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JURY FINDS JEAN NOT GUILTY IN THREATENING CASE

■ WORCESTER

By DAMIEN FISHER
dfisher@thegardnernews.com

A New Hampshire man accused of threatening a woman with a gun was found not guilty on several counts at the trial held in the Worcester Superior Court.

Jeremy Jean, 34, of 28 West Binney Hill Road in Rindge, New Hampshire, was found not guilty on all counts brought against him, including assault with a dangerous weapon, one count of intimidating a witness, two counts of threatening to commit a crime, and two counts of assault and battery.

Mr. Jean went to trial last week after being indicted in March by the grand jury. The jury returned the not guilty verdicts after a two-day trial ending on Wednesday, Dec. 3. The incidents in question took place in 2013.

The alleged victim went to Winchendon police in June 2013 following a series of what she claimed were violent incidents involving Mr. Jean, according to the report. The alleged victim had recently obtained a restraining order against Mr. Jean after informing police she believed he was illegally bringing guns with him into Winchendon.

Mr. Jean was known to frequent homes and bars in the area. The alleged victim told police

CASE 4



SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

News Staff Photo by Katie Landeck

James Hunet, from the G-Vegas Striders, brought a check for \$1,000 to the Gardner Community Action Center this week. The money was raised through donations at the annual Turkey Trot and will go towards providing families with fresh fruits and vegetables, a treat CAC Executive Director Julie Meehan said can be rare for struggling families this time of year.

DA ATTEMPTS TO STOP ILLEGAL HOME VISITS FOR MAN FOUND GUILTY IN 1999 POLICE SHOOTING

■ WESTMINSTER

By DAMIEN FISHER
dfisher@thegardnernews.com

Police Chief Salvatore Albert is concerned that the man who killed a Westminster police officer is being allowed to walk freely in the community, despite court orders prohibiting just that.

"It's discouraging that we may have to run into him on the streets of Fitchburg or Westminster," Chief Albert said.

Chief Albert is talking about Jason Rivers, a man legally deemed mentally ill, who shot two officers during a confrontation in 1999, critically injuring one — Officer Lawrence Jupin. Officer Jupin died three years later as a result of the injuries to his hand, leg, and head, according to court documents.

Mr. Rivers has reportedly been allowed to leave the institution where he was ordered to stay, and has been out in the community, staying with his family, according to court records. The Commonwealth is going to court next week to make sure such visits stop.

On May 10, 1999, Mr. Rivers was spotted by police wearing camouflage

'It's discouraging that we may have to run into him on the streets of Fitchburg or Westminster.'

— Chief Albert

clothing and carrying a knapsack while walking alone on Route 31 sometime after midnights, according to court records. He ran from officer Ralph LeBlanc and Jupin when approached. Mr. Rivers reportedly headed into the woods, and the two officers followed.

Mr. Rivers reportedly fired six shots at the officers, hitting Officer Jupin. Officer Jupin returned fire and wounded Mr. Rivers, according to records. Officer Jupin was in a coma before he passed away a couple of years later.

Mr. Rivers was not brought up on charges until 2009, ten years after the shooting, and was found not guilty of murder by reason of mental illness. He was initially found incompetent to

HOME VISITS 2

A SPACE 12 YEARS IN THE MAKING

GALA ADDS SERVICES AS ARTIST GROUP SETTLES INTO NEW HOME

■ GARDNER

By KATIE LANDECK
klandeck@thegardnernews.com

After 12 years, the Gardner Area League of Artists finally has a space to call home.

"We've long had a desire to have a place," said Joe Smith, who is the chairman of the art center committee. "We're able to do a lot more."

Located in the basement of New England Wooden Ware's building at 205 School St., since August, GALA is working to make the most of the space.

The walls are set up as a long-term

gallery displaying the work of member artists. There is shop in one corner selling notecards and other works created by the area artists, while the middle of the room is used to teach classes.

So far, the group has hosted a framing class and a photography class, with plans for more to come.

"We would not have been able to do this before," said Mr. Smith.

He used the galleries as an example. Before, the group would have to find a venue willing to house them and then set up the shows typically only for three days. Due to this, Mr. Smith said GALA only held two shows in previous years.

This year, it has already had three shows, with plans in the works for more.

With the space, Mr. Smith said GALA is better able to fulfill its mission to increase "awareness and appreciation for the arts by the way of exhibits, instruction, theater productions, musical programs and a provision of scholarships to students in local schools."

"Everyone has an artistic side," said Mr. Smith. "Even people who can't draw a circle but enjoy the arts can be a part of GALA ... we hope to be open to them all."

Mr. Smith said GALA has about

GALA 2



News Staff Photo by KATIE LANDECK

COVETED CITIZENS OF THE YEAR AWARD GOES TO COMMUNITY FOCUSED COUPLE

■ PHILLIPSTON

By ERYN DION
edion@thegardnernews.com

When Brian and Linda Langevin moved to Phillipston 32 years ago, the couple had no idea they would some day be awarded with one of the town's highest honors.

But last Sunday, much to their surprise, the Langevins were

named Phillipston's Citizens of the Year in a ceremony held during the annual Memory Tree Lighting Ceremony — bestowed to them by last year's winner, Emelda Haughton, and the award committee.

The award was created in honor of former Police Chief Alphonse W. Chartier Sr.

Mrs. Langevin said that while the award honors residents who are good to the town, the community has always been generous

right back.

"We didn't move to Phillipston," Mrs. Langevin commented. "Phillipston reached out and welcomed us."

The couple was born and raised in Gardner. Mrs. Langevin said she and her husband enjoyed the small-town life Phillipston offered, relishing the opportunities to really get involved and have a say in their community.

"I remember when we first moved in — we were young

whippersnappers back then — it was such a neat concept to live in a town where you can actually speak your voice at a town meeting," she said. "I think we've always both believed, don't complain about something in town unless you're willing to fix it."

In that vein, Mrs. Langevin said she was "drafted" onto the town's Planning Board, where she served as a member and clerk for over a decade to learn the ins

AWARD 4



WEATHER

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editorial@
thegardnernews.com

Circulation Dept.
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Classified Dept.
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