

AHS GRAD LEADS CORNELL MARCHING BAND PAGE 19



PLENTY TO WARM UP TO IN NEW ISSUE OF THE ANDOVERS PAGE 3



CARVER, ALLEN TAKE GIRLS' GYMNASTICS TO NEW HEIGHTS PAGE 18

OUR 127TH YEAR

Andover Townsman

Issue No. 13

JANUARY 29, 2015

75 CENTS

Rep. Lyons aims to fight heroin 'epidemic'

By TIM LIMA

Proposes tougher sentencing laws, more funding for treatment

The war against the heroin epidemic has been waged, and Rep. Jim Lyons, R-Andover feels he has the winning battle plan. "There's two sides to fighting this," he said. "The enforcement side and the treatment

side." Lyons wants to increase penalties for individuals convicted of heroin distribution and give prosecutors the authority to bring manslaughter charges — which can mean sentences of 20 years to life — for overdose

deaths that can be tied to dealers. He is one of several lawmakers who returned to Beacon Hill last week motivated to address what they are saying is a growing public health crisis. Lyons' proposals come in the

wake of a reported heroin overdose on New Year's Day that claimed the life of an 18-year-old young woman who grew up in Andover. "People selling this stuff to our kids should be held to a tougher standard," he said.

"People are dying, and the people selling the heroin know what they're doing. We need to give the police and the court officials the tools to drive this epidemic into the ground." Lyons has also filed legislation to spend more money on

substance abuse programs, which he said are woefully under-funded and don't cover the costs. "We need to make sure that the money is available for

See HEROIN, Page 3

WINTER FUN



The Dalton family (from left) dog Cami, Bob, Abrielle, 7, Michelle, and Alison, 10, sled during Ward Hill Reservation's Family Fun Day. For more photos, see Page 13.

Two new candidates in race for Selectmen

By BILL KIRK

The race is on. Two people have pulled nomination papers to run for a seat on the Board of Selectmen, less than a week away from the Feb. 3 deadline for the March 24 election.



Bob Landry Neil Senior

Bob Landry, 52, of 4 Seminole Circle, co-founder of a taxpayers' watchdog website, said he is running to give voters a choice between the status quo and someone who will ask tough questions and challenge municipal leaders to help taxpayers.

Neil Senior, of 14 Alderbrook Road, is running primarily because he is concerned about keeping the school district at a high performance level and generally improving local government.

Two incumbents, Brian Major and Dan Kowalski, have both turned in their nomination papers. Major has been a selectman for 18 years. Kowalski is just finishing up his first term in office.

Bob Landry

Landry said he was running in part because he wants to continue providing taxpayers with the kind of information available on the website he and the late Greg Rigby started together.

"It was not my intention when I started townofandover.com two years ago to ever run for office," he said. If elected, he would abandon the web site but not the main principle it was founded upon - "transparency."

See SELECTMEN, Page 3

Taking on the pipeline

Residents plot course of action against Kinder Morgan

By BILL KIRK

It might be a David and Goliath battle, but residents of a couple small, Andover neighborhoods are ready for the fight.

Last Thursday night, about 30 people sat in the family room addition of David

Yachnin's house at 5 Ellsworth Road, nibbling on baked goods and sipping soda, looking for answers on the natural gas pipeline Kinder Morgan has proposed building through the western part of town.

Yachnin pointed into the darkness beyond the large windows that overlook his

backyard, noting that the pipeline company wants to "clear-cut" trees to make way for a 100-foot-wide construction easement and a 50-foot-wide permanent easement that could run along the edge of an existing power line corridor.

A stand of trees now serves as a buffer between

his property and the power lines, comprised of large, steel towers; wooden poles and high-voltage cables.

"Right now, we can't see the power lines because of the trees," he said. "They will clear-cut the entire stand of trees so my

See PIPELINE, Page 2

12-year wait ends as Town Market comes to South Main Street

By JUDY WAKEFIELD

Like so many town residents, Tom Walsh has been driving by that laid out concrete on a cleared patch of land on South Main Street for a very long time and wondering what was being built there.

Walsh - and other wonderers in town - finally have the answer.

The Andover Town Market is being built at 492 South Main St. (Route 28). It's a project that has been bantered about in town for some 12 years and it's finally being built. Building Inspector Chris Clemente said it was 2003 when the first permit was filed by a developer. The site was formerly Lund's Service Station and those owners sold the land to a developer who wanted to build a gourmet grab-and-go type market.

Then, the recession hit, and the project was stalled for years.

Walsh, a married father of three girls, lives on Penobscot Way and often wondered what was going on at the long-vacant site. He works in commercial real estate as president of KSA Realty LLC of Andover



A rendering of the Town Market being built on South Main Street. It's fashioned after an old-time neighborhood store.

and finally got a call to get involved.

"I got involved in 2014 and it's going to be great with its neighborhood feel ... we're excited," said Walsh, one of three partners building the Andover Town Market. His other partners are Matt Morello, who owns and operates the Brasserie 28 restaurant on Main Street with his wife, Alison, and David Deloury, who is president of Deloury Construction, based in Andover.

Facebook regularly has construction photographs

and there is a website - andovermarket.com - so people can follow the progress of the market's construction. It is scheduled to open in early summer, Walsh said. The market will be open seven days a week starting at 6 a.m., opening at 7 a.m. on Sunday.

"It will have that town market concept," Walsh said. "We want families to come and make memories." The market will sell lots of take-home goodies

See MARKET, Page 2

A first for lieutenant

Newly promoted Blais becomes Andover's highest-ranking female officer

By TIM LIMA

Given Andover's long history, it's not often that an accomplishment is the first of its kind for the town.

Cecilia Blais, the newest lieutenant in the Andover Police Department, is an exception.

This Thursday night, Blais, 60, will be officially sworn in as the first female to hold the superior rank in the department's history. The formal ceremony for all newly promoted and appointed officers follows Blais' official appointment, which took effect on Jan. 6.

"I'm proud of it; it's an accomplishment," Blais said

last week. "I think it shows that women can excel in mostly male-dominated areas in the workforce."

Blais didn't expect to make law enforcement a career. But after marrying her now ex-husband, a former Lawrence police officer, the idea intrigued her as

See BLAIS, Page 3

INDEX

- Arts & Entertainment . . . 13
- Classified 19-23
- Crossword 14
- Editorial 11
- Education 16
- Letters 11
- Obituaries 4
- Police Log 7
- Sports 18
- Townspeople 17



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Selectmen eye \$637K farm property on Shawsheen River

By BILL KIRK

bkirk@eagletribune.com

ANDOVER — After failing to purchase the old Phillips Academy boathouse property on the Merrimack River, the town now has its eyes set on another piece of possible conservation land — 20 acres on the Shawsheen River that has an address in Tewksbury.

The land currently includes a farmhouse and a half-dozen animals, including two pigs, two cows and two horses, according to its owner, Jean Tisbert, who has lived on the property for more than 50 years.

She has a buyer who has offered to pay \$637,000 for the property.

An agricultural tax exemption, known as a 61A, was placed on the property Tisbert's late husband placed. As a result, the town has the right to buy the property before it can be sold to anyone else, or assign that right to a nonprofit land management group.

On Monday night, the Board of Selectmen held a public hearing this week to determine whether to exercise either of those rights, but the blizzard postponed the hearing to Feb. 2, according to Selectman Chairman Dan Kowalski.

Selectmen have been meeting in executive session with the Conservation Commission over the last

several weeks to consider the property purchase. Town officials are refusing to discuss the land deal publicly because negotiations have been behind closed doors.

The property was one of 20 identified as priorities for open space acquisition during last year's Town Meeting. Voters at that session approved the use of \$800,000 originally set aside for the purchase of the Reichhold property — a deal that fell through two years ago — to buy other possible conservation land.

Last month, an attempt to buy the 8-acre Phillips boathouse property on the Merrimack River — also on the list of priority properties — failed after selectmen and

the Conservation Commission placed a bid of around \$500,000 for the land. Phillips instead sold the property to the abutting Andover Companies for more than \$2 million.

Tisbert, 78, whose husband died two years ago, hopes to sell her property soon so she can move to New Hampshire with her son and daughter-in-law, who are building a house there.

Tisbert said that before Interstate 93 was built, the address for the farm was Greenwood Road in Andover. She and her husband had seven children, all of whom went to school in Andover.

She said she did not know what the prospective buyer

would be doing with the land.

According to Conservation Commission agent Bob Douglas, the land is "two-thirds uplands," with the rest as wetlands along the winding Shawsheen River. He said the property is only reachable by canoe from Andover, or by going through Tewksbury.

Douglas said the property is near two other conservation properties, including the 25-acre Lightning Tree Reservation owned by the Conservation Commission and the 4-acre Sanborn Reservation, owned by the Andover Village Improvement Society, or AVIS.

He noted that the primary concern with the property

was access, because you have to go through Tewksbury to get to it, unless you're in a boat.

Susan Stott, the land acquisition manager for AVIS, said her group has been in discussions with the Conservation Commission about the property and is interested in it primarily as a way to preserve the Shawsheen River frontage.

"AVIS is looking at it pretty closely," she said. "The most important thing about this land is the protection of the Shawsheen River."

Selectmen meet at 7 p.m. Monday for their regular meeting in the third-floor conference room of the Town Offices. The Tisbert land deal is on the agenda.

Homeowner calls order to remove tanks 'harassment'

By BILL KIRK

bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

Town officials are once again taking aim at the owner of 2 Dufton Road, ordering him to remove gasoline and propane tanks from his property because they could create a safety hazard to the neighborhood.

Earlier this month, Fire Chief Michael Mansfield sent a letter to Joe Boyer, who lives on the property with his wife and two children, ordering him to remove 20, 5-gallon propane tanks and a number of gasoline tanks identified by the building inspector during a tour.

Mansfield said the tanks violated the safety code. He set a Jan. 16 deadline for removal of the tanks and said that there would be a follow-up inspection of the property.

Boyer is supposed to contact the town and the bank when the items have been removed, Mansfield said, adding that he has not been notified of any changes to the property.

"We are moving forward with legal proceedings that may include going to housing

court," he said. "We are in the process of trying to seek the best and most expedient way to go about this."

Building Inspector Chris Clemente could not be reached for comment.

Boyer said the letter was simply a case of "more harassment."

"I'm not in violation," he said. "I haven't done anything wrong. They are making assertions they have no grounds for. I don't have illegal propane. It's ridiculous."

The fire chief's letter was written in response to observations made by Clemente, who toured the property in December with several other town officials as well as a Land Court judge.

The Land Court judge was on hand as part of a case the town brought against Boyer in 2008 for storing items in his yard under huge tents and in a tractor-trailer parked on the sidewalk adjacent to his property.

Boyer also has a case pending in the state Appeals Court regarding his mortgage.

US Bank foreclosed on the property in 2008, but Boyer has challenged the legitimacy of the bank's claim.



FILE PHOTO
Joe Boyer stands outside his house at 2 Dufton Road last August. He has been fighting a bank foreclosure and a series of eviction notices for several years. He calls the town's latest effort to order the removal of tanks from his property "harassment."

He said because mortgages were traded as commodities in the run-up to the Great Recession, the ownership of many foreclosed properties remains clouded.

However, the bank has succeeded in getting another authorization to send out a 48-hour eviction notice,

something that has happened six times already, Boyer said.

"They (the bank) went to court and got authorization to do another eviction even though the appeal is still pending," he said. "They pulled the wool over the court's eyes."

Rose Glen Drive property condemned by health agent

By BILL KIRK

bkirk@eagletribune.com

A house on Rose Glen Drive has been condemned by the town's health agent.

Tom Carbone, the town's director of public health, recently told the owner of 16 Rose Glen Drive in a letter that she must vacate the property until a number of health violations have been resolved.

In an interview last week, Carbone said, "We've told her she can't live there. It's for safety reasons. They are trying to get her back in there as quickly as they can."

He refused to divulge any further details of the case, saying it was a highly personal matter.

In the letter, however, he said the home was unsafe for habitation due to a number of problems, including mold, the odor of feces, broken and leaking water pipes, refuse throughout the house, lack

of smoke and CO detectors, lack of running water in a bathroom and unsanitary conditions in other bathrooms, a stovetop in non-working condition, a front entrance in decay and a bathroom ceiling showing signs of water leaks. Finally, he said there were problems with "impeding the means of egress and failing to maintain it (the property) in a safe condition."

The Jan. 14 letter goes on to say the "situation constitutes a violation of the State Sanitary Code. ... These conditions represent a threat to impair or endanger public health. As such it may not be occupied until this office conducts an inspection ..."

The property owner has seven days to appeal the order, but in the meantime is not allowed to live there, he said.

The owner could not be reached for comment.

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3 NY men charged with cocaine trafficking

By TIM LIMA
tlima@andovertownsmen.com

Three New York men believed to be part of a major cocaine trafficking operation are facing 15 to 20 years in jail and up to a \$500,000 fine following their arrest last week in Andover.

The routine surveillance of a River Road gas station on Jan. 21 by detectives assigned to Andover Police Department's Substance Abuse Unit led police to the three suspects and 2 kilograms of cocaine with a street value of approximately \$80,000, according to a press release issued by the department.

At around 9 p.m., the detectives noticed three suspicious men come and go from two vehicles at the gas station, the release said. While the gas station is not identified in the release, the police log lists the gas station as

located at 138 River Road. Detectives approached the drivers of both vehicles as they were outside talking, the release said. The third suspect who had stayed in one of the vehicles then tried to flee, but was quickly stopped by uniformed Andover officers, police said. Officers said they observed a white powdery substance consistent with cocaine or another drug in plain view.

After the men were placed in custody, detectives located two "large packages of white powder wrapped in plastic," which later tested positive for cocaine, the release said. Along with the 2 kilograms of cocaine, detectives seized masks, cutting agents and other drug paraphernalia.

Arrested and charged with cocaine trafficking and conspiracy to violate controlled substance laws were Hector Moquea, 31, of



Courtesy photo

Andover police detectives seized 2 kilograms of cocaine with a street value of approximately \$80,000 following the arrest of three New York men on drug trafficking charges last week.

350 St. Anns Ave., Apt. 7N, 49, of 2715 3rd Ave., Apt. 3A, Tejada, 31, of 566 W 159th St., Bronx, N.Y.; Roberto Reyes, Bronx, N.Y.; and Edward

Tejada was additionally charged with operating to endanger and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Police Chief Patrick Keefe praised the diligent work of the detectives and uniformed patrol officers.

"Drug abuse is one of the great evils in society, and we will not tolerate the trafficking of illegal drugs through our community," Keefe said in the release. "Our Andover Police detectives did an excellent job in exercising patience and diligence to take three drug traffickers off the street and remove a large quantity of cocaine from potentially hitting the streets."

The suspects were held without bail pending arraignment in Lawrence District Court. Those convicted of trafficking over 200 grams of cocaine face a jail sentence of 15 to 20 years and up to a \$500,000 fine.

■ POLICE LOG

COMPILED BY TIM LIMA
tlima@andovertownsmen.com

Monday, Jan. 19 Incidents

A woman reported at 6:48 a.m. that her car was broken into overnight on Pine Street. She said that nothing of value was taken — only some loose change.

A caller at 11:45 a.m. reported a backpack left on Wild Rose Drive had cables running out of it. Officers reported that it contained electric cord and old clothes. The bag was thrown out.

Tuesday, Jan. 20 Arrest

Chad W. Roycroft, 37, was arrested on Railroad Street at 4:11 p.m. and charged with operating under the influence of liquor and having an open container of liquor in a motor vehicle. According to police records, a caller notified police that a man was drinking in a Railroad Street parking lot, and put the beer in his trunk when they saw him.

Incidents

A two-car crash was reported on South Main

Street at 5:45 p.m. There were no injuries reported.

Wednesday, Jan. 21 Arrests

Hector Moquea, 31, of 350 St. Anns Ave., Apt. 7N, Bronx, N.Y., was arrested on River Road at 8:54 p.m. and charged with trafficking cocaine and conspiracy to violate controlled substance laws.

Edward Tejada, 31, of 566 W 159th St., Apt. 3, New York, N.Y., was arrested on River Road at 9:02 p.m. and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, operating to endanger and trafficking cocaine.

Roberto Reyes, 49, of 2715 3rd Ave., Apt. 3A, Bronx, N.Y., was arrested on River Road at 9:12 p.m. and charged with trafficking cocaine and conspiracy to violate controlled substance laws.

Incidents

State Police reported a red Toyota Tacoma driving recklessly at 2:05 p.m., hitting the Route 93 guardrail a couple of times before getting off of the

highway. Police searched the area but did not find the car.

An employee of Town Hall called police at 2:34 p.m. to report that a male subject was in the Town Manager's office, yelling at the manager and his assistant. Officers spoke to the man, and he left the area.

Thursday, Jan. 22 Arrests

Jose Diaz Jr., 25, of 9 Gleason St., Methuen, was arrested at 2:07 p.m. on River Road on warrant charges.

Jonathan Sylvester, 26, of 72 Beach St., Haverhill, was arrested at 10:50 p.m. on North Main Street on warrant charges.

Friday, Jan. 23 Arrests

Michael Garafolo, 28, of 70 High St., Clinton, was arrested on River Road at 1:16 p.m. and charged with possession of a Class A substance.

Pedro Santiago, 31, of 61 Abbott St., Lawrence, was

arrested on Burnham Road at 3:59 p.m. and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, supplying a false name and address to police and operating a motor vehicle with no inspection sticker.

Saturday, Jan. 24 Incident

The Highway Department called to report that one of their plows struck a car in the roadway on Pioneer Circle at 11:07 a.m.

A caller reported that there is a bike on the ice in the middle of the river off of Andover Street. Officers reported that the bike had been there for a while, and they can not access it.

Sunday, Jan. 25 Arrests

Kurt James Carnaroli, 22, of 19 Maddie Way, Bellingham, was arrested at 4:02 a.m. at Merrimack College for assault, breaking and entering in the nighttime for a felony, and larceny from a person.

Mark Hutchins, 56, of the Day Break Shelter, Lawrence, was arrested at Elm Square at 1:48 p.m. and charged with disorderly conduct.

Dana Owen Hoyt, 23, of 16 A Brook St., Andover, was arrested on Essex Street at 9:11 p.m. and charged with operating under the influence of liquor, failure to wear a seat belt and miscellaneous motor vehicle equipment violations.

Incidents

A woman reported falling on some ice next to the Old Town Hall on Park Street at 1:55 p.m. She did not request an ambulance, though the officers reported the sidewalk was very icy. The area was blocked off with traffic cones, and the Department of Plants and Facilities was notified that it had to be salted.

A resident of Rock Ridge Road reported at 1:58 p.m. that a contractor was working on a Sunday, a violation of the bylaw. Officers reported that Merrimack College handled the situation.

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Andover Community Meeting

Join Us to Discuss the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project

National Grid invites members of the Andover community to learn more about the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015
Location: Andover Town House, 20 Main Street
Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

What is the Community Meeting?

The Andover Community Meeting is an opportunity for all Andover residents, businesses and other members of the community to meet with staff and experts from National Grid to learn about the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project, a proposed transmission line that will be built along the existing rights-of-way in seven towns in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

What is the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project?


The Merrimack Valley Reliability Project (MVRP) is a proposed new 345-kV overhead transmission line stretching from Londonderry, NH, to Tewksbury, MA. The MVRP is one component of the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution, a response to the growing demand for electricity in the area. This project will play a critical role in updating the region's electrical transmission system to ensure increased performance and reliability, while producing substantial economic benefits in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

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Cozying up with a book



Extremely cold weather earlier this month kept Emily Ahern, 9, of Andover inside Memorial Hall Library with a good book one recent Saturday. This was her very first visit to the library since her family moved to Andover at the start of the new year. CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Public hearing set for playground

By TIM LIMA
tlima@andovertownsmen.com

The public will have the chance to weigh in on a proposed playground redevelopment project for Ballardvale Park during a public hearing on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m.

The Ballardvale Historic Commission is hosting the hearing in the third-floor conference room of the Town Offices building, 36 Bartlet St.

There is little argument that the playground at Ballardvale Park at Clark and Andover streets has seen better days. With broken parts of the playground currently removed or boarded up for safety and other areas rusting,

the proposed improvements would be sure to give it a face-lift. "This change is a pretty big deal for Ballardvale," Historic Commission Vice Chairman Diane Derby said.

The proposed new playground will be split into two components — one for 2- to 5-year-olds and the other for 5- to 12-year-olds, said Ellen Townson, a Conservation Commission member who is at the forefront of the effort with the town's Deputy Director of Plant and Facilities Ed Aitade.

The playground designed for younger children would mimic a train car, with a small slide on its tail end. A larger area for older children will include climbing ropes, big spiral slides and obstacles to

maneuver through. There would also be three swing sets, including a tire swing designed for toddlers, and a sand box.

The existing ball field and basketball courts would remain, Townson said, although they would be separated from the playground by new fencing to help promote safety. A new parking area would also be built and new park benches would be installed.

"I don't think anybody is going to say it wouldn't be nice for the community," Derby said. "The public hearing is to make sure that people are aware of the plans and have the opportunity to make comments."

Police revive overdose victim with Narcan

By TIM LIMA
tlima@andovertownsmen.com

An overdose victim has Narcan to thank for reviving her a couple weeks ago, police said.

An unconscious 24-year-old woman believed to have overdosed on heroin on Tuesday, Jan. 20, was revived by police with Narcan as she laid next to her car by the intersection of Route 28 and Interstate 495, police Commander Charles Heseltine said.

"A second female in the motor vehicle told officers

that the victim had just used heroin," he said.

According to Heseltine, State Police were the first to respond to the scene and were attending to the unconscious female. Andover police then arrived to assist, at which point officer Matthew Hughes administered Narcan. The woman regained consciousness and was brought to the hospital.

Narcan is the brand name for the drug naloxone, which interrupts an overdose and temporarily restores regular breathing. Andover police

officers and firefighters all are certified to carry Narcan to treat people who are overdosing.

Four people have died in Andover from heroin overdoses in the last year. The latest, 18-year-old Kelly Johnson, a former Andover resident, died after overdosing on heroin while at a New Year's Eve party in town.

The incident marked the third time the Police Department had administered Narcan in the first three weeks of the year, according to Heseltine.



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HEALTH BRIEFS

Red Cross blood drives set for next week

The American Red Cross is holding two blood drives in town next week.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, Faith Lutheran Church at 360 South Main St. will be welcoming donors from 2 to 7 p.m.

The Masonic Lodge at 7 High St. will hold its blood drive on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Red Cross says donors of all blood types are needed, especially those with O negative, A negative and B negative.

To learn more about

donating blood and to schedule an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767).

Surviving Suicide Loss support group

The Samaritans of Merrimack Valley, a program of Family Services of the Merrimack Valley, runs support groups for survivors of suicide loss called Safe Place. Safe Place is for anyone who has lost a loved one to suicide.

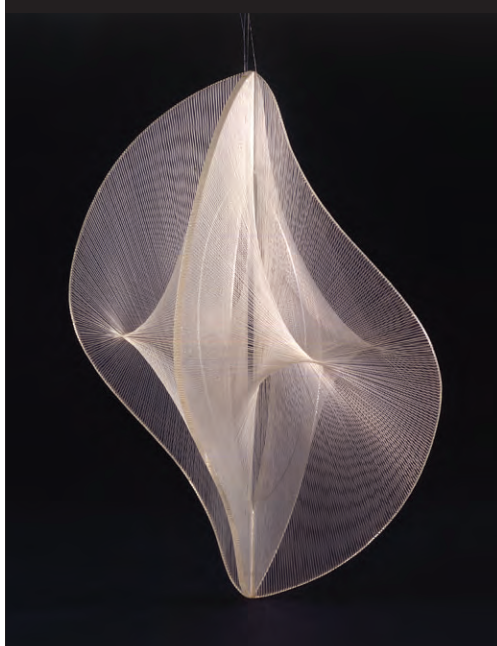
The confidential, free group is led by a trained suicide survivor and is a safe place to talk, listen, cry, be silent, grieve, be

accepted, be understood, and offer acceptance and understanding to someone else in need.

The group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Michael Parish, 196 North Main St., North Andover. Upcoming meetings are Feb. 5 and 19 and March 5 and 19.

The Samaritans of Merrimack Valley is a program of Family Services of the Merrimack Valley. Call 978-327-6657 or visit www.FSMV.org for more information.

To submit an item for the Health Briefs column, email townsmen@andovertownsmen.com.



WINTER SEASON OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, February 6
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Take in our new shows while enjoying a glass of wine and a bite to eat. The reception celebrates the opening of three spectacular shows: *Light/Dark, White/Black; Collection Intervention; Ellen Gallagher's DeLuxe; and Heaven and Earth.*

Free and open to the public.

Top: Naum Gabo, *Linear Construction No. 2 (Variation No. 1)*, 1950, perspex with nylon monofilament, museum purchase, by exchange; Center: Ellen Gallagher, *Wiglette from DeLuxe*, 2004-2005, portfolio of sixty with photography, screenprint, etching, aquatint and drypoint with lithography, laser cutting and chine collé, courtesy Two Palms, New York; Bottom: Abbott Handerson Thayer, *Monadnock Angel*, 1920-21, oil on canvas, gift of anonymous donor

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TownsBeat

Snow-covered Ward Hill makes for a fun day



PHOTOS/Reba Saldanha
The Boston skyline can be seen near the sledding hill at Ward Hill Reservation's Family Fun Day, which was held Sunday.

Dozens of area residents stormed the slopes of Ward Hill on Sunday, taking on the sledding slopes, munching on roasted marshmallows by the fire, tackling the tricky trails on snowshoes, and generally enjoying the winter weather.

The Trustees of Reservations held a 'Winter Fun Day' from noon to 3 p.m. at the reservation, which is located at the end of Prospect Street off Route 125.

The event was held in partnership with the Andover Trails Committee and Friends of North Andover Trails.

Among the activities for the popular event were a guided hikes to Boston Hill, the Judy Trail, Holt Hill and the bog.

In addition, families went sledding on some of the fields.

The Ward Reservation is called an emerald quilt of fields, forests and uplands, stitched together from more than 40 distinct parcels across two Merrimack Valley communities. Trails link three major hills — Shrub, Boston and Holt. The "Solstice Stones" on Holt Hill assist in determining one's sense of place.

Some of the 14 miles of trails are also part of the Bay Circuit Trail, a regional greenway linking the North Shore and South Shore.

Admission to the property and for all Winter Fun Day activities was free.

For more on winter seasonal activities throughout the region, visit www.thetrustees.org



Peter and Alison Novello of North Andover snowshoe during Family Fun Day.



Taking the fast way down were, from left, Fritz Aude, 10, Chris Noroian, 10, Jackson Keeton, 7, and Henry Aude, all of North Andover.



Annakiya Marshall, 9, of North Andover, sleds during Ward Hill Reservation's Family Fun Day.



Shaylan Franceschelli, 7, toasts a marshmallow as sister Haley, 5, looks on.



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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
					COLD	
Becoming cloudy	Snow, 1-3"; windy	Sunny and colder	Not as cold	Snow and ice	Sunny; bitterly cold	Cold with some sun
High: 31° Low: 24°	High: 36° Low: 6°	High: 16° Low: 4°	High: 24° Low: 17°	High: 25° Low: 7°	High: 17° Low: 3°	High: 24° Low: 15°

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