



## Citizen of Note

### The Harvard Press

In the early 1970's a legacy of local news coverage was begun by Ed Miller and Kathleen Cushman who founded and ran *The Harvard Post* for nearly three decades. Many of you here may remember Ann Levison, editor for two decades, and her team of reporters and production staff. In early 2003 the paper was sold to the Community Newspaper Group and quickly lost its local news focus, which resulted in declining circulation and eventual cessation of print publication.

Realizing the magnitude of the loss to the community, a group of residents decided to resurrect a true local newspaper. The Harvard Press LLC was officially organized in October 2006 and its inaugural issue of *The Harvard Press* was published on November 17, 2006. The paper's initial managers were Worth Robbins and Lisa Aciukewicz. In time Sue Robbins joined the management team and these three have since been the core of the paper's official corporate structure. While Lisa has retired as the official *Press* photographer, she remains connected with the newspaper as one of its publishers.

And how fortunate we are to have a local newspaper! Think of how many of us first check the Police Log when they get their Friday paper? Or laugh aloud in reading Carlene Phillips self-deprecating articles on the woes of dealing with an old house, an old dog, or new technology? And learned and benefitted from Joan Eliyesil, Marty Green or the other reporters' thoughtful and thorough coverage of important *local* topics – such as the new Elementary School, PFAs, revitalization of the General Store, new use of the Old Library, or any number of critical matters before the town boards? Who does not take pride in reading about the accomplishments of our student scholars and athletes? And how about looking for a local contractor or other service through the advertisements and classified ads? How many of you come to Town Meeting with the most recent issue of the *Press* in order to read up on the issues that are to be considered? The weekly *Press* is full of information about the comings and goings of our town – all carefully supervised and led by its editor, John Osborn.

In 2018 the *Press* received the New England Newspaper & Press Association's first place prize in the "best government reporting" category for its coverage of the controversy surrounding the fate of the Elementary School. The paper's extensive coverage of the choice between renovating the existing building or building a new school, and the Building Committee's recommendation to build a new school certainly helped inform the 1,000-plus voters who attended the Town Meeting to vote on funding this major project.

In October 2019 James Fallows, a contributor to *The Atlantic*, wrote an article on *The Harvard Press* as part of a series of articles on small towns. He profiled *The Harvard Press*, quoting Worth as to the reason for starting and continuing a local newspaper, as saying "We're doing it for love of community."

We are indeed fortunate for the vision of the founders of *The Harvard Press* and the dedication of its editor, reporters, copy editors, proof readers, layout and production staff – all of whom work the magic of producing a weekly, local newspaper, and who continue to do it "for love of community".

***It is the Select Board's honor to name The Harvard Press as the 2019 Citizen of Note.***