

Paul Nisely / Staff Photographer

**Charlene LaVoie has taken over the job as Winsted's community lawyer, a public advocacy position established last year by the Shafeek Nader Trust for the Community Interest.**

# Community advocate urges involvement at grass-roots level

By ANNE SAUNDERS
Register Citizen Staff

WINSTED — Since her high school days in West Hartford, Charlene LaVoie wanted to be a lawyer.

She remembered watching as the Vietnam War and Watergate became political and ethical issues.

"There were a lot of very visible political goings-on. Even at that age, though they all seemed diverse, the common threads were the political and legal implications. To know what's going on, you have to know something about law," she said.

LaVoie, 36, has taken over for Ellen K. Thomas as Winsted's community lawyer, a public advocacy position established

## Charlene LaVoie

Age: 36.
Home: Winsted.
Raised: West Hartford.
Family: Mother, brother, sister and niece living in West Hartford.
Occupation: Lawyer serving as Winsted's community advocate.
Education: Associate's degree from Hartford College for Women; bachelor's degree from University of Bridgeport; master's degree in public administration from New York University; law degree from the University of Bridgeport School of Law.