

Footnotes from

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

You can't make this stuff up!

Our Readers Get the News First!

As if it was actually NEWS, the Eagle-Tribune ran a FRONT PAGE story last month about how North Andover School Committeeman Al Perry has decided not to run for reelection. In the story, the Trib also "broke" the news that former selectman Don Stewart may run for Perry's seat. For the record, The Valley Patriot ran the Perry story over five months ago and the Donald Stewart story two months ago. Just more proof that our readers get the news first while the Tribune is completely out of the loop.

Cowards at WRKO Fire John Depetro

The cowards at WRKO radio have fired talk show host John Depetro for calling Grace Ross (the Green Party candidate for governor) a "fat lesbian." Ross, who is fat and is a lesbian, brags about her sexuality on her Web site for governor. Depetro's description of her as being fat, and being a lesbian, was no revelation to anyone. Yet the management of WRKO, beholden to the gay lobby, fired him anyway. This is not the first time that the politically correct censors at WRKO have overreacted to remarks made on the air by conservative hosts who use language which might be offensive to homosexuals. The Valley Patriot hopes that 96.9 FM talk radio hires Depetro and blows away WRKO in the ratings.

Impotent GOP in North Andover

While the majority of voters in North Andover cast their ballots for Republican Kerry Healey for governor, the Republican Town Committee was nowhere to be found on Election Day. As voters streamed by sign holders at the high school, several people could be seen displaying signs for Republican candidates Kerry Healey and Lonnie Brennan. But none of them were members of the town's GOP Committee. While a few members of the North Andover Republican Town Committee made phone calls for GOP candidates running for office, not one member of the committee bothered to show up at the polls on Election Day to support the party's candidates. And you wonder why Republicans don't do better in Massachusetts?

Mass Taxpayers Alliance??

During the state representative race between Barbara L'Italien and Lawrence "Lonnie" Brennan, a piece of campaign literature was sent out to voters on behalf of L'Italien by the so-called "Massachusetts Taxpayers Alliance." The postcard stated: "Without the efforts of Representative Barbara L'Italien, property taxes in the Commonwealth would have risen even higher." It's odd that such a bogus claim can be made on behalf of a candidate, considering that property tax increases are held to 2 1/2% per year by state law and cannot be raised without the consent of the voters in an override election. So, who is the Massachusetts Taxpayers Alliance? Nobody knows! Neither Ted Tripp, president of the North Andover Taxpayers Association, nor Barbara Anderson, Executive Director of Citizens for Limited Taxation, have ever heard of any such group. A Google search by The Valley Patriot found that no such taxpayer's group apparently exists. So, not only is the claim about L'Italien lowering our taxes bogus, so too is the phony group which circulated the literature to the voters. Now that the election is over, recipients of the postcard might be interested to know that Representative L'Italien has a rating of 20 (out of 100) by Citizens for Limited Taxation when it come to supporting legislation friendly to taxpayers.

REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA L'ITALIEN is Fighting Against Higher Local Property Taxes.
 Everyone in Massachusetts, except Governor Romney, seems to understand that property taxes have risen dramatically over the last four years.



REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA L'ITALIEN has fought higher property taxes by supporting:

- Budgetary efforts to increase local aid and provide unprecedented levels of education funding
- Elimination of the diversion of Lottery Funds from local aid
- Funding for the "Senior Circuit Breaker" relieving the property tax burden for seniors

Without the efforts of REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA L'ITALIEN property taxes in the Commonwealth would have risen even higher.

Some Thoughts on Deval Patrick's Win for Governor

Ralph Wilbur



In his victory speech, Duval Patrick said that the recent victory was "not a victory for Democrats. It was a victory for hope!"

Yes, Patrick hopes he can raise our taxes, big time. He hopes to give illegal immigrants driver's licenses, and the children of illegal immigrants in-state tuition breaks. These measures, he hopes, will encourage a further influx of illegals to our state to join the Democratic Party. And take jobs away from local residents and legal immigrants.

He hopes to keep the teachers' unions happy by hiring more teachers as a means to reduce class sizes. He also hopes to keep the public safety unions content by hiring 1,000 more police officers. His hope is to accomplish both of these expansions of government employees with no increase in our already hopeless and oppressive tax burden.

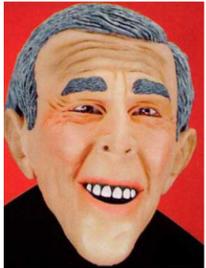
He hopes the idea of letting the people vote on gay marriage will just go away. He hopes the criminal justice system will be more kind to criminals. He hopes he can add more regulations to businesses to drive down their competitiveness with firms in other states.

Together, Massachusetts voters can turn Patrick's hopes into realities.

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Senator Tucker Offers Unique Opportunity for Local Residents to Improve State Law

BOSTON — Senator Sue Tucker (D-Andover) announced today that she is launching the “There Ought to be a Law” competition and invites all of her constituents to participate. Beginning this month, Tucker will be accepting “There Ought to Be a Law” contest proposals from local residents. The competition challenges individuals to offer solutions on how to improve life in Massachusetts or make state government run more efficiently and welcomes their most innovative ideas.

“I strongly believe that to be effective, leaders must be good listeners which is why I’ll personally read each proposal,” Senator Tucker said. “This is a serious-minded competition to give citizens the chance to put forth their ideas and influence public policy.” Tucker intends to bring the winning ideas back to the Legislature for formal consideration. Those whose ideas are selected will have their proposals introduced as official legislation and have the opportunity to testify at a public hearing on their bill at the State House. Winners will also be invited to lunch with Senator Tucker and receive a personal tour of the Senate Chamber.

To participate, individuals can download the contestant form online at www.mass.gov/legis/member/sct0.htm, or call Senator Tucker’s office to request a form at (617) 722-1612. Completed contestant forms can be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to the Office of Senator Tucker. Senator Tucker requests that all entries be submitted by Friday, December 15, 2006.

THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW! CONTESTANT FORM

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Address: _____ Town: _____
Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Have you ever had an idea of how to improve life in Massachusetts or make our state government run more efficiently? Senator Tucker invites you to participate in the “There Ought to be a Law” competition and welcomes all of your most innovative proposals. The winner, or winners, will have their bill ideas introduced as legislation, and have the opportunity to testify at a public hearing on their bill at the State House. They will also have lunch with Senator Tucker and receive a personal tour of the Senate Chamber. Please complete this form and return it to the Office of Senator Tucker by **December 15, 2006**.

- 1). What is the problem that needs a legislative solution?
- 2). What is your solution? Please attach proposed language, if any.
- 3). Is there any helpful background information on the topic? Please explain.
- 4). Are there any possible costs associated with your proposal? Please describe.
- 5). Who do you think would support this proposal? Why?
- 6). Who do you think would oppose this proposal? Why?



Planning for Our Future

Lawrence Planning Director Michael R. Sweeney

Mayor Sullivan’s leadership on a key issue has produced dramatic results this past week.

Over the past month the property at 207 Marston Street has generated a number of negative stories in the local press. One of the largest privately owned parcels in the city, this 14 acre lot is visible from RT495, very close to the new Parthum school and adjacent to a number of private homes and important businesses like Mr. Charlie Daher’s Commonwealth Motors.

A combined team effort including work by City Attorney Charles Boddy, Tom Schiavone, Treasurer Patty Cook, Inspectional Service Caroline Ganley, Building Commissioner Luis Waldron and Council President Patrick Blanchette took the time and energy to focus on the issues involving this property.

Communication, or lack thereof, was a key element in the problem. We set up meetings with the financial group holding the current note on the property. To their credit, once they realized that Mayor Sullivan’s team was united and focused on the issue, the note holder stepped to the plate.

A tax agreement was proposed and working closely with John Griffen and Patty Cook, with oversight by Attorney Boddy, we were able to finalize an agreement that resulted in a payment of \$90,000 directly to the City of Lawrence. That money will immediately have an impact on the city’s budget.

Also important has been Mayor Sullivan’s approach of focusing on the environmental issues present on the site. First Lawrence Financial, the mortgagee of the property, has made a dedicated effort to work towards the proper cleaning of the site and has tightly secured the location over the past few weeks.

The Planning Department has been working closely with Mr. Ed Huminick of First Lawrence Financial to increase communication about the environmental clean up. We have enlisted the help of both the state DEP office and the federal EPA office to ensure that site is properly cleaned.

The reuse of this site presents an important opportunity to bring significant retail or other commercial use. The potential for the city to enhance its tax base, create new jobs and have a cleaner, useable site is tremendous. In the coming months we will continue to work closely with First Lawrence Financial to ensure that the property becomes a valuable and clean site in our city.

The tax agreement reached this month was an important show of good faith by First Lawrence Financial. Members of Mayor Sullivan’s team will continue to work diligently on the proper end use of the property and to enlist the help of DEP and EPA to ensure a clean, usable site that will service the city’s interest for years to come.

It will be a grand achievement for the city when this site is restored to proper and significant usage in the next two years.

More Action On Commercial Sites

Very shortly the public will learn of a key development in the downtown area that will result in a building that has been closed and unoccupied for over decade being demolished. The building has lived past its commercial usage and had become both a fire hazard and an eyesore. To their credit, the owners of the property never stopped working with the city on ways to resolve the issues presented by this challenging property. Months of hard work is coming together.

Over the next six months we will be working together to have the building demolished and work on the redevelopment of this important site that has the potential to bring a host of new businesses and new energy to the downtown area. Just keep your eyes on the local media for an announcement on this shortly.

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.

Family Service, Inc. to Honor Sullivan Family with its Community Service Award

LAWRENCE - Family Service, Inc. is pleased to announce that it will give its biennial Community Service Award to the Anna R. Sullivan Family of Lawrence, including Anna, Thomas, Michael, Kevin, Mark and their families. The award will be presented to the Sullivan Family on Thursday, November 16 at 6:00 pm at Sal’s Italian Restaurant on Merrimack Street in Lawrence.

Every other year, Family Service honors a family who, through their personal and professional efforts, embodies the mission of Family Service: to strengthen individuals and families by building skills for successful home, work and community life. The Sullivan Family has a long history of giving back to the Greater Lawrence community, and Family Service is honored to recognize their years of service.

Anna R. Sullivan, owner of T.A. Sullivan Insurance on Union Street in Lawrence, raised her four boys alone after the sudden death of her husband, Thomas, in 1969. Mrs. Sullivan managed to grow the business she started with her husband while raising the four boys on her own. Somewhere amidst

the work of raising four active boys, Ms. Sullivan managed to instill an ethic of community service in each of her children.

“Back 35 years ago, no one would have looked at these four boys and said they would make the difference in this community that they have” says Myles Burke, lifelong friend to the family and Chief of Staff for the City of Lawrence. “Tom, Mike, Kevin, Mark...all of them were causing their mother some sleepless nights on Union Street in Lawrence. But Anna worked hard at the family business and raised four good guys who have given back to the City they call home.”

In addition to Michael and Kevin’s public service as Mayors of Lawrence (2000–present and 1986–1993 respectively) family members have been active on Boards and Committees at Northern Essex Community College, Habitat for Humanity, Greater Lawrence Vocational School, Merrimack Valley United Way, Big Brothers/Big Sisters,

Katie’s Kitchen



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267 Merrimack St. in Lawrence

Continued on Page 22

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Asthma Prevention at Home

Ezra Glenn, Caroline Ganley, & Evelin Vierra, City of Lawrence

Did you know that Massachusetts has the third highest rate of asthma cases in the U.S.? *Here in the commonwealth, one out of every ten people has asthma.* No wonder we hear so much about it. According to the Massachusetts Asthma Planning Collaborative, asthma is the most common chronic illness among children and one of the major reasons for missed school days in the United States.

Luckily, with proper medical attention and education programs, asthma can be successfully managed. As of yet, there is no known cure. Therefore, public health officials continue to focus on treatment and the prevention of recurring attacks.

Asthma is a disease of the airways. Once you have the disease, certain things can trigger an asthma "attack." What causes this disease in the first place? This has long been a mystery to scientists. But much is known about what can trigger or "cause" an asthma attack. This means that health officials must focus on prevention.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has been reaching out to cities and towns, spreading the word on prevention. In particular, DPH is focusing on environmental triggers – things that can cause an asthma attack. These may be found in your home or yard. Exposure to dust mites, cockroaches, cats, tobacco smoke, dogs, mold, nitrogen dioxide and viruses are all known to make asthma worse ... in other words, to trigger attacks.

Here are some helpful tips for improving your home environment.

Don't Smoke Indoors. It may sound obvious, but don't smoke indoors – especially in front of children. A number of recent surveys found that young children with asthma are still being exposed to second hand smoke. If anyone in your household has asthma, do not smoke indoors or in the car.

Get Rid of Dust Traps. Dust mites are tiny bugs invisible to the naked eye.

They live in rugs, on furniture, in mattresses and pillows. Remove wall-to-wall carpeting to expose a wood or tile floor. Vacuum and clean the floors regularly. If you must have a rug, choose an area rug and vacuum and clean it often. Regularly

vacuum furniture using the upholstery brush. Be sure to clean curtains and wipe down woodwork and walls at least twice each year. Your goal is a dust-free home. Finally, use dust-mite prevention covers for your mattresses and pillows – these are now widely available.

Use Perfume-Free Cleaning Products. Many people with asthma are sensitive to perfumes ... especially in cleaning products. Be sure to use laundry detergents, bath soaps, shampoos and all other cleaning products without perfumes. These are readily available in grocery stores.

Use HEPA Filters in Your Vacuum. Most vacuum cleaners are now designed to use a HEPA filter which prevents dust from escaping the vacuum. Be sure your vacuum cleaner has a HEPA filter.

Exterminate Properly. Be sure to keep a clean home with carefully stored food and lid-tight containers for garbage storage, etc. If you have a roach problem, hire a licensed exterminator. If you rent in Lawrence, your landlord is responsible for extermination and must use a state-licensed exterminator. Roaches and other vermin pose serious public health threats and must be gotten rid of.

Get Rid of Mold. Be sure your walls, floors, ceilings and cellar are dry. Proper building maintenance is a must. If a roof or wall leak occurs, use heating equipment and fans to dry it out right away. This will prevent mold from setting in.

In New England, it is normal to have a pleasantly musty smell in a cellar or basement. However, your house or apartment should not smell moldy or musty. (If your cellar is unusually damp or wet, use a de-humidifier and be sure to clean and empty the water tray often.)

In Lawrence, the Board of Health is forming a prevention team with other city departments and health providers. We will be working to remind everyone that improving your housing conditions can also help reduce asthma in our community.

By: Evelin Vierra, Asthma Prevention Coordinator for GLFHC; Caroline Ganley, Lawrence Board of Health Agent; Ezra Glenn, Community Development Director, city of Lawrence.



Parent Involvement

A Missing Element in the Lawrence Public School System:

Peter Larocque, Lawrence School Committee

Parents being involved in the education of their children should be the norm rather than the exception.

Our children deserve our involvement! The days of blindly dropping off our children at school and expecting just the schools to do the job of educating our children are OVER.

According to the president of the National Education Association, Reg Weaver, "To reach their full potential, students need parents to take an active role in their education. Parents should be their children's favorite teacher."

The president of the United States stated at the fourth anniversary of the No Child Left Behind Act, "Schools that Succeed have got parents who are involved at the school. Parent involvement is a very important part of the Success of schools around America."

Of course, the degree of involvement due to living circumstances may vary, from making sure that homework is completed ... to being an active member at your child's school PTA. The bottom line is that our children in Lawrence, beginning in kindergarten all the way through high school, will not take their education really serious until they know without any doubts that their parents or guardians are serious about their education.

We as parents and citizens of Lawrence have a wonderful opportunity placed before us. We have wonderful, hard-working teachers in the Lawrence public school system. We have a 110 million dollar state-of-the-art high school in our near future. MCAS scores indicate we are moving slowly in the right direction. Yes, we need to do better, and we must begin seeing more than just a little improvement in student achievement. But from this parent's opinion, we are climbing an uphill battle - a battle worth fighting!

The key element to assure we stay on the right course is parent involvement. The Lawrence public school system is set up for parents to be involved in the education of their children; they just need to step up to the plate!

Parents have the right and the authority to be involved! Parents are the check and balance in keeping school committees and school superintendents and school administrations in line.

Parents need to recognize this and believe that they can make a difference. If they are not getting the response that they desire, then make the change at election time.

Children who have parents that know their teachers, LEARN BETTER. Teachers who know the parents of their students, TEACH BETTER. Parents who know their children's teachers are more INVOLVED. Exchanging e-mail addresses or home phone numbers does wonders and sends a great message to our children.

Now more than ever, as we enter into discussions concerning school safety, our children need our involvement! We as parents need to have an open dialogue with our children on this subject. If your children feel unsafe for any reason, they should let you know and you as the parent then make us aware. If they hear of some wrong doing that is about to take place, then please let us know.

The kids who attend Lawrence High have already brought to the attention of school officials information, and preventative action was put in place. The majority of our high school students are GREAT! There are just a handful who are misdirected.

Having said all this, now let's examine some of the excuses concerning parent involvement. We are a poor city. Many parents have to work long hours, some have two jobs, some are single parents, some have an English language problem, so the thought of being involved in their child's education is just not on their radar screen. Stop, take a moment and breathe. Ask yourself this question: How important is your child's education to you? For many of our children, the only way to break the cycle of poverty is to get the best education available.

So before you throw the concept of parental involvement out the window and take on a defeatist attitude and tell yourselves it is out of the question, there are still ways of working and busy parents can get involved. There are programs available to assist parents in this endeavor. Homework help and tutoring, through after school assistance, is available.

The point is to let our children in Lawrence know that we as parents do take their education serious. Even we parents whose children have graduated and moved on to the next stage of their lives.

We still have an investment in the lives of the other children of Lawrence in the public school system. I'm sure that you have heard the old saying: We get involved now while they are standing before teachers or we get involved later when they are standing before a judge. The choice is ours.

We must look at parental involvement as a long-term investment. An investment that will have long lasting effects on our families and communities.

We are in a new school year. Let's work together in this worthwhile endeavor and help our diamonds in the rough to shine bright and make all of Lawrence proud.

Peter Larocque is a member of the Lawrence School Committee. He was elected by the Lawrence City Council to fill the unexpired term of Amy McGovern. You can email him at pamelalarocque@hotmail.com



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Moving Haverhill Forward

Every year, Wall Street financial analysts come to Haverhill to review our books and give us a financial report card— called a “bond rating.”

This newsletter deals with some great news for our city— for the second year in a row our bond rating is up. It is in stark contrast to the situation we were in only two and half years ago when our bond rating was tied with Springfield’s for the lowest in the State and many observers predicted we would continue to go down to receivership. They were wrong— with a series of tough fiscal measures, we went **up**. This newsletter goes into some detail about our bond rating. This newsletter also deals with a new urban river visions grant the city received. This grant is step forward with our vision to reconnect people to the waterfront. If you need help in finding where you vote, you can either call our city clerk’s office, 978-374-2312. Till next month I remain at your service.

Wall Street Gives Haverhill a Thumbs Up— Raises Bond Rating

When my administration took office three years ago, Haverhill stood on the brink of fiscal disaster. A previous administration left us with a staggering Hale debt, \$7 million a year which had to be paid at the start of every budget.



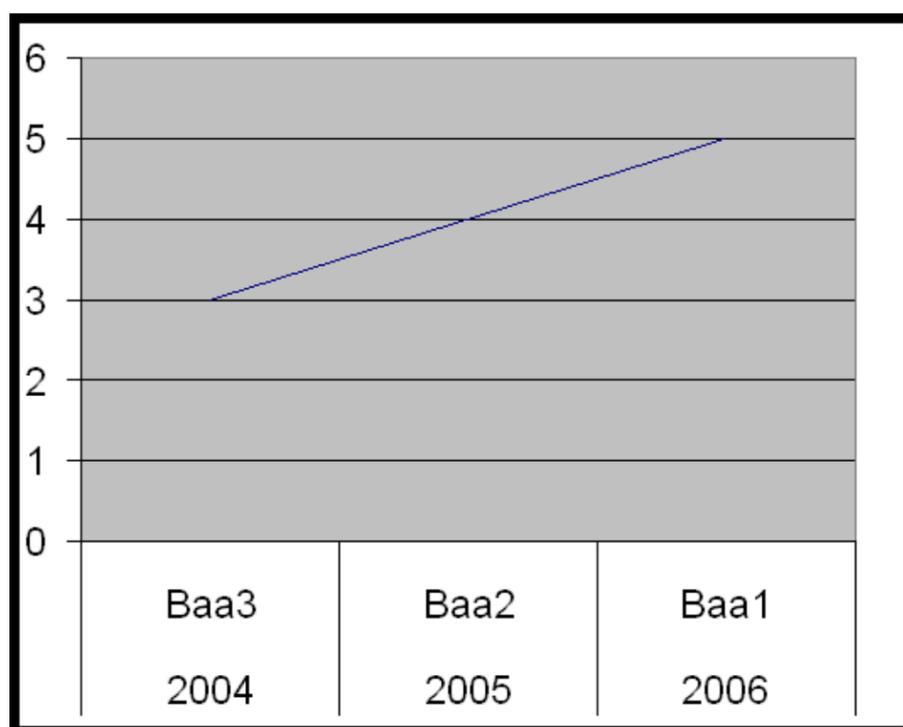
Three years ago, our bond rating was tied with Springfield for the lowest in the State. The Bradford Fire Station was closed. The public library was slated to be closed, and was kept open only when the city settled a lawsuit to keep the library open one more year. Newspapers were filled with stories that we could become the first city since Chelsea in 1990 to go into receivership. We were determined not to let that happen.

We held a series of meetings with the Department of Revenue and presented them with our plans to turn the city around.

Our short plans were to hold the line on spending. We imposed a hiring and spending freeze, and resisted pressure to spend what we did not have. We refused to give out pay raises we couldn’t afford, and asked our good employees to pay more in health insurance. We worked with our unions to consolidate 5 health care plans into one, and with increased bargaining power, saved hundreds of thousands of dollars in insurance premiums. We eliminated positions, and consolidated departments. We asked the Department of Revenue and

tape and regulatory barriers to allow for retail growth. When it was done, we had more retail growth coming to our city than at any time in history with Lowe’s, Target, Starbucks and BJ’s Wholesale Club all coming to Haverhill.

Every community has to borrow to pay for capital costs. The interest rate is set by what is called a “bond rating.” Bond ratings are set by Wall Street financial firms, Standard and Poor’s and Moody’s. These firms come to our city, review our books and records and issue us a bond rating. The higher the bond rating, the lower your interest payments. Bond ratings are critical — they are your fiscal report card.



our legislative delegation for short term relief and we got it.

In the long term, we knew we also had to increase our tax base. We rezoned downtown to allow old factory buildings to be reused as housing. We eliminated red

This year, for the second year in a row, Wall Street analysts raised our bond rating. Here is what the bond rating agencies said:

“Moody’s expects the city’s financial position will continue to improve”

Haverhill Receives \$40,000 Urban River Visions Planning Grant

Mayor James J. Fiorentini, Congressman Martin Meehan, State Senator Steven Baddour and State Representative Brian Dempsey announced that the city of Haverhill was one of six (6) communities in Massachusetts to be awarded a \$40,000 Urban River Visions Grant from the state of Massachusetts.

This grant, which is to be used for planning, allows the city to design a series of boardwalks, trails, walkways and other means of connecting its citizens to the Merrimack River. In announcing the grant, Mayor Fiorentini called it “part of our continuing effort to reconnect our citizens to the water front.”

The grant will allow the nationally recognized firm of Goody Clancy to come to Haverhill to do a series of community visioning meetings. Those meetings will, in turn, result in a series of plans, designs and sketches on how Haverhill can better connect its citizens to the Merrimack River. The next step is for the city to apply for grants to actually implement those visions.

Mayor Fiorentini said it his hope that ultimately these grants will lead to a series

of boardwalks and bike trails along the Merrimack River:

“Our overall goal is to reconnect people to the water through a series of boardwalks and trails along both sides of the river. We are a long way from achieving that, but this is a step in that direction. This new grant is a perfect match for our 40R design standards and our application for a river front boardwalk.”

Congressman Martin Meehan, who wrote a letter in support of the grant, said: “The Urban River Grant is great news for Haverhill and will help the city pursue innovative avenues to reconnect downtown Haverhill with the Merrimack River, maximizing the resources and opportunities for development that the river represents.”

State Representative Brian Dempsey, who also supported the grant, said:

“The Urban River Visions Grant is an important aspect of the continued revitalization of Haverhill’s downtown. The Merrimack River is a key feature of the city; one that when fully utilized can be both picturesque and economically beneficial. This grant is tailor made for cities like

Haverhill and will allow for a plan to be developed to best utilize this tremendous resource.”

In making the announcement, Mayor Fiorentini praised a number of people and groups who assisted in obtaining the grant.

The grant application was filled out by Emily McCourt, the new Economic Development Specialist for the city who has also become, unofficially, the city’s grant writer.

Fiorentini also praised local residents Larry Olasky and John Maddox, who worked with the city to provide information about the grant and to assist the city with the grant application.

The mayor also thanked elected officials, including Congressman Martin Meehan, State Senator Steven Baddour, and State Representatives Brian Dempsey, Harriett Stanley and Barbara L’Italien, all of whom wrote letters in support of the grant application.

“This was a team effort,” said Fiorentini, and we thank all the members of the team who participated.

Standard and Poor gave us the **highest possible ranking for good management: “Haverhill’s management practices are considered strong...”**

Improving our bond rating took a great team effort by many hard working and dedicated employees of our city.

Make no mistake about it: Haverhill still faces enormous financial struggles. The improvement in our bond rating means we are headed in the right direction.

Mayor Kicks off Fall Tree planting programs

Trees are an important element in keeping up a city’s appearance. Three years ago, we began planting trees for the first time in years, and reintroduced elm trees to Haverhill for the first time in a half century. Saturday, we started our fall tree planting program, planting over 70 trees. This fall we are planting Elm trees, maple trees, pear trees and oak trees!

Saturday, thanks to the fine work of Elaine Barker and Haverhill’s Brightside, we also planted commemorative trees. You can help, join our commemorative tree program. For \$250 you can plant a tree in honor of a loved one. If you would like to adopt a tree, send an email to: highway@cityofhaverhill.com

Help Our Food Pantries

We are proud of local residents like Lisa Merrill and Al Januszewski who volunteer for food pantries run by their churches to help those less fortunate. They have set up donation boxes around city hall for food pantries. Please stop by with your canned goods and make a donation.

Bob Gablosky Is Artist of the Month November, local artist Bob Gablosky will display his art work, including drawings of Haverhill, in the Mayor’s office as part of our program to promote local art and artists. Stop by the Mayor’s office to see Bob’s great work!

New Face At Emergency Management

Nancy Murphy of Haverhill has been named as the new Assistant Emergency Management Director for the City. Ms. Murphy fills a position that has been vacant for over one year.

As Deputy Emergency Management Director Ms. Murphy will assist the Emergency Management Director, James Michitson and will take charge of establishing the City’s medical reserve corps. The City of Haverhill continues to plan and prepare for emergencies which may occur in the City

Last year’s flood shows that the City of Haverhill was and is prepared for emergency. Our emergency management plan is filed with the State and was updated as of this year. We were one of the first communities in the state to establish a Pandemic Flu Task Force. We continue to plan and to prepare. Nancy Murphy has years of experience in the emergency management field. She has worked for the State of Massachusetts, for the American Red Cross and most recently Governor Mitt Romney’s office. She is an expert on grant writing and we believe her assistance will help us in obtaining additional grants for the City of Haverhill. The City of Haverhill welcomes Nancy Murphy to our team.”

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

HAVERHILL'S FUTURE!

Jim Rurak, Former Mayor of Haverhill

A Democrat's Dream Come True!



By all accounts, it was a democrat dream come true.

The election results posted sweeping gains for Dems in all categories: at least six more governor's chairs (total now 28 of 50); at least 4 more U.S. Senate seats (total now 49/100, and Dem's lead in both Montana and Virginia—victories there will transfer control of the senate); at least 25 more House seats (total now 227/440).

Exit polls showed less than 40% approval for the president's job performance and nearly 60% disapproval for his conduct of the war in Iraq. In spite of the vice-president's insistence that no matter what, it's full speed ahead in Iraq, we're in for major changes. Some will be superficial, others more substantial.

First, on foreign policy, even though the president still has the power to conduct the war as he sees fit, there will be some major changes. Republicans, right now, are telling him that if he doesn't do something soon, they will lose even more clout in 2008, and perhaps even the presidency. But, notwithstanding the tragically high soldier casualty count lately, Iraq may be stabilizing.

The best evidence is that violence was minimal after Saddam's conviction, and, the government seems poised to share power with some previously dissident groups. So what will happen? Rumsfeld will resign. (Editors note: Rumsfeld surprisingly resigned the day after Mr. Rurak Submitted is column.) That's a surface change. But the substantial difference will be greater. The new Defense Secretary will argue for one last push to do the job "right."

More troops will be sent. The democrats, even though they could cut off funds, will go along on the grounds that we need to protect our troops so that we can pull them out safely that much sooner. They'll give Bush a chance on the grounds that they might share the credit for success, and, they don't want to be the cause of deepening our failures.

Domestically, democrats will be on the hot-seat. Even if they do not control the senate (and I think they will) they will have to accomplish several things without endangering the economy. The first item is raising minimum wage. In all fairness this needs to be done. But republicans argue that this will increase unemployment because businesses will have to reduce

employees to maintain the profit they need to stay afloat.

The democrats need both to raise the wage and to propose programs to expand the economy. The interesting fight will come over whether the tax cuts which are due to expire will be re-authorized. Here's a chance for both parties to move more to the center, and, they will. The tax cuts for the very wealthy will go; those for the middle-class will stay; the public will get the chance to decide who to thank in 2008. Then, there will be health-care.

Clearly, costs are out of control and too many people are without decent coverage or any coverage at all. Ironically, the one successful innovation in the past four years came from a republican, Mitt Romney, albeit with much democratic input. We'll have to see what shape the national discussion takes.

If it moves in the direction of Romney's plan, it won't necessarily help Romney's presidential prospects, but it will mark a move of both parties toward the center. And, it's this move toward the center which both parties will promote. Watch for Bush to grab for the lead on this.

Locally, Massachusetts is completely controlled by democrats for the first time since 1990. The last days of complete democrat control are not happy memories, even for democrats.

So, Deval Patrick will have to prove he is as different as he said he is. He will follow through on community policing grants and on using state income tax money to increase aid to cities and towns. He said this will reduce property taxes. In most places, it won't because those cities most in need of relief are already taxing to their limit under proposition two and one half.

So, expect increased local aid to translate into visible public works projects, or specific proposals to boost school test scores, rather than adding a lot of new public employees. Lastly, I do hope that the type of civic engagement which marked the core of Patrick's campaign translates into a whole new host of people vigorously interested in political discussion at the local level. That would be the major achievement of Patrick's victory.

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.



Random Thoughts

Haverhill (NECC) Professor
Mark Palermo

As I write this column, it is Sunday, November 5. Kerry Healey is in Haverhill battling for her political life; Mitt Romney is in Arkansas.

Whether she wins or loses, I wonder how she will feel about Mitt's absence throughout her campaign. How much would it have cost him to let her shine a little? To make a deal with Christy Mihos? To make a few public appearances on her behalf? It speaks to the character of Romney that he cares so little about his own supporters that he would abandon them to the Democratic party's political agenda- just like Mitt abandoned his job to go campaigning on their dime. But his admirers are legion. And they just love to love him- no matter what he does. You've heard of a Jeffersonian Democrat; Mitt's a Clintonian Republican. His duped devotees remind me of Marlon Brando from *On the Waterfront*. "Mitt, you get a title shot in a ballpark... What do we get? A one-way ticket to Palookaville... You was our brother Mitt, you shoulda looked out for us..."

A good example of "smoke and mirrors" politics is the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. Established in 2004 by Romney, it provides free tuition at a state college or university to any Massachusetts high school student who scores in the top 25% on the MCAS. It sounds wonderful, but it's not. Here's why:

Most people don't realize that state colleges and universities are heavily subsidized, and they couldn't last a year without financial assistance from the state, which accounts for the wide disparity between the tuition costs of public higher education and private colleges. The system of financing public education in Massachusetts operates with an odd loophole. The tuition that schools collect every semester must be sent in to Boston, while the schools get to keep the fees they charge. Remember that under Romney, Massachusetts ranked 47th in state spending per capita on higher education and was the *only* state spending less on higher education than it was ten years ago. With shrinking budgets the schools had to do something, so they realized that if tuition isn't called tuition, then it isn't tuition. They started calling it a fee, a stratagem which has produced unfortunate consequences. Here's an example of how this plays out: A young woman told me the following story: Being eligible for free tuition, she applied to take an online course at Bunker Hill

Community College. The cost of the course was \$300, not including textbooks. After registering, she was presented with a bill of \$276. When she reminded them that the bill must be a mistake because she qualified for "free" tuition, they informed her that the tuition for the course was \$24, but the fees were \$276. (remember, the schools keep fees, but not tuition) The cost of the course was \$300, only \$24 of which was tuition. So she got 24 bucks from the Romney plan, which paid for a half tank of gas and a cup of coffee.

For full-time college students, Mitt's scholarship is a band aid- with conditions attached. For example, the average tuition in the University of Massachusetts system is \$1575. At UMass Amherst, students pay \$7400 in fees and \$6200 for room and board. Figure about \$1000 for books and Romney's scholarship covers *less than 10%* of an annual bill of 16 grand... and only for four *consecutive* years and only if the student's GPA stays above 3.0. And Mitt's piddling scholarship doesn't count at Massachusetts College of Art or the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. So the problem is not rising tuition costs, but skyrocketing fees, which Romney never addressed. Two years ago, a bipartisan group that included business and community leaders- the Massachusetts Senate Task Force on Public Higher Education- found "student charges consistently among the highest in the country because of insufficient funding." Who fills in the gaps in funding? The students and their parents of course. No wonder then, that an increasing number of Massachusetts residents can't afford a college education, even at a state college. Which brings us back to the Orwellian question, so apropos for the Romney administration: Since when is a fee not a tax? There's one good thing that comes from all this, but it belongs to Romney: he can tell the nation of his triumph in providing free tuition scholarships to college students. No mention need be made of fees; the public won't know any better. Mitt has already referred publicly to his scholarship as "unprecedented in the nation." Mitt dances away from the messes he has made, flip-flopping, casting platitudes, talking out of both sides of his mouth. He'll be anything you want him to be-until he's elected. Mitt Romney: a Clintonian Republican for our times.

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.

Chamber Group Premieres Piece Inspired by Rave Dance Music

Chamber music programs don't typically feature music inspired by popular trends such as the highly charged electronic rave dance music. But on Sunday, November 19, The Essex Chamber Music Players, in residence at Northern Essex Community College, will present a concert featuring the premier of *Rave Reflections for Flute, Cello and Piano* by its artistic director Michael Finegold, who is also professor emeritus of music at Northern Essex. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Technology Center on the college's Haverhill Campus, 100 Elliott St.

Finegold wrote the piece after being inspired by his daughter Dianna who listened to rave music when it was popular and by an electronic music piece titled *Plain (Vent)* that was composed by Northern Essex student Andrew Hood as a semester project.

"Rave Reflections is influenced by both rave music and my diverse musical background," says Finegold. "The 7 1/2 minute work is set in a contemporary classical style using the rhythmic feeling and building of layers of rave dance

music along with tinges of jazz, Latin, and pop." Other works to be performed include the *Sonata for Flute and Piano* by Francis Poulenc, the *Cello Sonata in A Major* by Luigi Boccherini, and the *Trio in G minor, Op. 63 for Flute, Cello and Piano* by Carl Maria von Weber.

The performers are Michael Finegold, flute, Rafael Popper-Keizer, cello and David Pihl, piano.

Although he has composed other pieces, this is the first time Finegold has composed a piece for the Essex Chamber Music Players, which he helped found while teaching full time at Northern Essex.

"I am excited about performing the concert as well as premiering my own work," Finegold said.

The Essex Chamber Players' motto is *Music for the 21st Century, Music Treasures of the Past, New Music Works*. They are involved in a unique project *Preserving Local Cultural History through Music*.

Admission to the concert is \$10, seniors \$7, and students \$5. Tickets can be purchased at the door. The NECC Technology Center is handicap accessible.

For more info contact: ECMP at 978-470-1584, e-mail: ECMP314@comcast.net or on the web: www.essexchambermusicplayers.org

With campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence and extension sites in Andover, Methuen, and North Andover, Northern Essex Community College is a state-assisted college, offering over 70 associate degree and certificate programs as well as hundreds of non credit courses designed for personal enrichment and career growth.

Close to 13,000 students ranging from recent high school graduates to workers employed locally attend classes days, evenings, and weekends. Northern Essex is the only state college located in the lower Merrimack Valley Region of Massachusetts.

Book Keepers Corner

Sometimes you Lose the Battle and Win the War

Dr. Charles Ormsby

Barry Goldwater suffered one of the worst popular-vote defeats in U.S. election history, losing to Lyndon Johnson by 22.6 percentage points in 1964. Sixteen years later, Ronald Reagan beat incumbent President Jimmy Carter by a landslide and thus began the Regan Revolution. Historians might want to consider renaming this period the Goldwater Revolution.

In the run-up to his 1964 presidential bid, Goldwater published a short political tract called "The Conscience of a Conservative." It was only about 120 pages long and was first published in 1960. My copy dates from 1961, at which time it was already in its 14th printing.

The political impact of this book was so extraordinary that I believe it should be considered the Twentieth Century version of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense."

I've read many presidential wannabe's political declarations and they are typically devoid of any vision and filled with position statements designed to endear the candidate to one special interest or another.

Goldwater was first and foremost a man of principle and "The Conscience of a Conservative" was a fearless manifesto that combined traditional fiscal conservatism, a get-tough foreign policy, and a Libertarian view of social issues. With few exceptions, its message is timeless and is as relevant today as it was in 1960.

I can't do justice to what Goldwater originally wrote. I will let Barry speak for himself: "I have little interest in streamlining government or in making it more efficient, for I mean to reduce its size. I do not undertake to promote welfare, for I propose to extend freedom. My aim is not to pass laws, but to repeal them. It is not to

inaugurate new programs, but to cancel old ones that do violence to the Constitution, or that have failed in their purpose, or that impose on the people an unwarranted financial burden. I will not attempt to discover whether legislation is "needed" before I have first determined whether it is constitutionally permissible. And if I should later be attacked for neglecting my constituents' "interests," I shall reply that I was informed their main interest is liberty and that in that cause I am doing the very best I can."

Beyond a statement of fundamental principles and the perils of power, Goldwater spoke about states' rights, civil rights, freedom for farmers and labor, taxes and spending, the welfare state, education, and foreign policy. He presented a comprehensive view of the superiority of liberty over the welfare state. As we slip slowly into the clutches of Democratic socialism, we would do well to re-visit the timeless truths written by Barry Goldwater 46 years ago.

Barry Goldwater warned us that government spending and expansion of the money supply would cause inflation and reduce the buying power of the dollar. The cover price of my edition says 50 cents. The identical edition on Amazon.com today costs \$30. I'm not selling, but you can buy a new edition of "The Conscience of a Conservative" for \$12.95 ... still a 2500 percent increase. That's what seven to eight percent per year inflation amounts to in 46 years.

Here is an excerpt from a review in the Soviet communist paper, Pravda, dated March 21, 1960: "A dangerous, unwise affair. Goldwater will end up in a pine box."

Guess who had the last laugh!

RAISE 'EM RIGHT™

"Miss Doom & Gloom"

Barbara Peary, M.Ed.

Our fourteen year old is generally a pretty happy person and has several friends that she hangs around with on and off. The problem? She is friendly with one girl who is extremely negative, hates adults, teachers, etc. (I hear her saying all this stuff when she is a passenger in my car.) Of course, when my daughter comes home after being with "Miss doom and gloom" all day, she is none too sparkly herself! What can I say to my daughter to make her see what the friendship does to her?



schooling experience. This is no longer the case in many areas. With the rise of dual working parents, a high percentage of children are attending preschool programs before kindergarten. Before, children's first separation issues were dealt with by the kindergarten teachers. Now children leave their parents to attend child care centers and sometimes this is as early as four weeks old.

Kindergarten curriculum has become more formalized in many areas of the country.

Take the time to go and see what your public school program entails. What skills and concepts are children expected to know when they enter? Also see if it is a formal, structured program with desks and worksheets, or if it is set up more like a preschool classroom with free play time, a block area, water play and a more informal learning situation.

Perhaps it will be a combination of the two settings. If the program your child will be attending is structured, it would be better to place the child in a preschool before kindergarten, so that the youngster has received some training in following a teacher's directions, sitting in a group with other children, etc.

Preschools can be a big help to a child's early development. For the first time, children separate from their parents for long periods of the day and they achieve independence in areas such as toileting, dressing self for outdoor play, asking for assistance from a teacher when needed, following simple directions, learning to sit within a group while listening to a story, and walk outside with a group safely. Check out the situation early. Many kindergartens now expect children to have many of the skills listed above when they enroll.

One day when you are together and both in a good mood, talk to her about her friendship with the girl and bring up your observations. Keep it in a conversational tone, without condemning her friend's character.

Explain to your daughter that when she chooses to think as her friend apparently does (that the world is a hateful, negative place), those thoughts will affect her actions. Teach your daughter that what she dwells on will expand in her life and that she should desire to think the best of herself, others and situations that she confronts. It isn't available to change how others view the world, but we each can change our own world view.

Currently, I am in the position where I do not have to put my children in child care as my husband's income supports our family well. However, as my children approach the age for formal schooling, I am wondering if enrolling them in a preschool in the fall before they begin kindergarten would be a good idea. What are the benefits of having a child in a child care program, if you don't need the day care aspect?

In many states, kindergarten has become what first grade used to be. Expectations for kindergarten have gone up dramatically over the years. In the past, many states did not have mandatory kindergarten and consequently first grade was the first formal

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