

Letterie makes annual State of the Town address

By Adam Swift

The will and determination of the town is very strong, Town Council President James Letterie declared Tuesday night during the annual State of the Town address.

Letterie reflected upon the activity in Winthrop over the past 12 months, and sought to clearly define the goals for the Town Council in the coming year, including moving forward with a plan for a new fire station.

The Council President kicked off his address by thanking the town's staff, as well as its boards and committees, for helping the town function.

"They provide us comfort and safety, they educate our children and

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2022 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship recipients from Winthrop High School.

WHS students receive John and Abigail Adams Scholarship

The Winthrop School Committee is proud to announce this year's recipients of the Abigail Adams Scholarship. The students were also awarded a citation by the Winthrop Town Council.

These outstanding students have demonstrated a dedication to academics and a commitment to reaching high standards of learning.

The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship is a merit-based program that provides a credit toward tuition for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university. For this scholarship, merit is based on student scores on the 10th grade Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test.

2022 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipients are as follows:

- Kaylin Barry
- Christian Buonopane
- Michael Callanan
- Elizabeth Carney
- Jennifer Delehanty
- Juliana Demers
- Hanna Essauabi
- Nathaniel Evangelista
- Gabrielle Golden
- Daniel Guauque Nieves
- Samantha Harrison
- Annika Holgersen
- Nathaniel Holmes
- Mohammed Houari
- Eljo Hysa
- Gabriel Lescay

- Daniel Liberti
- Zoe Long
- Nataliya Melnyk
- Nino Miallari
- Robert Noonan
- Delia Parco
- Haven Pereira
- Tom Peti
- Milla Pimenta
- Matthew Polino
- Corinne Powell
- Benjamin Prew
- Christopher Raney
- Joseph Romano
- Madison Stiglets
- Lily Tallent

Speaker of the House Ron Mariano (center) joins Reps. Aaron Michlewitz, Dan Ryan, Jerald Parisella, and Joe McGonagle and Boston sports celebrities for a photo at Tuesday's grand opening celebration of the WynnBET Sportsbook at Encore Boston Harbor.

WYNNER'S CIRCLE

Sports betting begins at Encore Boston Harbor

By Cary Shuman

Encore Boston Harbor President Jenny Holaday said it all about the opening of the WynnBET Sportsbook Tuesday at the five-star resort/casino in Everett.

"It's sports betting in the nation's best sports town," remarked Holaday. "Everyone is thrilled and excited it's here."

Holaday was joined by Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria, Speaker of the House Ron Mariano, State Reps. Joseph McGonagle and Dan Ryan and an array of professional athletes at the grand opening of the new sportsbook which

See SPORTS BETTING Page 6

Cipoletta hired as new town counsel

By Adam Swift

There's a new lawyer in town, although he may be familiar to many Winthrop residents.

At Tuesday night's Town Council meeting, Town Manager Tony Marino announced he was hiring James Cipoletta as the new town counsel.

Late last year, Marino announced he was putting the position out to bid, soliciting interest from both firms and individual practitioners.

"We had five bids come in and we got it down to two finalists," said Marino.

He said Cipoletta was selected, and will be Winthrop's in-house counsel beginning on March 1 working out of Town Hall.

"I thought long and hard about this," said Marino. "Jim is looking to work for another two or three years, and I think

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State of Town // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

grandchildren, they keep our town clean and inviting, provide us with attractive recreation spaces, maintain our infrastructure and streetscapes, in short, they facilitate in providing us with a community that I am extremely proud, appreciative and honored to call home.”

He said the past year was remarkable in many ways.

“The top of the list is, I believe, the addition of our Town Manager, Tony Marino,” Letterie said. “Tony is all the attributes I envisioned at the beginning of the process – he’s incredibly hardworking, knowledgeable, a great communicator, always available, a blue collar, roll up your sleeves, willing not only to delegate, but really get involved-type manager. Tony hit the ground running and hasn’t stopped yet.”

He said there is great partnership between the council and the town manager laying the groundwork for some much anticipated projects that the town will get their chance to weigh in on in the very near future.

“Tony has been able to fill multiple positions that were very much needed, including an assessor, a treasure, and very recently a CFO who is with us here tonight, Dylan Cook,” said Letterie. “Tony is working alongside our Town Planner, Rachel Kelly, and they have been able to secure many grants which will be seeing the benefits of in the near future. Tony has been the perfect fit for Winthrop, and in turn, I think Winthrop is the perfect fit for Tony.”

Letterie thanked Town Clerk Denise Quist for the work she does for the town and the council.

“I know I would be lost without her,” he said.

Some highlights from 2022 Letterie mentioned included the completion of the new tennis courts across from the middle-high school, the town’s ability to leverage remaining funds from the MSBA project to supplement and bolster new technology in the middle-high school, and the long-awaited completion of the Central Business District project.

“The benefits of the infrastructure piece of (the CBD) project are required not only for the benefit of the current neighborhood but even more so for any potential prudent development that may occur in that area,” Letterie said. “The streetscape portion of that project, to me, is still something that will be more clearly seen with the maturity of the plantings and promised continued maintenance.”

He noted that the E.B. Newton Clock tower restoration is a visual enhancement to the town, and stated that former councilor Rich Ferino deserved much of the credit to begin this project, with amendments and in-

creased funding from the council allowing the town to go further and more detailed than was anticipated.

Letterie stated the addition of the new CFO also carries over to the school department, where Cook will also serve as the school department’s finance director.

“This will, as the charter was designed to do, bring the schools and the town into an even more cohesive relationship,” said Letterie. “Throughout 2022, the superintendent, her leadership team, and entire staff did an unimaginable job in ushering in a post-Covid education experience that we can all be extremely proud of.”

In most other cities and towns, Letterie said the completion of a 29-unit apartment building would not be major news.

“However, in a 1.6-mile, densely populated Winthrop, it is a challenge,” he said. “But with the helpful and thoughtful feedback from neighbors and a very good collaborative and working relationship with the town and developer, the Somerset project came to completion. It has been an incredible upgrade to what has been at that site, and I believe that most would agree, that it has been quite an enhancement to our town.”

The past year also saw the pavement restoration to almost four miles of town roads, nearly 10 percent of the total road in the town.

“I am hoping this council will commit to addressing a flag policy, which will enable us to secure a three-pole system at the E.B. Newton site, enabling us to honor all that is important to this town,” said Letterie.

Additionally, the Council President said he would commit to not only planting more trees to promote a better canopy for the future, but to initiate a maintenance program which will serve many more open spaces in town.

“I commit, with the support of this council, to bring before the voters this November an extremely well thought out, long overdue plan to build a new fire station,” said Letterie. “It will be the first in our community since the late 1800s. We also commit to have a much clearer and articulate plan for the future of the middle

school site, which you will hear about in the coming months.”

The following is the full text of Letterie’s speech:

“To the residents of our great town, the Winthrop Town Charter gives the Council President the obligation, as well as the great opportunity to address the town yearly in an effort to clearly define our goals for the upcoming year and to reflect on the past 12 months. No such address could begin without first offering my sincere thanks and appreciation to all our department heads and their staffs as well as our appointed boards and committees. Without them our town could not function. They provide us comfort and safety, they educate our children and grandchildren, they keep our town clean and inviting, they provide us with attractive and welcoming parks and recreation spaces. They maintain our infrastructure and streetscapes. In short they facilitate in providing us a community which i am extremely proud, appreciative, and honored to call home.

Calendar 2022 was, i think, remarkable in many ways. On the top of that list, i believe, is the addition of our town manager, Tony Marino. Tony has all the attributes that I envisioned at the beginning of the process. He is incredibly hard working, knowledgeable, a great communicator, always available, a blue collar, roll up your sleeves, willing to not just delegate, but really get involved type manager. Tony hit the ground running and hasn’t stopped yet. We have had a great partnership in laying the groundwork for some much anticipated projects that i hope the town will get their chance to weigh in on in the very near future. Tony has been able to fill multiple positions that were very much needed, including an assessor, a treasurer, and very recently, a cfo. Tony is working alongside our town planner, Rachel Kelly, and they have been able to secure many grants which we will be seeing the benefits of in the near future. Tony has been the perfect fit for Winthrop and in turn i believe that Winthrop is the perfect fit for tony. And speaking of perfect fits i would like to take a minute to thank our town clerk and council

clerk, Denise Quist for the incredible work she does in so many areas, from the clerk’s office, to elections, to assisting various committees, and of course making our councilors lives and absolutely mine much more harmonious. I know i would be lost without her.

Some highlights from 2022 would include, the completion of the new tennis courts across from the middle/high school, our ability to leverage remaining funds from the MSBA project to supplement and bolster much new technology in the middle/high school, the long awaited completion of the CBD project. The benefits of the infrastructure piece of that project are required not only for the benefit of the current neighborhood, but even more so for any potential prudent development that may occur in that area.. The streetscape portion of the project, to me, is something that will be more clearly seen with maturity of the plantings and promised continued maintenance. The EB Newton Clock tower restoration is such a visual enhancement to our town, really a focal point. Former councilor Rich Ferino deserves much of the credit to begin this project and amendments and increased funding from the council enabled us to go further and more detailed than was anticipated. I had mentioned earlier about the addition of the new CFO, and i would like to also mention that with the blessing of the superintendent, the school committee and the council, we are consolidating that position to include the title of school finance director. This will, as the charter was designed to do, bring the schools and the town into an even more cohesive relationship. Throughout 2022 the superintendent, her leadership team and entire staff did an unimaginable job in ushering in a

post COVID education experience that we can all be extremely proud of.

In most other cities and towns the completion of a 29 unit apartment building would not be major news, however in a 1.6 Mile, densely populated Winthrop it is a challenge, but with helpful and thoughtful feedback from neighbors, and a very good working and collaborative relationship between town and developer, the Somerset project came to completion. It has been an incredible upgrade over what was at the site, and i believe that most would agree that has been quite an enhancement to our town..

In 2022 we were able to do pavement restoration to almost 4 miles of roads within our town. We have roughly 45 miles of roads in Winthrop so that is also 10 % of our roads, which is far and away the most we have done in a calendar year.

In 2023 I will commit that along with the help from the town manager that we will continue to look at public ways throughout the town, making them safe, secure and maintained for our residents..

The council along with the town manager and our town planner, Rachel Kelly, are doing everything possible to qualify for the green community grants program which would make us eligible for up to 250,000 a year in funding. We are also facilitating with our planner on grants totaling about \$1,000,000 which will help with transportation, zoning, environment, economic development, and infrastructure among other items.

We will continue to make prudent financial decisions which will put our town in a better position in upcoming years.

We have, for the first time in many years, have all but one union within the town, at the moment, under contractual agreements through 2025.

I am hoping that the council will commit to addressing a flag policy which will enable us to secure a three pole system at the EB Newton site enabling us to honor all that is important to this town..

I will commit to not only continuing to plant more trees to promote a better canopy for our children’s future but to initiate a maintenance program which will serve many open spaces in town.

A year ago I said the following...

“The decisions that this council will be crafting will be born of a tremendous amount of work, much debate and undoubtedly some compromise, but ultimately, i am confident, these outcomes will make this great town even better.”

I know that is what we have done and will very soon see the fruits of our labor.

I commit with the support of this council to bring before the voters this November an extremely well thought out, long overdue plan, to build a new fire station, which would be the first in our community since the late 1800’s.

I also commit to have a much clearer and articulate plan for the future of the middle school site, which you will hear more about in the coming months.

There are many things i have learned in my almost 18 years on the council, among them is that experience is truly an extremely valuable tool, and to define the word quickly, in municipal terms is much different than in our day to day lives. However i hope and believe that this council is ready to move forward, work together, agree to disagree at times but always to agree to put this truly special town first. The will and determination along with the state of our town is very strong.

Thank you and may god bless the town of Winthrop!”

Cipoletta // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

resident, I think he has the best interest of the town at heart.”

Marino also noted he attended the recent Massachusetts Municipal Association conference, alongside several town councilors. He said housing was one of the key is-

ssues discussed during the conference.

In other business, Marino said there have been meetings about the town’s contract with Comcast, and was hoping that contract would be completed in the next several months.

Marino said there is a

new IT company at Town Hall, Balsam Technologies, which is the same IT company used by the school, fire, and police departments. The town manager said it will be more economical than using the previous company that was employed at Town Hall.

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1

Om Holdings LLC  
Hanratty, Ashleigh  
Hill, Jennifer  
Naco, Bledar  
Marku, Eduart  
Qose, Klotilda

SELLER 1

Em Properties Rt  
Hanratty, Michael  
Spangaro Babine LLC  
Curran, Patrick J  
Debiasi, James P  
Shabani, Dritan

ADDRESS

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191 Court Rd #3  
300 Governors Dr #23  
325 Revere St  
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## I'VE MOVED

Given the closing of Skin for All Seasons, I am moving to a new location, still serving all your manicure and pedicure needs. You can find me every Saturday starting on February 4th. Call or text me for bookings.



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THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR BUSINESS OVER THE YEARS. CHEERS TO A NEW JOURNEY AT RED'S IN WINTHROP!

OUR *Opinions*

GET READY FOR THE COLD!

We may have just finished what reportedly ranks as the fifth-warmest January on record, but by the end of this week, we'll be experiencing our coldest weather in seven years when an Arctic blast dips into the United States and delivers temperatures that will start to plummet during the day on Friday and extend through Sunday morning.

The weatherman is telling us that the temp will be at six below zero in the Boston area when we wake up Saturday morning and will reach no higher than 15 throughout the entire day.

In addition, the Arctic blast will be riding a north-west wind of 20-30 miles per hour, bringing the dreaded wind chill factor into the range of -20 or lower.

For those of us who live along the coastline, we will be treated to the eerie spectre of "sea smoke," the water vapor that forms when really cold air moves over the relatively warmer water (which presently is at a temperature of about 40 degrees in Boston Harbor).

Fortunately, this cold snap will be gone in a snap -- less than 48 hours -- with the temperatures getting back to more-seasonable levels by Sunday when the wind direction shifts from the northwest to the southwest.

Needless to say, outdoor activity of just about any kind will be impossible during the day on Saturday. While that may be a minor inconvenience for most of us, for those who are homeless, the extreme cold will be deadly, particularly for the recently-homeless who have not experienced weather this cold.

We trust that local officials and charitable organizations will do their best to get the homeless off the streets and into warming shelters during this life-threatening period.

As for the rest of us (who can turn our TV onto some golf tournament in California or Hawaii for a vicarious experience), we should make sure that all windows and storm windows are shut tight throughout our homes to ensure that cold air does not infiltrate, with the potential to cause freezing pipes. It also is smart to make sure that our thermostats are kept high enough to ensure that outside walls that have water or heating lines (and that may not be fully-insulated) are kept warm enough to prevent freeze-ups. We realize that this will increase our heating bills -- but that will be far cheaper than repairing the damage from a frozen pipe that bursts.

Ol' Man Winter has been kind to us up to now -- but this weekend he'll be letting us know that we should not take him for granted.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL IS A PUBLIC GOOD

We were pleased to see that Chelsea's newly-elected State Representative, Judith Garcia, announced last week that she has co-sponsored An Act to Advance Health Equity, a bill that aims to close the gap in health-care by prioritizing equity in state government, regulating data reporting on health equity, and improving access to and the quality of healthcare for historically-disadvantaged communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought into stark contrast the disparity in outcomes between those in our society who have good health care options vs. those who do not. The COVID-19 death rates in poorer communities far exceeded those in wealthier communities (which is typical for just about every disease and illness known to man).

Based on a data analysis of more than 3,000 counties across the US, Americans in poorer counties died at almost twice the rate of those in wealthier counties at the start of the pandemic. That dichotomy became even more pronounced in the later waves of the pandemic, when death rates in economically-disadvantaged counties were three and four times the rates of more-affluent counties.

But those of us who are fortunate enough to have access to healthcare should not be deluded into thinking that this is "someone else's" problem. The COVID-19 pandemic proved conclusively that what happens anywhere can have serious implications everywhere.

Communicable diseases are "communicable" because they spread and, as we learned from COVID-19, viruses do not discriminate between rich and poor. Persons in wealthier communities overall may have had better outcomes because of better access to healthcare, but when viruses spread rapidly through communities without good healthcare options, it is inevitable that all of us are affected (and infected).

The simple point we're trying to make is that in our interconnected world in which we rely on each other for everything, it is to the advantage of everyone to make sure that every member of our society has access to quality healthcare.

This is both a moral imperative and a common-sense goal that benefits every member of society.

We applaud Rep. Garcia for sponsoring this bill and we urge the legislature to pass it forthwith.



LETTERS to the Editor

MOTHERS OUT FRONT

Dear Editor,

Mothers Out Front is an environmental group made up of mothers and their allies who are concerned about climate change and are fighting for a livable planet for future generations. On January 25, over 200 members of Mothers Out Front, including members of MOF Winthrop, met with Governor Healey to present a letter with over three thousand signatures outlining action that the governor should take to combat climate change, promote environmental justice, and secure a livable planet for our children.

The Governor was extremely open to our concerns and assured us of her support. She acknowledged the consequences of using fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas). The use of fossil fuels results in the

emission of greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide). These gases trap heat, causing the increase in temperatures (global warming). At the present time, land and sea temperatures have been increasing over the past 30 years and are now the highest since records have been kept. Temperatures are expected to continue to rise in the future.

Devastating deforestation has also occurred over the last 100 years, adding to the increase in global temperatures. Protecting our trees is vital, especially for the future of our children, to slow climate change and ensure that our Earth will have clean air.

How can we make things change? We need to phase out the use of fossil fuels, electrify our homes and means of transportation, and stop cutting down our trees and forests. We need to transition

to solar and wind to generate electricity and improve battery technology to store the energy generated by renewable sources. Recycling and composting are important measures that we can incorporate in our homes.

The most important thing to acknowledge, for our future, is the building of a healthy Earth. We need to provide and ensure a clean and safe environment for the future for our children, not only in Winthrop, but all over the world. We must all work together to accomplish this task.

If you would like to join Winthrop Mothers Out Front please contact us at: Maryalice Sharkey masharkey@comcast.net

TO THE NEXT GOV. OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Dear Editor,

As mothers and care-

givers, we stand clear-eyed, resolute and shoulder-to-shoulder, focused on the future. We dream of a climate where all children can thrive.

We envision a Commonwealth where children can breathe clean air – in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods. Where families can count on safe, healthy, affordable, and sustainable housing. Where workers can count on quality, family-sustaining jobs. Where communities can be free from unjust burdens of pollution and energy infrastructure.

We have a path to this future, but in our path stand the enormous and powerful fossil fuel industry and the many others who benefit from the extraction of gas, oil, and coal, as well as the expansion of infrastructure to deliver them.

As governor, you have an opportunity to take

See LETTERS Page 5

Winthrop schools see increase in number of homeless students

By Adam Swift

As the school system has seen an overall increase in student population this year, it has also seen a jump in the number of homeless students.

At last week's School Committee meeting, Superintendent of Schools Lisa Howard said the district enrollment stands at 1,967 students, its highest level in years.

"We have 42 students in the Winthrop population who are designated as homeless as of Jan. 1," said Howard. "In the 21-22 school year, we had a total of nine."

Howard said it is important for the School Committee and community to understand that homeless students have needs that need to be met by the district. Chief among those needs is transportation.

"There are lots of rules and regulations around students who become homeless, and the definition of homeless is probably not what the average person thinks," said Howard. "Homeless can be if you are removed or left your place of residence, maybe for domestic violence purposes, maybe if there was a fire, maybe because you couldn't pay the rent. Those students can be designated as homeless."

Howard said the district has done a lot of outreach this year, and found that there were certain families that did not present or identify themselves as being homeless.

"For us to be able to provide them with whatever supports they need state-wise, community-wise, all the different groups in the community, Mi-Amore, our healthcare department, it's important for us to know that," said Howard. "You will see an increase in the price of transportation because we are obligated to drive them and pick them up where they are and bring them back to our school here in Winthrop, if this is where they started."

If a student becomes homeless while in Winthrop but is housed somewhere else, the district is obligated to keep them safe in the Winthrop schools, if they so choose.

"We've also had a number of students that have come into the community who are doubling up with family members, so they don't have a place of their own," said Howard. "Those are also important to identify because of the needs of those families – I'm talking about clothing, I'm talking about beds ... shampoo, tooth-

paste, backpacks, things like that. We have great resources in the community, so those types of things are not at a cost to the school."

The social-emotional wellbeing of the students is something Howard said the district has to attend to.

"We've seen an increase in the need for our school adjustment counselors, we can never have enough, to help us with this particular population and making sure that we are really servicing them to make sure the kids, when they are in school and when they go home, they have food and they have security so when they are with us they are open to learning," said Howard.

Howard said there has also been an increase in the number of foster care students in Winthrop this year.

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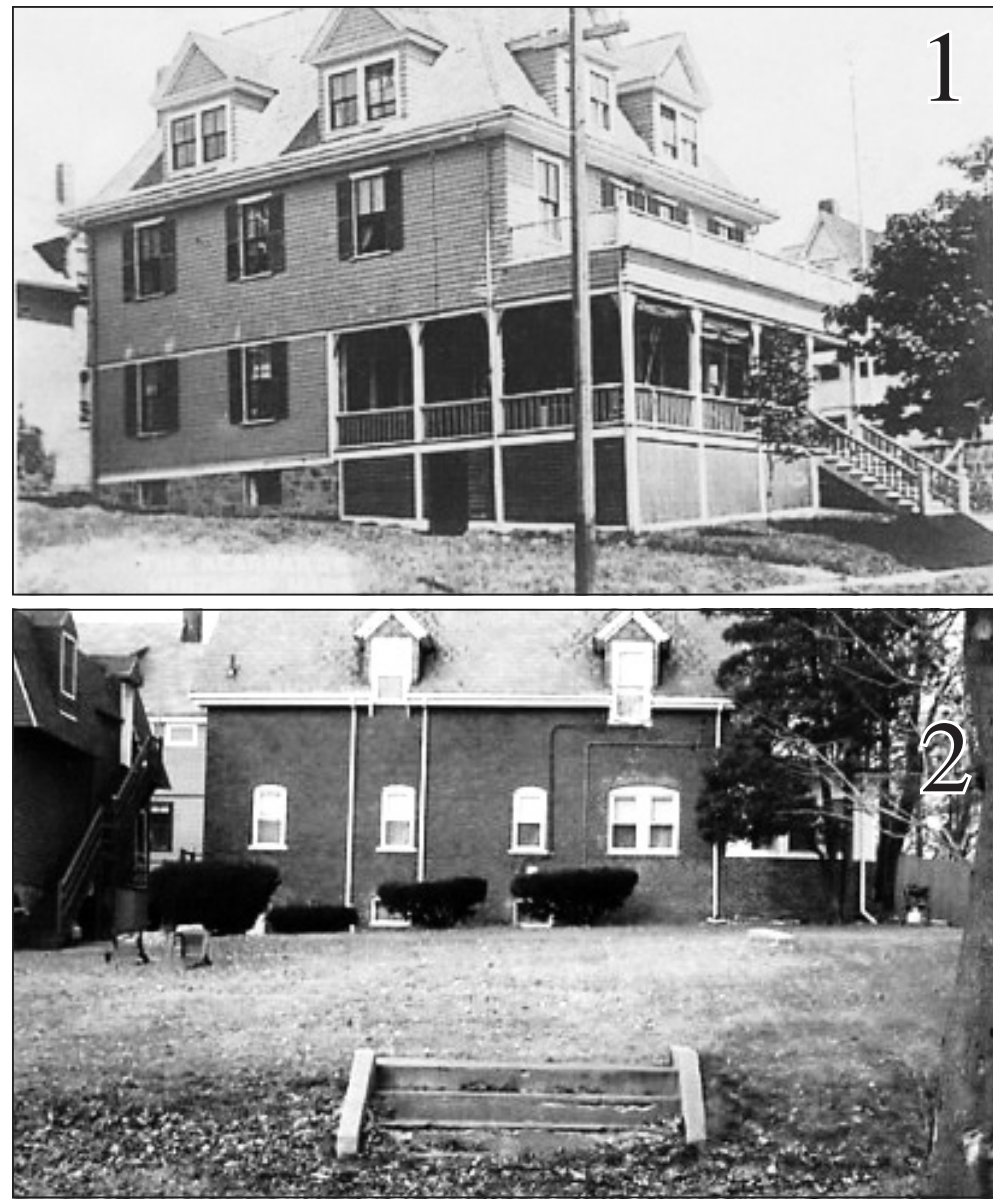
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WINTHROP Then and Now

Winthrop Improvement and Historical Association

By G. David Hubbard, Town Historian • Photos courtesy of Stephen F. Moran

ART 988 - TWO HIGHLAND AVE. RESORT INNS  
KEARSARGE & ALOHA



Winthrop’s strongest resort period was from 1875 to 1940 when those who lived inland and liked to spend some or all of their vacation time by the sea came to Winthrop. Our peninsula hosted approximately 55 buildings that operated as hotels, inns or rooming houses under some 75 or more names depending on who the current owner was. While 60 percent of those were located in the beach area, the Northern Highlands hill had about six resort type rental establishments. Three of these that were initially built by Hill & White included the Argyle, which in 1916 was enlarged into the Winthrop Arms we know today. The other two were located on Highland Avenue and are the subject of this article. The first was the Kearsarge located at what is now 78 Highland Avenue next door to the large home of the Green family which is still standing at the corner of Highland & Cliff Avenues and is currently undergoing a major renovation to restore its original stately appearance of the early

1900’s. In picture one, the Kearsarge Inn is seen as one looked up Highland Avenue. At the far right, one can see the previously mentioned Green house. According to a late 1890 advertisement in the local paper the Kearsarge had ”Broad Piazzas, open fires, electric lights, views of the country and sea. House accommodates 30 guests but its spacious dining room can seat many more as table board is a specialty- - address for circular, the Misses Leeds, proprietors.” Reports from that time also state that this was an excellent place to eat. The currently existing red brick building, which stood behind the Kearsarge, can be seen in picture two with only the lower steps to the hotel remaining in the foreground. This red brick building was originally constructed as a “Party House” by General Green who had served in the Spanish American War. At one of his parties, a fellow officer, Theodore Roosevelt, attended the festivities. Theodore Roosevelt was a close friend of the Lodge Family who summered in

a mansion in Nahant. It was during a visit to the Lodges that Mr. Roosevelt came over to one of General Green’s parties in Winthrop. It wasn’t until recent times that this brick building was converted to a residence. The third picture depicts the Aloha Inn, about the same time, at the corner of Highland and Cliff Avenues. Initially opened in 1885 by Mrs. A.W. Fitch who ran it until about 1900 when Charles A. Stoddars bought the building. It continued to operate as a hotel until the late 1930’s. Sometime in the late 1940’s, it was converted into the Mount Nursing Home which the Mount family ran until 1963 when the building was razed. Picture four depicts the three homes that are on this land today. Many such Inns/Rooming Houses existed in Winthrop from 1885 to 1940 and as more is learned about them, they too will be the subject of future articles. If anyone knows of other such resort facilities, it would be appreciated if you would please advise this writer accordingly.



**20 years ago**  
**February 6, 2003**  
The selectmen and Advisory Committee have begun meeting to discuss how to address the sudden reduction in local aid from the state that has been imposed mid-year by new Gov. Mitt Romney that now leaves the town with a \$500,000 budget deficit that must be addressed by Town Meeting. This marks the first time in state history that the state has reneged on its promise of local aid to its cities and towns.

Staff Sgt. Stephen White Jr. of Winthrop is among the tens of thousands of military reservists who are being called to active duty as the country prepares to go to war against Iraq. Residents are recalling the Blizzard of ‘78, which occurred 25 years ago this week, bringing unprecedented snowfall, flooding, and damage to Winthrop’s coastline.

A 25 year old Medford man, who is a corrections officer at the Suffolk County jail, was arrested here on charges of being a conduit for drug trafficking in the jail. Congressman Edward J. Markey has criticized Pres. George W. Bush’s plan to privatize Medicare.

**30 years ago**  
**February 11, 1993**  
Winthrop and 12 other communities have vowed to fight in court the assessments being imposed on them by RESCO, which burns their trash, for state-mandated air pollution control improvements to the plant. Winthrop’s share of the assessment is \$559,831. Willis School Principal Arthur Cummings was feted to a faculty breakfast and student assembly upon his retirement this past week. Cummings has taught in the local school system for 37 years.

Advisory Committee Secretary Marty Klim reports that the committee thus far this year has approved transfer requests of \$62,000 out of its \$200,000 annual Reserve Fund.

**40 years ago**  
**February 9, 1983**  
Police issued 300 parking tickets to illegally parked cars on local

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

streets during the season’s second major snowstorm which dumped eight inches of snow on the town this week.

Former Selectman Henry O’Connell has announced his candidacy for Town Meeting Moderator. Police Sgt. Paul Ciccarelli has announced his retirement after serving for 35 years on the local police force. The School Committee has changed the night for the Senior Prom from a Friday to a Thursday at the request of the senior class, which told the committee that securing a venue for a Thursday evening was much less expensive than for a weekend night. The committee also approved an all-night party to be held at the Cottage Park Y.C. from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.

Six residents were arrested by local police this week for not registering and insuring their automobiles.

**50 years ago**  
**February 7, 1973**  
The selectmen issued a proclamation of thanksgiving with the news of a ceasefire that was reached between the United State and North Vietnam in Paris last week. Copies of the warrant for the annual Town Meeting were mailed to all taxpayers this past week. The warrant includes controversial Article 9, which calls for the revaluation to be conducted by the assessors of all real estate in the town.

Cable television, the most advanced technology in television communications, soon will be a reality for local residents, according to an announcement from the Cablevision Corporation of America, which operates the cable system in Winthrop. All local subscribers will be hooked up by the end of the month, enabling them to obtain crystal clear pictures on all 14 channels to be offered. Suffolk County Sheriff Thomas Eisenstadt has filed legislation that would allow him to close the Charles Street Jail and house all county and City of Boston inmates on Deer Island. The White Hen Pantry, under the ownership of Bob and Karen Murray, opened for business this week.

The final inspection of the new state-funded public landing in Winthrop next to the Winthrop Y.C. was completed this week.

**60 years ago**  
**Feb. 7, 1963**  
Congressman Torbert McDonald has assured Winthrop officials that he will file legislation to ensure that local communities that provide fire protection to U.S. military bases such as Ft. Banks and Ft. Heath in Winthrop will continue to receive reimbursement for their services from the federal government.

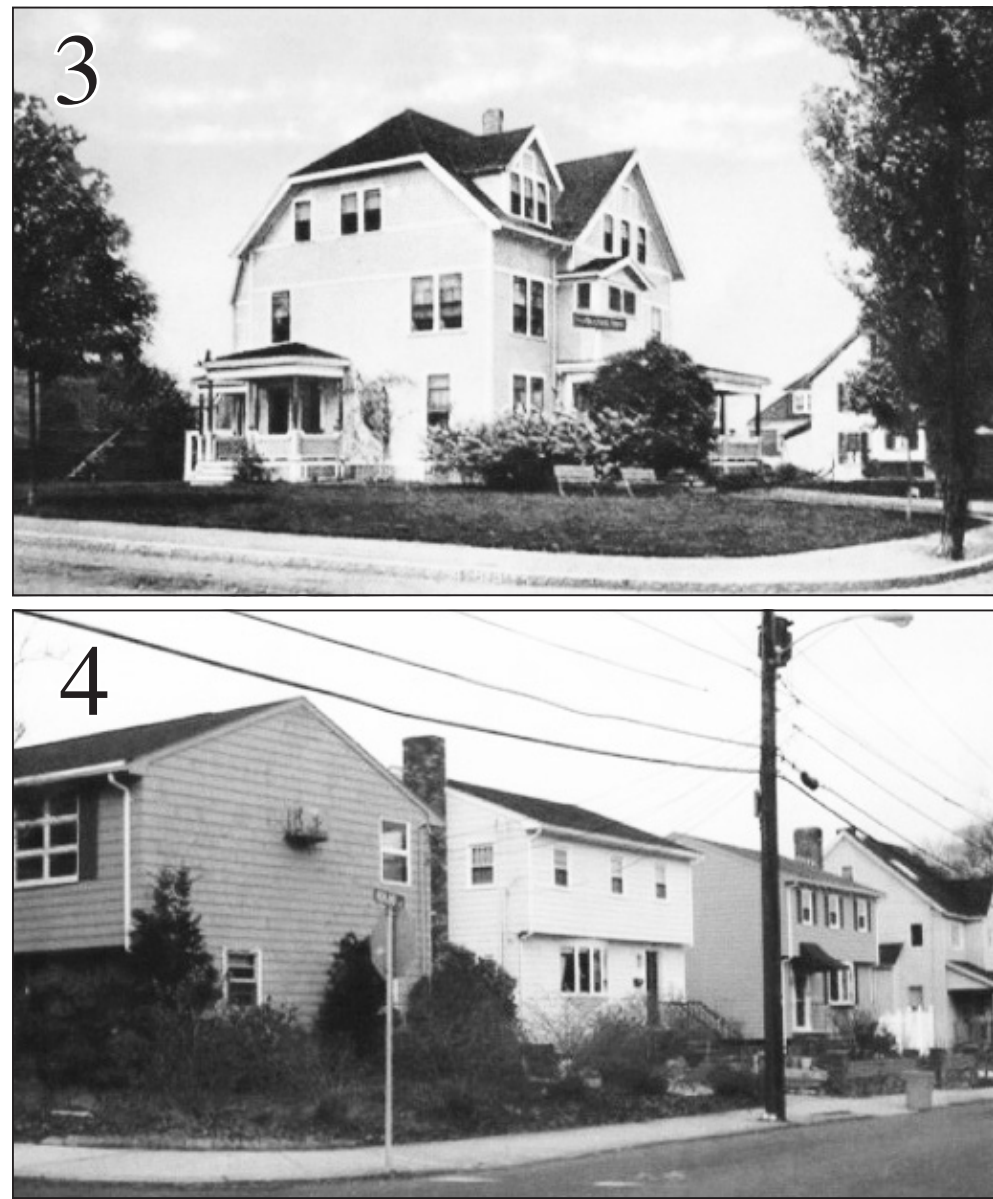
The Rapid Transit Bus line has announced that it will be seeking a fare increase of five cents from the present fare of 15 cents to a new rate of 20 cents.

**70 years ago**  
**Feb. 12, 1953**  
Former Selectman Peter W. Princi has been named an Assistant District Attorney by Suffolk County D.A. Garrett Byrne. Princi will be responsible for prosecuting narcotics law violations and other offenses involving public morals laws. Town Meeting will take up a warrant of 80 articles when it convenes starting March 16. The largest appropriation being sought is \$450,000 for construction of a combination auditorium and gymnasium at the senior high school on Pauline St.

Winthrop’s veterans groups will observe the combined ceremonies of the Spanish American War Day and the Sinking of the Maine Day this Saturday in Metcalfe Square at 8 a.m. Rent control is a hotly-contested subject in the town. The imposition of federally-imposed national rent control, which has been in effect for the past few years, will come to an end in April, prompting some to call for imposition of a local rent control by-law.

**80 years ago**  
**Feb. 6, 1943**  
The School Committee unanimously has voted to move the start of school to 9:15 a.m. in order to alleviate the overcrowded conditions on local Rapid Transit buses during the morning commute. The combination

See YEARS Page 10



Letters // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

meaningful and just action now. Massachusetts can lead the nation in putting the brakes on the climate crisis and ensuring a livable world for all children. But the window of opportunity is rapidly closing. We call on you to commit to these goals as you lead a rapid and just transition away from fossil fuels to safe, affordable, clean, renewable energy:

1. Protect air quality for all communities – both indoors and out
- Champion laws to measure and improve air quality in pollution hot spots
- Stop the siting of dirty energy plants in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities, which already are overburdened with pollution
2. Stop the runaway construction of dirty energy plants and pipelines by ensuring that department commissioners prioritize health,

safety, equity, and the preservation of our climate.

- No industry insiders!
3. Say “no” to utilities’ plans to prolong the piping of methane and other dangerous gases under our streets and into our homes.
- Ensure that customers’ fees go toward climate-friendly solutions, not a costly rebuild of underground gas lines.
- Reject industry calls for hydrogen and biomethane (so-called “renewable natural gas”), which will not solve our climate crisis.
4. Prioritize funds and policies to speed the adoption of clean, safe, and affordable electric solutions
- We can make all homes – both new and existing – fully electric, using technologies such as air-source heat pumps and networked geothermal systems, as Massachusetts moves toward a fully renewable electric grid.
5. Ensure that low- and

moderate-income people benefit by scaling up funding to retrofit older homes, while ensuring that lower-income renters don’t get forced out.

6. Invest in workers, including prioritizing union contracts, so workers can move from low-wage jobs and jobs in declining industries into good-paying jobs in renewable energy.

The shift to a clean energy economy is one of the largest challenges facing our next governor. While this list is not complete, it reflects our priorities as mothers who care deeply about the health and safety of our children, homes, and communities. We call on you to publicly back these policies and to swiftly execute them when you take office. Future generations are counting on you.

**Members & Supporters of Mothers Out Front**



The Somerset.

## The Procopio Companies announce leasing success of The Somerset

Special to the Transcript

The Procopio Companies (Procopio), a fourth-generation, full-service real estate development and construction management firm, announced that The Somerset, the firm's newest mixed-use development in Winthrop, has already reached 80-percent occupancy since its opening in September 2022.

The boutique multifam-

ily development, located at 10 Somerset Avenue, is a 22,000SF, zero lot-line, mixed-use property that brings 29 residential units and 1,119SF of ground-level retail space to downtown Winthrop. It offers studios and one- and two-bedroom units ranging from 500-1300 square feet.

"The success of The Somerset is a testament to Greater Boston's con-

tinued appetite for multi-family development close to the city," stated Bryan Vitale, SVP of Strategy & Investments. "The property's desirability and location in downtown Winthrop demonstrates the continued desire from residents to enjoy the conveniences of city amenities, with the benefits of a suburban location and lifestyle."

Procopio developed

Somerset in concert with Khalsa Design (architect of record), North Shore Bank (lender), and a syndication (equity source). The Somerset was designed for residents who want to live in one of Boston's most desirable beach communities with convenient access to both the Atlantic Ocean and downtown Boston. The building is now professionally managed by Charlesgate.

## Sports Betting // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is another step in Encore bringing a spectacular Las Vegas-style experience to Everett.

"This has been long overdue," said DeMaria, who led the way for the Encore resort/casino to be built in the city. "People have been able to go to other states to wager on sports. We made the same argument when we were bringing the casino to Everett – why not keep the money here in the community? This sportsbook is a very nice facility."

DeMaria said he had the opportunity to chat with Johnny Damon, one of the sports celebrities in attendance at Tuesday's event. "I thanked him for breaking the Curse of the Bambino," remarked De-

Maria.

### An historic day for Massachusetts

Boston sports fans, who have enjoyed several championships by the New England Patriots, Boston Red Sox, Boston Celtics, and Boston Bruins in this century, can now legally wager on professional and college sports at Encore – and they're excited about the opportunity.

Mike Capone of Malden was one of the first patrons to wager after Holaday personally led the countdown to the 10 a.m. launch of the betting kiosks inside the casino.

"I bet a couple of Super Bowl props and parlays tonight for hockey, college basketball," said Ca-

pone. "It's fantastic to be a part of history. Encore did a great job with this. It's really a good time."

Artie Ells, a Chelsea resident, wanted to be a part of an historic day for Massachusetts.

"This is just another great day for the area," said Ells. "This resort is a beautiful place. It still amazes me that it's here. Everything here is first-class."

Sports broadcaster Sean McDonough served as the master of ceremonies for the event. "It's great to see so many people here as we commemorate the first sports bets in Massachusetts," said McDonough.

Holaday told the large gathering, "I want to thank you, ladies and gentlemen, fans, for coming out to celebrate this historic moment with us. This has been a wonderful team effort, and we're really excited to bring legal sports betting to the Commonwealth."

Wynn Vice President of Trading Alan Berg expects the WynnBET Sportsbook to be a very successful operation. There are WynnBET Sportsbooks in ten states.

"I think it's going to be phenomenal," predicted Berg. "Boston is one of the biggest sports cities in the

world as far as I'm concerned. So, the pent-up demand – I think we've been hearing about for so long – and the excitement have reached a big pitch at this point. We're trying to give Boston the best product possible, and I think we're ready to do that."

### State, local officials excited about launch of sports betting

Rep. Jeff Turco of Winthrop voted in favor of the legalized sports betting bill in Massachusetts. "To be blunt, I'm sort of gaming skeptic, but the simple reality of gaming in Massachusetts is it's here. We have the most successful lottery in the country. Our gaming industry is doing very well. It's simply doesn't make any sense to have all the gaming we do and exclude one of the more profitable elements, not just for the casinos, but also for the Commonwealth. The decision on gaming was made decades ago, and this is just a natural expansion of it, and I supported it, and proudly so."

Rep. Joe McGonagle of Everett attended the grand opening ceremonies for the WynnBET Sportsbook.

"I'm excited to see the launch of legalized sports betting in Massachusetts," said McGona-

gle, who supported the legislation. "Sports betting in Massachusetts will be creating more jobs, and we're hoping they will be jobs for Everett residents."

Rep. Dan Ryan of Charlestown supported the effort to bring legalized sports betting to Massachusetts.

"Sports betting is here. The Legislature, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, and the state's constitutional officers have weighed this possibility with great diligence to ensure that the jobs, revenue, and entertainment created by this venture will have a positive impact on our local cities and towns," said Ryan.

State Rep. Jessica Giannino of Revere was also a supporter of the legislation to allow legalized sports betting in Massachusetts.

"Massachusetts residents are passionate about their sports. This legislation will allow fans to bet on their favorite teams but do so in a regulated manner that promotes responsible gaming, while bringing in millions of dollars of revenue that has previously been going to our neighboring states or to illegal operations," said Rep. Giannino. "I was proud to serve on the Economic Development Committee under

the leadership of Chairman Jerry Parisella and work on this important legislation. I am thankful for the work of Speaker Mariano and his tireless effort in getting this bill across the finish line."

Rep. Adrian Madaro of East Boston said he voted in favor of the legalized sports betting bill.

"Legalized sports betting means fans can enjoy games in a whole new way," wagering responsibly while creating jobs and raising revenue for important state services," said Madaro. "I was please to vote in favor of this bill. I look forward to seeing the economic growth that comes from this new industry in Massachusetts."

Lynn City Councilor Brian LaPierre said, "This is awesome. Today is an historic day for Massachusetts. Sports wagering has been a long time coming for our state. It's going to bring in millions of dollars in new state revenues that can go to our schools, our roads, and housing concerns throughout the Commonwealth. This is a great, one-stop shopping experience for anyone who likes to dabble a little bit on sports betting. You can bet all the games and come and have a great time at the beautiful Encore resort."



Former Boston Red Sox star Johnny Damon and Olympic gold medalist and former Harvard hockey captain Angela Ruggiero are pictured at the grand opening of the Wynn-Bet Sportsbook Tuesday at Encore Boston Harbor.

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The large televisions display the Encore Boston Harbor and WynnBET logos inside the new sports betting area at the five-star resort/casino.

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# Sports



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## WHS girls hockey team skates to 9-1 victory over Shawsheen

By Cary Shuman

The Winthrop High girls hockey team raised its record to 11-0 with a 9-1 victory over Shawsheen Tech last Friday at Larsen Rink at the Mike Eruzione Center.

Senior captain Emma Holmes led the way with two goals and two assists as Coach Anthony “Butch” Martucci’s Vikings extended their regular-season unbeaten streak to 29 games (28-0-1).

Hannah Parker, Samantha DiMento, Amelia Spencer, Talia Martucci, Reese Ferrara, Mia Norris, and Julia Holmes also scored goals for the Vikings.

Freshman goaltender Riley Towse played well, recording 18 saves while keeping the Rams off the

scoreboard during the final two periods as Winthrop scored six unanswered goals. Winthrop led, 2-1, after one session.

**Tegan Pereira steps up for Winthrop**

Coach Martucci said freshman Tegan Pereira has emerged as a valuable presence in the Vikings’ defensive corps.

“Tegan has really been playing well,” lauded Martucci. “She’s a tough, strong, kid, with a big shot. She’s sacrificed a little bit of her offensive numbers to be a better defenseman for us, and she’s been fantastic.”

**A word about Shawsheen**

Shawsheen Tech, located in Billerica and whose

See HOCKEY Page 9

## WINTHROP SIXTH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM CELEBRATES A WIN OVER AMESBURY



The Winthrop sixth grade girls basketball team, under the direction of Coaches Matt Titmore and Giovanni Grimaldi, defeated Amesbury to improve its record to 3-2 in league play. Members of the team are pictured following the game played in Winthrop. Front row, from left, are Olivia Green, Norah Zaffini and Larissa Piccinato. Back row, from left, are Gewels Grimaldi, Ella Ferrara, Molly Titmore, Evelyn Trafton, Allie Rockefeller, Emily Harkins, Ella Survilas, Emma Previte, Audrey Carroll, Izzy Schirripa, and Aria Zizzo.

## TWO MORE WINS FOR WHS BOYS HOCKEY; RANKED #2 IN D-4

The Winthrop High boys hockey team chalked up two more victories this past week in impressive fashion over non-league rival Medford and Northeastern Conference (NEC) foe Beverly.

Last Wednesday the Vikings trekked to LoConte Rink in Medford and corralled the Mustangs with a 6-3 victory in a fast-skating battle against the top team in the Greater Boston League.

After spotting Medford an early 1-0 lead, Winthrop responded with a pair of goals. Luke Gthinji, assisted by Aidan Survilas, scored his first goal of the season to bring the game back to level and captain Petey Silverman potted his first of three markers on the night, assisted by assistant captain Billy Hayes and Duncan Fife, to give Winthrop a 2-1 lead.

The Mustangs knotted matters early in the second period, but with 10 seconds remaining in the period, Billy Hayes capitalized on a designed face-off play, assisted by captain Jack Hayes and Silverman, to move Winthrop back into the lead.

The pesky Mustangs refused to yield quietly and deadlocked the contest once again to start the third period, but the Vikings asserted control in the final 10 minutes. Jack Hayes, assisted by senior Colin Banfield, gave Winthrop the lead for good and then one minute later, Silverman, assisted by Jack Hayes, made it a 5-3 contest.

Medford pulled its goalie for a sixth skater in the final minutes, but Silverman put the game away with an empty-netter for his third goal of the evening.

This past Saturday the

Vikings trekked to Endicott College in Beverly for a contest with the Panthers at Ray Bourque Arena and skated home with a 7-0 victory.

Winthrop seized the initiative in the opening period and never looked back. Jack Hayes, assisted by junior Glenn Calla, and Silverman, assisted by Jack Hayes, lit the lamp in the opening period for a 2-0 lead.

The Vikings broke the game open in the middle period with three tallies: Silverman (assisted by Jack Hayes and Banfield); freshman Colin O’Leary (assisted by Jackson Andy); and Survilas (assisted by Billy Hayes and Phil Boncore).

In the third period, Jack Hayes (from Mike Hølgersen and Boncore) lit the lamp with a power play goal and Boncore (from Billy Hayes and Calla) concluded the scoring for the 7-0 finale.

Netminders Nicholas Babine and Mike Donahue split the duties in goal to share the shutout.

WHS head coach Dale Dunbar and his crew, who stand atop the NEC North standings with a 5-0-1 mark, are 10-2-1 overall and are ranked second in Division 4, behind only Norwell, the defending D-4 state champ.

The Vikings have some key NEC contests on tap this week. They hosted Danvers last night (Wednesday) and then will journey to Salem State College to meet Marblehead on Saturday evening at 8:00.

They will host Beverly in a rematch on Monday at 5:30 at Larsen Rink.

**WHS GIRLS RANKED 11TH IN DIVISION 4**

The Winthrop High girls basketball team, which is ranked 11th in Division 4, engaged in a pair of battles with Northeastern Conference opponents Saugus

## WHS SPORTS ROUNDUP

and Gloucester this past week.

Last Friday evening the Lady Vikings trekked to Saugus and dropped a heartbreaking 63-61 decision to the Lady Sachems in overtime.

“It was one of the best high school basketball games that I’ve been a part of both as a player and a coach,” said WHS head coach Anthony Hatzisavas of the exciting contest.

Winthrop jumped out

to an 18-11 lead after the first quarter, but foul trouble to some key Lady Vikings allowed Saugus to narrow the gap to 30-27 at the half.

For the rest of the contest to the final buzzer in OT, the rivals battled fiercely, but the Lady Sachems prevailed.

Grace Fleuriel and Kaylee Farrell each had 16 points for Winthrop. Mad-die Stiglets also reached double figures with 11

points despite battling foul trouble throughout the game. Reese Brodin made a major contribution -- “One of Reese’s better games,” said Hatzisavas -- hitting for 12 points, grabbing six rebounds, dishing seven assists, and making some big steals on defense.

Sophia Lindinger hit a couple of key three-pointers, including a trey that gave Winthrop a two-point lead toward the end

of regulation.

“It was an absolute battle from start to finish, but at the end of the day you look back on things we could have changed and have done better,” said Hatzisavas. “We shot 9-for-21 from the free throw line and we had three players foul out in overtime. Saugus is a very good basketball team, and the head coach does a tre-

See ROUNDUP Page 9

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LADY VIKINGS BASKETBALL DEFEATS GLOUCESTER AT HOME

Photos by Bob Marra

The Lady Vikings improved their record to 7-10 and strengthened their hold on a playoff

spot in the MIAA Division 4 Power Rankings with a 44-32 win over visiting Gloucester Tuesday night at Winthrop High School.



Reese Brodin (4) and Lily Conway (24) force Gloucester's Anna Cinelli (15) to change direction.



Madison Stiglets (3) takes a hit as she drives the lane.



Reese Brodin (4) looks to pass as she drive toward the basket



Grace Fleuriel (34) reaches in and tries a steal from Gloucester's Anna Cinelli (15).



Lily Conway (24) gets control of a loose ball.



Sophia Lindinger (2) breaks away from trio of Gloucester defenders.



Grace Fleuriel (34) extends a long arm as she tries to haul in a rebound.



Zoey Bogusz (10) looks to make an outlet pass.



Kaylee Farrell (23) looks to pass after keeping a ball in play near the baseline.



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## WHS SPORTS *Through the Years*

### 20 years ago January 30, 2003

Danny Wilson scored two goals to pace the WHS hockey team to a 3-0 win over Gloucester to move the Vikings into sole possession of first place in the Northeastern Conference. Mike Eruzione scored the third goal for Winthrop. Winthrop is 12-1 overall and 8-1 in the NEC.

Brendan Murphy scored 12 points and Anthony Griffin hit for 11, but the WHS boys basketball team dropped a 66-56 decision to Lynn Classical.

The WHS girls basketball team battled highly-favored Lynn Classical to a deadlock with six minutes to go, but an ankle injury to Lady Viking star Kim Lally allowed Classical to pull away for a 40-27 win. Kristin Visco led Winthrop with nine points.

### 30 years ago Feb. 4, 1993

The WHS girls basketball team continued to drub its NEC opponents with wins of 67-41 over Saugus and 68-20 over Lynn Classical. A devastating full-court press allowed Winthrop to jump out to a dominating 28-0 lead over Classical. In the Danvers triumph, Cheri Lee hit for 16 points and Joanna Saggese added seven in the first half as the Lady Vikings built a 45-18 lead at the half. Liz Doherty ended up with 22 points and Lori Thomas scored 21 in the win.

WHS standout football players Joe Kearns and Mike Mason have been chosen to play in the 15th annual Shriners High School Football Classic in June. Kearns, a 6-4, 235 pound two-way lineman, recently signed a national

letter of intent and accepted a full scholarship at URI.

The 8-6 WHS hockey team must win three of its final four games in order to qualify for the state tourney.

### 40 years ago Feb. 2, 1983

The WHS girls basketball team clinched a spot in the state tourney with a 57-35 romp over Lynn English and another dominating win over Swampscott, 60-24. The WHS girls now have reached the tourney in nine of the past 11 seasons under head coach Ron Spinney.

WHS girls indoor track tri-captain Dana Stone placed second in the State Coaches Meet with a toss of 40'-8" in the shotput to set a new WHS girls indoor record. Teammate Susan Goldstein set a new

WHS record in the 300, which was good for a sixth place finish, and Andrea Forti set a new school record in the mile in 5:21.4.

Lynn English knocked the WHS hockey team from the unbeaten ranks with a 4-3 win. Eric Troisi scored twice for Winthrop and Steve Staffier potted a goal with a minute to play to tie the game at 3-3. However, the Bulldogs came back with a goal with 35 seconds on the clock to snatch the victory. Winthrop now is tied for first place in the NEC with Gloucester with a 9-1-2 mark.

### 50 years ago January 31, 1973

A jam-packed, roaring crowd saw the WHS basketball team play as fine a game as ever has been played by a WHS quintet in a 70-55 win over Swampscott at the local gym, marking the second

time this season that the Vikings have defeated Swampscott, which was tied for first place with Winthrop coming into the game. Capt. Nick Tsiotis led the way for Winthrop with 22 points and guard Mike Harrison hit for a season-high of 16 points, most of them coming during a stretch in the third period when Winthrop put the game away.

The boys indoor track team defeated all three of its opponents this week. Leading the way for the Viking tracksters were Paul McGee, Dennis Kelly, Kevin Mahoney, and Jim Mackin.

Despite defeats at the hands of Malden Catholic and first place Marblehead, the WHS hockey team has been improving.

### 60 years ago January 31, 1963

The WHS basketball

team upped its winning streak to 13 games with a 58-42 win over Swampscott. Co-captains Bobby Krute and Len Riley provided the offensive firepower for Winthrop.

Paul Frazier, the captain of this past season's WHS football team, has been awarded a full football scholarship to the University of Wyoming.

### 70 years ago February 5, 1953

With wins this past week over Swampscott 58-47, and Amesbury, 78-32, the WHS basketball team is in a position to put a lock on the NEC title in its upcoming games this week. Joe Duplin once again led the locals in scoring in both games, including a career-high 29 points in the Amesbury contest.

## Roundup // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

mendous job as well.

“Their top scorer is a tremendous player for them and we went into the game saying someone else was going to have to beat us,” Hatzisavas continued. “She scored 18 points, but was averaging about 25 points per game. However, one of their other players stepped up for them and had a career-high 23 points.

“Our girls battled from start to finish and it was a great environment for a high school basketball game that gets you ready for a good tournament run,” Hatzisavas continued. “I couldn’t be more proud of the way we played.”

This past Tuesday, the Lady Vikings hosted Gloucester in a rematch of their first encounter in which Winthrop came out on the short end of a 43-40 decision.

However, the Lady Vikings turned the tables on the Lady Fishermen in their second meeting, coming away with a 42-30 victory.

After grabbing a 9-8 lead at the end of the first period, Winthrop expanded its advantage to 20-14 at the half. The Lady Vikings then came out on fire after the intermission, outscoring Gloucester 14-3 in the third period to break the game open, 34-17, from where Winthrop never looked back.

As usual, a number of

Lady Vikings made key contributions to the winning effort.

Fleuriel turned in another tremendous game with a powerful double-double of 15 points and 12 rebounds, while also blocking two enemy shots and hitting a three-pointer that provided a huge spark for Winthrop.

Stiglets also had a superb all-around performance with 11 points, eight boards, and five assists. Brodin hit for doubles with 12 points and made eight steals.

“Reese has done a tremendous job on defense for us all season,” noted Hatzisavas.

“I told the girls this game was a perfect opportunity to show how much we have improved in a month, especially against a tough team,” said Hatzisavas. “At halftime we talked about needing more energy on the defensive end and they came out and executed. It was a great defensive performance that led to timely baskets when needed.”

In between the battle with their NEC rivals, the Lady Vikings took on St. Mary’s of Lynn, the number one ranked team in Division 3 with a 14-1 record (their lone loss coming to Cathedral, the top-ranked team in D-4, by three points) and which has outscored its opponents by an average of 67-37.

“St. Mary’s is as good as advertised,” said Hatzis-

avas in the aftermath of an 83-25 loss.. “We have faced some stiff competition this season, but I don’t think any match the level they are currently at.”

Fleuriel had a great game for Winthrop, scoring 13 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

Hatzisavas and his crew stand at 7-9 overall and are 6-3 in the NEC..

“I believe we are better than what our record shows,” said the coach. “We have faced some of the best competition in the state week-in and week-out and it really shows the mental toughness of these girls to be able to keep it together and work just as hard each day.”

The Lady Vikings will entertain Masconomet tomorrow (Friday) evening for a 6:00 tip-off and will travel to Danvers next Tuesday.

### WHS GYMNASTS TOP ESSEX TECH

The Winthrop High girls gymnastics team turned in some of its best performances of the season in its meet this past week with Essex Tech that was held in Middleton.

Winthrop started on the vault. Sara Jurovich did a clean handspring, scoring an 8.05.

Brooklyn Banfield followed with another handspring vault, tying with captain Shannon Abbott with a score of 8.2. Ju-

lia Hurley and Isabella Rice both completed their twisting vaults, scoring an 8.6.

Captain Alayna Ronan stuck her full twisting handspring, receiving a season-high of 9.15 to give Winthrop a slight edge after the first event, 34.55-33.20.

The Vikings then turned in one of their best performances of the season on the uneven parallel bars. Banfield competed first with a score of 6.6., followed by Abbott and O’Donnell, who both earned scores of 7.4.

Freshman Zoe Ray then hit for a season high of 7.8. “Zoe has been a bright spot in our lineup all season,” said WHS co-coach Christa Vaccaro.

Ronan and Rice both hit their routines and recorded scores of 8.6, giving Winthrop a commanding advantage in the event of 32.1- 20.8.

The Vikings had a tough time in their previous meet on the beam, but excelled vs. Essex. Rey and O’Donnell both hit their routines, each receiving a score of 7.9. Hurley tied for third place in the meet with an 8.15. Ronan followed with a stuck routine, scoring an 8.75.

Rice, the team’s all-around, then turned in the routine of the night, adding a new twisting dismount and scoring a season-high and personal-best score of 9.2, boosting Winthrop into a win on the beam, 34.00-30.15.

“So far, that’s the highest score anybody on the team has scored all sea-

son,” said co-coach Pete Gobiell.

In the floor exercise, the final event of the evening, all of the Vikings scored in the 8s for the first time this season.

Hurley and Abbott both scored an 8.1. Ray and O’Donnell both tallied an 8.4 with solid routines. Rice followed with an 8.45 and Ronan added a new twisting layout to her routine for the first time this season to take first place with a score of 8.65.

Winthrop travels to Peabody today (Thursday) and will host Marblehead this Saturday evening at 6:00 at the Winthrop Gym-

nastics Academy (WGA).

They will take on defending state champ Masconomet next Friday, February 10, at 7:00 at the WGA.

### WHS BOYS HOOP TO FACE MASCO, DANVERS

The Winthrop High boys basketball team, which currently is ranked 29th in the MIAA’s Division 4 power rankings, will journey to Masconomet tomorrow (Friday) and then will return home to host Danvers next Tuesday with the opening tip set for 7:00 on the Chris Tsiotos floor.

## WINTHROP PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS AUTHOR PRESENTATION IN WINTHROP



CARY SHUMAN PHOTO

Precinct 3 Councilor Hannah Belcher (left) and her sister, Abigail Belcher (right), the former Winthrop High and Norwich star athlete who was visiting Winthrop from out of town, greet award-winning author Stephen Puleo during a presentation sponsored by the Winthrop Public Library Jan. 25 at the E.B. Newton Cultural Center. Puleo talked about his book, “Dark Tide, The Great Molasses Flood of 1919,” at the well-attended event. More photos will appear in next week’s edition.

## Hockey // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

full name is Shawsheen Valley Regional Technical High School, is a perennially strong girls hockey program. Shawsheen is a co-op team with Bedford High and there are five communities (Billerica, Bedford, Tewksbury, Burlington, and Wilmington) in the Shawsheen Valley School District.

The Lady Rams have a 6-7 record and are in the top-32 teams in Division 1, so it is possible that Winthrop could meet Shawsheen in the MIAA Tournament.

### Showdown with Peabody

As the Sun-Transcript was going to press Wednesday, the unbeaten Vikings were set to play Peabody High in a key Northeast Hockey League showdown.

“This game is as big as it gets,” said Martucci, noting that Peabody’s only loss in the Northeast Hockey League (to Win-

throp) and undisputed possession of first place in the NEHL was at stake in the contest.

### High Rankings

Winthrop is ranked No. 2 in the state in the Hockey Night in Boston rankings. With St. Mary’s 3-2 loss in overtime to Archbishop Williams, Winthrop is now the only remaining undefeated team in Division 1. The Boston Globe ranks Winthrop at No. 4 in its weekly Top 20 poll.

Division 2 schools Archbishop Williams and Duxbury are the other unbeaten teams in Massachusetts.

### Matt Serino reflects on his career at Saugus

Winthrop High School Athletic Director Matt Serino can certainly appreciate how special it must be for the Vikings’ fantastic triplets – Emma Holmes, Julia Holmes, and Abby Holmes – to be playing in

such a highly successful hockey program.

Serino, who scored 112 points in his Hall of Fame career at Saugus High, teamed up with his twin brother, Craig Serino, during their spectacular four-year varsity careers with the Sachems, who won back-to-back state titles in 2003 and 2004 and lost in overtime in the state final in 2005.

A younger brother, Nick Serino, played two years of hockey at Saugus High with the twins.

“All three of us were super competitive and never wanted to lose,” recalled Matt. “Off the ice, we were best friends, but in practice, any chance we got to go against one another, we relished at the opportunity, especially to have bragging rights at home.

“It brought out the best in all of us and certainly pushed each of us to become better players,” concluded Matt.

OBITUARIES

Janice Flaherty Robblee

She will be deeply missed but never forgotten

Janice E. (Garrison) Flaherty Robblee of Woburn, formerly of Winthrop, died peacefully on January 28 with her husband by her side at the age of 65.

She was the beloved wife and best friend of Roy Robblee.

Born and raised in Winthrop, Janice was a daughter of the late Warren and Gretchen (Garbutt) Garrison. She graduated from Winthrop High School and went on to receive both her bachelor and master's degrees in education from Framingham State College.

For over 24 years, Janice taught Food and Nutrition at the Joyce Middle School in Woburn. While working there, Janice met and fell in love with Roy Robblee. They both had a love of musical arts and were married at the North Shore Music Theater.

Janice was an avid traveler and was blessed to have visited so many places throughout her life. In the summers, she enjoyed spending time at Sebago Lake in Maine and camping in Nova Scotia. She had an adventurous spirit and loved to experience life. After marrying, Jan and Roy traveled to Ireland, Scotland, Mexico and Canada

Janice was an intelligent, organized, positive and funny woman. She lit



up a room with her smile and always dealt with every situation head on. She was a force to be reckoned with but fiercely loyal. She will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her son Eugene Flaherty III of Winthrop and was the loving stepmother of Jason Robblee, his wife Allison Dorsey of Lowell, Tim Robblee, his wife Michelle of Salem, NH and Chris Robblee, his wife Felicia of California; loving daughter of Gretchen Garrison of Florida and the late Warren Garrison; dear sister of Heather, her husband Bryan of Wakefield; treasured friend of Susan and John Tomich of Lynnfield, Paul and Maryanne Scalley of Woburn and Linda Tabbutt of Winthrop.

Relatives and friends are invited to pay their respects from 4 to 7 p.m., today, Thursday, February 2nd in the Lynch – Cantillon Funeral Home, 263 Main St., Woburn. Her Funeral Service will take place on Friday, February 3 at 11 a.m. in St. John's Episcopal Church, 225 Bowdoin Street (corner of Bowdoin St and Buchanan St), Winthrop. All attending are asked to meet directly at the Church. Burial to follow in Winthrop Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jan's memory to Friends Helping Seniors c/o Woburn Senior Center, 144 School St., Woburn MA 01801

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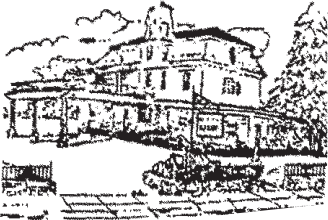
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Winthrop Senior Center News

35 Harvard Street, Winthrop, MA 02152

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-3p.m. / Friday: 9am-1p.m.

Website: town.winthrop.ma.us/council-aging

Email: COARception@town.winthrop.ma.us

Phone: 617-846-8538

Additional information on our activities and programs can be found in our monthly newsletter, which is available at the Senior Center and on our website.

Thursday, February 2

9:00am-3:00pm: Medical Pedicures  
9:30am-10:30am: Exercise Class  
12:00pm: Lunch-Dine In / Grab and Go Lunch Pick-Up  
12:45pm: Bingo

Friday, February 3

10:00am: Ceramics  
10:00am: Line Dancing  
11:00am: Grab and Go Lunch Pick-Up

Monday, February 6

9:30am Yoga with Kathleen  
11:00am: Grab and Go Lunch Pick-Up  
11:30am - 3:00pm: Game Day/Mahjong  
12:30pm: Art Class with Dawn

Tuesday, February 7

9:30am: Exercise Class  
11:00am - 12:00pm: Blood Pressure  
11:00am-12:00pm: Exercise for Arthritis  
11:30am - 12:30pm: Ballroom Dancing  
12:00pm: Lunch-Dine In / Grab and Go Lunch Pick-Up  
1:30pm: Creative Writing with Gerard Leary

Wednesday, February 8

9:30am-10:30am: Yoga with Kathleen  
11:00am - 12:00pm: Zumba with Cindy  
11:00am: Grab and Go Lunch Pick-Up  
1:pm-3:00pm: Shine Counseling  
1:15pm-2:45pm: Italian Class

**Senior Lunch Program:** The Senior Center offers in-person dining on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12-12:30pm. Grab and Go Lunches are also available for pick up Monday – Friday be-

tween 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 it was requested.

**Senior Van.** The Senior Van runs Monday – Thursday from 9am-3pm. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis, and can be made by calling the Senior Center. Medical rides will be prioritized. A list of destinations and pricing is available on our website and in our newsletter.

**CAPIC Fuel Assistance.** CAPIC will be at the Senior Center to assist in signing up for fuel assistance from 9:30am to 12pm on:  
February 15, 2023  
March 15, 2023  
April 19, 2023

Appointments are on a first come, first served basis. For more information on the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIEHAP), go to: www.capicinc.org, or call 617-884-6130.

**VALENTINE'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL.** Monday, February 13 at 1-3pm  
Cost \$2.00. Sign up at the front desk.  
Join us for ice cream, music, and trivia with DJ George Athos.

**PIZZA PARTY.**  
Wednesday, March 15 at 1-3pm  
Cost \$2.00. Sign up at the front desk.

**FALL RISK PREVENTION CLINIC.** Tuesday, March 21 at 11:30am  
Join Dr. Maegen Brady De Leo, Physical Therapist from Cummings Physical Therapy for this interactive and engaging

workshop designed to help minimize the risk of falling, as well as information on modifications that can be made to the home.

Programming & Activities

A full listing of the Senior Center's programs and activities is available in our newsletter and on our website.

**Ballroom Dancing:** Ballroom dance is a set of partner dances, which are enjoyed both socially and competitively around the world. We will tackle Waltz, Swing and Rumba, plus Cha Cha, and Foxtrot. This class will be held on Tuesdays from 11:30am-12pm.

**Blood Pressures:** First and third Tuesday of each month from 11am to 12pm. No appointment needed.

**Bowling:** Tuesdays at 10am at the Winthrop Elks.

**Coffee and Conversation.** Join us on the third Thursday of each month at 10:30am for an informal chat and some coffee and cookies too.

**Computers are available** for use Monday-Thursday from 9am-3pm and Fridays from 9am-12pm.

**Podiatry:** Barbara Ullman, RN, a registered nurse, and pedicurist from Seen Your Feet will be at the Senior Center on the first Thursday of each month. Cost: \$20 (or \$25 to have toe and fingernails done). Cash only. Appointment required; to schedule, please call the Senior Center.

**Seaside Tappers:** The Seaside Tappers meet on Mondays for Tap Classes from 10:30-11:30am, at the Methodist Church. For more information, contact Gail at: 617-763-7311.

**SHINE Counseling:** Our SHINE Counselor, Charlie Randall, is available to help you with any health insurance questions you have. Charlie will be at the Senior Center on the second Wednesday of

the month from 1pm-3pm. Appointments are required; to schedule, please stop by the Senior Center or call us at 617-846-8538.

**Technology Class:** Volunteers will be available from 10am-12pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month to help you with any tech support you need. Bring your laptops, smartphones, or tablets, along with your questions. To register, call the Senior Center.

Upcoming Trips

Flyers, with additional trip information, are available at the Senior Center.

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023:** Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day with Emmet Cahill at Danversport Yacht Club

Cost: \$89 (drive on your own) or \$119 (with transportation)

Provider: Best of Times Travel

Make checks payable to: Friends of WCOA

Meal choice: Corned Beef & Cabbage or Baked Schrod

**Sunday, April 30, 2023:** Lunch & Show at the Newport Playhouse

Provider: All Around New England

Cost: \$127

Make checks payable to: Friends of WCOA

**Saturday, May 20, 2023:** Lobster Roll Cruise

Provider: All Around New England

Cost: \$114

Make checks payable to: Friends of WCOA

Meal choice: Lobster Roll, Roast Beef Rollup, Vegetarian Rollup, or Chicken Caesar Salad

**Wednesday, June 21, 2023:** The Texas Tenors at Danversport Yacht Club

Provider: Best of Times Travel

Cost: \$89 (drive on your own) or \$119 (with transportation)

Make checks payable to: Friends of WCOA

Meal choice: Stuffed Breast of Chicken or Baked Scrod

Years // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

of a high employment for defense industry workers, gasoline rationing, and restrictions on driving by civilians has taxed the area's mass transit operations.

The whole town is talking about the upcoming 21st annual Linen Ball of the Winthrop Community Hospital, which promises to be the social event of the season. Hundreds of local

residents are planning to attend the event, which will be held at the Cottage Park Y.C. Formal dress requirements for this year's ball have been slackened.

Fire Chief William Floyd has begun issuing citations with fines to some homeowners who are not taking the necessary steps to remove fire hazards such as rags, rubbish, and any oil or gasoline from their basements and other areas about the home.

The Office of Price Administration in Washington has further reduced the ration of coffee from one

pound every five weeks to one pound every six weeks for all persons 15 years of age and older.

The blizzard that struck Thursday night left virtually the entire town snowed-in.

90 years ago February 11, 1933

The Chief Engineer from the State Division of Waterways met with the selectmen to discuss the construction of the breakwaters off Shore Drive that have been funded by the state, with a portion of the cost to be paid by the town.

Town workers have made wonderful progress in removing the tons of sand, rocks, boulders, and other debris that inundated the town's coastline last week during the big storm that brought a 15-foot tide.

Five of the nine Boy Scout troops in the town have been notified that they will receive the President Hoover Award which is given to those troops that familiarize themselves with the 10-year Program of Growth which recently has been inaugurated by the Boy Scouts of America.

The Winthrop Unemployment Committee is warning residents that imposters pretending to be working for the committee are collecting food. The Sports Night held at

the Winthrop Yacht Club, which featured a basketball game, boxing, wrestling, and music, netted \$600 for the Unemployment Committee. Total donations this winter season to the committee have totaled about \$6000, which has been used to buy food and coal for local families of the unemployed.

A cast of more than 100 well-trained boys and girls will provide the entertainment to local residents at the send annual Winthrop Follies show to be held at the Winthrop Theatre.

100 years ago February 8, 1923

Residents are mourning the sudden passing of well-known resident Herman Kuchmeister, who died of a heart attack while running to catch a morning train near his home last week. Kuchmeister was the recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for cutting the Spanish army's cable line at Cienfuegos, Cuba in the face of heavy enemy fire. Kuchmeister received several wounds near his jugular vein during the battle and it is thought that wounds placed added pressure on his heart over the years which eventually led to his collapse. He was born in Germany in 1877 and worked as a Customs House inspector.

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# Girls sports programs expanding as interest grows at Northeast Metro Tech

Special to the Journal

Superintendent David DiBarri is pleased to share that growing interest among students has led to an expansion of girls sports programs at Northeast Metro Tech, and that there are also two girls wrestling this year.

This year Northeast Metro Tech added a girls ice hockey program in collaboration with Wakefield Public Schools, offering Northeast Metro Tech girls a chance to play ice hockey with students from Wakefield. So far six girls have signed up to play hockey on the cooperative team, with several racking up points as the team has a 6 and 8 record.

Sisters Celeste Scoppettuolo and Gianna Scoppettuolo, of Revere, are among team leaders with five goals and nine assists and three goals and six assists respectively.

The cooperative ice hockey program enables Northeast girls to play against other girls, whereas they previously played with the boys ice hockey team.

Meanwhile, two girls are wrestling against boys with the Northeast Metro Tech varsity wrestling team, and both are performing well so far this year.

Northeast wrestlers Shelby Gale, of Woburn, and Francesca Casolli, of Revere, have both contributed to the Northeast Varsity Wrestling team this year, with Casolli starting in the 120 pound spot.

"Shelby is an outstanding leader in our program and she has a great work ethic," said wrestling coach Bruce Rich. "She competes on the coed team and has won several matches, and she also finished second at the Senator All-Girl Wrestling Tournament on Jan. 16 as she faced 20 very competitive girls in her weight class."

"I would like to congratulate Francesca on her many accomplishments. She's one of the few female wrestlers to be part of what was once an all male varsity team, and she is also on the National Honor Society, and an impeccable student all around," said Northeast Metro Tech School Committee Member Anthony L. Caggiano of Revere. "Francesca is kind and full of determination. Francesca's parents attend all of her academic and sporting events. They should be proud of the exceptional daughter they've raised. This is what Northeast Metro Tech is all about — the success and persistence of students and growing our programs to their fullest potential."

Additionally, three years ago the school also added a girls Field Hockey program, which began as a club sport but which has already grown to become a full varsity team with 20 players this year.

Existing girls sports programs have grown as well, with 265 girls taking part in programs this year, and another 81 girls taking part in coed sports such as Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Swimming and Diving.

Expanding interest in girls sports also led the school to add freshman teams for volleyball, basketball and softball, in addition to the existing varsity and junior varsity teams for those sports.

"We want to add as many programs as we can, because we try to be a no cut school," said Athletic Director Donald Heres. "More and more students are coming from the communities and they're looking forward to playing sports, so we try to do whatever we can to provide programs so we don't have to cut anybody or deny anyone an opportunity to compete."

Athletic Director Heres said the school uses surveys of students to de-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NORTHEAST METRO TECH

Sisters Celeste Scoppettuolo and Gianna Scoppettuolo, of Revere, are among team leaders with five goals and nine assists and three goals and six assists respectively for the Wakefield and Northeast Metro Tech cooperative girls hockey team.

termine interest in new sporting programs, which is how the cooperative ice hockey program came to be created this year. Such surveys are conducted on an ongoing basis, as the school seeks to identify areas where student interest justifies adding a club or varsity team.

"Sports offer our students opportunities to learn about teamwork, competition, setting goals and achieving goals with hard work and dedication, all while students are able to improve their physical health," said Superintendent DiBarri. "I'm pleased



Northeast Metro Tech's Olivia Skillings, of Wakefield, puts a shot on goal for the Wakefield and Northeast Metro Tech cooperative girls hockey team.

to see interest in our sporting programs increase among girls, and I look forward to adding even more programs to provide an avenue for those who are interested in competing."



Northeast wrestler Shelby Gale placed second at the Senators All-Girl High School wrestling tournament on January 16.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

COUNCIL LOOKS TO FILL POSITIONS

CHELSEA - The City Council is moving forward with several steps in the process to find a replacement for former City Manager Thomas Ambrosino.

Last week, the council held a subcommittee meeting to address several of the issues surrounding Ambrosino's departure, as well as for finding a replacement for clerk to the council Paul Casino. Casino officially retired from his position in December, but is working on a part-time/consultant basis to help the council until they find his replacement.

At the subcommittee meeting, the council discussed appointing Deputy City Manager Ned Keefe the acting City Manager.

However, the motion to appoint Keefe the acting City Manager was tabled at Monday night's meeting to the Feb. 6 council meeting because there was still some input the council was looking for from the deputy city manager and the city solicitor.

The council did approve hiring the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management to consult and assist with the City Manager search process.

"Prior to that, we, as a City Council will have a discussion about what we would like to see, what type of City Manager that the city will be looking for," said Precinct 8 Councilor Calvin Brown.

Brown said the search process will also incorporate input from the community, and that there will be more information at the next council meeting about a possible screening committee to help with the selection process.

As for the clerk to the council position, the council voted to reissue the job description for the position as a full-time position of up to 35 hours per week with a flexible schedule.

Brown noted that if the council could not find a suitable person to fill the position full time, there could be some flexibility and ability to hire someone at fewer hours. However, Council President Leo Robinson stated that

A HEALTHY CONVERSATION  
FORMER NHL STANDOUT VISITS THE WEBSTER SCHOOL

Members of the Boston Bruins Youth Hockey Department visited the Webster School, where they talked about the tools students need to live a happy, healthy lifestyle.

The organization was represented by Andrew Raycroft, a former Bruins goaltender for the Boston Bruins and winner of the Calder Memorial Trophy as Rookie of the Year.

Raycroft talked about nutrition, perseverance, and physical activity as part of an interactive 40-minute program.

The team mascot, Blades the Bruin, and representatives of the Everett

Fire Department and the Army National Guard also participated in the fun and informative program.



Shown (from left) Patricia Robasson David, Carla Medeiros, Superintendent Priya Tahiliani, Webster School Principal Chris Barrett, School Committee member and Webster grandparent Millie Cardello, and Gilda Richman. Ms. Richman is the grandmother of Webster Guidance Counselor Samantha Grant and the wife of longtime legendary EPS employee Bob Richman.

it is being advertised as a full-time position.

Casino announced his planned retirement for the end of 2022 in May of last year.

At that time, the council established a special search subcommittee for the clerk to the council position. At that time, the clerk was being listed as a 20-hour per week position.

RESIDENT SEES MORE TO BE DONE

EVERETT - Maryann Cocca-Leffler has reached the top of her dual professions. She is an award-winning author and illustrator of 70 children's books.

Now the Everett native's distinguished career has taken "a little turn" as she has redirected her focus on her disability rights advocacy with the publishing of two nonfiction

picture books on the topic:

"We Want to Go to School! The Fight for Disability Rights" (2021), co-authored by her daughter, Janine Leffler and illustrated by Maryann, is the true story about the people behind the 1972 landmark case which ensured a public-school education for all.

"Fighting For Yes! The Story of Disability Rights Activist Judith Heumann" (2022), is a biography of one of America's greatest living activists who was instrumental in leading the famous 1977 504 Sit-in which paved the way for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This book, illustrated by Vivien Mildenberger, just received the 2023 Orbis Pictus Award Honor by the NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English).

Cocca-Leffler brings a distinctly personal touch to her fervent advocacy for disability rights. Her daughter, Janine Leffler, a graduate of New England College, now in her 30s, was born with cerebral palsy.

"I've been her advocate since day 1," said Cocca-Leffler, "Though I am not a person with disabilities nor have I suffered discrimination myself, I have seen the injustices and exclusion up-close as I helped navigate life for

my daughter. Because of her, we were able to spread the word about the history of disability rights through these books."

Janine was also the inspiration for the picture book, "Janine", about a differently abled character who loves who she is and inspires others. It was based on a bullying experience Janine had as a child.

Cocca-Leffler lectures widely, in-person or virtually, at schools, educators' professional development programs and community events. Janine joins her at school visits when she can. Maryann was recently called upon to do several corporate diversity training programs for international companies.

"Through my books, I teach about the history of disability rights and the struggles that people with disabilities have encountered to be included in society. I truly believe that we need to learn about the past in order to build a better future, a future which embraces inclusion in all walks of life, including schools and the workplace. Many people with disabilities are unemployed or under-employed, despite the fact that they are willing and able to work. There is a lot of work to be done."

Remembering her roots in Everett

Maryann Cocca-Leffler grew up in an Italian family in the Woodlawn section of Everett, attended Saint Anthony's Elementary School, and graduated from Everett High School in 1976.

"In fourth grade, one particular teacher, a nun at Saint Anthony's, happened to instill this idea that I could actually make a career in art," recalled Cocca-Leffler. "She saw that I had some talent and gave me my first little art kit. I remember asking her, 'Do you mean people will pay you to make art?' And she said, 'Yes!'"

Her Everett High School art teacher was also supportive of her career dreams.

"Ms. Elaine Sapochetti was a new art teacher and had a lot of vibrancy," recalled Cocca-Leffler. "She inspired me to go on to art school."

Studying at the Mass. College of Art

Determined to focus on a career in art, Cocca-Leffler enrolled in the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, majoring in illustration.

"When you begin art school, you don't really know what area to focus on, so I took every single art course possible, including: pottery, architecture, graphic design, drawing and painting, before I landed on illustration," said Cocca-Leffler. "It seemed like a natural choice, since I loved children's book art and already had acquired quite a collection of children's books."

By the time Cocca-Leffler was a senior at Mass Art, she began to show her portfolio to Boston-based publishers such as Houghton Mifflin, Little Brown, and Addison Wesley.

"So, before I graduated, I was hired to do the illustrations for my very first book, "Thanksgiving at the Tappletons," which was written by Eileen Spinelli and published by Addison Wesley in 1982," said Cocca-Leffler.

Interestingly, the book just celebrated its 40th anniversary in print. Cocca-Leffler had re-illustrat-

ed the book in 1992.

Making her transition from illustrator to writer

Cocca-Leffler began traveling to New York City publishers to showcase her portfolio to art directors and editors. Up to that point, Cocca-Leffler had been illustrating other people's stories, but had not yet written her own. That soon changed. She explains, "As I began meeting editors and art directors, they were very encouraging just like the teachers way back in Everett. During one visit with an editor, she pointed to a cat in my portfolio, and said, 'Write a story about this cat.' I did. That became, "Wednesday is Spaghetti Day," which was the first book I wrote and illustrated, publishing in 1990."

An amazing career was born. Maryann Cocca-Leffler has written and illustrated about 45 books and illustrated another 25 books. "My career has come full circle," said Cocca-Leffler. "I began my career illustrating other people's work, but now I'm open to collaborating with illustrators on some books."

Having illustrated her first book in 1982, Cocca-Leffler she just celebrated her 40th anniversary in the business. She has no plans to stop, and is currently illustrating her next book, "Don't Ask Cat!" (2024).

Her Everett roots live on. Her favorite book is "Bus Route to Boston" (2020) which is about her family growing up on Woodlawn Avenue, taking Bus 111 into Boston, and going into the North End to buy vegetables and cannoli, and then shopping in Filene's Basement.

"I still get letters from people who take that same bus into Boston with their children," related Cocca-Leffler.

Continuing her advocacy

Maryann Cocca-Leffler is setting the standard in the authoring of books about people with disabilities. Her message of inclusion is striking a positive chord with publishers.

"With calls for equity and inclusion there has been a shift in the industry and publishers have finally begun publishing diverse books of under-represented groups, including disabilities," noted Cocca-Leffler.

Cocca-Leffler said she loves the new direction of her book-writing career. She is inspiring people in the field of disability rights.

"My goal is for the history of disability rights to be taught in the classroom, right along with civil rights. That's what I would love to see, and I'm getting a really good response from teachers," said Cocca-Leffler.

Maryann Cocca-Leffler and her husband, Eric Leffler, also a 1976 Everett High graduate, now live in Maine. In addition to their daughter, Janine, they have a daughter, Kristin, a middle grade social studies teacher and writer.

To find out more about Maryann's books and visits, check out: [www.maryanncoccaleffler.com](http://www.maryanncoccaleffler.com)

To buy autographed books and support her local independent bookstore, 'Print' in Portland, ME, visit:

<https://www.printbookstore.com/maryann-cocca-leffler>



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# Sweethearts Valentine Sale at St John's Episcopal Church

Staff Report

St. John's will be hosting our annual Sweethearts Valentine Sale on Saturday February 11 from 10am to 2pm, at 222 Bowdoin St. Winthrop, Ma. 02152 to lift you out of your mid-winter doldrums!

Visitors will discover delectable desserts, lovely decor and themed gifts to add delightful luster and surprise for heartfelt gift giving just in time for Valentines Day three days later.

The fair will feature a vast array of confections to woo any sweet-toothed (or salty-toothed) friend, family member, teacher, boyfriend, girlfriend, theyfriend and anyone else you can think of!

Among the tempting selections will be heart-shaped cheesecakes, heart-shaped sugar cookies, pecan mini pies, eight-layer shortbread cookies and so many other cookies, cakes and treats - festively packaged and ready for giving!

Our beautiful and extremely affordable selections of Jewelry will have you looking for a friend and probably a little something for yourself!

Our premier attraction will be a spectacular hand-designed, handmade Valentine Quilt in lovely colors of reds, whites and pinks for raffle, along with four other wonderful raffle prizes, all valued well over \$500 and any one of these could be yours for a minuscule donation price

of a \$1 per ticket!

. John's Makers have been hard at work and have created a beautiful selection of hand knit items and one-of-a-kind love-themed gift baskets, wreaths & handmade greeting cards.

Additionally, there will be some new-with-tags decor items, balloons and extremely cute stuffed animals.

Shoppers can be assured of finding the perfect gifts for all their loved ones.

St John's fairs are known for congenial shopping in a warm, welcoming and buoyant social atmosphere, where friends greet long-time friends and even start new friendships!

Next on the St John's event calendar is our annual Spring Craft Fair slated for Saturday April 15 10am-2pm. Nothing out of the package here - We pride ourselves on offering some of the best crafters and makers around, long-distance and local alike.

Find us on our Facebook page or at [www.stjohnsepiscopalwinthrop-ma.org](http://www.stjohnsepiscopalwinthrop-ma.org) - and now on instagram @StJohnsEpiscopalWinthropMa for exciting news and all our upcoming events and observances!

St. John's Episcopal Church and our Parish Hall where we host our events are both wheelchair accessible. Come on down and say "Hi", We'd love to meet you!

HILTON GRADUATES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Skylar Hilton of Winthrop graduated from the University of New Hampshire in December 2022. He/she earned a BS in Nutrition&Wellness.

Students who received the honor Summa Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.85-4.0: Students who received the honor of Magna Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.65-3.84; and students who received the honor of Cum Laude graduated with a GPA of 3.50-3.64.

Students are only graduated after the Registrar's Office has certified that all degree requirements have been successfully completed. Participating in the commencement ceremony is the act of honoring and celebrating academic achievement.

Winthrop School notes are as follows:

- Congratulations to Winthrop Elks Students of the Month for December: Grade 6: Evan McHugh & Audrey Carroll; Grade 7: Macy Werstak & Clark McHugh; Grade 8: Juliet Bettano & Grace Scorzel-la
- Congratulations to WHS Girls Hockey senior Julia Holmes who scored he 100th point on last week against Gloucester!
- Congratulations to

# LOCAL STUDENT EARNS Academic Honors

The University of New Hampshire inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top-ranked programs in business, engineering, law, health and human services, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. A Carnegie Classification R1 institution, UNH partners with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, and received \$260 million in competitive external funding in FY21 to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

thorp students have been inducted into the Robert J. Fulton, SJ Chapter of the National Honor Society at Boston College High School:

- Jackson D'Ambrosio (Class of 2024)
- Hayes Kennedy (Class of 2024)
- Cedric Wysocki (Class of 2024)

The National Honor Society (NHS) was created by the National Association of Secondary School Principals to recognize high school students who have distinguished themselves in their school and community.

Each year eligible juniors and seniors are invited to apply for membership in NHS. Applications are reviewed by a committee of BC High teachers to confirm that each student has attained a high standard of each of these characteristics: scholarship, character, leadership, and service.

At BC High, NHS members are committed to service in the school and in the broader community. All students applying for membership must be current with the completion of required community services hours for their grade level at BC High. After induction into NHS, all members are expected to offer significant service to the school community as tutors in the Academic Resource Center, as ambassadors at Open House and Admissions events, and in other capacities.

A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 is required of all applicants. Beyond the grade point average, applicants must be a positive presence in their academic classes. They must show initiative and dependability, work well with other students, exhibit a strong work ethic, and demonstrate openness to growth.

# WINTHROP PUBLIC SCHOOLS News & Notes

WELVIS ACOSTA for being selected to the Division 6 All State Team! Welvis was recognized as one of the top players in Division 6 as voted by the Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Association.

- Congratulations to Grace McCurdy for being selected as Winthrop Middle School's Project 351 Ambassador!
- Winthrop Parents Network and the Department of Early Education & Care is hosting International Night 2023 on Thursday, January 26th from 6:30pm-7:30pm in the ATC Cafetorium. The event is free. For more information contact Anita Preble at [anita.preble@winthrop.k12.ma.us](mailto:anita.preble@winthrop.k12.ma.us).
- Winthrop Middle School Drama Society is performing "Moana Jr" on February 3 and 4 at 7:00pm, and February 5 at 2:00 pm in the Neil Shapiro Center for Performing Arts at Winthrop High School. Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$8 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased online or cash only at the door!
- Preschool Registration begins February 1 -February 28. Child must be four years old by September 1, 2023. The full day program is Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-1:00 pm at a cost of \$6,400.00. Half day morning session is Monday-Friday, 8:00am-10:30am at a cost of \$3,300.00. Half day afternoon session is Monday-Friday, 10:30am-1:00pm at a cost of \$3,100.00. Information and forms are on the school website.

WINTHROP HIGH SCHOOL'S SCHOLARS OF THE MONTH



AMBERCLAIRE DOWD

GRADE 9 | FAV. SUBJECT: BIOLOGY & HISTORY  
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: PLANS ON ATTENDING A 4-YEAR COLLEGE



BRANDON YOYO

GRADE 11 | FAV. SUBJECT: MATH  
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL - PLANS ON ATTENDING A 4 YEAR COLLEGE

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