winthrop Working Together)**

Fire Station // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Prior to Letterie attempting to move the issue forward Tuesday night, several councilors stated that they preferred the Walden Street location, citing the lower cost and the possibility to use the old middle school for economic development purposes.

“I think we have seen in the past votes that people are concerned about their financial wellbeing, so I think, looking at the difference in costs between these two projects, I think it is prudent to look at the Walden Street station very closely,” said Council Vice President Hannah Belcher. “I also agree that the Pauline Street site could be used for a variety of other things, whether it is some housing and economic stimulus for the town, so I personally am leaning toward the Walden Street site.”

Councilor-at-Large Rob DeMarco said he also preferred the Walden Street site, but said the town needs to have a backup plan in place in case voters once again reject a debt exclusion for a new fire station.

“Have we looked at refurbishing the firehouse if we don’t get the money and what the cost would be?” he asked. “What’s our backup plan if we don’t get the money?”

Town Manager Tony Marino noted that the two current fire stations do not

meet OSHA requirements and that there is not room to build on the sites.

However, Precinct 5 Councilor Joseph Aiello stated that the council should not vote on a site selection or debt exclusion vote at this time, citing what he called a lack of hard figures and plans for the firehouse options.

“I think there is a lot of information missing that ought to be made available to the council ... but my concern is that we don’t have (comparisons) from other communities of recent construction prices,” he said. “I think that raw data ought to be made available, because in reality, when we go for the debt exclusion, there is no cap, and if these things start spiraling to a higher cost, that is just going to be passed on to the taxpayer, and it is just going to really poison the waters for the next thing downstream.”

Aiello noted that the two recent revenue-raising items on the ballot, the fire station last year and a \$4.95 million school override in November, were defeated soundly by voters.

“We don’t why, we are flying blind, we haven’t done any surveys, we haven’t done any focus groups, we don’t know precisely why, and we’re coming back with bigger numbers and say let’s do it all over again,” Aiello

said.

Aiello also pointed to the future need for major flood and stormwater mitigation projects in the town.

“I think we should stop this discussion today and have a policy discussion about putting all of our needs together in a basket and thinking about a strategic approach to each one of them and move forward,” he said.

Precinct 2 Councilor John Munson said the council is doing the best it can to solve a lot of problems at once, with many of the needs coming in silos.

Munson said he also believes there needs to be a more strategic approach to addressing financial issues.

“There is no doubt that the fire station is a top, top priority, and I believe it should have been done the previous time,” said Munson. “As of right now, I don’t want to be part of prolonging this process, but at the same time, I do want to make sure we are looking at this as a big picture.”

Letterie said he didn’t agree with Aiello’s assertion that a debt exclusion would give the town a blank check for the cost of a new fire station.

“We don’t believe we have a blank check, this is the same way we just built three schools over the last 25 years, the same exact way,” said Letterie. “We

have a rendering here as we did a year ago. I think that we did get questions and feedback that we got was that upwards of 80 percent of the people in Winthrop feel that there is a need for a firehouse.

“From information that we got back there were two major problems with the first proposal, one was the location and two was the acquisition cost,” Letterie continued. “You could be wrong, you are never going to get a 100 percent answer, but that is what we felt were the reasons.”

Letterie said he was disappointed that there was no second to move forward with the firehouse site selection at Tuesday night’s meeting.

“This is an issue that has been discussed in town now for over 30 years, and the condition of our firehouses are absolutely, incredibly deplorable, they don’t even meet OSHA standards,” said Letterie. “We put the safety and security of not only our firefighters, but our town in jeopardy but not even allowing the citizens to decide on whether we should build a new fire station. Councilors have known about this for several months, they have seen the plans, they have seen the numbers -- the numbers don’t lie.”

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Showcase // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

conjunction with Eastie Elves, is asking that visitors bring unwrapped toys for kids in our neighborhood.

We are also asking people to enter our East Boston Holiday Decoration contest. Any home that wishes to enter should email Eric Hess at erichessphoto@gmail.com. We will go to the homes listed during the week of

December 9th and award what we feel are our favorite homes. Winner will be announced at our Third Thursday reception on December 19th. Winners will be highlighted on our social media.

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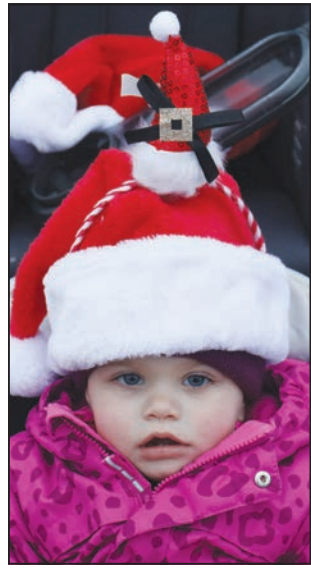
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THE WINTHROP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WELCOMES SANTA AT ANNUAL FRENCH SQUARE TREE LIGHTING

Last Friday was Black Friday for most shoppers, but in the Town of Winthrop is marked the annual arrival of Santa and the lighting of French Square. Local children performed early in the afternoon to a capacity crowd filling French Square. Businesses in the area opened their doors and passed out holiday treats, and Santa was available for photo opportunities before he made his grand entrance, courtesy of the Winthrop Fire Department with an escort by the Winthrop Police Department.



Grace Finn borrowed Santa's hat for the event in French Square.



Dancers from the Winthrop School of Performing Arts await their turn to perform for family and friends.



Emanoela Novak and Grace McCurdy with Santa.



Students of Jessica Gordon's Dance Studio prepare to entertain the crowd gathered in French Square last Friday afternoon.



The Ottaziano's, Rosemarie and Peter were at the tree lighting with Santa.



Frosty the Snowman was in French Square taking a photo opportunity with some of the many children in attendance.



Enjoying the festivities, Ayannah Karuna-Rothne, Gabriella Blamer, Cameron Bauer, and Stella Sciaraffa.



Santa was the most popular guy in Winthrop last Friday night.



The Viking Longship's program members, Hayden Oster, David Restrepo, and Stella Osburn.



Santa with Skye Pasquariello.

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THE WINTHROP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WELCOMES SANTA AT ANNUAL FRENCH SQUARE TREE LIGHTING



Marie Finn and family with Santa in French Square.



Students from Cervezzi School of Martial Arts performed for the crowd.



Hope and Joy Shrewsberry are all smiles waiting for Santa.



Alana Farmer with Christian and Alexia.



Warm hats from the Winthrop Fire Department were available from Erin Delaney and Firefighter Pat Delaney.



Santa thanked the Winthrop Police Officers for their escort to the Chamber of Commerce Annual Tree Lighting.



Santa is joined by Winthrop Chamber President Marc Chapdelaine, State Rep. Jeff Turco, Winthrop Town Manager Tony Marino, and Chamber Executive Director Betsy Shane.



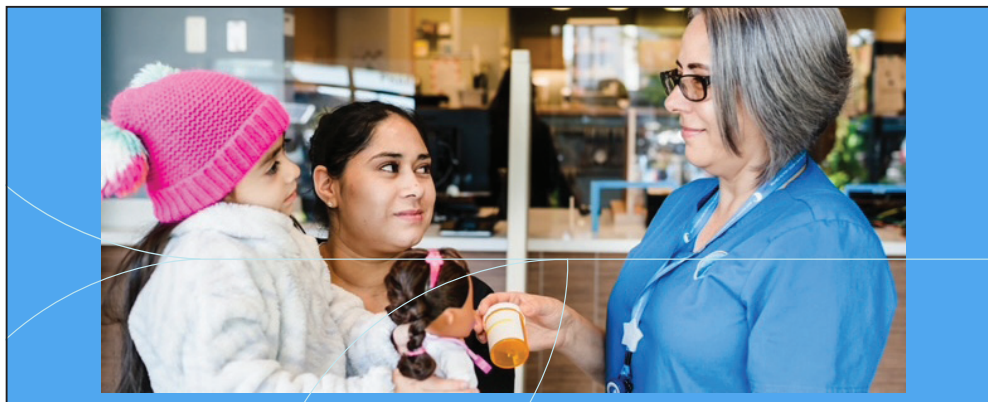
Santa arrives in French Square thanks to the Winthrop Fire Department.



Executive Director of the Winthrop Chamber of Commerce Betsy Shane (right) with Santa and Linda Kalogris and Paula Flaherty.



With a flick of his finger the decorative lighting in Winthrop's French Square lit up the night for the holiday season.



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Sports

Vikings dominate in Thanksgiving Day triumph

By Transcript Staff

Neither rain, nor wind, nor cold, nor slippery turf -- nor their Revere opponents -- could deter coach

Jon Cadigan and his band of determined Vikings from capturing the Beachcomber Trophy for a third straight year with a 25-0 shutout of their archrival

Patriots on Thanksgiving morning at Miller Field.

Mother Nature appeared to be in a semi-cooperative mood as the teams went through their

pre-game drills, but a sputtering rain that began to fall just as the foes lined up for the opening kickoff eventually became a steady downpour by half-time.

The Viking defense provided an early preview of coming attractions, forcing a three-and-out on Revere's opening possession that netted the Patriots minus four yards. The ensuing Revere punt from the Patriot 18 into the strong wind that was blowing directly into the punter traveled only 17 yards, setting up the Vikings at the Revere 35.

Winthrop quickly moved to the Revere 15, with a 15 yard pick-up by senior captain Will Murphy (whose slashing runs accounted for big gains all day -- Will finished as



HEELS OVER HEAD: Will Murphy (2) celebrates with a somersault after his touchdown made the score 24-0 late in the fourth quarter. The official, though he seems amused, flagged Winthrop for 'excessive celebration' on the play.

the team's second leading rusher this season with 598 yards on 88 carries) on third-and-five accounting for most of the damage. But after junior Sean Dolen (who finished as

Winthrop's third leading rusher this season with 400 yards on 47 carries) gained three yards on first down, a 15-yard personal

See FOOTBALL Page 8

WHS legend Steve Miles was on hand for Revere-Winthrop game

By Transcript Staff

Among the Winthrop fans who braved the elements to root on the Vikings on Thanksgiving Day against archrival Revere was WHS football great Steve Miles (WHS Class of 1952) who made the annual trek on the holiday from his home in Houston, Texas.

Miles, who played full-back and middle linebacker under head coach Ed MacFarland, led the 1951 Winthrop football team to

its best-season ever to that point with an 8-1-1 record and a share of the Northeastern Conference title with Amesbury.

Miles set what was then a new WHS scoring record with 105 points, but was better known as a ferocious linebacker who was feared by opposing teams. Miles played college football at Cornell and led the Big Red to a victory over Syracuse which had a player by the name of Jimmy Brown. According to press reports at the

time, Miles was assigned to shadow Brown --and tackled the future NFL great 17 times in Cornell's 14-6 victory.

Miles, who was inducted into the Winthrop High Hall of Fame's inaugural class in 1991, was recognized with an announcement over the PA system between the first and second periods.

"On hand for today's game is WHS football great Steve Miles, from the WHS Class of 1952, who led the Winthrop football team to its first-ever co-championship of the Northeastern Conference in 1951. Steve set the scoring record for Winthrop that year with 105 points. He also was a ferocious middle linebacker, a position he played at Cornell University, where he once had the assignment of covering Syracuse great Jimmy Brown. In addition, Steve was an outstanding basketball player, leading Winthrop to an NEC title in 1952. He was elected to the first WHS Hall of Fame Class in 1991."



Among the Winthrop fans on hand for the Thanksgiving Day game with Revere at Miller Field was Viking football legend Steve Miles (second from right) who made his annual trek from Houston, Texas with his sons Edward (far left) and Steve Jr. (far right). Also pictured is nephew Jack Quigley (second from left).



STAYING IN WINTHROP: Winthrop players hoist The Beachcomber Trophy, awarded to the winner of the Revere-Winthrop Thanksgiving Day game, that will stay in the Vikings' trophy case for the third straight year following Winthrop's 25-0 victory during a rainy Thanksgiving morning battle. See more photos on Page 8.

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SCENES FROM THE WINTHROP-REVERE THANKSGIVING GAME



SPIRITS UNDAAMPENED: The rain did nothing to dampen the Winthrop cheerleader's joy as they celebrate the Vikings final score of their 25-0 Thanksgiving Day victory over rival Revere.



SAFE ARRIVAL: Seth Sacco (0) cruises past the Revere defense and into the end zone for a touchdown that put Winthrop ahead 12-0 in the third quarter.

Football // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

foul penalty against the Vikings set Winthrop back to the 27. Winthrop never recovered from the second-and-22 situation, and eventually turned the ball over on downs at the Revere 35.

The Winthrop defense once again proved unyielding. The Vikings stuffed the Revere ball carriers both up the middle and on the edges, and took over on downs at the Revere 43 after stopping the Pats on a fourth-and-two play on which Revere obviously felt its chances for a first down were better than attempting another punt into the wind.

This time the Vikings did not waste their opportunity, marching the 43 yards to paydirt in just six plays. Murphy went around the left end for 15 yards to the Revere 28 and, after a procedure penalty, junior Seth Sacco, who was a hard-driving force all day (Seth was the Vikes' top ground-gainer this season with 841 yards on 124 carries), fought for six yards on two carries, setting up a third-and-nine at the Revere 27.

The Vikings then took advantage of the wind at their backs, with senior quarterback and captain Matthew Noonan delivering a perfect strike in a tight window on a slant to sophomore Michael D'Ambrosio for 18 yards to the Revere nine.

Sacco fought for six tough yards to the Revere three on first down, from where Noonan snuck into the endzone behind his line with 0:59 left in the opening period for a 6-0 lead (the PAT kick failed).

The Revere offense finally showed some signs of life with the change of field as the teams moved into the second period. The Patriots, starting at their own 28, racked up two first downs and got as far as the Winthrop 45 before the Winthrop defense forced a punt.

This time the Patriot punter got off a nice boot, sending the ball into the endzone and leaving the Vikings to start at their own 20. The next sequence of plays would prove to be the turning point in the game.

Winthrop moved the ball to its own 40 -- another 15 yard rip by Murphy was the big gainer -- but a fumble turned the ball over to Revere at the Winthrop 44. After a run for three yards on first down, a pass in the flat from Revere quarterback Danny Hou to Yousef Benhamou turned into a 29 yard gain down the left sideline, setting up Revere with a first down at the Winthrop 12.

A seven yard run up the middle by Geo Woodward moved the ball to the five for a second-and-three. Hou then attempted a sweep on a keeper around right end, but Sacco shed his blocker at the edge. Seth not only swallowed-up Hou, but the big hit forced a fumble that was recovered by sophomore teammate Riley Moccio at the 13.

Sacco's defensive effort snuffed out what would prove to be Revere's one and only foray into Viking territory for the remainder of the game. A long Winthrop drive that concluded the first half at the Revere 24 foreshadowed a pair of lengthy, ball-control, and time-consuming Winthrop marches (63 and 50 yards) in the second half that resulted in Winthrop touchdowns by Sacco (from six yards out) and Noonan (from the one). A pair of two-point attempts failed after both scores.

The Vikings applied the coup de grace in the waning minutes of the contest after a net 10-yard Revere punt from the Patriot 20 into the wind set up Winthrop at the Revere 30, with Murphy deservedly getting the final call and hitting paydirt from one yard out. Sophomore Domenic Spinale kicked the PAT for the final point of the game.

The victory capped a successful season for Cadigan and his crew, who finished the year with a 7-4 record in which they qualified for the post-season state playoffs. The win also increased Winthrop's lead in the series with Revere, which began in 1913, to 60-32-3. (There were two periods of cessation in the series in the 1920s-30s and the 1940s-50s.)



END OF THE RUN: Nick Romano (8) chases down and pushes Revere's Yousef Benhamou out of bounds during second-quarter action.



GROUND FORCE: Will Murphy (2) finds running room as Gabe Grein (54) makes sure the path is clear.



HOP AND SKIP: Sean Dolen (5) picks his way through the Revere defense during the Vikings opening drive of the third quarter that ended with a touchdown that made the score 12-0.



HE'S IN: Matt Noonan (6) crosses the goal line and lands in the end zone for a Winthrop touchdown that made the score 6-0 in the first quarter. The Viking defense made sure that TD stood up as they shut out Revere and the Vikings ran off with a 25-0 Thanksgiving Day victory before a rain-soaked crowd at Miller Field. The game marked the second year in a row that the Vikings defense shut out Revere in the annual rivalry game.



GOOD BELT: Will Murphy (2) runs out of a tackle effort by Revere's Charles Dobre... (while his belt helps make sure the entertainment on the field is limited to football.)



GOOD GRIP: Michael D'Ambrosio (12) holds on to the ball as he is hit by Revere's Gio Woodard after catching a third-down pass that gave Winthrop a first down on the Revere seven-yard line and set up Winthrop's first score.



In the press box for the Winthrop-Revere game on Thanksgiving Day were (from the front) official timekeeper Mark Lento; PA announcer Steve Skoboleff, who has been the Voice of the Vikings for the past dozen years; and statistician John Shea.



Ready for the cold weather with their Winthrop Viking blanket at the Thanksgiving Day game to root on WHS captain Gabe Grein were family members (l-r) David, Maria, and Miya Grein.



The youngest Winthrop fan on hand for the game on Thanksgiving Day was two-year old Briley Cadigan, the youngest child of WHS head coach Jon Cadigan, who was with her mom, Fallon, and grandfather Joseph DiPlatzi, both of whom are Revere High grads. (Although Fallon firmly is a Viking rooter these days, her dad, a member of the RHS Class of 1975, said he "roots for both teams" on Thanksgiving Day.)



Viking fans on hand for the Winthrop-Revere game were (l-r) Ella Gorman, Bill Gorman, and Jen Gorman.



Winthrop High fans Denise, Ava, and Christopher Beshere Sr. were on hand for the Thanksgiving Day game to root on son Chris Jr. and his Viking teammates in their battle with Revere.

THE WHS VIKINGS BOYS' SOCCER PARENTS CLUB HOSTS AWARDS NIGHT

Last Tuesday evening the parents club of the WHD Boys' Soccer Team hosted a break-up dinner and awards night in the WHS Cafeteria.

The team under the direction of Head Coach Phil Ronan and Asst. Coaches Alex Brown and Leif Faber (JV) had a 7-10-1 regular season record, bringing them into the play-off round. The Vikings had made it to the play-offs the last two years in a row and look forward to a successful season in 2025.



Head Coach Phil Ronan, Asst. Coaches Alex Brown and Leif Faber with the WHS Viking Boys Varsity Soccer Team.



Coach Leif Faber and the WHS JV Boys Soccer Team.



The graduating senior of the WHS Boys Varsity Soccer Team. Front row: Wyatt Teixeira, Capt. Sebastian Yepes, Christian Bower, and Aaron Armitstead. Back row: Asst. Coach Alex Brown, Luigi Santalucia, Samuel Acero, Eron Muja, Lazzaro DeOliveira, JV Coach Leif Faber, and Head Coach Phil Ronan.



The Coaches Award went to Aaron Armitstead and Lazzaro DeOliveira, presented by Head Coach Phil Ronan, Asst. Coach Alex Brown and Leif Faber.



The Rookie of the Year went to Jackson Faber, presented by Coaches Phil Ronan, Alex Brown and Leif Faber.



The WHS Viking Captains, Senior Sebastian Yepes and Junior Noah Bayersdorfer. Senior Captain Yepes will be moving on to college, and Captain Bayersdorfer will remain a captain for the 2025 season.



Thanks to the Viking Coaches for a great season, Natalie Bayersdorfer and Gillian Teixeira present team photos to the coaches, Leif Faber, Phil Ronan, and Alex Brown.



The Unsung Hero Award went to Matthew Maddalone.



The MVP for the 2024 Season went to Senior Captain Sebastian Yepes, shown with coaches Faber, Ronan, and Brown.

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Michael Coleman

Thirty-six year veteran of the Massachusetts State Police

Michael F. Coleman passed away November 24, 2024, peacefully at home, following a brief illness, surrounded by his loving family. Formerly of Winthrop, North Andover and most recently of North Fort Myers, FL., he was the beloved husband of Jacqueline for 29 years, the devoted father of his cherished daughter, Abby Coleman of Nashville, TN, and son, Michael Coleman of Fort Myers, FL. Mike was deeply loved by his three sisters, Mary A. Coleman of Winthrop, Diane F. Fitzpatrick and her husband, William of Boston and the late Kathleen A. Corcoran and her husband, William of Winthrop. He was predeceased by his parents, Mary and Frank Coleman of Winthrop. Uncle Mike was truly and uniquely loved by his nieces, nephew, grandnieces, and grandnephew. Mike was a dedicated husband, father, and uncle who always put family first.

Mike was a Northeastern University alumnus and a 36-year veteran of the Massachusetts State Police. Over the course of his distinguished career, Mike became a highly regarded expert in firearms identification rising to the rank of Detective Lieutenant in command of the



MA State Police Ballistics Unit for many years. He was immensely respected by the troopers in his unit and broadly recognized throughout the MA State Police as a leader, mentor, colleague and above all, a friend.

Mike embraced retirement in Florida working with friends at Suncoast Security, maintaining his gym routine, golfing, and riding his motorcycles.

His engaging personality was imbued with a positive outlook and hearty laugh that could fill a room. His sense of humor and love of family will be treasured and missed by all.

Funeral arrangements are to be handled by the Ernest P. Caggiano & Son Funeral Home in Winthrop. The services will be private. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society in honor of Mike at <https://www.cancer.org/>.

Leo "Sonny" Coluntino

President of Local #402 International Union of Painters and Allied Trades and Union President for District Council #35 for over 20 years



Leo "Sonny" Coluntino, 90, of Beachmont, Revere, formerly of East Boston, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at Massachusetts General Hospital on November 27, 2024.

Born on September 6, 1934 in Boston, he was the beloved son of the late Helen (Frongillo) and Ralph Coluntino; the devoted husband of the late Mary (DelGrosso) Coluntino, and the loving father of Dena Alioto and her late husband, David of Winthrop and Nancy Finnegan and her husband, Douglas of Peabody; cherished "Papa" to Tyler, Ali and her husband, Alex, Jade and Ava Lee; dear brother to Joseph Coluntino and his wife, Terese of Stoneham, the late Ralph Coluntino and his wife, Madilyn, and the late Barbara Martello and her companion, James. He is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Leo was a member of the United States Navy. Following his military service, he joined the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades as a painter in 1957. He was first elected as a Union



Trustee, then the President of Local #402, along with the Union President for District Council #35 for over 20 years. Above all, he'll forever be remembered as the most devoted husband, father, and grandfather, whose guidance and support shaped the lives of his family.

His family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Leo's extraordinary caregivers (Donna, Giovanni, Laura, Nadine, Leonard, Demitria) and Dr. John Niles from MGH for their unwavering support.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Caggiano-O'Maley-Frazier Funeral Home, Winthrop. Interment was in the Belle Isle section of Winthrop Cemetery.

For more information or to sign the online guestbook, go to www.caggianofuneralhome.com.

Patrick Everett

Master Woodworker

Patrick Everett, 75, of Winthrop peacefully passed away at home after a long illness on November 18, 2024.

Patrick is survived by his wife Deborah Scarbo, his brother C J Everett and his wife, Carole and sister, Kathleen Ismail and her husband, Usman. He was the brother-in-law of Joseph and Michele Scarbo, James and Nancy Scarbo and Daniel and Gail Scarbo and is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Patrick was a master woodworker and operated a successful cabinet-making and restoration business for over 45 years. He was known for his fine craftsmanship and precision. He was the founder of EMWG, Eastern Massachusetts Woodworking



Guild and was its president for many years.

He was passionate about boating and spent his summers navigating and exploring. He was happiest with a boat full of people on a sunny day in Boston Harbor.

A Celebration of Life will be held in January.

To sign the online guestbook, go to www.caggianofuneralhome.com.

ABCC kicks off

'Operation Safe Holidays'

Special o the Transcript

To ensure safety for everyone in Massachusetts during the holidays, the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) will be conducting alcohol enforcement at local bars in Massachusetts cities and towns through New Year's Eve.

In doing so, the ABCC hopes to prevent accidents caused by impaired driving and other alcohol-related harm that often occurs at this time of year. The ABCC will work with municipal police departments and focus enforcement efforts at bars that have been identified as the last to sell alcohol to a convicted drunk driver and other high-risk locations.

"It is extremely important to deter bars from over-serving and prevent problems before they happen," said State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg, who oversees the ABCC. "We want to keep people safe and make sure everyone can enjoy the holidays with their family and friends, avoiding tragedies before they occur."

The program is run in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Impaired Driving Crackdown, from Thanksgiving Eve through New Year's Eve, and is funded through the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security - Highway Safety Division.

According to the NHTSA, from 2017 to 2021, 137 drivers involved in fatal crashes on Thanksgiving Eve (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.), also known as 'Blackout Wednesday,' were alcohol impaired. In 2021 alone, 36 drivers were in fatal crashes on that day. Also, from 2017 to 2021, young drivers ages 21-24 represented the largest percentage of drivers involved in deadly crashes. The message before Thanksgiving is simple - the NHTSA says to stop the blackout trend on Wednesday.

Alcohol is involved in 40 percent of traffic crash fatalities, resulting in 17,013 fatalities and injuring an estimated 275,000 people annually. Data indicates that well over 50% of impaired driving arrests originate at bars.

Winthrop Senior Center News

35 Harvard Street, Winthrop, MA 02152

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 8:30am-3:30p.m. / Friday: 8:30am-

1p.m. Phone: 617-846-8538

Website: www.town.winthrop.ma.us

Email: COARception@town.winthrop.ma.us

A full list of the activities, programs, trips, and services offered at the Senior Center can be found in the newsletter, which is available at the Senior Center and on our website.

Monday, December 9

9:00am-3:00pm: Computer Usage
10:00am-11:00am: Yoga with Trish (\$5)
11:00am: Grab & Go Lunch Pick-Up
11:30am-2:30pm: Game Day / Mahjong

Tuesday, December 10

9:00am-3:00pm: Computer Usage
9:30am-10:30am: Exercise Class (\$1)
10:00am: Bowling at the Winthrop Elks (\$15.00 annually)
11:00am: Grab & Go Lunch Pick-Up
12:00pm-3:00pm: Senior Center Movie Day
12:30pm-2:30pm: Art Class with Dawn (\$6)

Wednesday, December 11

9:00am-3:00pm: Computer Usage
9:15am-10:15am: Yoga with Trish (\$5)
10:30am-11:30am: Zumba with Cindy (\$5)
11:00am: Grab & Go Lunch Pick-Up
11:45am-12:45pm: Tai Chi / Qi Gong (\$5)
12:00am-1:00pm: Lunch & Learn-Meet the Clear Team
1:15pm-2:45pm: Italian Class

Thursday, December 12

9:00am-3:00pm: Computer Usage
9:30am-10:30am: Exercise Class (\$1)
10:30am-12:00pm: Council on Aging Meeting
10:30am-11:30am: Seaside Tappers (\$5)
12:00pm-12:30pm: Dine-In / Grab & Go

Lunch Pick-Up
12:45pm-3:00pm: Bingo

Friday, December 13

9:00am-12:00pm: Computer Usage
9:00am-10:00am: Yoga with Trish (\$5)
10:00am-11:00am: Line Dancing (\$5)
11:00am: Grab & Go Lunch Pick-Up
11:30am-12:30pm: Creative Writing



Senior Lunch Program: The Senior Center offers in-person dining on Thursdays from 12-12:30pm. Grab and Go Lunches are also available for pick up Monday - Friday between 11am and 1pm. To reserve a lunch, please stop by the front desk or call the Senior Center at 617-846-8538 by 11am the day before (for Monday lunch, reservations must be made by 11am on Friday). Menus are available on our website and at the Senior Center. Please note, lunches cannot be held overnight; they must be picked up on the day that they were requested for.

Senior Van. The Senior Van runs Monday - Thursday from 8:45am-3pm. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis, and can be made by calling the Senior Center at least two weekdays prior to the desired date. Rides to medical appointments will be prioritized. A list of destinations and pricing is available on our website and in our newsletter.

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Winthrop High hockey team is spreading holiday cheer on and off the ice

Special to the Transcript

The Winthrop High School Viking hockey team recently joined forces with the Mi-Amore Food Pantry to make the holidays brighter for local families. Team members

volunteered their time to load trucks with turkeys and Thanksgiving fixings, personally delivering the items to families' homes. This heartfelt effort is just one example of how the Viking hockey boys are making a positive impact

in the community. In addition to their Thanksgiving initiative, the team is partnering with CASA for a toy donation drive to support families affected by domestic violence. Community members are encouraged to



Shown left to right, Stephen Lindinger, Nolan Upton, Robbie Biancardi, Jay Fotiades, Aiden Survilas, Captain Michael Holgersen, Coach Dale Dunbar, Captain Michael Donahue.



The Winthrop High School Hockey team.

contribute to this cause by dropping off new, unwrapped toys in the donation box located at the hockey rink. The deadline for toy donations is December 15.

As the holiday season gets underway, the Viking boys are also gearing up to kick off their hockey season this week. Fans are invited to come down to the Lawrence Larson Rink at the Mike Eruzione Center in Winthrop to cheer on the team and show their support. It's a great opportunity to enjoy a game while celebrating the team's dedication to both the sport and their community.



THE MORE Things Change ...

Items selected from past issues of the Winthrop Sun, The Winthrop Review, The Winthrop Visitor, The Transcript and The Sun-Transcript

10 years ago December 3, 2014

The Town Council settled several financial matters Tuesday night, transferring \$340,000 from the town's Capital Stabilization Fund and from free cash to pay for everything from new voting booths to a new public works truck. Twelve-year-old Heather Buccini of Winthrop is set to perform in Boston Children's Theatre's production of The Velveteen Rabbit Friday at Endicott College's Manninen Center for the Arts in Beverly. It has been a busy year for the talented young actress. Heather has appeared in the Winthrop Playmakers' production of Alice in Wonderland as Alice, in Miracle on 34th Street at the Stoneham Theater, and in Where the Mountain Meets the Moon at the Wheelock Family Theater.

the first-ever John and Abigail Adams Scholarships for free tuition to state colleges and universities by receiving scores rated as advanced on at least one part of the MCAS exams.

The selectmen voted this week to set a higher tax rate for commercial properties, which is permissible under state law, so as to maintain parity with residential property.

The Holy Rosary Church held its annual Live Nativity celebration this past week.

30 years ago December 22, 1994

The selectmen once again took up the issue of the past-due water bills owed to the town by the defunct Winthrop Hospital, which now total more than \$100,000. The selectmen initially addressed the issue in 1991, when the hospital owed \$18,000, sparking a heated discussion between selectmen Robert Noonan and Richard Bangs. Bangs, who at the time was a member of the hospital's Board of Trustees, angrily assured his colleagues that the hospital would pay its bills. However, with the hospital now out of business after two years in bankruptcy court, it appears highly unlikely that the town will recoup any of the water bills owed

which have now grown to over \$100,000.

Santa has announced the route for his annual ride through the town atop a Winthrop Fire Department truck.

The selectmen have appointed four new police officers, Stephen Acone, Stephen Rogers, Michael McManus Jr., and Judy Racow.

The Avery Porch on Woodside Ave. once again is a main holiday attraction for youngsters.

The Appeals Board heard petitions from nine property owners seeking to convert their presently-illegal apartments into legal use. The board approved five of the petitions, despite opposition from abutters who said that the board was disregarding the "hardship" necessity for approval of a multi-unit petition.

40 years ago December 19, 1984

The state says it will come up with a temporary solution to the flooding problem in Beachmont to give Revere and Winthrop officials the chance to study the possible problem of pollution in Belle Isle Marsh surrounding the use of the pumping station at Sales Creek. Winthrop officials have claimed that the Sales Creek station will pump polluted effluent into the creek that will find its way downstream to Belle Isle.

School Committee Chairman Richard Gill has announced that he will not be a candidate for re-election.

Santa has announced that he will make his annual tour of the town on December 24 atop a fire truck.

Winthrop Hospital conducted a successful mock disaster drill this past week.

50 years ago December 23, 1974

Winthrop resident Joseph Faretra was sworn in as the new Clerk Magistrate of the East Boston District Court by Gov. Francis W. Sargent. Fare-

tra served as the patronage secretary for Sargent, a Republican, who has made numerous lame-duck appointments to the judiciary since his defeat in November by Democrat Michael Dukakis.

Santa has announced that he will make his annual tour of the town, accompanied by the police and fire departments, on Christmas Eve.

60 years ago December 24, 1964

No opposition was voiced to a proposal to build a 72-unit apartment building on Veterans Rd., while some 40 residents spoke in favor of the project at a hearing before the Appeals Board. Atty. Harold Katz, representing the developer, said that the current business zoning of the property, located near Coral Ave., has outlived its usefulness and that the land is more appropriate for use as a modern apartment building.

In a statement issued by chairman William Dimento, the Winthrop Recreation Study Committee that was created by Town Meeting has recommended that the Park Commission be abolished and that its duties be turned over to the Recreation Commission.

Personnel Board Chairman Harry Shell announced this week that his board will be recommending a five percent raise for all town employees.

70 years ago December 23, 1954

A Townsend St. couple, George and Anne Locke, were trapped and seriously injured by an explosion in a garage at 12 Whittier St. when it collapsed on them. Mrs. Theresa Johnson, who immediately called the police, helped rescue Mrs. Locke.

The Winthrop High band and glee club will give a Christmas concert in the high school auditorium December 23.

Winthrop AmVetsPost 48 will provide transportation for a ride around town by Santa on Christmas

Eve. Commuters who park at the MTA parking lots at either Orient Heights or Beachmont will pay 61 cents for parking and a round trip ticket into Boston.

Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, and Danny Kaye star in White Christmas at the Winthrop Theatre.

80 years ago December 23, 1944

More than 50 children were guests of the Rotary Club at its second annual Christmas Party held in the barn of the Deane Winthrop House.

The Winthrop High senior class packed the house at the Odd Fellows Hall for two nights for their production of the comedy show, June Mad.

The New York Chain Store, located at 347-349 Shirley St., features Winthrop's biggest toyland.

John Wayne stars in Tall in the Saddle at the Winthrop and State Theatres.

90 years ago December 22, 1934

Local Boy Scouts celebrated a year of achievement with their annual Court of Honor session held at the junior high school gymnasium next week.

Through the efforts of Eliot and Whittier, the heirs of the estate of Edith L. Floyd will be razing the three buildings of the former Floyd Milk plant on Buchanan St.

James Cagney stars in The St. Louis Kid at the Winthrop and State Theatres.

100 years ago December 27, 1924

Winthrop residents have expressed their support for the recently-filed bill that will provide construction of a bridge across Boston Harbor from East Boston to Boston.

The Winthrop Board of Trade takes great pride in announcing that it is the sponsor of the town's community Christmas tree in Metcalfe Square.

110 years ago December 26, 1914

The new bridge between Winthrop and East Boston isn't quite complete yet as a portion of the old bridge must be taken away first, although the new bridge was open for traffic last week. Selectman Remby was the first to pass over the bridge in an automobile.

Winthrop presently has three motion picture houses, with a fourth under construction.

120 years ago December 24, 1904

The lot of land on Shirley St. formally was transferred to the town this week on which the new fire house will be built.

The opening of the East Boston tunnel last week marks the latest development by the Boston Elevated Railway Co. to bring the most modern rapid transit service in America to the Boston Metropolitan area.

130 years ago December 22, 1894

Patrons of the local telephone line have cause to congratulate themselves for the prompt, pleasant, and reliable manner in which they are served by Mr. Olmsted and his girl, Miss L.M. Stuart of Winthrop.

Winthrop must secure for itself a clean and steady water supply or its real estate values will deteriorate.

The total number of books presently at the library is 10,494.

140 years ago December 26, 1884

The Inspectors of Hay have tendered their resignations to the Board of Selectmen after the selectmen moved the hay bales to a new location that is inconvenient for the current hay inspectors.

There is talk that the railroad might extend all the way to Pt. Shirley this year. This is important to the town because our future prosperity depends upon the railroad service to Winthrop.

Winthrop Improvement & Historical Association's

Holiday Open House

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10am to 2pm

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LEGAL NOTICES



LEGAL NOTICE
December 19, 2024: Case 015-2024.
Notice is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws and

Chapter 17 of the Code of the Town of Winthrop that the Winthrop Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, October 24, 2024, at

or after 6:30 p.m. held in the Harvey Hearing Room upon the application of person requesting: 50 Somerset Avenue Faretra Family Trust-

46 Bellevue Avenue, Winthrop, MA 02152
This meeting is a continuance of a prior proposal. The Applicant proposes a four-story

mixed-use building in the CBD with construction of 20 residential units and a retail space. The project is within 10 feet of residential and will

require a variance for elevation. The public is invited to attend, and interested parties shall have an opportunity to be heard.

Copies of the application and plans are on file and available to review at the Town Hall Planning Office, Room 2A, Winthrop Town Hall.

Darren Baird, Chairman
Denise Quist, Town Clerk
Winthrop Board of Appeals
12/5/2024 W

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FOR KIDS ONLY AFTERSCHOOL HOLDS HELPING FAMILIES GALA

Cary Shuman Photos

For Kids Only Afterschool held its 2024 Helping Families Gala Nov. 15 at the Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor.

Executive Director Deborah Kneeland Keegan, who co-founded FKO in 1984 in Winthrop, welcomed the large gathering to the elegant gala.

A highly respected pioneer who recognized the importance of afterschool programming to meet the needs of children, Kneeland Keegan thanked the many guests and event sponsors for their ongoing support of For Kids Only.

Through that generous support, FKO meets its mission of providing high-quality out-of-time learning and care for more than 1,500 school-age children in the communities of Winthrop, Revere, Chelsea, Everett, and Pea-



FKO Executive Director Deborah Kneeland Keegan prepares to deliver her opening remarks to the many guests at the gala.

body.

At the gala, the guests enjoyed a social hour and a dinner consisting of mixed greens salad, herb-roasted Airline Chicken, Parmesan Risotto, natural jus, and Chef's Choice seasonal vegetables, followed by dessert.

FKO Chelsea Middle School participants delivered a poem while FKO Revere participants performed songs during the program.

Paul Maglio of Storage Auction Solutions led the live auction for some exciting gift packages ranging from sports to travel.

DJ Kurt Millar, of Cuzzi Sound Entertainment, provided the music at the event.

Deborah Kneeland Keegan is the mother of former Winthrop High School sports great Bobby Kneeland, FKO Deputy Director Brianna Kneeland Flannery, and FKO Director of Development Nicole Kneeland Preston, who did an outstanding job leading the organizational team for the gala.

Congratulations to Deborah Kneeland Keegan and FKO for 40 years of excellence.



Winthrop High hockey great Brian Crombie (far left), whose clutch goal kept the Vikings undefeated on their way to the 1976 Division 1 state championship, is pictured with Sherry Crombie, Jennifer Crombie, Chris Crombie, Bethany Sanders, and Zach Sanders, at the FKO Helping Families Gala.



FKO Revere vocalist performers, pictured with Directors Nick Jean Baptiste and Jenny Ruiz.



Marianne Zizzo, Vinnie Zizzo, and Emma Zizzo.



FKO Executive Director Deborah Kneeland Keegan welcomes Sen. Sal DiDomenico and his wife, Tricia DiDomenico, to the gala.



For Kids Only Afterschool personnel stop by the photo booth at the Helping Families Gala.



FKO Executive Director Deborah Kneeland Keegan, Director of Operations Chris Crombie, and Deputy Director Brianna Flannery welcome Everett Supt. of Schools Bill Hart and Chelsea Supt. of Schools Dr. Almi Abeyta to the Helping Families Gala.



FKO Board Members Ron Vecchia and Linda Vecchia.



Winthrop High's all-time basketball great and prominent attorney Chris Tsiotos (back row, right) joined a table of distinguished guests, including Precinct 2 Councilor John Munson (front row, right), former Board of Health Chair Bill Schmidt (back row, second from right), Louis Hinckley, Felioe, Matthew Daniels, Jennifer Daniels, Leah Tennen, and Eric Tennen, at the Helping Families Gala.



FKO Board Member Michelle Hagerty (far left) with Fran Bates, Marissa Bates, Colin Bates, Amanda Dias, and Joe Diaz.



FKO Board Vice President Dr. Bobbie Finoccio (right) and Danny McNamara.



The First Family of For Kids Only, former Winthrop High School star athlete Bobby Kneeland, Executive Director Deborah Kneeland Keegan, Deputy Director Brianna Flannery, and Director of Development Nicole Preston.



Chelsea Site Director Johanna Cline, Director of Operations Chris Crombie, Winthrop Site Assistant Director Serena Page, and Jimmy Nigro.

*'Tis the Season for
Winthrop
Christmas Kids*

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BY THURS. DEC. 19

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