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Holden man indicted for murder BY MELISSA MCKEON MMCKEON@HOLDENLANDMARK.COM

HOLDEN - The Worcester County Grand Jury has issued an indictment for murder against Ronald J. Dubovick, 68, of Putnam Lane, Holden after an incident in December that left his wife of 47 years, Janet A. (Sutor) Dubovick, 67, severely injured. Janet Dubovick died April 26.

An autopsy report recently received by the Worcester District Attorney's office lists the cause of death as "complication from blunt trauma to the head." "Homicide" is listed as the manner of death.

Worcester District Attorney spokesperson Timothy Connolly said Tuesday the report prompted the DA's office to seek the murder indictment. Other charges of armed assault with intent to murder, assault with intent to murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery handed down in March will still stand, Connolly said.

Ronald Dubovick called Holden Police to his home on the afternoon of December 2, 2006, saying he had killed his wife. Holden police found Janet Dubovick bleeding from head injuries, but conscious and able to identify her husband as her attacker. Ronald Dubovick told police he pushed his wife down the stairs and then hit her when she tried to come back up the



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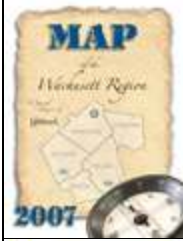


stairs. Mrs. Dubovick had been hit several times with a metal pipe. She was taken to UMass where she underwent surgery.

Ronald Dubovick was committed to Bridgewater State Hospital for evaluation, where he remains.



Children of the couple said their family had no history of alcohol or drug abuse or of physical abuse. Holden Police said they'd never been called to the home for any domestic disputes. The family also reported that their father had lost weight, had trouble sleeping, had suffered blurry vision and had been showing signs of withdrawal in the days before the alleged assault. He was on medication for sleeplessness, they said.



Dubovick attempted to stab himself in the stomach with a pen in the booking area of the Holden Police station during his arrest on December 2, 2006, Holden Police said. He was not seriously injured.



The Dubovicks' six children, who live in Massachusetts and New Jersey, retained an attorney for their father.



In March 2007, Dubovick was charged with armed assault with intent to murder, assault with intent to murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery. At his arraignment on May 14, 2007, Dubovick pled not guilty to those charges.



After Janet Dubovick's death in April, the Worcester District Attorney's office said they were waiting for autopsy results before deciding whether to upgrade the charges against Dubovick.

Dubovick is scheduled to return to court on the original charges on October 4. No date has yet been set for his arraignment on the murder charge, Connolly said.

Attorney Patrick Burke, who was representing Ronald Dubovick at the time of his arraignment, did not return calls to The Landmark by press time.



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