

POLICE

More
patrols but
not more
crime

Upper Valley police
increase their visibility on
Halloween, but the night doesn't
see more crime than usual

By SOFIA LANGLOIS
Valley News

For Hartford Police on Halloween night, the biggest focus is pedestrian safety, with violent crime and property damage not much more likely to occur on Oct. 31 than any other night.

"We see some smashing of pumpkins and that kind of behavior that can happen, but mostly we just want to make sure everyone is safe from a pedestrian standpoint," said Lt. Will Furnari, of the department's community outreach division.

Across the Upper Valley, trick-or-treaters can expect to see police officers out and about to ensure safety as a large number of people fill the streets after dark.

As a possible result of this presence, there hasn't been a notable spike in incidents requiring police assistance on Oct. 31 in the past few years, at least not in Hartford, Lebanon, Hanover and Norwich.

For the last four Halloweens in Hartford, the majority of incidents are logged as directed patrols, meaning that officers proactively become involved in a situation to ensure safety as opposed to waiting for a call for service.

The hour with the most activity in Hartford the past four Halloweens was 10 p.m., which accounted for 23% of the incidents, according to data prepared by Hartford Analyst Amie Wunderlich.

Aside from directed patrol, the most common incident type was motor vehicle complaints, accounting for 15% of incidents. Following that were wanted person incidents, at about 7%, and suspicious activity, also at 7%.

"We don't have a whole lot of concerns about candy and that kind of thing," Furnari said of the risk of candy being tampered with.

On Oct. 30 last year, there were four less calls for service than on Halloween, noted Furnari. The typical number of officers out in town can range from two to four, similar to any other night, he said.

"We leverage the experience of folks who've been around to think about where there could be a greater increase in foot traffic, and just make sure that we're out and people see us and feel safe to go out and trick or treat," said Furnari.

In Lebanon on Saturday night, there will be six officers on duty, said Chief Phil Roberts.

SEE HALLOWEEN A6

CORINTH

'A community hub'



ALEX DRIEHAUS / Valley News

Kendall Gendron, of Corinth, Vt., puts finishing touches on a mural that will serve as the backdrop for drag and burlesque performances during the inaugural Beetle Ball at Miss Shannon's School House in East Corinth, Vt., on Wednesday, Oct. 28. The Halloween event's 100 tickets sold out in about three weeks, and attendees are coming from all over, including a couple of Beetlejuice superfans from Kentucky who are planning to marry in front of the building before the ball.

Miss Shannon's Schoolhouse will host its inaugural Beetle Ball, with more events to come

By SOPHIE LEVENSON
Valley News

CORINTH — In the last scene of Tim Burton's 1988 film "Beetlejuice," a young Winona Ryder in a gothified school uniform mounts her bicycle and wheels away from a tall white schoolhouse. A sign out front names the

building Miss Shannon's School for Girls.

On Halloween four years ago, Kendall Gendron, 38, closed on the sale of that same schoolhouse. Though by then the building had served as a Masonic lodge for years, Corinth children went to school in it until 1972; it was also a local playhouse for

some time. Now, Miss Shannon's School is the site of Gendron's certified nonprofit, which she hopes will raise enough funds to turn the iconic building into a gathering space for the Upper Valley.

The school's front lawn has seen two fall markets since Gendron bought it, but

this weekend, she's hosting her first serious event: The Beetle Ball, a ticketed (and sold-out) dance on Halloween night paying tribute to Burton's "Beetlejuice" in theme and location. Costumes are encouraged; extravagance is inevitable.

SEE CORINTH A8

ENFIELD

Laramie Farms decision delayed

Planning board expects
to vote in November

By LIZ SAUCHELLI
Valley News

ENFIELD — After a nearly 3½-hour discussion, the Enfield Planning Board voted Wednesday night to reconvene in November, when members are expected to vote on the largest proposed housing development in town history.

"They just worked and worked and worked on the details," Rob Taylor, Enfield's land use and community development ad-

ministrator, said in a Friday phone interview about the 18 conditions for approval the planning board has been contemplating before voting on the proposal known as Laramie Farms. The project calls for roughly 300 units of apartments and townhouses on about 77 acres of land between Route 4 and Maple Street.

The conditions for the development — which was first proposed by developers John Dibitteto, of Maple Street-Enfield Acquisition LLC, based in Bradford, Massachusetts, and Stephen Doherty, of DC Development and Construction, based in Sandown, New Hampshire, back in 2022 — run the gamut from getting the town's approval for sewer and water

connections to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's approval for a driveway permit to connect the housing development to Route 4, Taylor said.

"While we got really, really close, I think they decided it was time to wrap it up and reconvene," Taylor said. "I do think now they've really hashed out those conditions and they'll get to a decision."

Planning board members spent the most time during Wednesday's meeting hashing out a condition that would require the developers to connect Laramie Farms to the town's sidewalk system, some of which could

SEE ENFIELD A6

DARTMOUTH AI CONFERENCE

Here's the key question:
'What must remain human?'

College president: The
hard skill now is judgment

By MOLLY HUGHES
Valley News

HANOVER — Dartmouth College opened its "AI at 70" conference Thursday morning with a session called "The Future Worth Building is Human."

While the conversation leaned more toward how people can work alongside AI, both speakers kept returning to one thing they said should stay human: judgment.

The conference marks 70 years since

the 1956 summer workshop at Dartmouth where the term "artificial intelligence" was coined. It runs through Saturday under the theme "What Must Remain Human?"

Before the main conversation, Dartmouth President Sian Leah Beilock spoke about the news that has hung over the college all week. On Wednesday, Provost Santiago Schnell resigned after a faculty-led review found he used AI in his writing without disclosing it.

"It was certainly a difficult situation, but one that raises exactly the kinds of is-

SEE AI A7



MOLLY HUGHES / Valley News

An audience member crochets as Dartmouth President Sian Leah Beilock, left, talks with Thinking Machines Lab CEO Mira Murati during the opening session of Dartmouth's AI at 70 conference in Hanover, N.H., on Thursday.

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