

Art exhibit begins tomorrow at WHS

BY TRACY GAMBILL
COURIER CORRESPONDENT

WINCHENDON — The Winchendon Historical Society and Gardner Area League of Artists have partnered to present a four-week art exhibit at the Murdock-Whitney Museum at 151 Front St.

An opening reception will be held tomorrow, Sept. 19, from 1-5 p.m. The Historical Society Board of Directors will judge the artwork inspired by the building and grounds of this beautiful historic mansion and awards will be announced at

2:30 p.m.

Live musical performances by Brian Dickens, Linda Markey, Brett Moulton, and Nate Smith will add ambiance to the afternoon. Those who attend are invited to relax on the porch while they enjoy refreshments and listen to the music piped outside.

There will be a wine tasting featuring private labels created by GALA members and visitors will have the opportunity to order their favorites.

The exhibit runs from Sept. 19th through Oct. 17th

and features 25 mixed media pieces that include oil, acrylic, watercolor, scratchboard, and yarn; all available for purchase. Visitors may vote for their favorite artwork and the top three pieces will receive Popular Choice awards at the end of the show. There will be a silent auction held throughout the four weeks so those who wish may bid on a limited edition acrylic painting donated by artist Lori MacDonald.

Founded in Gardner over 13 years ago, GALA is a 501(c)

Turn To **EXHIBIT** page **A9**

EXHIBIT

continued from page **A1**

(3) nonprofit organization that supports the arts in surrounding communities. Membership includes people from Acton, Worcester, Orange, New Hampshire, and various places in between. Some members join the group not as ‘artists’ but as people who simply want to support the arts and receive the newsletter for upcoming events. They are presently looking for an event coordinator and a grant writer.

GALA President Deb Giordano of Winchendon said there are about 130 members and new members are welcome at any time. “It’s nice to have a group with different ages. It’s a strong group”, she asserted. “We accept everybody.”

The group could no longer afford the art center previously rented so they now hold monthly meetings at a tempo-

rary venue.

“As the new president I am hoping to do more networking and find us a new home base location,” said Giordano.

“If anyone has an available space in town for us and would love to support the arts, please let me know,” she remarked hopefully. She may be reached at giordano@verizon.net and more information on GALA can be found at galagardner.org.

The group is looking for a place to hold featured artist shows, workshops, poetry readings, art shop, and coffee houses for member musicians.

“We want to do more for our musicians, most of whom write their own songs,” she noted.

Giordano added, “I would also like to see us do seminars and reach out to our art students from the surrounding high schools and colleges.”

The group will soon host a T-shirt contest and are collaborating with the

Winchendon Enhancement Committee to coordinate a downtown Art Walk next fall. GALA will also be a part of the Winchendon Fall Festival on Sept. 26 where some artists will demonstrate their talents.

“The Winchendon historical Society has welcomed us with open arms and we have started a great relationship with them. We eagerly want to support them as well as they want to do the same for us. We seem to be a wonderful fit for each other and we hope to collaborate more with future events,” Giordano smiled.

Saturday’s opening reception is free, though donations are welcome. For the remainder of the exhibit, artwork may be viewed during normal museum hours for the regular admission price of \$5 (free for museum members).

“Come to the show; support us and the Winchendon Historical Society,” encouraged Giordano.