

# Katie's Kitchen



**COME CELEBRATE OUR GRAND RE-OPENING!**

**Open 6 Days a Week: Tues. - Fri., 6am - 1pm**

**Saturdays: 6am - Noon (breakfast only)**

**Sundays: 7am - Noon (breakfast only)**

**Daily Lunch Homemade Specials**

**Homemade Soups - Chicken Barbs  
- Real Veal on Tripoli Bread -**

**267 Merrimack St. in Lawrence**

*(prestando attencione!)*

## Paying Attention!

with Tom Duggan



### Please! Just Shut Up and Vote!

The grandstanding, self praise and speech-making at Lawrence City Council meetings have got to stop!

Too often these meetings go on for hours with no end in sight because certain councilors have a deep personal need to speak on every single issue whether they have something relevant to say or not. Then, these same councilors ask questions that have already been asked and answered numerous times ... only to have yet another clueless councilor ask the very same question (while taking ten minutes to do it).

In short, certain councilors are compelled to speak on EVERYTHING while it is clear they are listening to NOTHING, even the answers to their self serving "questions."

While the Board of Selectmen in North Andover and the city councils in Methuen and Haverhill actually talk TO each other, discussing relevant items on their agendas, Lawrence councilors talk to the cameras, themselves or the audience as if a council meeting is their own personal soap box.

This consistent droning on, ad nauseam, only serves to bore the audience and is unfair to every member of the public, not to mention the city workers, developers and business people who must sit through these ridiculous lectures after a long, hard, day at work.

Speeches, platitudes, self praise disguised as praise for others, and juvenile

bickering about how slighted someone feels, have no place at the council table.

And, while a certain amount of pontificating, grandstanding and speech making can be witnessed at any local government meeting in the Merrimack Valley, the Lawrence City Council seems to have the market cornered on self-serving dribble and mindless droning while the public at home wonders, "are these people actually going to VOTE on something?"

Please, councilors, for the love of God, when an issue comes up at the council table, nobody wants to hear how much you care. Nobody gives a damn what the motive is behind every single vote you take, (really!) and nobody cares about your personal issues with other city councilors. What they care about is how you are going to vote.

So, for the sanity of the people of Lawrence, stop the campaigning, stop making speeches masked as a question and control your need for public recognition and television time.

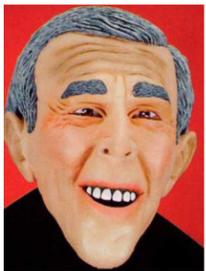
The city of Lawrence would be much better off if you would just *shut up and vote!*

Tom Duggan is the president of Valley Patriot, Inc., a former Lawrence School Committeeman, and hosts the Paying Attention! Radio Program on WCAP, 980AM, every Saturday afternoon from noon-2pm. You can email your comments to [Tdugjr@aol.com](mailto:Tdugjr@aol.com).

# HALLOWEEN HEADQUARTERS

**27 S. BROADWAY IN LAWRENCE**

Next to Sam's  
Steak Out



10% off with  
this coupon

**IT'S NOT JUST FOR HALLOWEEN!**

Costumes for Party, Plays,  
Shows, SANTA COSTUMES, Makeup, Masks,  
Wigs, Accessories, Props, & More @ Discount Prices

Monday - Saturday (10AM - 8PM)

Sundays 10AM - 6PM

**978 - 687 - 0443**

\*combined purchase, prior sales excluded, not to be combined with with any other offer, expires 10/31/06



Locally Owned and Family Operated

## Farrah Funeral Home

Across from our Old Location

**133 Lawrence St. Lawrence, MA 01841**

Phone: (978) 682-4060 Fax: (978) 682-3234



Louis Farrah, II  
David Moynihan  
(Manager)



# Planning for Our Future

Lawrence Planning Director Michael R. Sweeney

**New Year Planning**

After the holidays one thing to keep in mind and take stock of is your family's preparedness to deal with an emergency situation at home.

This could range from a house fire, to localized flooding to trying to prepare for more drawn out situations like a pandemic flu.

A number of websites, such as the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's website at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) provide easy to understand for families seeking to better prepare themselves for such emergency situations.

Making copies of important paper work and working with other family members to create a phone tree or simply making sure that information about a family member's doctor and prescriptions are readily available can be helpful to put together before an emergency situation presents itself. The more each of us can do to ensure that we are ready to deal with a vary of situations, the better we are as a community.

For many people this can be a scary topic to deal with, but present day realities require us to be proactive and many people find that by addressing the things they can control, it helps to put a manageable framework on difficult situations. FEMA's website offers an excellence guideline to help families prepare.

Learning ahead of time where the utility and water shut-offs are in your home and creating a clear communication plan for family members in the event of emergency can go a long way during a crisis situation. You should take a few moments after the New Year to familiarize yourself with these guidelines and see how prepared you are. You should also check the batteries in the fire alarms in your home.

Finally, if you have not already, take the time to go out and get yourself a flu shot.

**Remembering Joann Weber**

A few years ago I had the pleasure of spending part of my summer in the announcer's booth at LeLacheur Park.

Working as a color commentator on the radio at WCAP radio (980AM) for the Lowell Spinners was a great joy and privilege. I met a number of people from WCAP and the Lowell Spinners who were the nicest people. They were professional, warm and sharing.

One of the people that I had an opportunity to enact with was Joann Weber, owner of the Lowell Spinners.

She was a gracious, warm and engaging human being who went out of her way to make you feel welcomed and at home, not in the phony way that so many people today seemed to pride themselves on. She was genuine and sincere and it came through the minute you met her. She was just a regular, down to earth person who loved baseball, loved her Lowell Spinners and went out of her way to let the fans of the team know how much she appreciated them.

Joann Weber died recently after a three year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Survived by her husband Drew Weber, her daughter Kate and son Michael Weber, I know her presence will long be felt at LeLacheur Park.

The Weber family have asked those who want to remember Joann to make a donation to the Lustgarten Foundation which is involved in Pancreatic Cancer research or to a charity of your choice in Joann's memory. To make a donation visit them on line at [www.lustgartenfoundation.org](http://www.lustgartenfoundation.org) or call 1-866-789-1000.

Michael Sweeney is the planning director for the city of Lawrence, a former member of the Lawrence City Council and School Committee. You can e-mail Mr. Sweeney at [Esqsweeney@aol.com](mailto:Esqsweeney@aol.com).

# Mobile Cancer Screening Comes to Lawrence

From Page 1

mobile screening, and as many as 3,000 additional women receive breast health education and breast screening each year. The Boston van provides services in neighborhood health centers, homeless shelters, a women's prison and faith-based organizations in the Boston area.

The DCFI staffers conduct approximately 30 screenings a day in the mammography van and soon the Van will be available to provide these services in Lawrence.

Karen Ruderman, MPH, MSW, the van's program director says that she hopes the van will be available in Lawrence soon after the New Year.

"Right now we are in the planning phase, having monthly meetings with members of the local community. We are creating a consortium of the community and believe that we can provide the best clinic care by connecting with area hospitals." Ruderman said that one of the locations they are looking at is the Lawrence YWCA in Lawrence.

Ruderman said she hopes the van service will be able to reach those women "not connected to the health care system."

According to Ruderman, the Mammography Van will provide free mammogram screening to women 40 and over or beginning at 35 years with a history of cancer, in accordance with national recommendations.

Ruderman said no woman is turned away and uninsured woman will be assisted in applying for MassHealth. Co-pays are waived for those who are uninsured. Two radiology technicians are assigned to the van which is equipped with a mammography machine to do on site screening. The films produced in the van will then be sent back to a team of radiologists.

"With abnormal finding after the reading, the Dana-Farber staff will work with local

area doctors and the patient's primary care physician to coordinate treatment. The staff will also assist in obtaining a physician before the mammogram screening," Ruderman said.

The van is the only mobile mammography service in the Commonwealth and it's presence in Lawrence is being welcomed by local officials. Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan said he was "very excited" Dana-Farber was able to help the women of Lawrence,

"I think we are all a little sensitive around here with the death of Veronica Casado," Sullivan said. "To have a gift like this for other women out there like Veronica is a real blessing for the community and I know my office will do everything we can to help with coordinating the outreach efforts with Dana-Farber."

Veronica Casado was a city of Lawrence employee who recently passed away from breast cancer. Casado worked in the personnel office in city hall under the direction of Personnel director Frank Bonet.

The mobile screening mammography van service is just one of the many community outreach programs spearheaded or supported by Dana-Farber. The mammography van program director said it would not be possible if it were not for former Lawrence native Cynthia Alekel Mohr.

"We are extremely grateful to Cynthia Alekel Mohr for her commitment, passion, and generosity," Ruderman said. "Our successful collaboration with the Lawrence Community will help women and their families achieve a higher level of overall well-being."

For more information about the Mammography Van or to make a donation to the Cynthia Alekel Mohr and Family Mobile Mammography Fund, please contact Dana-Farber at (617) 632-1974.

Editors Note: Paula Porten is the granddaughter of a breast cancer survivor.

*"This year in America, more than 211,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 43,300 die. One woman in eight either has or will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. In addition, 1,600 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 400 will die this year. If detected early, the five-year survival rate exceeds 95%. Mammograms are among the best early detection methods, yet 13 million U.S. women 40 years of age or older have never had a mammogram."*

Source: [National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.](http://NationalBreastCancerFoundation.org)

# Lifestyles

## FURNITURE

**33 S. Broadway, Lawrence (978) 681-1840**

**Hours: Mon - Sat, 10am - 6pm**  
**Sunday, Noon - 5pm**

### Complete Set of Home Furnishings & Accessories

**FREE LOCAL DELIVERY**  
**\* Layaway up to 1 Yr.**





- \* Entertainment Centers
- \* Bedroom Sets
- \* Living Room Sets
- \* Grandfather Clocks
- \* Recliners \* Lamps
- \* Curios \* Sofas



**\* 10% OFF with this Ad!**

\* Not to be combined with any other offer

# Happy Birthday Mr. Conyo!



Nelson Silva, husband of city councilor Grisel Silva celebrated his 28th birthday last week with this giant cigar.

# Mayor Sullivan Reads to Children For Literacy Day

On Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, the Lawrence Public Library was abuzz with families. They had come to participate in the fourth annual Family Fun Literacy Day, which is sponsored by Pathways to Family Success in support of the Governor's proclamation that November is family literacy month.

Mayor Sullivan opened the festivities by reading a children's book and talking about the power of reading. He challenged the children to read a book every day, because if they did, he told them they could become anything they wanted to be. Later, the children sat mesmerized as Silvia Mejia, a local author, read her book, *La Fabula Como Genero Literario*.

Community Strings, a group of talented student musicians from the Community Day Charter School, livened the event with some toe-tapping tunes.

Librarians guided families on tours. A craft activity challenged families to use their imaginations and build something from colorful paper shapes and glue. Two young volunteers from the YWCA manned a puppet theater and helped children act out books they had read. In another activity, families were asked to add a happy thought to the Tree of Happiness. One quote said, "I love the books of the library 'cause I love to read." To further encourage reading, every child received a free book to bring home.

Families were encouraged to visit the library's auditorium where there was a resource fair and they could learn about local services. Participating Pathway organizations were: Lawrence Public Library, MSPCC, GLCAC Women, Infant & Children, Division of Youth Services, GLCAC Community Partnerships for Children,



GLCAC Head Start, Little Sprouts, Girl Scouts, YWCA, Lawrence Literacy Works, Northern Essex Community College, Asian Center of Merrimack Valley Inc., The Michael B. Christianson Family Support Center, GLCAC Lawrence Even Start, Imagine That, Central Catholic and the Leadership & Literacy Foundation.

Pathways to Family Success is funded by the Department of Education and Verizon. Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. is the fiscal agent of the initiative.

**FRONT ROW: (left to right) Cerel Munoz, Sebastian Lopez, Fabian Rivera, AJ Rodriguez, Diana Cepedo, and Reynes Muncion. BACK ROW: (left to right) Brian Rivera, Julio Gomez, Michael Sullivan, Keyla Rodriguez, Bianca Rodriguez, (behind Bianca, partially covered is Laurie Lugo), Kevin Cueto, Emilier Gil**

## Lawrence Firefighters FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

[www.lffcu.org](http://www.lffcu.org)



### 5.25% APY\*

for 13 Months Minimum  
Deposit \$500

### 5% APY\*

for 9 Months Minimum  
Deposit \$500



**14 Amesbury St. - Lawrence, MA 01840 - (978) 687-1919**

# Roger Twomey: A True Public Servant

Chris Twomey

The city of Lawrence has suffered a very significant loss. Recently the Lawrence City Council voted to approve Mike Sullivan's nomination (Rick Fielding) to replace Roger Twomey on the Licensing Board. My concern is with how we got to where we are today and all the events which have convinced me that we NEED people like Roger Twomey to serve on boards and commissions in our city. I'd like to share with you some personal thoughts about Roger Twomey and, hopefully, I'll convey to you why I believe we need more people like him in *our* government.

Several years ago I can remember the first impressions I had of *Commissioner* Roger Twomey. He cared very much about doing everything he could do to do the job right. It was a bit overwhelming, I'm sure. Twomey persisted though. He became more comfortable and assertive in his new role. He would study the Massachusetts General Laws, worked closely with the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission as well as other Merrimack Valley Licensing Commissioners, all in an effort to get it right.

One of the first things Twomey did was to work with the numerous used car dealerships in the city. Some had inoperable vehicles and unregistered vehicles while others were well over their limit for the number of sellable cars allowed. Successfully teaming with the used car owners as well as working with the Registry of Motor Vehicles, Twomey helped create a positive working relationship.

Soon after, Twomey began working with clubs and liquor establishments throughout the city. He partnered with Captain Mike Molchan of the LPD, who was the only appointed agent at that time, and together they began a campaign to work with licensed businesses to adhere to the standards required when distributing alcohol. They coordinated a long-term tactical strategy to combat underage drinking and began to exercise that plan. After Captain Molchan left the force, Twomey worked at continuing their campaign right up until his replacement was sworn in. Twomey was very clear in his approach to combating underage drinking and proposed very intelligent and effective measures to achieve this goal.

I know that Roger was sincerely concerned with the points of distribution of alcohol in the city. He understood the importance of educating and helping businesses to be aware of the responsibility they accepted when they received their license.

We had many healthy conversations on this subject. It was important for him to help them understand this huge responsibility, not to be an obstacle but a

mechanism to help them succeed. Roger Twomey was out there being a *true civil servant*. Serving the citizens and putting their interests first. His goal was to serve honorably and foster a better relationship through honesty and sincerity, not winks and nods and back room deal making.

No, Roger Twomey is not of this character. He's not one to engage in back room deal making or bribes. He speaks the truth. And, ultimately, this is why he's not serving us today: Because he told the truth. Imagine that! Here's a guy who's worked at his job endlessly. He tells the truth, does his job and lives up to the responsibility placed upon him and falls victim to attempted termination, accusations of racism and public humiliation, BECAUSE he told the truth and did what was right. (See prior Valley Patriot article titled "**Racism & Targeting**" from June 2005.) What does this say about the character of Mayor Mike Sullivan, the man who tried to terminate someone of this caliber? What message is being sent when a man of Roger Twomey's character and proven experience is *purposely* overlooked for reappointment?

The message sent is clear to me: Mike Sullivan is a self-serving politician. If he cared, he would have quickly reappointed Twomey and moved on. He only has his ego and self-interests at heart. This is very sad for Mike and very unfortunate for the rest of us. It is a complete failure on the part of our mayor to act according to the responsibility set upon him. In my opinion, Mike Sullivan has no understanding of what the *true* meaning of being a *public servant* is. Based on his past behavior regarding Roger Twomey, he leaves me with no alternative but to come to this most disturbing conclusion.

So, what does it mean to be a *true public servant*? When I think about this, the first thing that comes to mind is the enormous responsibility that comes with that decision. To me, you instantly become accountable to the very people you serve. You must put aside your own interests and put the interests of the citizens first. They must have this principle as the beginning point for every decision faced. In my opinion, it takes a strong-willed individual who understands this responsibility and embraces it to be a *true public servant*.

Roger Twomey is of this character and has proven it time and time again. I've been witness to it first hand. Unfortunately, when the civil servant abandons this principle, they cheat themselves and the citizens they are presumed to represent. I believe that, in



this case, each councilor who voted in favor of Fielding has failed to live up to this most fundamental responsibility. Not because Fielding is incompetent, but because they thought it would be easier and more convenient to just cast a "yes" vote and move on. Each councilor knew very well what Roger Twomey

represents as well as Mayor Sullivan's uncompromising position on his reappointment. Knowing all this, there are still those who voted to insert Fielding, rejecting the very principles that Twomey stands for. Raising very valid concerns regarding Fielding's eligibility for the position, those who voted *against* Fielding spoke loudly to their principles. Grisel Silva and Jorge Gonzalez were courageous to stand up for their beliefs and should be applauded. I commend them for their courage. Is it any wonder why they are now feeling the same pressures Roger Twomey felt from the same politicians?

Now, it's no surprise that it is easier to abandon these principles. When one chooses this path, it is a complete rejection of the very responsibilities he or she has sworn to hold true. Nothing is more important or has a more profound effect on our society than the integrity and sincere commitment to putting the citizens first by our public servants. When they apply this principle, the community benefits greatly. When they reject this principle, the community suffers. I believe our community has suffered greatly as a result of Mike Sullivan's refusal to reappoint Roger Twomey and the recent votes cast to approve Fielding. To me, this was a complete abandonment of the most fundamental principle a public servant must hold dear: To put the betterment of the community and its citizens before any personal agendas.

As a result, we have lost a *true civil servant* in our city. It is a travesty of our system when a man of Roger Twomey's caliber is rejected solely based on a personal vendetta. And that's exactly what it is, a personal vendetta against Twomey by Mike Sullivan.

You see, Roger has taken every situation as an opportunity to improve the city's image and quality of life. In keeping with this spirit, Roger has made it a priority to treat the business owners and their representatives with the utmost respect. Take a look at how he chaired his meetings and you'll see a man who has compassion, kindness, professionalism and fairness as his traits, not arrogance or intolerance. He has been a leader for doing what is right and not giving in to political pressures. The

fact of the matter is that Roger Twomey did his job with honesty and integrity. Not putting his own self-interests first, but putting the interests of the people he serves first.

Mike Sullivan didn't see a need for this type of man in his administration. He didn't see all the qualities and attributes of Roger Twomey as being important. He didn't see how Roger Twomey made a difference for the betterment of our community. He rejected everything Twomey stands for when he willingly chose *not* to reappoint Twomey and he cannot escape this reality. For what possible reason, you might ask? I'll tell you: Mike Sullivan put his own personal vendetta against Roger Twomey before the interests of the people he has sworn to serve. Mayor Sullivan was intent on getting rid of a man who stood up for what is right, called it like it is and expressed his beliefs openly and honestly about Sullivan's leadership skills after his attempted firing of Twomey. (Eagle Tribune article on November 6, 2005, titled: Two Voters Who Have Switched Sides) What does this say to you about the character of Mike Sullivan?

With very few exceptions, I think it's easy to say that most everyone who has met Twomey can see all the good he brings with him to our community. Certainly he's not perfect, but who is? I have had first-hand, personal experience of the qualities to which I speak. I have had the great opportunity to learn from Roger Twomey what it means to be a man of integrity and how living with and applying that principle brings great rewards for many. He has taught me, through his actions, the importance of holding your principles in the highest regard and to never abandon them no matter what. He has demonstrated to me that you can serve your community and still adhere to your integrity, in the face of constant pressure, and be successful. For this I am greatly honored to have been witness.

You may wonder how I've come to make these claims. I can speak to Roger Twomey's character and make the claims I do because I am his son and have been an intimate witness to his decisions.

I am extremely proud of the job that Roger has done for our community and for the example he sets. I am very grateful for all who have supported Roger through the years. I am very disappointed and hurt with how he was treated by a few and the effect that has had on my family. I only speak the truth.

I do forgive those who have hurt us and I hope they can come to recognize the effects of their behavior and atone for their misgivings. I can only hope and pray that our community will be blessed in the future with someone of the caliber that Roger Twomey has demonstrated. For we would all benefit greatly to have a *true civil servant* in our midst like my dad, Roger Twomey.

## Donate to the Kevin Callahan Memorial Fund



- Established to help the family of Lawrence Police Officer Kevin Callahan by the



**Lawrence Firefighters Credit Union**

**14 Amesbury St. - Lawrence MA 01840 - (978) 687-1919**



## Moving Haverhill Forward

### Haverhill Mayor Jim Fiorentini

#### Rising Business Values Means Lower Tax Increase for Residents

This year the average, single-family tax bill will increase \$70 — under two and one half percent — the lowest increase in a decade. While we recognize that no increase is welcome, we are happy we were able to hold the amount of the increase down. Last year taxes for homeowners went up \$155.00. The reason is that business property values went up — resulting in a small shift of the total property tax burden from residents to businesses.

#### Boardwalk Project Takes Leap Forward

The city is proud to announce that we have secured money to put in a riverwalk/boardwalk behind the Tap Restaurant. We hope to have the design completed by next September and then start construction after that.

#### Tax Break for the Smallest Businesses

We've worked to eliminate unnecessary paperwork and reduce regulatory barriers. We found that for a restaurant to have outdoor dining, they had to obtain permits from seven different local boards. We reduced that to a single form.

In Massachusetts, businesses must pay a tax, both on their real estate and on their personal property - computers, typewriters, fax machines etc.

For the very smallest of businesses, it costs the city about as much to process the return as we gain in revenue. This month, I worked with the City Council to exempt businesses with total net assets of less than \$2,500 — from filing a return. For 500 of our smallest businesses, it is one less piece of paperwork to deal with.

#### Governor Withholds Haverhill's \$2.6 Million

When it closed, about 30% of the patients at the Hale hospital were from outside Haverhill. For that reason, we have consistently lobbied for state aid to pay the Hale debt left to us by previous administrations.

This year, the legislature agreed and put \$2.6 million in the budget for the Hale debt. Last month, Governor Romney used what are called "9c emergency" powers to freeze \$425 million in statewide spending, including the money for the Hale debt. All eyes now turn to Governor Elect Deval Patrick who can overturn these cuts.

#### Short Subjects

On November 22, the mayor joined with representatives of the Lebanese-American community in Haverhill in celebrating Lebanese Independence Day.

**Haverhill's unemployment rate in October dropped to 4.4%** - the lowest rate in many years. Governor Romney's latest budget freeze cut \$1 million to repair **Haverhill's stadium.**

The mayor was a speaker at the national brownfield's conference, "**Brownfield's 06,**" in Boston. Under the mayor's **five-year capital improvement plan**, the High Street fire station, a ladder truck for the highway department, and roadway improvements, will be funded this year along with repairs to the park department barn on Kenoza Avenue.

We can not reverse decades of neglect in one year, but we can, and do, plan. On a personal note, I was incredibly moved by Al Gore's Movie, "**An Inconvenient Truth.**" If you haven't seen this message on the dangers of global warming, you should! Hopefully, the candidates for president will all make reducing greenhouse emissions a top priority of their administration.

On the local level, we are moving forward to install solar panels on our Citizen's Center, and are seeking grants to make Haverhill a model green community. If you have ideas on how to help, please let me know.

#### Your Opinion Counts

**How do you feel about this year's tax increase:** ( ) Taxes went up too much, ( ) increase is reasonable under the circumstances, ( ) we need an override or debt exclusion.

**Dr. Buchanan has suggested we consider same sex classrooms. What is your opinion:** ( ) It is worth trying, ( ) No — it is not worth trying, ( ) Undecided. Please copy and mail back to [mayor@cityofhaverhill.com](mailto:mayor@cityofhaverhill.com). The mayor reads every response.

#### Events

**Friday Annual Christmas Stroll**, 5 to 9 p.m. Now until December 10<sup>th</sup> - Festival of Trees at Buttonwoods Museum.

Jim Fiorentini is the mayor of Haverhill and was just elected to his second term. Mayor Fiorentini is a Democrat. No public money was used to produce or distribute this newsletter. You can E-mail Jim Fiorentini at: [jimfior02@aol.com](mailto:jimfior02@aol.com)

## Haverhill Exchange Club Changes Meeting Location

Haverhill, Mass. — The Exchange Club of Haverhill meets each Thursday at 12:00 p.m. (noon) at Olivia's in downtown Haverhill.

The Exchange Club of Haverhill is a member club of the National Exchange Club organization, and focuses its efforts on the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

The non-profit club is comprised of volunteers from the community, and is truly a 'hands on' organization. They have been recognized for achievement in their Junior Police, Fire Prevention, Read Across America and Trees for Tots programs. They

also provide two generous scholarships to youth in the community, Youth of the Year, and the ACE Award, an award designed to recognize the efforts of a student who has overcome adversity during their high school career.

The Exchange Club of Haverhill welcomes new members.

For more information contact club President Sue Daneau at 978-372-2843 or visit their website at [www.haverhillexchangeclub.com](http://www.haverhillexchangeclub.com).

## Bethany Homes Monthly For Seniors

If you are a 'Friend of Bethany' and want to receive the monthly publication of the FLAG for 2007, your dues of \$12 will be due on December 31, 2006. You can make your check out to BCS, attention Darlene Sutton, 22 Phoenix Row, Haverhill, MA 01832. The FLAG is a great resource for senior activity and travel, and also a wonderful gift giving idea for your family and friends.

#### FUNDRAISER

Bethany Community Services now has available for purchase a gift calendar. The calendar will be for the month of January (only), each day it has at least one gift prize with a value of at least \$25. A winner will be drawn daily and they will win the gift(s) of that day. You can purchase your calendar(s) with Darlene by calling 978-374-2165 or stopping in her office at 22 Phoenix Row, Haverhill, MA 01832. The cost for a calendar is \$5, or 5 calendars for \$20. This is a great gift giving idea for anyone. All the proceeds will benefit the activity and wellness programs for Bethany Community Services

#### DAY TRIPS

*Sign up and payment in advance is required for all these trips.*

*December 10<sup>th</sup>*—The Reagle Players Present "**It's Christmas Time**"-Robinson Theatre/lunch-Chateau in Waltham/meal choices broiled marinated tips-veal cutlet parmigiana-broiled sea scallops-chicken marsala served with garden salad-Italian bread-coffee-cannoli/\$64

*December 31<sup>st</sup>*-New Years Eve Day Celebration Crown Plaza Hotel, Nashua, NH starring **impressionist Mark Verselli** doing Nat King Cole-Archie and Edith Bunker-Sammy Davis and more/prime rib or stuffed chicken breast served with soup-rolls-oven roasted potatoes-honey glazed baby carrots-dessert-coffee-champagne toast/**live music** as well/\$65

*January 17-6:30a* **Foxwoods**/includes motorcoach transportation-luncheon voucher-\$15 in keno play/payment due at sign up/\$22

*February 27*-**The Incredible Acrobats of China** Mohegan Sun Arena/from the new Shanghai Circus their recent world tour includes national touring engagements throughout the Pacific Islands, across New Zealand and nationwide in Australia/show-transportation-casino package/\$60

*March 14, 2007*-**Tony Kenny's Ireland**-Venus De Milo, Swansea, MA/entertainer of the year in 1998/2001 he performed at the White House/luncheon-show-transportation/meal choice-corned beef and cabbage-baked haddock/\$63

*April 11, 2007*-**Larry Gatlin and The Gatlin Brothers**-Mohegan Sun Arena-the Gatlin Brothers have released over two dozen record/ includes show-transportation-casino package/\$66

#### 2007 OVERNIGHT TOURS

**Sign up and payment in advance is required for all these trips.**

*January 23-February* - **Southern Caribbean Cruise**-New York/St. Thomas (US Virgin Islands)-St. John (Antigua)-Bridgetown (Barbados)-Phillipsburg (St. Maarten)-Tortola (British Virgin Islands)-optional-Virgin Gorda/Best of Times Cocktail Party-Travel Insurance-Driver Gratuities-Luggage Handling-fully escorted by a Best of Times professional tour director -\$1099-payments due at sign up

*April 27<sup>th</sup>-May 7<sup>th</sup>*-**Branson Show Extravaganza** includes motorcoach transportation-ten nights lodging including four consecutive nights in Branson-eighteen meals (ten breakfast and eight dinner)-admission to six shows Yakov Smirnoff and The Joey Riley Show-Dick Clark's American band Stand Theatre-Neal Goldberg's "Cirque" and Darren Romeo The Voice of Magic-The Show Boat Branson Belle and much more/payment plans and trip protection available and recommended /\$75 deposit reserves your space/\$979 per person double-\$300 extra for singles/final payment due 2/19/07

*April 28 – May 6, 2007*-**From Normandy to Paris A Veteran's**-deposit of \$600.00 per person is required to reserve space/prices starting at \$3099

*August 18-26, 2007* **The Jewels of Italy**-ports of call are Barcelona Spain-Messina, Sicily, Italy-Naples & Rome, Italy-Florence/Pisa, Italy-Villefranche (Nice), France/also includes round trip airfare-Best of Times Cocktail Party-Travel Insurance-Driver Gratuities-Luggage Handling-fully escorted by a Best of Times professional tour director/process from \$2199 with a deposit of \$500 due upon signing/final payment due May 15, 2007



*Hi, I'm Joe Zingalez  
from Remax  
Preferred in Methuen*

232 Pleasant Street, Methuen, MA 01844

*Please see our ad on Page 23*



# HAVERHILL'S FUTURE!

Jim Rurak, Former Mayor of Haverhill

## What About Schedule A?



We continue to hear from the mayor and we continue to read in several newspapers that Haverhill is financially strapped.

The most consistent claim is that we start each year with a seven million dollar payment on the Hale debt.

But the facts don't bear this out. If you're really interested, go on line right now to [www.dls.state.ma.us/](http://www.dls.state.ma.us/) and then go over to the right and click the "at a glance reports." Scroll down to Haverhill and open the file; check the Schedule A report for fiscal year 2006.

The Department of Revenue records that Haverhill finished last year with a surplus of almost three million dollars. Three million dollars! What this means is that we've found a way to meet our annual debt payment on the Hale and enjoy a surplus.

Yet the mayor says we're financially strapped. There has been no local announcement of this good news, there has been no sign of hope conveyed to the community to give it some relief from the over-arching claim that our future is in doubt. Why this deception?

The only plausible explanation is that the mayor hopes to announce in an election year that somehow he has pulled Haverhill from the brink of financial receivership. The fact is that it never was on such a brink. When the hospital was sold, we went from annual financial uncertainty to a fixed debt service.

Granted that debt service is large and presents a challenge. But that challenge is being chipped away by the overall strength of the city and by some Herculean efforts of the local legislative delegation. Yet we hear none of this; we're only poised for some shockingly good news from the mayor.

Let's look at each of the above areas in turn and show how they reduced the Hale debt.

First, when the Hale debt first hit, the city reduced it by applying its reserves and free cash — almost five million dollars in reducing the principal. Then, the debt service of seven million was immediately reduced to 5.8 million by using our full capacity under Proposition Two and One Half. Then the Hale, which was losing money for the city, paid taxes to the city from the day it was sold to Essent.

Now, the Merrimack Valley Hospital, the old Glynn, and additional facilities will pay over six hundred thousand dollars annually in taxes. This brings the debt down to 5.2 million. Furthermore, with the hospital sold, the city's bond rating improved and we save over 200,000 dollars annually in borrowing costs. So, without any creativity or innovation, the debt's reduced by two million dollars every year! Debt service down to five million.

Next comes the Herculean effort of our legislative delegation. The Hale was a regional facility, so the city alone should not have to shoulder the burden of its debt. Over the last five years, the delegation made that point in Boston and brought home almost ten million dollars in aid to reduce the debt service. That's two million per year. All of a sudden, a five million dollar payment looks more like a three million dollar one. Furthermore, as a result of legislation allowing early retirement, the city cut its workforce by 55 people.

That's an annualized savings of at least two million per year. The seven million dollar mountain begins to look like a one million dollar mole-hill. And the city has climbed that hill each year by selling off land, over 10 million dollars worth of it! That's how we now are poised to announce a surplus.

The doom and gloom over the last three years is killing our spirit. The mayor conducts school budget hearings like auto auctions and our MCAS scores dip so low the state is threatening educational receivership. We're building condo's downtown, but have no plan for parking and no projections as to what all this residential growth will cost down the line. And when prideful community spirit wells up, as in Team Haverhill, the mayor's need to get the credit trumps his duty to embrace citizen involvement. And, all of this so that the mayor can announce a surplus in an election year.

If you think my intended candidacy for mayor is in any way a motive for bringing all this to light, you're absolutely right!

The mayor's told the story his way too long. He needs a challenge. And, when he hides for two years the resources that could have benefited our community just so that he can shine in an election year, he should be challenged not only by me but by all the people he's sworn to represent.

Jim Rurak is a professor at Boston College and is the former mayor of Haverhill. Email your comments or questions to Jim Rurak at [JARandKAS@comcast.net](mailto:JARandKAS@comcast.net).

# Random Thoughts

## Haverhill (NECC) Professor Mark Palermo



Every year at this time, Christmas tree lots sprout up along the sides of highways with signs like the following: *Christmas Trees 12 dollars. All trees in "a" lot.* If you don't know any better, you think 12 bucks is a good price. So you go in to buy your \$12 tree. But once inside you find subdivided areas which are lettered: lot A, lot B, lot C, etc.

Of course the \$12 trees in "lot A" are pathetic, lopsided and/or usually about three feet tall. And naturally, Christmas trees in the other "lots" are of better quality and priced three times higher. But since you are already there...

I get tired of seeing this scam year after year. Imagine a grocery store with a sign outside "All T-bone steaks in 'a' case \$1 each." And when you go in, you find they are all gristle and bone with expired freshness dates- not even fit for dogs. But you are already in the store, so you do your shopping. What's wrong with this picture?

The glib, ambiguous use of words to obfuscate clear meaning may not be a violation of the letter of the law, but it is nevertheless a deceptive and unethical business practice which should be stopped.

\*\*\*

The Merrimack Valley is a haven for municipal trash incinerators. The Covanta incinerator off route 495 in Haverhill has a capacity of some 1650 tons of trash a day. North Andover's Wheelabrator incinerator- just a couple of miles downwind on route 125- can burn 1500 tons a day.

Between these two incinerators, that's a staggering 1.15 million tons of trash burned annually. And trash doesn't just vaporize after incineration. About 30% is left behind as ash. That's about 345,000 tons of concentrated toxic ash to be landfilled in our community- a legacy for our children's children. Not to mention mercury emissions.

No wonder Rhode Island banned incinerators in 1992. Even the Philippines banned incinerators. Too dirty and unhealthy for the Philippines, incinerators are apparently all right for us. The trash industry has indeed found a welcoming home in the Merrimack Valley.

\*\*\*

Years ago, I lived and worked in Madrid, Spain. I have fond memories of that time, especially of the Spaniards, a gregarious and sentimental people. Like the Europeans, I spent lots of time in cafes and bars. I remember a conversation with a young Spanish intellectual in which he remarked, "You Americans have a problem with the body."

He was a thoughtful and intelligent guy, not the rabid sort of anti-Americanist one sometimes finds in European cafes, whose train of logic starts with hatred of America and works backwards producing the appropriate premises. I thought it was a curious thing to say, but in the many years since our conversation, I have realized what he meant.

A good example of our collective problem with the body is the furor over mothers nursing babies in public. I don't know what can be more natural and wholesome than breastfeeding a baby, but not everyone agrees.

On October 13, Emily Gillette, 27, was on a flight out of Burlington, Vermont. She was in a window seat discreetly nursing her baby next to her husband, who was in the aisle seat providing her a measure of privacy.

A flight attendant approached Mrs. Gillette, and ordered her to cover up saying, "You are offending me." Mrs. Gillette refused to cover her child, and she and her family were booted off the flight. As a result, protests by nursing mothers were held in more than 30 airports around the country.

Years ago in North Africa, I saw Arab women nursing babies in broad daylight, on buses, and in outdoor markets. They exhibited no apparent self-consciousness. I saw one Berber woman with breasts the size of pillows nursing a baby on a crowded bus while she chatted with an old man lazily smoking a clay pipe.

I had always been taught that Arabs were puritanical and sexually repressed. But breastfeeding had nothing to do with sex for them; it was a natural process like eating or sleeping and they saw no reason for shame over bodily functions.

For Americans though, breasts equal sex -and sex is a problem. The problem with the body, as evinced in toilet jokes, jokes about body functions, and ramblings of potty-mouthed radio talk show hosts and the millions addicted to porn.

Wilhelm Reich called it "the emotional plague." Hollywood, in particular, has blurred the line between sensuality and infantile sexuality. Not surprising then, that ours is a sexually licentious and -at the same time- a puritanical society. Maybe we would do well to heed the advice of a young nursing mother who carried a sign at a recent airport protest: "Breasts- they aren't just for selling cars anymore."

Mark Palermo is a professor at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill and is the past vice-president of the faculty union. You can email him at [markpalermo@lycos.com](mailto:markpalermo@lycos.com).

The Law Office of

# Robert O'Koniewski

## Attorney at Law

181 Canal Street,  
Suite 310  
Lawrence

(978) 688-0029

# THE CHOCOLATE CELLAR

at Georgetown Square

[www.TheChocolateCellar.com](http://www.TheChocolateCellar.com)

Typical Hours:  
Tues - Thurs: 11:30 - 5:30  
Fri: 11:30 - 6  
Sat: 9-5

**9 7 8 • 3 5 2 • 8 8 0 3**  
Open 7 days/week during holiday periods.  
Open Sunday a.m. for balloon pickups by appointment.



## Lawrence Pop Warner Cheerleaders

Katie Morris, Student Correspondant

When cheerleading comes to mind, what is the first thing you think of? Cute little girls in short skirts cheering at a football game, or maybe the cheerleaders throwing a girl high in the air to impress the players? Well, whatever your opinion happens to be, right or wrong, that's not all cheerleaders do! The Lawrence Pop Warner Youth Cheer Squad (known as the Hurricanes) takes girls from all over Lawrence and trains them to be the best cheerleaders they can be. Sure, we cheer for the football players, but we also compete against local and statewide teams. Their teams usually compete at the novice division, which is then followed by intermediate and then advanced. In 2005, D, C, and A-teams (separated by age, A-team is oldest) all went to the Merrimack Valley competition. However, only the A-Team advanced to the Eastern Massachusetts competition at the Tsongas Arena. There, they placed third and were invited to regional competition at the Worcester DCU Center. At this event, they competed against seventeen other teams and placed third. Sadly, they did not move on to the nationals in Florida because only the top two places could advance.

In 2006, the hopes were high for the A-Team to receive another MVL (Merrimack Valley League) title. When practice began in August, they had about fifteen girls and most of them were new to cheerleading. They began to practice, but soon the team began to lose hope. They had now found out that most of the stunting and tumbling they did last year could not be done because of a rule change, including full extensions, when the flyer (the girl in the air) is raised all the way above the bases' (those who lift the flyer) heads, and back handsprings. The team also had new girls coming on to the team late which caused our coach to have to teach everything over again. And to add on to all those problems, they also had a new flyer and new bases. Almost everyone was feeling the pressure.

After a few weeks, three girls left the team. The rest of the team had to change every

routine because places had to be moved and parts had to be changed. Not to mention that this was the week of choreography for competition. Nonetheless, they sorted everything out and the new routine was learned. They practiced 3 hours a night, 3 nights a week. But the work had just begun. It was only 3 weeks until competition. The routine was changed countless times, and finally when everything was set in stone, the only thing left to do was practice, and little did they know the practice would pay off.

The Merrimack Valley competition was at Methuen High. At the competition, the girls were only competing against two other teams: Sudbury and Lowell. They had no idea what to expect, and even better, they were up first. After the high school and the Billerica E-Teams had exhibited, it was finally time for the Hurricanes to show their stuff. They had a legacy to uphold. All the hours of hard work were going into 3 minutes of a routine. No one knew what would happen. After the routine was over, they were sent to the back until all the teams had competed. This was the most nerve-racking time for the girls. Then it was time for the awards.

When the hustle and bustle of getting a hundred cheerleaders on the floor was over, it was now the moment of truth. During the B-Team awards, the excitement was so high that it could be felt buzzing through the air. You could see the anticipation on the girls' faces. Then it was time for the A-Team results.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, your first place Merrimack Valley Champions are the LAWRENCE HURRICANES!" the announcer cheered. The girls had truly done it. Defying the odds and people's expectations, they were the MVL champs two years in a row, and now their next task was Eastern Massachusetts.

To Be Continued...

## RAISE 'EM RIGHT™

"Just Five More Minutes, Please!"

Barbara Peary, M.Ed.

My child argues about bedtime with me day after day. It is frustrating. We start the fights at 8:00 p.m. when he doesn't want to leave his television program and by the time he ends up in bed it is usually close to 9:30 p.m. Of course, he doesn't want to wake up for school. He is eight.

He can't argue, if you don't. There should be no debate. Start this habit tonight. At 7:30 p.m. tell him that in twenty minutes he needs to begin to get ready for bed. At 7:50 p.m., unplug the television and head him upstairs, without discussion.

Have him wash up and then let him read or look at a book for a few minutes. At 8:15 p.m. turn the lights out and close the door. Refuse to get into any type of dialogue about this. If he puts up a fuss, tell him the television will be eliminated on school nights. Then do it. He can tape favorite programs and watch them on the weekends. A few weeks of consistency on your part will make the difference, but you must be adamant and follow through on what you say.

Should a five year old be allowed to stay up until 10 p.m. on weekend nights? My sister's child does this. I think it is too late.

Seems too late to me, but mind your own business unless she asks for your advice.

My wife and I have six-year-old twins, a boy and a girl, and a daughter who is three. An experienced babysitter was with the children taking them for a walk on a busy street. The boy ran away from the sitter and the two others followed. They did not return immediately when the sitter called out to them and it took her a few minutes to "catch them" and get everyone settled down again.

I had told them we would probably go to an amusement park on the following

weekend. When I learned what had happened with the sitter, I gave them a safety lecture and then told them the trip was canceled. They put up a tremendous fuss, but I did not back down. Now I feel guilty.



Congratulations for following through as you saw necessary. You are looking out for the best interests of your children and this type of behavior could result in grave injuries if it took place at the wrong time. By taking away something that was of value to the children (the trip to the amusement park), they will see that you are serious about which behaviors are acceptable and which are not.

It's party time at our house. My daughter is turning six and wants to have a party with just her friends. Of course, she would like to invite everyone she knows. What do you think would be a reasonable number?

A good idea is the child's age plus one. It is better to call the parents directly or mail invitations, so children at school who are not invited will not feel slighted. Also, start teaching her etiquette now and emphasize not talking about the party at school, since they will not all be attending.

The boys my daughter brings home drive me crazy. Some don't seem to wash up and others seem to only possess one outfit. As a college sophomore, you think she would have better taste!

Guess the grunge look is in. Remember what happened with Romeo and Juliet? Say as little as possible and watch your facial expressions and body language.

Hopefully as she matures, her standards for men will also. It could be worse. She could be the one not bathing or washing her clothes.

Please send questions to RAISE 'EM RIGHT™, P.O. Box 831, Carlisle, MA 01741 or e-mail to RAISEEMRIGHT@aol.com.

Discount Prices SINCE 1978!

## Bider Music



Open: Mon-Sat, 10am - 6pm  
Sunday, 12-5pm



for a complete selection of musical equipment and accessories

- \* Lessons
- \* Repairs
- \* Rentals

Guitars, Banjos, Amplifiers,  
PA Systems, Mandolins,  
Drum Sets, Full Line of  
Percussion



## Consentino's Shoe Store & Repair

SEE OUR AD (PAGE 16) FOR DISCOUNT ON SHOES

We've Moved from Jackson St. in Lawrence  
to **85 Swan St. Methuen,**  
(Between Jackson & Prospect St.)  
Phone: (978) 689-9598

33 S. Broadway, Lawrence (978) 681-1840