

## Editorial

### Season without regret

This November Thanksgiving has approached with almost startling swiftness. With just a little under week until Turkey Day, this year's holiday, celebrated next week on Nov. 23, is the earliest it could ever be in November as Thanksgiving is always celebrated in the United States the fourth Thursday of the month.

With that in mind, it should be important to remember at the start of yet another holiday season that regardless of how a person spends their holidays that safety and respect should be a top priority.

For most, this is a time of year for celebration and giving thanks. Individuals reminisce with those they love, remember those they have lost and appreciate life. In many parts of the U.S., the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving is one of the busiest nights of the year for bars and pubs, as it is the first night back to their hometowns for many college students. In the hopes of keeping the holidays a time of joy for everyone, remember that while having a good time with friends and family is pleasurable and often cathartic, all our actions have consequences.

For each person who goes out Wednesday, there are brothers and sisters, parents and friends who love them and want a happy future with them. Celebrating safely, with designated drivers, with self-imposed limits and with respect for every individual in the room can ensure that at the end of the evening and at the end of the season, there will be no regrets and a continued reason to be thankful.

That same respect should extend should extend to the day after Thanksgiving, when you head out to purchase that one-of-a-kind gift for your special someone. It's unfortunate the day after a warm and honorable holiday is called "Black Friday." It seems that as long as "Black Friday" has existed so have obscene images of people fighting over toys, over TVs — over nothing.

Bargains and product can change perspectives and thwart even the best intentions, so much so that the meaning of giving is lost.

This year, let us all try to avoid heart-break and chaos, and remember the families and the homes that are affected by our actions large and small.

## Letters to the Editor

### State representative appreciates voter support

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the voters of the First Worcester District for re-electing me as your state representative. It has been and will continue to be a great honor to serve you. To the voters of the Westminster, I would like to thank you for your overwhelming support. This was an incredible vote of confidence and I assure you that I will continue to work hard in the district and to stand for good government on Beacon Hill.

I especially want to thank the greatest group of supporters anyone has ever had. When I first ran for office, I had a handful of people to do the work of fifty. This campaign we had fifty plus folks do the work of five hundred. We always kept our promise that this campaign would only be positive and upbeat. I do wish to commend Nate Kaplan for running a hard campaign.

Finally, I would like to thank my family. It is they that make the sacrifices and I thank them for allowing me the opportunity to serve the district. My life has been enriched beyond words in getting to know so many of you and attending so many events over the last four years.

Once again, thank you and see you soon.

Sincerely,

*Lew Evangelidis*  
State Representative, R-Holden

### Superintendent and school committee say thanks

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the organizations and businesses that made a financial contribution towards the multi-purpose synthetic athletic field. These organizations and businesses include Anderson Timber Harvesting, Inc., Brian's Equipment Repair, Inc., Oakmont Booster Club, Oakmont Chargers/Pop Warner and Oakmont Overlook music parents association. These organizations and businesses allowed the project to move forward by making up a \$6,500.00 shortfall. Your support and generosity will benefit the children in Ashburnham and Westminster for many years.

Sincerely,

*Michael Zapantis, Superintendent of Schools*  
Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District

### Reader commends letter writer and town moderator

To the Editor:

I applaud Keith Harding of Westminster for his well written article entitled "Voters asked to think about votes at town meeting" printed in The Community Journal on November 10, 2006: "We are voting to sacrifice some quality of life for that household. To some it may be just giving up a weekend away, to others it may mean giving up new tires for the family car, to others it may mean cutting back on Christmas gifts for their children, and for some it will be the last straw that drives them out of their homes." I could have not stated it better. Mr. Harding hit the nail on the head. I commend you for your concern and caring comments.

I also applaud Westminster's Town Moderator John Bowen for appointing Mr. Keith Harding to the advisory board. Westminster residents are extremely fortunate. Westminster residents are allowed to speak out and share their opinion without being penalized. Unfortunately, that is not the situation in Ashburnham.

I have volunteered twice to become a member of the advisory board but I have been turned down twice. I choose to speak out because I care about the town of Ashburnham. I was informed that I was not allowed to serve on the advisory board because I am "vocal" and I do not follow the "Webber Doctrine."

Again, I commend Town Moderator John Bowen and I congratulate Keith Harding.

*Maggie Whitney*  
Ashburnham

### Submitting Letters to the Editor

By e-mail: editor@thecommunityjournal.com  
— subject line: Letter to Editor

By mail: The Community Journal,  
Letter to Editor, P.O. Box 67,  
Ashburnham, MA 01430

**Please recycle this newspaper.**

## COMMUNITY JOURNAL QUESTION OF THE WEEK

*Is there a satisfactory way to protect the character of small towns and to allow for growth and developers right?*

No, someone will be unhappy no matter what. There has to be some way but no one has found it.

Yes, new zoning regulations are doing just that.

Cast your vote online at [www.thecommunityjournal.com](http://www.thecommunityjournal.com)

**Results of last week's question:**

*Do we do enough to honor our veterans?*

**Yes 0% No 100%**



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