

# Winnisquam Echo

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2013

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FREE

## Raffaely appointed as Police Chief in Northfield

BY DONNA RHODES  
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**NORTHFIELD** — The Town of Northfield and its Board of Selectmen are pleased to announce that they have a new police chief.

During a nonpublic session held this past Monday evening, Selectman Kevin Waldron said they offered the position on a permanent basis to Acting Chief John Raffaely, who agreed to accept the job.

The board's decision to promote him was unanimous.

When former police chief Steve Adams retired earlier this year, Raffaely agreed to take the job on an interim basis while a new chief was sought. A search committee was formed to find Adams' replacement, but Waldron said they were

unable to successfully find the right candidate.

Raffaely has been with Northfield Police Department for more than 20 years, most recently serving as a full time lieutenant. While he had not initially expressed an interest in becoming the full time chief, he did finally agree to accept the job after meeting with selectmen on Monday evening.

"Since he was asked to take on the role of acting chief, John has consistently and convincingly demonstrated his ability to move the department ahead in a positive manner," said Waldron. "We have great hope for the department under John's direction."

Raffaely will be officially sworn in at the selectmen's meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 25, which begins at 6:30 p.m.



DONNA RHODES

This year's recipients of the Community Heritage Awards in Belmont were (left to right) Rick Segalini of Busby Construction; Girl Scout Troop 1532, represented by Diane Cleveland, Judy Hayes and (kneeling) Kelly Hayes, Anna Peters and Kyleigh Peters; and residents Cindy and (missing from photo) Joe Rolfe. Congratulating them on their awards were Selectmen Ruth Mooney, Ron Cormier and Jon Pike.

## Locals honored for working to preserve Belmont's heritage

BY DONNA RHODES  
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**BELMONT** — The Belmont Heritage Commission presented three awards during the selectmen's meeting this week, thanking residents, organizations and businesses for their

contributions to the historic preservation of the town.

The Heritage Awards were first presented in 2011, and each year, as noted by Selectman Ron Cormier, the awards are handed out during New Hampshire History Week, making them all the more meaningful.

"The awards were designed to celebrate excellence in the town of Belmont. It's been fun for us to recognize 15 people over the past few years for what they've done for the town,"

he said.

Linda Frawley of the Belmont Heritage Commission first presented Rick Segalini of Busby Construction with the Village Revitalization Award, and thanked both he and his crew for their work on the downtown project.

"The Village Revitalization was a success as a result of Busby Construction," she said. "The communication, customer service and responsiveness of you and your team was a lesson in

excellence...Thank you for the pride, teamwork and excellent service demonstrated in the Belmont Village project."

Over the past year, the company updated the downtown infrastructure, improved the scenic outlay of the village green and were instrumental in the first phase of Belmont's mission to make the downtown district more of a destination for residents and visitors alike. Segalini was proud to

SEE HERITAGE, PAGE A11

## A cast of all ages brings a classic tale to life through BHS

BY DONNA RHODES  
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**BELMONT** — Theatergoers with a sweet tooth will enjoy a real treat at the Franklin Opera House this weekend with four scheduled performances of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," as portrayed by not only the fine actors and actresses of Belmont High School, but younger students, faculty members and adults from the community as well.

"Having this at Franklin Opera House this year is a wonderful opportunity for BHS to work with the opera house and have a real theater experience," said Principal Dan Clary.

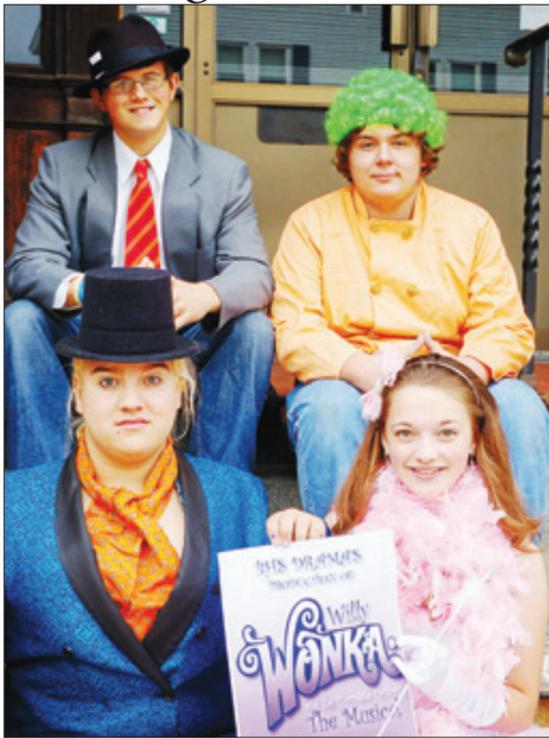
Director Angela Pitrone is celebrating her fourth year in leading drama productions at BHS, but has been involved in theater for 10 years. She said "Willy Wonka" is a musical she is especially excited about bringing to the community, as it will soon lose its public licensing as a theater production.

"The London version is coming to Broadway, so this is one of the last times people can see it anywhere else," Pitrone said.

She, too, was thrilled to have the use of the Franklin Opera House, and said the organization has been very accommodating to her acting troop. Besides allowing for the use of a great central location for people from many surrounding communities, she said the opera house has been helpful in many ways.

"I've never seen so much support. They've done a lot to work around us and help us out. It's just been wonderful," said Pitrone.

The actors are just as excited to be a part of such a large and colorful production, all taking place in a



DONNA RHODES

Posing outside the Franklin Opera House as they prepare for this weekend's production of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" are Belmont High School drama club members Ethan Johnson, Malia Lundahl, Asher Clark and, stepping in to portray an Oompa-Loompa, stage manager Brian Chapman.

professional setting.

Asia Merrill, who plays Charlie Bucket, said it will be nice to have a dressing room, real lighting, a balcony and all the thrills of real theater.

"It all feels so legit," she said.

The tale of Willy Wonka, written by Roald Dahl, is centered around his chocolate factory, where all the workers were eventually laid off. No one ever goes in and no one ever comes out, yet chocolate continues to be made.

Wonka informs his Oompa-Loompa servants that he is going to retire, and so the search gets underway to find his successor in the business.

He announces a worldwide contest where golden tickets will be placed in five

candy bars. Those lucky ticket holders will then receive a tour of his famous, mysterious factory and a lifetime supply of candy.

Charlie Bucket is a poor child who cannot afford to buy a candy bar, but through good fortune, does eventually end up with the final golden ticket. He hopes somehow to help his impoverished and ill parents and grandparents, but on the tour Charlie breaks the rules. He confesses that he secretly sampled some of the "fizzy lifting drink" they were instructed not to touch and disqualifies himself from the contest.

Hearing his confession, Wonka announced that in actuality the contest was to find his successor. Impressed with the young

SEE WONKA, PAGE A11

## FSB recognizes local organizations for enhancing life in the Lakes Region

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**TILTON** — In 1997, Franklin Savings Bank made a \$1 million investment in their Fund for Community Advancement, which over the years has provided support for numerous projects that enhance the lives and opportunities for people in Central New Hampshire.

Twice each year, in January and July, grants from the FCA are awarded to worthy applicants. For the first time since the fund's inception, however, the latest nine honorees gathered at the Lochmere Country Club last week for a reception and award presentations from the fund's chair person, Mary "Meg" Miller, FSB President Jeffrey Savage and Executive Vice President Ron Magoon.

"When I think about the quality of life I enjoy here, it's organizations like you

that make this area special for everyone. The great work you do makes such a difference in people's lives," Magoon told them.

Alice Walton represented the American Red Cross, which received \$2,500 for disaster relief efforts in the FSB marketing area. She said the funds will support services to victims of ice storms, floods, an increasing number of fires, and other disasters.

From Concord, Special Operations president John Duval thanked FSB for funds to help them purchase equipment to keep officers safe during large scale events in the region, incidents of civil disobedience, and for search and rescue missions.

"The money will help outfit our officers appropriately for those types of incidents," said Duval.

Next up was Kathy Kearns from the Circle Program in Plymouth. Her organization works to pro-

vide girls from low-income families the opportunity to attend summer camp at their property in Groton, and provides them with mentors and other positive activities they might not otherwise experience. Program Director Paula Ferenc joined Kearns at the podium to explain the money they received this year helped bring six young women from the N.H. Women's Art Caucus to Circle Camp where they worked with girls enrolled in the program.

"Gratitude is the attitude, and we're grateful to Franklin Savings Bank," Ferenc said as she presented Savage and Magoon with a gift made by some of the campers during this summer's art program.

Mel Gosselin represented the Mobile Food Pantry being developed in the Bristol area to bring resources to more than 200 families in the community. She said the money couldn't come at a more opportune time as they work to get the new

SEE FSB, PAGE A11



DONNA RHODES

Mary "Meg" Miller (far left) and Franklin Savings Bank President Jeff Savage (far right) presented Youth Assistance Program representatives Dawn Shimberg and Merrimack County Sheriff Scott Hilliard with an award recognizing their work in the community. YAP was one of nine recipients of grant money from FSB's Fund for Community Advancement, which Miller chairs.

## INDEX

Volume 6 • Number 28  
22 Pages in 2 Section

Editorial Page ..... A4

North Country Notebook .. A5

Schools ..... A9

Culture ..... A5

Obituaries ..... A6

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**WONKA**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

boy's honesty and good heart, Charlie is picked to take over the factory and move his poor family into its luxurious surroundings.

Starring as Willy Wonka will be BHS sophomore Ethan Johnson. She said she enjoys the challenge of her male role, and loves the concept of the show, which

allows the cast to "take a step back and be a kid again."

Junior Malia Lundahl will portray the pampered Veruca Salt. She said Veruca is a tricky character to delve into, but she, too, is eager to take on the challenge.

"I had to learn to connect with her emotionally, but at the same time make

the audience hate her," she said. "She has the emotions and mannerisms of a ten-year-old, which is hard but a lot of fun at the same time."

Senior Ashley Brake is also having a lot of fun with her portrayal of Violet Beauregard, a gum chomping American girl who is among the Golden Ticket holders.

"I'm the girl who turns into a blueberry," she laughed.

Young Charlie Bucket is another tough role to recreate but Merrill, who will also be performing in a male role, is ready for opening night, as is Asher Clark, who will take on several roles in the production.

"I'm playing the Candy Man, Phineous Trout, who

interviews the golden ticket holders, and then I'll be one of the Oompa-Loompas," he said. "It's nice because I get to be in the entire production."

The musical is filled with plenty of great songs, including, "I Eat More," "The Candy Man," "Cheer Up Charlie," and the big ballad, "Pure Imagination." "The whole show is sincere, fun, childish, and all about hopes and ideals," said Pitrone.

As an added feature of each performance, the audience will be able to purchase chocolates with the possibility of discovering a Golden Ticket for special

prizes hidden inside. Proceeds from the chocolate sales will benefit the BHS Drama Club for equipment upgrades and an upcoming trip to Broadway.

The BHS production of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" will take place Oct. 17-19 at 7 p.m. in the Franklin Opera House on Central Street in Franklin. A matinee will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for the public, \$8 for students and seniors, and can be purchased through the Franklin Opera House by calling 934-1901 or online at [www.franklinoperahouse.org](http://www.franklinoperahouse.org).

**FSB**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

program off the ground.

"It takes a community to support a community, and clearly, Franklin Savings Bank is all about that," said Gosselin.

The Gordon-Nash Library in New Hampton received funds to help meet their energy conservation efforts, and head librarian Cathy Vincevic was most grateful for the assistance. Pat Consentino and Jane Alden of the Tilton Senior Center were on hand to also thank FSB for funds that will help with needed electrical upgrades at their newly constructed facili-

ty, which was the former grange hall in Tilton.

Expressing his own gratitude was Mike Mullavey of the Veterans Memorial Recreation Area in Franklin, which is looking to make their skiing and hiking trails a year round destination.

Dawn Shimberg also thanked FSB and the Fund for Community Advancement for the grant money that will give the Youth Assistance Program she heads up the opportunity to purchase two lap top computers. They will be used as part of YAP's "Why Try" initiative to prevent students in the Tilton

and Northfield communities from dropping out of school.

Special Olympics of New Hampshire's president and CEO Mary Conroy said she, too, was pleased to be the recipient of a grant for Project Unify. The goal of the program, which is in place at Gilford, Franklin, Laconia and Winnisquam high schools, is to bring students with intellectual disabilities together with others in their school. Project Unify allows those with disabilities that don't qualify for either Special Olympics or a school athletic program the opportunity to participate with their classmates

in team sports.

"Over one-half of the schools in the NHIAA are now offering at least one sport for kids who don't qualify for Special Olympics," she said.

Savage said he was pleased to have hosted a reception where everyone at FSB could thank the each of the organizations for all they do in the local communities.

"It's the first time we've recognized recipients in this manner, and we were very happy to do it," said Savage. "Since 1998, we've given out grants totaling \$753,888 while still maintaining the original \$1 million we started with. This time, we awarded approximately \$39,000 through our charitable foundation."

FSB will once again be accepting applications from nonprofit groups for the Fund for Community Advancement awards beginning in December, with a Jan. 2, 2014 deadline for submission. For more information on how to apply, visit [www.fsbnh.com](http://www.fsbnh.com) or contact Dorothy Saveny at 934-8316 or [saveny@fsbnh.com](mailto:saveny@fsbnh.com).

**HERITAGE**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

represent the company for the presentation.

"It's been awesome to work in the town of Belmont. Everyone at Busby was quite excited about this award. We take a lot of pride in what we do, and this really means a lot," he said.

Next up were the young ladies and their leaders from Girl Scout Troop 1532, who had an outstanding float in this summer's Old Home Day parade that highlighted the architectural history of Belmont. The girls received the Selectmen's Trophy for their creative entry, and last week were also honored by the Heritage Commission.

Besides saluting the town's history, the troop has been an active part in the community by planting 2,500 daffodils on Make a Difference Days from 2009-2011, participating in town ceremonies, and volunteering whenever and wherever they have been needed.

"We celebrate all of your contributions to Belmont," said Frawley as she presented their "Youth Volunteerism" award, which recognized that "volunteers are a cornerstone in vital communities, and Scouting teaches that lesson to our future citizen leaders."

Three of the troop members who were on hand for the presentation were very proud of the recognition.

Kelly Hayes and Kyleigh Peters said they felt special for having received the award, while Anna Peters commented that their work as a group on each project the troop has undertaken has given them a unique sense of accomplishment.

Last but not least were Joe and Cindy Rolfe, who were recognized for "Preserving Agricultural Traditions."

The couple has been working on the restoration of the Lacasse-Rolfe Farm on Laconia Road. Rolfe's parents purchased the farm in 1963, and as they continue

to live there, Joe and Cindy have been hard at work on the property to preserve it for generations to come. Beginning with restoration of the cupola that rises above the post and beam barn, they have gone on to reclaim pastureland, rebuild the stone walls and are now planting apple trees with long term plans to make it an agricultural destination of the future.

"The labor and craftsmanship in restoring the barn is a perfect advertisement for the Barn Easement program, RSA-79-D," read Frawley, "With 1,000 apple trees newly planted and more ahead in their long-term plan for the 70-plus acres, we salute the family's commitment to farming, and wish you the very best in all of your agri-tourism goals."

Each of the recipients received a framed certificate featuring the historic 1833 Belmont Mill Bell Tower in recognition of their ongoing contributions to the town.

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