



## WCAP/Radio expands to Methuen, Lawrence & Haverhill

**Tom Duggan**  
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

WCAP radio (980/AM) may be located in downtown Lowell, but Colonel Sam Poulten and Clark Smidt say they are expanding the Lowell-based news and talk programming on the station to include Lawrence, Methuen, Haverhill "and everywhere in between," says Smidt who took over the station with Poulten last month as part of "Merrimack Valley Radio, LLC".

"We've opened a remote studio in Haverhill at the Pentucket Bank building on Merrimack Street," Poulten explained. "We're planning to have a presence with remotes in Lawrence and Methuen and a whole host of other cities and towns in the Valley. We have already met with Jimmy Jajuga and are joining the Chamber of Commerce."

"We plan on telling people about all the great restaurants and shops and events in Haverhill, Lawrence and Lowell and all the cities and towns in the Valley," said Poulten.

"This is a very significant signal," Smidt added.

"It's 5,000 watts, day and night. Most of the other daytime AM stations have decided to broadcast foreign languages as opposed to what we have here. I believe we can be the 'little WBZ' of the Merrimack Valley in that, we will be the full-service radio station where we talk about all the news and restaurants and entertainment as well as the lifestyle habits of the people in the Valley.

"Lowell has had some great momentum and we want to keep that going and talk up all the good things that there are here. You know, most people are told [that] something wonderful is happening in Lawrence or Haverhill or Methuen ... but those things aren't on the top of people's minds and we want to be the catalyst to change that. We want to get people talking about and thinking about what is going on in their community and connecting that to other communities."

"We are going to have a newscaster in Haverhill as well as in Lowell, Lawrence and Methuen," Poulten stated. "We will have people gathering local news,

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### Katie Whitney's new column, "Puppy Love"



PHOTOS: TOM DUGGAN

Boxford resident Kate Whitney of the SwingRite corporation begins her new monthly column on: adopting puppies and kittens, caring for your pets, tips for pet care and keeping your pets happy.

**See page 4**

### VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

## Arthur Rauseo

### HEROES IN OUR MIDST

**Lonnie Brennan**  
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

GEORGETOWN - Quietly, peacefully, a former naval seaman makes his way to a local coffee shop. He takes his seat on a short stool at a curved counter, smiles to a familiar server, shares quips and views on the past day's events and the morning papers. As he sips his coffee he banter with friends, cupping his ear and leaning forward to hear.

Everyone knows the man, Georgetown's former Fire Chief and current Electric Light Commissioner. The

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PHOTO: LONNIE BRENNAN

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# Editorial

## Tread Lightly in Pakistan

There is a rush to judgment by the media and our government, both Democrats and Republicans, reacting to Pakistan's Pervez Musharraf's declaration of emergency and suspension of their constitution. Everyone now waving the flag of democracy says this is the anti-democratic conduct of a dictator, and should be stopped immediately!

Unfortunately, those of us hung up on democracy for the sake of democracy don't look at history and realize that not all people are politically mature or responsible enough to handle democracy. Adolf Hitler came to power through democratic elections. And Germany was far greater advanced intellectually, technically and materially than most nations of that time. The law of unintended consequences comes into play when good people over-preach democracy, without looking around the corner. Hamas, whose faithful followers kill, murder and perpetually create mayhem, was democratically elected in Gaza, and presents the world with one of the most serious threats to peace in the Mid-East.

Sometimes it is wise to support the best of the worst, in order to not go deeper into chaos and misery. During World War II, we made allies with one of the most tyrannical butchers in history, Joseph Stalin, and at the time, it was absolutely the right thing to do. Winston Churchill said, "If Hitler invaded hell, I would at least make a favorable reference to the devil in the House of Commons."

The United States' failure to consider such sentiments in large part led to the present MidEast troubles as we withdrew our support for the Shah of Iran, and allowed the so-called "voice of the people" force him into exile. The unintended consequence was to set up an Islamic state far more repressive, and of greater threat to the peace of the world, than the Shah ever was or would have been. Shades of the same kind of thinking seem to be reflected in the United States' policy toward Musharraf today.

Musharraf is the man in the hot seat. His life has been threatened many times by Islamic terrorists. By tempering our criticism at this juncture, what a bargain we might strike by pressing him to allow our troops access to Pakistani territory in pursuit of Bin Laden.

Benazir Bhutto, the previously twice-elected Prime Minister of Pakistan, was twice-dismissed for involvement in various corruption scandals. She is no bargain either. And her conduct during the present governmental crisis does not lend support to the perception of calm, rational thinking. While it is alleged that her problems were politically motivated by the opposition, and undoubtedly there is much to that, the saying goes, "Where there's smoke, there's fire." And surrounding Bhutto's stay in power, there was plenty of smoke. Much of the evidence of corruption, money-laundering and whisking away of funds into foreign banks comes from French, Polish and Swiss governments.

When the choice to be made is between a benevolent dictator, a scandalous and corrupt democrat or a state-sponsored terror regime, the elimination of the first choice may be all it takes to head down a slippery slope to the last. We had better watch our step.

There is a saying, "Better the devil you know than the one you don't."

The Valley Patriot is published monthly on the first Tuesday of each month by the Valley Patriot, Inc., POB 453, North Andover, MA 01845. Copyright (c) 2007 Valley Patriot, Inc. All rights reserved. Subscriptions are \$25 per year.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Valley Patriot, Inc., POB 453, North Andover, MA 01845. **PHONE:** (978) 557-5413 **FAX:** (978) 258-1964 **WEB:** valleypatriot.com

#### News tips

Phone in news tips to (978) 557-5413, or you may email tips to us at valleypatriot@aol.com. We respect the anonymity of our sources, if requested.

**Letters to the editor and op/eds** can be submitted to the address above or to valleypatriot@aol.com

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The Valley Patriot is printed by Graphic Development in West Hanover, MA



Local daily news updates are online at [www.valleypatriot.com](http://www.valleypatriot.com)



STOPBOXFORDGASCOMPRESSOR.COM

## Opposition to the Proposed Boxford Gas Compression Station

A group of North Andover and Boxford residents has formed to oppose a proposed natural gas pipeline compressor station on land bordering North Andover and Haverhill.

The facility, including a 15,000 HP compressor and a compound of six to seven buildings would be part of the East to West Hubline Expansion Project.

A Spectra Energy Subsidiary, Algonquin Gas Transmission LLC, wants to build it on a 158 acre site next to the 11<sup>th</sup> hole of the Far Corners Golf Course. This site directly abuts residences in several communities and is residentially zoned.

Algonquin has made a poor effort to contact residents in the adjacent communities. In fact, even the closest of abutters has yet to receive any literature from the company describing the project, let alone the impact it will have on the area. Many residents feel that this apparent disregard for abutters' rights is indicative of a large corporation trying to influence the decision process by withholding information from all parties concerned.

The aim of the group and its website is to increase awareness about this project and encourage people to voice their comments. A considerable number of locals are unaware of the proposal or the potential impacts it may have on the local communities.

The website outlines concerns involving public safety, environment, noise, traffic and property values. The proposed Boxford site is located within a sensitive environmental area surrounded by wetlands and borders the Water-shed district for the Town of North Andover. This area is currently protected in the interest of providing clean safe water to the area.

Many think it is environmentally irresponsible to propose a water resource/recharge region for a potential toxic waste discharge, if an industrial accident should occur.

In addition, the site is near approach paths for Lawrence Airport, which leads

into the safety issues regarding this proposal.

Boxford has a 40 member volunteer fire department. The site will have one access road located in North Andover. Boxford's emergency personnel would need to travel 2 miles outside of their town to reach the site. Boxford is not equipped to supply the required infrastructure to provide the necessary public safety to meet foreseeable emergencies.

This type of project is better suited to a number of other locations where existing industrial sites, city infrastructure, and services exist to support such a project.

Algonquin has filed its application for the project and an Environmental Impact Statement is currently being prepared. The FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Committee) is presently reviewing the proposal and has requested public involvement.

Those who are interested need to petition the FERC and the MEFSB (Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board) to reject the site as proposed as it is an inappropriate use of land. This site is located in a public water-shed district, abuts residential districts, is situated within a sensitive environmental habitat, can not be adequately policed or accessed by the community proposed to host it, requires the disruption of wetlands to access the site, and in brief, is a public accommodation of inappropriate land use that provides an intolerable burden on the quality of life and safety of its abutters.

Please visit the website, [stopboxfordgascompressor.com](http://stopboxfordgascompressor.com) for addresses and instructions on how to forward your comments.

Your letters need to be sent to the FERC as well as to the MEFSB (Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board) and MEPA (Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency), and need to be received as soon as possible.

Without your action, a hazardous, noisy, polluting industrial facility will likely be approved and built in this rural, residential area.

# N. Andover's poor education choices shouldn't be repeated in other communities

PART 1 OF 2

Ralph Wilbur  
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

In the late 1960's, North Andover was one of the first communities to wholeheartedly adopt the then current fad for "open classroom" teaching. A new high school was constructed without internal partitioning walls and the result was noise, constant distractions and educational bedlam.

Generations of North Andover students and teachers suffered under this handicap. Finally and rightfully, the building was torn down. Its demise was long before its time, had it been more functionally designed.

Approximately ten years ago, North Andover purchased a "constructivist" math program called TERC. Its guiding philosophy was that

students should discover basic arithmetic operations on their own. It not only didn't teach the traditional methods of arithmetic, it actively discouraged their use by students - despite the fact that these methods are demonstrably the most efficient techniques for manual computation.

This math program was finally acknowledged to be a disaster in 2003 but not replaced until 2005. The use of TERC during this period deprived thousands of students of a solid math curriculum.

North Andover seems to have a flair for adopting the latest untried and untested educational innovations. Now, their students are confronted again with the same kind of educational tinkering - this time in science.

The North Andover School Department has committed to spending close to three-quarters of a million dollars over the next five years on a new-fangled "inquiry-based" science program for elementary grades K-5. Inquiry-based instruction, using kits instead of textbooks, is the

latest in pedagogical gimmickry promoted by the major education publishers and our colleges of education.

In stark contrast, St. Michael's Catholic School, also in North Andover, recently purchased a conventional MacMillan-McGraw 2008 Science Series program for grades K-5. It included hands-on materials in each grade, leveled readers in grades K-1, and textbooks in grades 2-5. The cost per student was \$128, compared to \$386 per student for the inquiry-based program in the North Andover public schools. There was no economy of scale in the North Andover purchase, serving about 1,800 students, compared to 312 students at St. Michael's. In addition to an initial teachers' workshop training session, MacMillan-McGraw agreed to work with St. Michael's teaching staff throughout the year, as the need arises.

*Past pedagogical failures have been, for the most part, strongly endorsed at their inception by major education professional associations and college of education gurus. Inquiry-based instruction is no exception. Like the now defunct "open classroom" theory, the "whole word" method of learning to read, and "new math" (now labeled "fuzzy math") - all were total failures ...*

The North Andover inquiry-based strategy was chosen by a select committee of teachers and staff over a more traditional textbook-oriented program offered by Houghton Mifflin.

The School Committee unfortunately went along with this

recommendation, with only one of the five board members making an effort to examine the two pro-grams' materials. Dr. Charles Ormsby, the one member who did make a hands-on comparison, strongly endorsed the Houghton Mifflin textbook-based program over the FOSS (Full Option Science System) inquiry-based program, saying that it is the more rigorous of the two and, by providing a textbook, it allows parents to follow the progress of their children's interest and development in science.

For example, Dr. Ormsby drew a comparison between how the two programs explained the operation of an electric motor. The FOSS booklet noted that rotating magnets mounted on the motor's

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## THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

# The looming energy debacle Adam Smith to the Rescue

Dr. Charles Ormsby  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Oil has recently flirted with price levels near \$100 per barrel. Average gas prices exceed \$3 per gallon nationally. The world's conventional oil production is probably near its peak level and may be maintained for only 15 to 20 more years before beginning its inexorable decline.

This would be bad enough except that the world's population is growing at over one percent per year, adding approximately one billion people every sixteen years. Even worse, third world countries are rapidly industrializing and increasing their demand for oil. The current price spike may temporarily abate, but the inevitable is ... well ... inevitable!

Eventually, demand will outpace the supply of conventional oil. If alternate fuel sources are not available, panic will set in and oil prices will rapidly explode to \$200 per barrel or higher with gas prices exceeding \$10 per gallon.

The resultant increase in manufacturing and transportation costs will raise the price of everything we buy - from food and clothing to electricity - with prices perhaps doubling and tripling in short order. If the government then imposes price controls, the crisis will only worsen and fuel shortages will become a daily fact of life.

Very little will stand between you (and your family) and a rapid descent into poverty. If nothing intervenes, businesses will close, unemployment will skyrocket and economic collapse will be assured.

These will not just be tough times. You will be faced with real deprivation - insufficient food, lack of protection from the elements, disease, misery and accelerated mortality. You and your family will either die of some pedestrian disease, or of starvation, or you may

freeze to death. On further reflection, freezing is faster than disease or starvation and it will probably win. Unless, of course, it is summer, then I'll bet on heat prostration.

Now we have a really difficult decision to make. We have two choices:

\* We can turn to government to solve the problem (e.g., exotic fuels research, windfall profits taxes, new environmental regulations, invade Venezuela), OR

\* We can demand that the government do nothing.

The correct answer is "demand that the government do nothing."

Well, that is not quite correct. What we also need to do is get the government out of the way of the only productive sector of society ... the private sector.

We need to:

\* Eliminate government-imposed barriers to bringing new energy sources to market, and

\* Ensure that the government doesn't interfere in energy markets as prices respond to fluctuations in supply and demand ... regardless of the resulting profits or losses.

Only then can the free market do everything possible to insulate you and your family from the reductions in supply of oil from traditional sources. Some people - those who contribute to solving this problem and saving our lives - will become rich. God bless them!

Even a cursory review of alternative energy sources makes it abundantly clear that mankind has numerous alternatives for future energy sufficiency.

Here is just one example: Oil sands.

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PUPPY LOVE

# You too can be a foster parent to a cute puppy

**Kate Whitney**

VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

As an avid animal lover, I just can't seem to keep my mind off our furry friends.

I have always loved animals. When I was younger I wore a sweatshirt that read "Animal Doctor" because it was my dream to become a veterinarian. When I was six year old, I got my first kitten and shortly after my dad surprised me with a white pony for Christmas. I had two cats growing up, they both passed away last year, but I still have my pony.

One thing I've learned about animals is that they can live a long time. This is something to remember when considering if having a pet is the right choice for you...remember that they are a big responsibility and can be expensive, so make sure you are ready before you take the plunge!

It's been almost eighteen years since I got the pony for Christmas, and he's still



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Penny loves to play outdoors

hanging out in the backyard (thanks to my parents who took care of him while I was away at college!) After my two cats passed away, I rescued two new kitties who are both amazing. Brady was found in a cemetery when he was about three months old, and Bella was found in a parking lot when she was two months old. Finally, the newest addition to the group, Dash, a twelve week old, chocolate lab/retriever mix puppy was rescued from Virginia.

In addition to my love for animals, I've also always loved to do volunteer, non-profit work. I have combined my love of animals with my desire to do non-profit, and I've recently joined up with an organization called *One Tail at a Time Rescue* out of Haverhill. This rescue organization was founded by Meg Reynolds of Haverhill. I have never met anyone with a bigger heart than Meg. She makes finding rescued puppies homes, her full-time job.

This new passion of mine became a reality when I happened to see a woman at the vet's office with a beautiful little puppy. I asked where she got the puppy and she told me she found it on petfinder.com. So one day, I thought I might just check out petfinder.com...and the rest is history! This is a fabulous website where the viewer can browse through thousands of homeless pets.

I stumbled upon the group called One Tail at a Time Rescue and saw that they needed foster homes so I thought I would inquire. The next thing I knew, I was filling out a "foster" application.

Being a "foster home" means providing a safe, loving, temporary home for a puppy or dog, while the rescue reviews

applications for adoption. Usually the puppy is in your home for only a few days, maybe a week. Most of the time it's very temporary.

After I returned the application, I received an email that said I could have a puppy "tomorrow" to foster. One thing led to another and I found myself waiting in my car outside *Main Street Animal Hospital* in Haverhill.

While I was waiting for Meg to arrive, I felt both nervous and excited at the same time. Not only did my parents (I still live at home) have no idea about my new venture, but I had never done something like this before.

When Meg finally arrived, she brought me to the back room of the animal hospital. There in the metal crate, were three adorable puppies with their tails wagging. "Which one do you want...Pick one" she said. I had absolutely no idea how I was going to choose one puppy over the other, they were all so precious! The doctor came in and advised me to take the calmer dog, considering this was my first time. I thought that was great advice; therefore I chose the lab/retriever female puppy named "Red".

When I got home my mom and dad practically fell on the floor when they saw me walking in carrying this adorable little puppy. They panicked because they thought this was my own puppy, and they didn't think I needed anymore pets. After I assured them that we were just fostering her for a few days, their heart-rate became normal again.

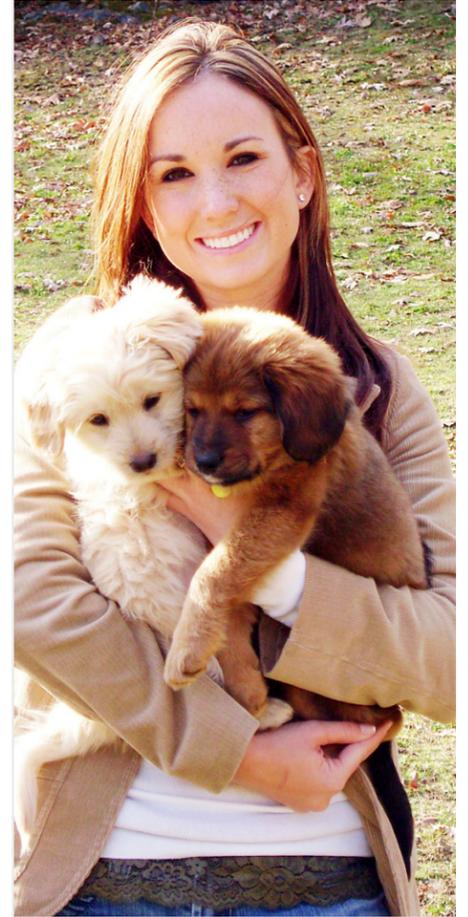


PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Kate Whitney holds Patsy and Penny who are both in need of a loving home. Whitney has volunteered to provide for a foster home for both puppies while they are waiting to be adopted.

As each day went by, I fell more and more in love with Red. I took her everywhere, she was my little buddy. I

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Thomas Connors

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Imagine living your life with a **WOW!** Imagine jumping right out of bed each morning wide-eyed and bushy-tailed looking forward to all the opportunity and wonder life has to offer you. Imagine having a perpetual spring in your step and a liveliness that makes others wonder what you are really up to!

Get a new lease on life this coming New Year! Change the way you live it!

Think of the way we have come to live our lives. Too often we struggle just to get out of bed every morning. We see the day as a "grind" and we force ourselves to get through. We anticipate one disappointment after another in a dog-eat-dog world where "survival of the fittest" is the motto.

Fast food restaurants have become the modern day dining table and mother's and father's roles have become that of chauffeurs pawning kids off to organized activities with the number of medals earned dictating the quality of parental ability.

And when guilt sets in or our bodies sound an alarm, no need to worry. We can easily rely on the advice of the divorcee next door, "who has seen and experienced it all", or seek out a professional counselor to dispense some magic elixir in hopes of turning it all around.

I can assure you *THAT* is no way to live. In fact, it is a waste of precious life; your life and those you love. There is no better time than *NOW* to begin filling your New Year with one **WOW!** after another.

You are not alone! Open your eyes and see what you're missing! People all around you are already living their lives with a **WOW!**

It's so easy to go through each day with no goals, no vision and no purpose. That kind of life takes little effort. But, life lived that way always seems out of balance and certainly never rewarding or meaningful. Seems like there is always something missing.

It's time you wake up! You were put on this earth for a unique purpose; we all have been. And, no matter how young or old you are, your racial makeup or status you have, it is never too late to start. God wants you to live your life not only with meaning but with a **WOW!** as well.

Accept it! God wants nothing but the **BEST** for you. So, get out of that rut and start realizing there is a better way. Make the effort to put a **WOW!** into every thing you do; your personal life, your spiritual life and your work life. When all three come together, the exhilaration will amaze you. You will accomplish more, start seeing the good in people and feel more of a sense of wonder and balance in the world in which you live.

There are people around you who live their lives with a **WOW!** each and every day. They jump out of bed every morning ready for every opportunity that presents itself because that is what they are looking for and that is what they expect.

Failures are seen as opportunities to learn. Disappointments are recognized as doors opening up to something much better down the road. Guidance and advice are seen as just that; the chance to explore options and set a positive direction.

Most important, these are the people who are successful in every sense of the word. They live life the way it is meant to be lived; fulfilled and with real meaning and accomplishment. It's not about money for them. It *IS* about cashing in on all the good life has to offer and banking

on it. Come alive again and turn even the smallest things into **BIG WOWs!**

How do you bring a **WOW!** into your life? Start small. Look all around you. Take control of even the most mundane aspects of your life and generate an unexpected enthusiasm for them. Take a typical winter's day and make it anything but. Bundle up and go for a hike with your children. It doesn't have to involve climbing Mt. Everest. But make it special. How about a picnic lunch with a red checkered tablecloth and steaming hot chocolate instead of McDonald's Drive-Thru? Be creative and make the effort to *SEE* things and *DO* things differently.

Try the same thing at work. Just like we are doing at our company, American Training. Put a **WOW!** into your job. Don't wait for someone else to do it for you. *YOU* take the initiative to suggest creative and effective policies and procedures that make people take notice. Put that unique twist on how *YOU* do your job so others say **WOW!**

## WOW!s to remember!

Jim Scully, a friend and former Superintendent of Schools in Lawrence, Massachusetts, knew what he was doing when it came to inner city kids. He knew that in order to get them to realize their potential and break out of the rut that was the inner city, he would have to expose them to one **WOW!** *Experience* after another. He bought things like ice skates, canoes and bagpipes in the hopes of introducing his students to activities they would never experience if it were not for his schools. Kids who took part in those activities to this day still have a lifetime of **WOW!** *Experiences* they'll never forget.

Make it your very own **WOW!**



Make it different and unique for *YOU* no matter what you choose to do, no matter how big or small. Make it something that creates an emotional response in your children, your spouse or your colleagues at work. Make it something you, your family, your employer and even your God will talk about for some time to come. The key, from now on, is to look at life differently and make lifestyle changes in all aspects of your life. Don't try to change everything all at once. Start off with one thing and keep adding. The important thing is to **START TODAY!** It's your life.

Now, **Make it a WOW!**

Tom Connors is President/CEO of American Training, a diverse collection of companies committed to "Bringing Out the Best in Everyone They Touch". He believes in living life to the fullest by making the **WOW!** a regular part of your personal, spiritual and working life. You can reach Tom at [Tom@AmericanTrainingInc.com](mailto:Tom@AmericanTrainingInc.com) or by writing to him at Tom Connors, American Training, 102 Glenn Street, Lawrence, MA 01843 }

## PUPPIES: from page 4

called Meg and told her I wanted to keep Red, that I would do anything to adopt her. She told me that there was already an application in for her and that everyone always loves the first foster dog and wants to adopt. She told me to be patient and to keep fostering and maybe one day I would find another I would want to keep. On the fourth day of fostering Red, I received a call from Meg. who said she needed to meet because Red was going to her new adoptive family.

I cried driving to meet Meg, I cried as I handed Red over, I cried as I drove home, and I even cried that night. I was so sad. A week passed and I received another call from Meg. "I have another puppy for you," she said. My heart was racing during the whole car-ride to meet her. I had such a great experience with Red that I couldn't wait to foster again.

Meg opened the back of her Explorer, SUV and there were about five dog crates inside, filled with the cutest puppies I had ever seen. She handed me a black lab named Brandy. The story that follows is the same story as with Red. -Brandy was a great dog, such a sweetheart. I actually went to the adoption when Brandy was meeting her new parents. Since I had lived with her for a week, I was able to give them an inside look as to what

Brandy liked, didn't like, and what her habits were.. And, just as I did with Red, I cried as I drove away.

My third foster experience had a bit of a different ending, however, this time I kept her. Dash, a 12wk old chocolate lab/retriever mix, is now a permanent part of my family. I love her, and I'm still fostering today. Right now I have 8 wk old Patsy and Penny, also some of the cutest puppies I have ever seen.

The best part about fostering is receiving pictures and updates from the adoptive families after they have moved on. You become so attached to these puppies that it makes you happy to see what a great life they have.

These puppies are rescued from a very "high-kill" shelter in Virginia. If it wasn't for Meg, these puppies would most likely have been euthanized. The dogs know the tough past they've had, and all they wish is for a safe and love-filled future. There is nothing better than coming home and seeing their tails wagging, eager to give you big, wet kisses!

*Next month: How you can foster a puppy (or adopt a puppy that is already in a foster home), tips on how to care for your pet and advice on the best way to keep up on your puppy's health.*



PHOTO: TOM DUGOGAN

Kate holds Patsy in her arms while petting Dasher, a brown lab puppy she adopted after taking her in temporarily as part of the foster puppy program. To become a foster parent for a puppy you can email Kate at [kwswingrite@aol.com](mailto:kwswingrite@aol.com)

## HAVERHILL ON THE MOVE

## From the desk of Haverhill Mayor Jim Fiorentini

**Haverhill Unemployment Rate Plunges to lowest since May-01.**

Mayor James J. Fiorentini announced that Haverhill's unemployment fell in October to 4.0%, the lowest such recorded rate in Haverhill in six and a half years. The last time the City's unemployment rate was lower was in May of 2001, according to official labor market figures from the Massachusetts Division of Career Services.

"I'm pleased to report that our employment figures reveal that we're finally recovering from the disastrous events of the early part of this decade—including the Recession, 9/11, and the decline of Lucent Technologies," stated the Mayor. "These figures reveal that Haverhill truly is coming back. We're on the move in the right direction."

"There's a lot of reasons for this drop in unemployment, but it's not a coincidence that the recent sharp drops in unemployment claims in Haverhill correspond with new job growth—including the opening of BJ's, Target and the pre-hiring underway by Lowes," noted the Mayor.

"We're committed to doing even more to make Haverhill a great place to live and work," added the Mayor.

**Winter Parking Ban**

The winter parking ban is in effect. From November 15 to December 1, you park your car on the even side of the street. From December 1 until April 1, on odd months park on the odd side, on even months park on the even side.

There is a \$25 penalty for noncompliance.

**Haverhill Board Openings**

We have openings on a number of boards in the city including the following:

- \* Planning Board
- \* Bradford College Historic District Commission
- \* Community Action Commission
- \* Cultural Council

If you are interested in serving. Send an email to [mayor@cityofhaverhill.com](mailto:mayor@cityofhaverhill.com).

**Tax Rate Set**

Last month, the city council set the tax rate. Taxes for the average single-family homeowner will go up by \$100. (To see if your home is "average" check your home value, <http://haverhill.patriotproperties.com/default.asp?br=exp&vr=6>.) Businesses saw an increase in their

property values, resulting in higher real estate taxes.

Here are a few things you should know:

**Revaluation does not raise more money for the city:** Think of all the property taxes the city raises, around \$72 million, as a big pie. Revaluation just shifts things around inside the pie. It does not increase the pie.

Property values are based upon calendar year 2006 Assessments

The city is required by State law to assess property values with a one-year lag. If you believe that your property is overvalued, you can file for an abatement. You must file in January; not before and not after. You can download the form from the city website.

**Mayor's Third Term Team Starts to Take Place**

Mayor Fiorentini today announced several new members of his third term team.

\* **Linda Koutoulos** of Haverhill as Administrative Assistant. Linda has worked for several years at the State house as an aid to State Representative John Binienda from Worcester.

\* **Robert Driscoll** of Haverhill as new permitting ombudsman. Mr. Driscoll is a former executive with Wang Laboratories. The position, paid for with a State grant, allows the city to expedite permits for new business.

\* **Heidi (Murphy) Griffin** of Bradford to the Planning Board. Heidi is the town planner in Reading.

**Three new councilors**

This past election saw the election of three new members of the city council: **Michael McGonagle, James Donahue Jr. and Kenneth Quimby, Jr.**

I have sent all three of them a congratulatory note and invited them in for a get acquainted meeting.

**Haverhill, Other Communities Face Big Deficits**

As I repeatedly warned during the campaign, Haverhill faces severe budget problems in the upcoming years. The reason is simple: municipal costs, particularly health care and pension costs, are growing faster than our revenues.

For several years, we have grown our tax base, engaged in long term planning, decreased health care costs, cut the costs

of government, and taken long term steps to reduce the size of the deficit. It's worked, but the deficit, although reduced, remains.

Our preliminary estimates are that we face a deficit of \$5.8 million next year.

Sadly, we are not unique. A recent article in Commonwealth Magazine entitled "Municipal Meltdown" says it all:

"The view is nearly unanimous: Cities and towns are in big trouble."

We are meeting on a weekly basis at city hall to formulate a plan to present in April or earlier.

**DPW Update**

Haverhill has made several changes to the highway department. These changes include:

- \* Instituting GPS on selected highway vehicles;
- \* Instituting time clocks
- \* Improving management of overtime;

I recommended to the city council that the city conduct a full management study of the highway department and the Department of Public Works.

I reached this conclusion after meeting with some of the top public works directors in the State, and studying management studies done in cities such as Gloucester, Massachusetts, Sunnyvale California and Springfield, Massachusetts.

DPW Directors I have consulted with have told me that modern cities have a combined Department of Public Works which combines the Water, Waste Water, Highway and Engineering Departments.

A full management study will tell us best practices throughout the country, give us a metric on how to measure performance, and a roadmap to a more efficient department.

**Zion Bible College**

Last month I was proud to announce that the former Bradford College campus was officially sold to Hob-Lob Ltd., an affiliated company of the Hobby Lobby Stores of Oklahoma City, OK.

After various renovations are undertaken, the campus will be occupied by Zion Bible College, presently located in Barrington, RI. In about one year, Hob-Lob Ltd. will donate the college property to Zion. The closing ends more than a year of negotiations and attempts

by Zion to acquire the former Bradford College campus, which has been vacant for more than six years.

"This long-awaited moment in Haverhill's continuing renaissance has finally occurred, and I'm thrilled to have an educational institution back on this historic campus," stated Mayor James J. Fiorentini. "We look forward to working with Hobby-Lobby officials to get the campus back to life with students, educators and families."

Bradford R. Martin, an attorney with Morrison Mahoney, LLP who served as local counsel for Hobby Lobby and has been working with Zion for the past 15 months, stated: "The acquisition of the campus provides a bright future for Zion and is another part of the significant progress that Haverhill has made over the past few years."

"The remarkable generosity of the Green family has made all of this possible for Zion," Attorney Martin added. "We are appreciative of the support of Mayor Fiorentini who consistently held out for an educational use of the property, and in particular the proposed use by Zion. Had he relented to the pressure to re-zone the campus, none this would have been possible," he noted.

Mayor Fiorentini pointed out that: "our hard work and persistence has paid off. I want to congratulate the members of the Bradford College Neighborhood Association for their diligence in this matter as well."

Zion will be a great addition to the City," predicted the Mayor. "In its beginning 200 years ago, Bradford College was a training ground for notable Christian missionaries such as Ann Haseltine Judson and other historic Bradford figures. With Zion, the campus returns to this proud tradition," added the Mayor.

Work on renovations will commence on a building-by-building basis almost immediately, in accordance with several historic preservation restrictions. Representatives from Hobby Lobby will be on site. It is anticipated that Zion will move in next summer and commence classes in Bradford in the fall of 2008.



*Jim Fiorentini is the mayor of Haverhill and was just elected to his third term on November 6th. You can email him at [Jimfior@aol.com](mailto:Jimfior@aol.com)*

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George A. Peters Jr., President  
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## TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

### Save the Puppies



This month, The Valley Patriot begins a new feature called "Puppy Love" by Boxford resident Kate Whitney. She is a welcome edition to the paper as we are always looking for new ways to diversify our material. Nobody loves animals, (especially puppies)

more than I do and I am personally thrilled that we are able to help Ms. Whitney in her efforts to find safe, loving homes for puppies in temporary foster care. Please take a minute to read Kate's column on page 4 and if you know anyone who would like to provide temporary foster care for a puppy waiting to be adopted please email her at [kwswingrite@aol.com](mailto:kwswingrite@aol.com)

### Pappalardo/Andrew: we were NOT campaigning together

Prior to the Methuen elections last month, we published evaluations of all the candidates running for office. In our evaluation of the West end candidates we informed our readers that residents in the West End saw City Councilor Bob Andrew and first time candidate Jeanne Pappalardo knocking on doors and campaigning together. After the election however, both Pappalardo and Andrew called The Valley Patriot to tell us that they neither campaigned together, nor did they have any affiliation with each other's campaign. "Maybe they saw me knocking on doors with my husband," Pappalardo said. "But I never went door to door with Bob Andrew. I ran my own campaign and the only person I was campaigning for was Jeanne Pappalardo." "Jeanne's husband is a former councilor, maybe she was knocking on doors with him, but I never went door to door with Jeanne," Andrew said.



### Andover Teachers don't want to give back tests

Teachers in Andover refuse to give tests, book reports and homework assignments back to students or their parents saying that they need to keep these papers for "assessment" purposes, among other lame excuses. The fact is, given the type of things being taught in Andover (Remember anti-Semite Ron Francis and his indoctrination

techniques?) it isn't hard to see that these teachers simply do not want parents to know what kind of political correct, anti-American, anti-Semitic propaganda they are spewing in the classroom. Shame on any Andover School Board member who agrees to pass a policy to hide classroom work or assignments from parents. And shame on anyone who can't see through the ridiculous party line being given to the public by the teachers union and certain school board members. Parents have the right to see what is being taught to their children and public school teachers have an obligation to inform the public, especially parents, what is being taught to young people in their care.

### Voter Fraud

Every year we get reports after local elections that massive voter fraud took place in Lawrence. Those making such claims frantically try to get The Valley Patriot to do an investigation or write a news story after the fact. We've all heard the complaints and allegations; illegals voting in large numbers, people from other communities voting in Lawrence, Willie Lantigua and his cohorts influencing voters in polling locations and ballot stuffing before or after the polls close.

This year we decided to be proactive and had people on the lookout at ever polling location in Lawrence to see exactly what kind of questionable behavior was taking place. While there is no doubt that some voter fraud occurs, and we are reasonably certain that there are some illegal aliens or non residents voting in Lawrence elections, our sources at the polls on election day saw no evidence of out of town busses bringing in voters, large numbers of illegals casting a ballot or any ballot stuffing either before or after the polls closed on election day. While there is evidence of some voter fraud with absentee ballots (we will report more on that in the coming months), there was absolutely no evidence that there was widespread voter fraud in last month's municipal election in Lawrence. There were, at best, four or five isolated incidents of improper behavior or complaints about certain campaign workers. By our count, this was one of the cleaner elections in recent history. Nevertheless, we will be on the lookout in the '09 election.

### Dave Abdoo for President

Current City Council President, Patrick Blanchette has made it perfectly clear that he is going to run for mayor in two years. He has also made it clear that he cannot (or will not) work with the Sullivan administration to resolve the

myriad of problems facing the residents of Lawrence. Instead, Blanchette has engaged in political wars with Sullivan and anyone who works for him. He has called the mayor a "dictator,"



likened him to "Saddam Hussein," demanded members of his cabinet be fired, called for the disbaring of a city attorney, and interfered with the day to day operations of city hall to the point where a comptroller and a budget and finance director have both cited Blanchette's politics as their reason for leaving the city's employ. Anyone who has witnessed the tension and conflicts between Sullivan and Blanchette over the last two years (even those who side with Blanchette) would have to agree that having Blanchette remain council president for the next two years would yield more of the same. In fact, if Blanchette is to return to the council presidency, it is safe to assume that he will actually increase his personal and political attacks on the Mayor and his administration to garner headlines every day in his quest to be the next mayor.

The good news is, as of the date of this publication, Blanchette has only two votes to return as council president; himself and Councilor Nick Kolofoles. The bad news is, Nilka Alvarez is also going to seek the council presidency and she only has two votes; herself and Jorge Gonzalez. According to several of the council members I have talked to, newly elected District "E" councilor David Abdoo is the favorite among a majority but Abdoo has not expressed an interest publicly or privately to be the next council president. It may not matter, however, as Abdoo goes into January's inauguration with at least five votes (a majority) to be the next council president. If Abdoo steps up to the plate and even privately asks his soon to be fellow councilors for their support, this race will be all over. If not, look for a third candidate to emerge (like Frank Moran) and end up being the conciliation candidate.

### Bogus Ethics Complaint in Georgetown

Georgetown Selectman Lonnie Brennan writes a monthly column in The Valley Patriot called Georgetown Today, where he exposes the inner workings of the town, behind the scenes wranglings and publishes public information that town



officials purposely try to hide from the public. Apparently, Brennan's exposes have hit a nerve with some of the local insiders. First, Georgetown officials tried to deny Brennan access to public documents for fear that he may publish them in his column. Then, they tried to isolate him from information so that he wouldn't even know what was happening and he wouldn't know what to look for when something was happening in town. But when that didn't work, some genius filed an ethics complaint against the selectman claiming that he was either a) printing information that was not legally considered public record, or: b) that he was abusing his position as a selectman for personal gain as a paid columnist for The Valley Patriot.

For the record, we are VERY BIG fans of the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission. Their existence is one of the reasons we started The Valley Patriot. And, because it is our mission to publicly expose government officials who violate ethics laws, we do not pay any of the elected or appointed officials who write in the pages of our publication. As is the case with Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan, Methuen Councilor Kathleen Rahme, Lawrence School Committeeman Peter Larocque, Haverhill Mayor Jim Fiorentini and the dozens of other officials in the Valley, they write to perform a public service with no compensation whatsoever. And, they do so with the knowledge that at any time, if they are involved in any kind of unethical behavior, their participation as a regular contributor to the Valley patriot will no longer be welcome.

### GPS in Highway vehicles in Haverhill

Haverhill Mayor Jim Fiorentini has placed Global Positioning Systems (a satellite tracking system which keeps a log of everywhere the vehicle goes) in all highway vehicles in the city so that city officials can better track public vehicles. Not only is this a great idea for Haverhill, but cities like Lawrence and Methuen ought to be looking into this technology to keep track of city vehicles. In recent years, The Valley Patriot has received complaints (most unsubstantiated) at election time that city vehicles (usually DPW) in Lawrence and Methuen were being used to shuttle political supporters of one candidate or another to the polls on election day. We have received complaints that town vehicles from North Andover have routinely been parked at the Lawrence British Club throughout the entire workday (we've actually seen that one ourselves) and that public vehicles are abused by city and town officials in Georgetown who are alleged to be doing



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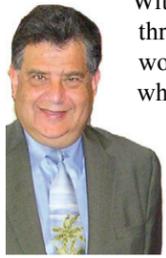
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personal errands while on the town clock. With the GPS system in place throughout the Valley, it would be very easy to tell who is making a bogus complaint of vehicle abuse for political reasons and who is actually being brave enough to blow the whistle on those who would so willingly abuse public time and public vehicles.



**Building Commissioner Out of Control?**

As I have always defended Lawrence building inspector Louis Waldron against political attacks, this next item has me eating crow. Last month, Hutton Construction was performing work on Essex Street outside the old "Loft and Ladle" building. Hutton Construction was hooking up the building with a new sprinkler system. The system is needed so the building will pass inspection for a liquor license as required by law. Although Hutton received all of the necessary city permits for the construction and had the approval of the Lawrence Police to begin digging on Essex Street, City of Lawrence building Commissioner, Louis Waldron, showed up and began making waves. As I sat in bumper to bumper traffic watching the conflict unfold, Waldron demanded that the construction stop (in the middle of the day) even though Hutton was in total compliance with the law and received all the proper permits for the work. When Hutton called the Lawrence police, several officers showed up and ordered Commissioner Waldron to leave and said that Hutton Construction could continue the work they had already started. Waldron ended up leaving with his tail

between his legs, as I snapped picture after picture of the incident. Why is this a notebook item? Because, as Waldron was walking back to his car, he received a parking ticket for double parking on Essex Street while he was abusing his position trying to shut down a legal



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Lawrence Building Commissioner Louis Waldron (someone I have long defended in this column) tries to explain to a Lawrence police officer why Hutton Construction was being shut down in the middle of the work day. Waldron not only had to leave with his tail tucked between his legs, but when he went back to his car he found a parking ticket for illegally double parking on Essex Street.



Valley Patriot Cartoonist David Sullivan of Dracut: sullivan93@aol.com

construction project. Minutes later as I arrived at city hall (on other business) I saw my friend Mr. Waldron trying to have his ticket fixed.

**CAC Buys Land on Andover St.**

The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council now owns the land and building which houses its Child Care Center at 581 Andover Street in Lawrence. For years, the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council had been renting the building from Vincent Manzi, David Zion and Andrew Triantafillou, as Trustees of 581 Andover Street Trust. But on October 25, 2007, the Trustees sold the property at 581 Andover Street to the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc for \$2.1 million dollars. The Community Action Council partnered with Massachusetts Development Finance Agency and Sovereign Bank for the issuing of a \$4.3 million dollar Tax Exempt Bond, used to purchase the property and future renovations. The child care center presently takes care of 250 boys and girls and the bond proceeds will be used to

refinance three existing conventional bank mortgages and purchase two school buses, according to MassDevelopment documents. The building and lot is located between Dunkin Donuts and McDonalds. Neither of these food establishments were part of the land deal. The lot size of 20,401 square feet was assessed in 2007 at \$448,300.

**Gifts for the Troops North Andover**

Brownie Troop #542 is collecting items to send to our troops in Iraq for the holidays. Boxes will be at each elementary school for collections. Help give the troops a happy holiday and please donate items for the troops: fleece blankets (the type that Walgreens or CVS Sell); note cards (to allow our soldiers to write letters home); dispos-able cameras; phone cards; hand-held battery-operated games; batteries; crossword puzzle books; word search books; coffee; snacks (such as beef jerky, peanuts, granola bars, hard candy); single-serving presweetened powdered drink mixes; throat lozenges; disposable razors; baby wipes; socks.

**MASSHIGHWAY orders all patriotic displays to be taken down from bridges**

METHUEN - Masshighway has placed a new ban on public displays from overpasses and has ordered all displays, banners and flags to be removed throughout the commonwealth by December 7th.

Jim Wareing of Methuen was invited to attend an hour long meeting with Commissioner Luisa Paiewonsky and MassHighway's management team last Monday to discuss the new ban.

The commissioner claimed that public safety as the reason for the ban. MassHighway shared some alternative idea that they deem would be safer which could still show support for our troops.

Last October, MassHighway tried to ban these displays but by the end of the day MassHighway reversed their decision

after public outcry claiming it was a 'miscommunication'.

"Although I disagree with their decision, my displays will be removed as it was made clear at the meeting that if I don't remove the flags, MassHighway will remove them by the end of this week".

One display of military and America flags was resurrected in May after the first ban and placed in honor of kidnapped soldiers Spec. Alex Jimenez and PFC Byron Fouty.

This display on RT. 213 in Methuen will be taken down Monday afternoon and the American and POW/MIA flag will be presented to Andy Jimenez, father of Spec Alex Jimenez.



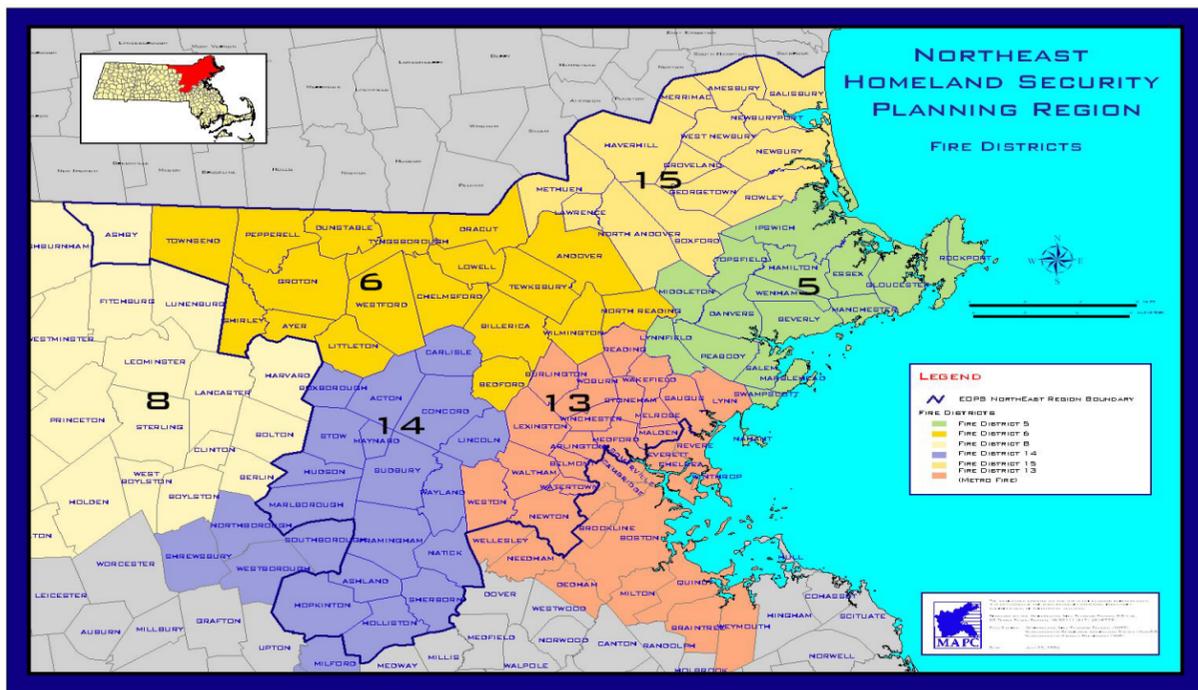
PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Patriotic displays on the Route 213 overpass/Howe Street in Methuen

Jim Wareing is known for his overpass displays of military and American flags with yellow ribbons. He was recently praised by President Bush in a radio address to the nation last December for his support of the troops as the founding director of New England Caring for our Military, a non profit organization that

sends care packages and telephone cards. Minutes from the meeting held this week are available as well as Jim's writ-ten response to MassHighway upon request.

Please contact Jim Wareing for more information at 978-835-7464 or vial e-mail at [jim@necfom.org](mailto:jim@necfom.org)



Above; Lawrence Fire Chief Takvorian with the ARINC communication computer system. Above left; the Homeland Security map showing each area covered by the "control point" communities

# Lawrence Fire Department receives grant to network emergency communications throughout state

Tom Duggan  
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

In 1995, a devastating fire ripped through the Malden Mills factory on Broadway in Methuen. Firefighters and police officers responded to the emergency from all over the Commonwealth.

As the out-of-town public safety officials began to arrive at the scene, chaos ensued as it became nearly impossible to coordinate which police and firefighters would perform which emergency tasks in and around the Malden Mills building. Because the two-

way radio system that fire and police departments use is on a separate and unique frequency they were incapable of communicating with each other.

In fact, contrary to popular perception, police and firefighters within each individual city and town don't even have the ability to talk to each other on their two way radios because each department's radio system uses a different frequency.

So, while the all-alarm fire at Malden Mills was raging out of control, there was no way for North Andover firefighters, for example, to communicate with

Lawrence and Methuen firefighters who were already in the building. There was no way for emergency medial responders from other communities to know where to set up staging for victims of the fire because there was no central communication system to coordinate the relief effort.

But thanks to a Homeland Security grant awarded to the city of Lawrence, now the chaos that ensued during the Malden Mills fire will never happen again. The \$100,000 grant received by the Lawrence Fire Department has paid for equipment and training for what is

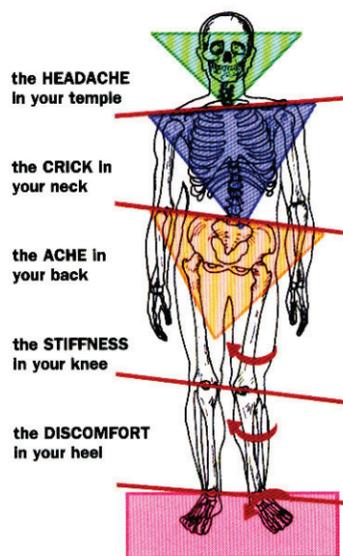
called the ARINC communication system.

"The state grant was for \$400,000 for four communities," said Lawrence Fire Chief Takvorian. "\$100,000 of that came to Lawrence to pay for communication equipment called ARINC. What this equipment does is, it allows radios systems from every other community to be able to talk to teach other, which was never available before, it was just never possible."

"This system uses the same technology as the aviation technology used in

ARINC, page 20

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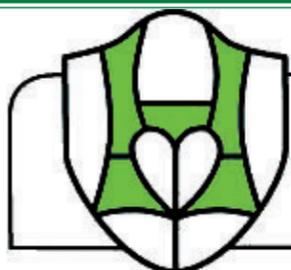


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LAWRENCE PLANNING DIRECTOR  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Good call there by President Lincoln. Unfortunately, under the weak-armed rule of Patrick Blanchette, truth has been replaced in the city council chambers by slander and personal attacks.

The truth is a powerful concept. Thanks to the Inspector General's Office, we now know which city agency is incompetent, and it is not the Planning Department.

In a harsh rebuke to the lack of leadership on the city council, the Inspector General's Office let Councilor Blanchette know that in no uncertain terms, he was not following the spirit and letter of Massachusetts General Law c.30B. Despite repeated warnings from the Planning Department at both the Housing subcommittee and at the full City Council, the law was ignored concerning the disposition of city-owned property at 128 Newbury Street.

The City Council has completely derailed the disposition of property here in Lawrence, costing the taxpayers of Lawrence and the Commonwealth. Earlier this year, the council believed it had disbanded the Real Property Task Force, which was responsible for reviewing all bids received in response to Request for Proposals for city-owned land. For over a decade, the Real

Property Task Force reviewed bids properly without once drawing a stinging reprimand from the Inspector General's Office.

However, when the Planning Department refused to cave into the political pressure and personal attacks launched by a few members of the City Council, the City Council placed the entire review process in their own hands. What taxpayers got was bickering and backroom dealings replacing the legal process.

Inspector General Gregory W. Sullivan wrote in his letter, "this office found **no evidence** that the comparative evaluation criteria was properly considered by the Council or its Housing Sub-Committee" (emphasis added).

Telling the Council to remand the disposition of 128 Newbury Street back to the Housing Sub-Committee, the IG's Office cited a letter sent to the Council by the Planning Department warning them that they were in violation of fair process and that the legal demands of M.G.L. 30B were not being followed.

Inspector General Sullivan went on to remind the Council that, "[t]he hallmark of M.G.L.c.30B is fairness in the interests of fairness, this office recommends that the [city council] now go back and **follow its rules**" (emphasis added). Fairness and following the rules are concepts that children in kindergarten learn.

Simply put, the City Council has been engaging in a pattern of inappropriate

**SWEENEY, page 15**

## Saying goodbye to three public servants

**Peter Larocque**

LAWRENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The most asked question since the election has been; "So what do you think about what took place in the last election?"

My short answer is that the Citizens of Lawrence have spoken and, it is what it is. The follow up question has always been; "So what do you think of the new make up of the Lawrence School Committee?"

Well, I can only go by what I've heard out on the campaign trail. I truly hope and pray that the new members do their homework and consider the facts of each issue before taking action. Most of all, I hope the new committee will put personal feelings aside and act according to the oath they are about to take.

I am really looking forward to working together as a Committee as a Whole, to see the Lawrence school district continue to go forward and improve student achievement!

As for the current members about to leave public office, I want to go on record and say that it has been an honor and privilege to serve with each of them. They conducted themselves with the utmost professionalism and with an honest character that set a wonderful example for all future Lawrence elected officials.

I had the honor of serving on the Lawrence School Safety Subcommittee

with Patricia C. Reyes. Her insight and careful concern about the safety of the Lawrence public school district will be sorely missed.

During school committee meetings I sat next to Omaira Mejia and it was obvious to me that she was not intimidated by anyone and was not afraid to ask the tough, but necessary questions while maintaining her professionalism. It was a pleasure to watch her in action and I will miss her almost as much as Tom Duggan.

As for our Vice Chair, Mr. Gregory Morris, his wisdom and knowledge concerning Robert's Rules of Order coupled with his kindness, kept me from looking like a fool more than once.

Greg wasn't shy at all about asking the right questions at the right time. I will miss having his knowledge two seats away. So, to our outgoing school committee members I say, may God continue to Bless you and your families and thank you for the privilege of serving the citizens of Lawrence with you.



*Peter Larocque is a member of the Lawrence School Committee. He was originally elected by the Lawrence City Council to fill the unexpired term of Amy McGovern in 2006 and then elected in his own right last month. You can email him at [plarocque@lawrence.k12.ma.us](mailto:plarocque@lawrence.k12.ma.us)*

## Youth and politics

**Gary Manion**

VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

Guts, backbone, nerve, and a lot of it! That's what it takes to run for political office in Lawrence.

I have to say, since I announced my intent to run six weeks ago before primary day, I used almost all of the guts, nerve, and backbone I had. When I came home about six weeks before the election I told my mother that, not only had I just registered to vote, I had also decided to run for office. She was not surprised at all! I announced it later that night to my family. The reaction I got was not the one I expected; right away everyone was energized and ready to campaign. My family was 100% behind me and from that moment on we never looked back.

I have had a thing for politics longer than I have had all my permanent teeth. I helped Pauline Brown campaign for the District B seat about ten years ago, and decided right then that politics was for me. Being involved in something so much bigger than myself, working toward making the world a better place for all of us. That is the ultimate grand slam.

Councilor Silva and Ruth Rojas both had a few months to prepare for the election. Because I decided to run so late in the race, I had only six weeks. So, right off the bat, I had a lot of ground to make up. On top of that, both of them had run for the District B seat before. These were seasoned veterans and I was, to say the least, a novice.

If it were not for my committee working day in and day out, I would not have made it half as far as I did. In fact, as I sit back and think about it, who *would* vote for an eighteen-year-old newcomer who is running on stickers that no one has ever heard of? Well, 73 people did! And I thank each one of them for taking that leap of faith to trust me with their district.

At first I was really down about the loss. My committee was too. One of the hardest things I have ever had to do is to go back to the house where everyone was gathered, waiting to hear the results, and tell them I had lost . . . and by only seventeen votes! I felt like I had let them down. But, to my amazement, they said I had made them proud! If we had had a little more time to campaign, maybe it would have worked out.

I felt worse for the people who had helped me campaign than I did for myself. I felt like we had wasted our time and our six weeks of hard work were thrown away. But that feeling did not last long. I had to be optimistic, I told myself.

Yeah, we worked hard going to nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the district. Sure, we worked hard going door-to-door and my faithful helpers had stood outside in the wee hours of the morning for six straight weeks holding my signs, no matter the weather. But this is not about time wasted; it is about experience gained.

Again, thank you to every one who contributed to my campaign and, so, to an invaluable experience. I choose to believe that everything happens for a reason, and that every defeat holds the seed of a future victory. So I will move on and see what else life has in store for me. I want to give my congratulations to my two opponents. They are both intelligent women and very capable of doing the job.

I look forward to staying involved in the city and to being a better opponent in two years.



*Gary Mannion is a Lawrence resident and a former candidate for the Lawrence City Council in District "B". You can e-mail Mr. Mannion at [Gmmanjl@aol.com](mailto:Gmmanjl@aol.com).*




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## WCAP: continued from page 1

broadcasting in the different communities and covering local sports, especially the high schools. If it's happening in the Merrimack Valley we are going to be covering it. And we will be following up with asking people to read the Sun or the Globe or the Valley Patriot."

"But not the Eagle Tribune," Smidt added. "Not until they make it right with Bob Ansin."

The Eagle-Tribune, which owns 49% of WCAP's former rival station WCCM radio, recently ran a bogus story claiming that men in tyvek suits were seen removing asbestos from the \$200 million Monarch on the Merrimack project in Lawrence. According to Ansin, the story caused him to lose a \$40 million investment shutting down the project until Ansin can secure more funding for the project dubbed 'a city within a city' located in the Wood Mill, on Merrimack Street in Lawrence.

"In it's day, when Curt Gowdy owned WCCM," Smidt continued. "It was quite something when it was on the 800 position on the dial. Everyone listened to it. I was putting together SuperHits at WCGY (the FM station owned by Gowdy) around 1984-85 it was certainly a great radio station back then," he said.

Poulten said his love of WCAP and the Merrimack Valley goes back to his youth. "Having been born in Lowell and falling in love with the most beautiful girl in Haverhill, Gail Kritzman, I am very connected to the Merrimack Valley. All the Lawrence and Haverhill kids, even though they had other stations to listen to, had WCAP as the big station [to listen to]. WCCM was a small station and WLLH and WHAV were small stations, but WCAP was what we all listened to."

"The other part of that coin is that there are now big statewide radio stations like WBZ. If you want to listen to a statewide radio station, listen to WBZ," Poulton explained. "We [WCAP] want to localize radio again. We want to super-serve the Merrimack Valley. It's local, local, local, and we want to include the entire Valley. I want to get back to the way it used to be when people in Lawrence and Haverhill listened to WCAP for their news, music and local events."

"We have the signal to do that," he continued, "and we have the enthusiasm and expertise to do that. Clark has 41 years in radio, and I've been doing radio since the early '70's. I know Haverhill, I know Methuen and Lawrence and Dracut. I'm on the Nashoba Regional School Committee. There are exciting things going on all over the Valley and we want to be the radio station to tell people what those things are. There are enough businesses in the Merrimack Valley to make anybody happy. People do not have to go to the malls. They don't. We have restaurants in the Valley to beat the band. We have entertainment and shops, we have the Spinners, which is the best class-A affiliate in the country. We have **LeLacheur Park**, it's a great place to go out on a summer night. We have the Tsongas arena and the Merrimack repertory theatre. We want WCAP to promote those venues and be a cheerleader for those venues. But we want people to know we are not just a Lowell radio station."

"We are also going to be promoting what is going on in Haverhill and Lawrence. There are as many great

venues and restaurants and events going on in those communities as there are here in Lowell. Haverhill has **Winnekenni Castle** and all the stores on Merrimack Street, the antique mall ... all these great places where people can shop and be entertained all within 25 miles. You can get just about anything you want, do anything you want to do right here in the Valley. Its a phenomenal place to be."

"So, to have a radio station connected to all of these things with a radio signal that can be heard not only in the Lowell, Lawrence, Haverhill area but in Manchester NH and Portsmouth NH. it's a dream come true for me," Poulten said excitedly.

Poulten and Smidt said that the station is also going to have a close affiliation with The University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

"We're going to have UMASS Lowell students on the air. We are going to have them interning and we're hoping [that] this will be the commercial station where they break the alternative music and discussions that they're now using the FM signal to break."

WCAP is not only changing it's daily lineup and adding new voices to it's talk radio format, but the station will be adding brand new technology and equipment so that each show will be streaming live on the internet.

"News is very important and local news is huge. [WCAP] has not been able to afford a big local news department in the past but we have some very interesting partnerships we are developing with strategic and significant news gathering organizations. We will have connections with publications like the Sun and The Valley Patriot. We will have coverage of local council meetings. But we are not going to be obsessed with it. We will be following news and covering news but we also want to make sure all the local events are being properly covered and people can take advantage of all the great local businesses we have here in this area."

"We are getting the station back up to speed. The studio is fairly old and there was previously no sales department under Mr. Cohen. He handled all the advertising himself for years and it was great because he could do it that way .... he built the station."

**"We [WCAP] want to localize radio again. We want to super-serve the Merrimack Valley. It's local, local, local, and we want to include the entire Valley. I want to get back to the way it used to be when people in Lawrence and Haverhill listened to WCAP for their news, music and local events."**

**- Colonel Sam Poulton**

"But now that we've spent a couple of million dollars buying it, we have to change all that. We are very pleased that in week one we've already got three wonderful sales professionals who, between them have 90 years broadcast sales experience. We have some really effective broadcasters here to customize



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Colonel Sam Poulten and Clark Smidt, the new owners of WCAP radio (980/AM) in Lowell say they are going to expand radio/news coverage to include Lawrence, Haverhill, Methuen and the rest of the Merrimack Valley.

the advertising and make sure they get the most value for their advertising dollar because we want businesses to advertise here and be successful. The key is helping the small businesses."

While most in the Valley may know of Clark Smidt's extensive local radio experience, Colonel Sam Poulten is best known as a war hero. But many don't know he also has a breadth of radio expertise.

was the Beatles' song called *Your Mother Should Know*."

"When I graduated they asked me to stay on the staff of the radio station and I stayed on for four years, even after I was married. It was an interesting thing because I was doing the show on wind up Victrolas. We had two wind up Victrolas and we would have to go back and forth, change the needle after the song and wind up the other player. It took a little time and that caused me to have more [talking] on the air than other disc jockeys."

"So we introduced Professor Quiz and his quizzical quiz questions. I would ask quiz questions and take phone calls and that gave us time to get the next record on. Then we got a wild cast of characters, Billy Bowen and the Orchestra, Suzie the Wonderdog and Judy the Topless Telephone Operator."

"Someone at WBOS heard the radio show in the early 1970's and thought that it would be a good Sunday night radio show. I said 'sure,' [and] went over to FM 93 ... which had a 50,000 watt FM signal. We did *Your Mother Should Know* and eventually spun off to do 'Personality Parade' where we interviewed all the legends of the big band and swing era. We actually went to BOS in 1974 and we had Benny Goodman, Harry James, the Mills Brothers, George Burns and Bob Hope.

**WCAP, next page**

RICHARDHOWE.COM

# School issues take center stage in Lowell

Richard Howe, Jr.

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

While the Fifth District special election and the city council race grabbed everyone's attention this fall, the Lowell Public Schools recently seized the city's political spotlight.

Superintendent of Schools Karla Baehr stunned most observers by announcing on November 19th that she would not seek an extension of her current contract which expires in June.

Instead, she will seek the office of Massachusetts Commissioner of Education, a position held by David Driscoll until his retirement in August. With her doctorate from Columbia, a lifetime of experience in Massachusetts public education and stints as superintendent in Wellesley and Lexington along with her time here in Lowell, Baehr seems especially well qualified for the DOE job.

Ironically, Dr. Baehr's potential may be more apparent to those outside of Lowell than to some of the city's residents, a situation reflected by the recent School Committee election.

David Conway, a soon-to-retire housemaster at Lowell High School and first time school committee candidate, topped the ticket after running a vigorous campaign that was particularly critical of Baehr's hiring practices which Conway alleged favored outsiders at the expense of those already employed within the Lowell school system.

In addition, the superintendent's most vocal and consistent critic on the current committee, Regina Faticanti, finished a strong second, her best electoral result in

years. In contrast, Baehr's strongest supporters, Jackie Doherty and Connie Martin slipped significantly with Doherty falling from first to fourth and Martin from fifth to sixth.

Another Baehr supporter, Kevin McHugh, failed to win re-election after ten years on the committee. The two other committee members, John Leahy and Jim Leary, have both supported Baehr in the past, but recent indications are that they would at best take positions of relative neutrality when it comes to the superintendent's future in Lowell.

The wild card on the school committee will be the new mayor. All indications are that long-time city councilor Bud Caulfield will be elected by his colleagues in January. (Lowell's Plan E charter provides for a school committee of six members elected at large by the voters plus the mayor who is a city councilor elected by the other councilors on inauguration day).

While Caulfield has always voted to fund new schools and has been an avid backer of performing arts programs such as the high school band, he has consistently rejected school department requests for more funding at budget time in recent years.

Given the makeup of the new school committee, Caulfield's frugality would certainly make Baehr's professional life infinitely more challenging were she to remain in Lowell.

Hovering in the background through all of this was the future of Lowell High School headmaster William Samaras. Having indicated to Baehr last spring that he would retire after this academic year, Samaras changed his mind in September

and asked for another year, a request that Baehr refused.

This set off a firestorm of negative public reaction against Baehr from many quarters including former Lowell Sun publisher Kendall Wallace and State Senator Steve Panagiotakos.

Perhaps constrained by confidentiality rules, Baehr never made public her reasons for wanting to replace Samaras and all the attention and publicity given this issue certainly buttressed the performance of Conway and Faticanti on election day.

With her reliable support on the school committee transformed in an electoral flash, any hesitation that Baehr may have felt about seeking the DOE position evaporated.

As a former history teacher, Dr. Baehr is undoubtedly familiar with the Napoleonic era military term "to steal a march" which means that one army gains an advantage over its opponent by moving sooner than expected.

Whether it was intentional or coincidental, Baehr just "stole a march" on the school committee with the timing of her departure announcement. Instead of compiling conditions and caveats for a contract extension, the school committee is now scrambling to adopt a selection process for Baehr's successor on a timetable set by the outgoing superintendent and not by the school committee.

In her seven years in Lowell, Karla Baehr has repeatedly demonstrated her determination to tackle the issues facing urban public education with a comprehensive, data driven, research

based master plan. A similar approach would serve the state well at the Department of Education. But some in Lowell contend that Baehr's approach was too heavy on theory and too light on building relationships with the city's power brokers.

I disagree.

Schmoozing can only paper over problems, not solve them.

The recent political developments in Lowell are symptomatic of a broader societal dissatisfaction with the public schools.

The time for incremental improvements has passed. People want leaps of progress and a rapid rate of change that has not been evident to date, all within a relatively short period of time.

That someone as impressive as Karla Baehr, even after devoting all of her talent and attention to the Lowell schools for more than seven years, was not able to keep pace with these demands is compelling evidence that the time for a radical restructuring of our public schools may have arrived.



Richard P. Howe Jr. is the creator of [www.richardhowe.com](http://www.richardhowe.com), a blog that provides commentary on politics in Lowell. He also serves as Register of Deeds of the Northern District of Middlesex County. You can email him at [lowelldeeds@comcast.net](mailto:lowelldeeds@comcast.net)

## WCAP: from previous page

We had all the folks who made radio big in the 40's and the 50's."

"That was sponsored by a deli on Harvard Street in Brookline. We started broadcasting that show from the window of the deli. We would go in and tape a half hour show, which we eventually expanded to an hour. 'Your Mother Should Know' was moved to Nicks' Restaurant on Worthington Street. We had a small staff; a producer, engineer and myself. My wife Gail played one of the parts on the radio and we would broadcast from the WBOS studios. It was in the Bradford Hotel. We expanded the Sunday night show back into Saturday night. So we ended up with four hours on Saturday nights and four hours on Sunday nights."

"I did that until the format changed at WBOS to disco. When the FCC made radio stations which were AM and FM split their programming, WCRB use to be AM and FM, so they had to create an AM signal. They decided to do big band radio and rehired all the great radio personalities from the 40's and 50's. Again I did a weekend show on WHET. That station was sold and became WDLW where we did 'Your Mother Should Know,'

"We moved Personality Parade to WNTN in Newton. Every New Years Eve we were the first radio show to do First

Night. WCRB had a studio at the Copley Plaza Hotel. The first, First Night was broadcast from the lobby of the tea room at the Copley it was very small but we were first. We also launched a show that is still running called Sheer Madness, which was a stage show. The day it launched the characters came on the radio show. It was participatory dinner theatre and as far as I know it is still going today."

"Eventually I came to WLLH in Lowell to do the show in the early 90's before they were sold. I was on WLLH Sunday nights, and I was on WLYN.

"When WLLH was sold I brought 'Your Mother Should Know' to WCAP. Ron Morrison, my partner in real estate and I also did a show called 'Real Estate Review. I decided that if the station ever went up for sale I wanted to buy it. I had already talked to a number of businesses and potential investors who were at the ready when the time came. That was eight years ago."

"So, I had heard that someone had bought the radio station and the guys I had had on the string all that time said 'hey, I thought we were ready to go' so I came up the steep flight of stairs to see Mr. Cohen who said they were all rumors and they weren't true. After the fourth or

fifth visit he said there was someone interested in buying the station but he didn't think it was going to happen. He gave me the other persons name and had Clark call me. The rest, as they say, is history and here we are."

Colonel Sam Poulten joined the army in 1969 while he was at Brandeis University "I didn't serve overseas," he said. "I was very fortunate during the Vietnam war to be a medic reservist stationed at Fort Devans. I trained at Fort Polk Louisiana and Fort Sam, Houston Texas."

"My reserve job was at the Bedford Veteran's hospital. Every Wednesday night I worked the wards and they still had WWI veterans alive back then. It was very interesting. In fact, I probably identify myself with the US Army reserves more than anything else I do in my life. I have been doing it for 38 years. I literally saw the world. I've had duty in El Salvador, Honduras Guatemala, Germany, United Kingdom, Canada, Romania, Kuwait, Iraq ... all over."

"In the first gulf war I was company commander for 309 combat support hospital. It was called up first for stateside duty at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Then we had a couple of weeks in England, I didn't deploy to

Saudi Arabia but others in my unit did. I was very lucky. So in the first Gulf they didn't send me anyplace warm."

"We also worked on Indian reservations. I am in the medical service corps. We aided victims of Hurricane Mitch, and because of my annual trainings all over the world, we actually did *Your Mother Should Know* from all over the world including Honduras and Guatemala."

"In February, 2003, the 804th medical brigade deployed with 3 days notice. As the war began, Kuwait was the staging area for the invasion of Iraq. Our unit provided command and control for all the medical units in southern Iraq and Kuwait. I got to travel into Iraq, had duty in Baghdad, Um Kasar, visited the Spanish hospital ship, it was quite an experience. I spent my whole deployment at the APOD arial port of debarkation. 90% of the troops literally came through my tent, and though I don't remember them all, I got to see them all as they were going in."

"Because we were the major evacuation hospital, we did a lot of work with the wounded and unfortunately blew taps for 232 men and women."

Both Poulten and Smidt say they are deeply committed to making WCAP the "voice of the Merrimack Valley" again.

## Sal's Pizza Scores Big with New Hire

LAWRENCE – Sal Lupoli President/CEO of Sal's Pizza, Salvatore's, Mary's Pasta and Sandwiches and Riverwalk Properties is proud to announce the hiring of John MacDonald as vice president of corporate strategies and communications.



MacDonald is the former vice of communications for the Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union of North Andover, regarded as one of the top business development, public relations and marketing professionals in the credit union industry. MacDonald has over 15 years of marketing, public relations, business development and retail branding experience. "Adding John to my dynamic team of professionals will help elevate our corporate brands locally and to a national level." said Lupoli.

MacDonald is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm and has a B.S. in organizational management from Daniel Webster College. Originally from Chelmsford, MA and MacDonald now resides in Lowell, MA with his wife Dawn and two children.

The Sal's Pizza Companies have corporate-owned properties in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The business with over 30 locations has become a large retail franchise and wholesale operation serving all of New England with additional locations in California, Florida and coming soon in Virginia. Today Sal's Pizza and Salvatore's Restaurants make over 40,000 pizzas a week!

## RiverBank appoints new vice president of business banking

NORTH ANDOVER – RiverBank has appointed Joseph Corcoran as Vice President of Business Banking. In Mr. Corcoran's new position, he will assist business customers with their deposit and business service needs.



He will be the main contact for the Bank's cash management services and new Business e-Deposit service, which enables business customers to deposit checks directly from their offices without going to a Bank branch.

For the past year, Mr. Corcoran has managed the Bank's main office in North Andover, Massachusetts. With over 26 years of business experience, including 8 in the banking industry, Mr. Corcoran has a broad range of management and customer-driven business skills.

RiverBank, formerly Lawrence Savings Bank, was established in 1868 and is a community bank with a strong retail deposit and commercial lending focus. The Bank has over \$600 million in assets and has branch offices in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, and Salem, New Hampshire.



## 25 years in the making and still growing STRONG!

Susan Leger-Ferraro is the Founder, CEO, and Innovator of Little Sprouts Enrichment Centers. She has been realizing her dream of educating young children since she was 17 and opened a small center in Methuen, calling it Susan's Playpen.

In October 1984, Susan purchased a larger house in Methuen and re-opened as Little Sprouts Child Enrichment Centers.

As time went on, the word spread around the community about the great things that Susan was accomplishing at her center and her dream began to grow immensely. This was the start of something great for the local communities, and for early education.

25 years later, Little Sprouts has grown to 6 locations across the Merrimack Valley area along with recently opening up their 7<sup>th</sup> newest location in Roxbury at Roxbury Community College.

To help show their gratitude to the local community for growing with Little Sprouts, Susan is hosting a 25 Year Gala on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. at Salvatore's Restaurant in Lawrence at the Riverwalk.

The gala will feature a silent auction where proceeds are going to be donated the Doug Flutie Foundation and to the Literacy and Leadership Foundation. For more information about the gala please contact Jessica Todisco at 781-929-2858.

## Sal's Pizza helping out "Toys for Tots"



LAWRENCE – Sal Lupoli President/CEO of Sal's Pizza, Salvatore's, Mary's Pasta and Sandwiches and Riverwalk Properties is proud to announce that all Sal's Pizza, Salvatore's Restaurant's, Mary's Sandwiches and Pasta locations will be collecting wrapped toys for the Toys for Tots program. Each location is now a designated drop off spot for the United States Marine

Corp's Toys for Tots Program that delivers toys to children in need during the holiday season. ---All Sal's Pizza and Salvatore's Restaurant locations will offer a discounted 19 inch, 3 pound cheese pizza worth \$10.99 for only \$8.00 when a person drops off a new wrapped toy. Long time franchise owner Phil McCabe started the program last year and found it to be a huge success for the kids in need and the Toys For Tots Program.



The Sal's Pizza Companies have corporate-owned properties in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The business with over 30 locations has become a large retail franchise and wholesale operation serving all of New England with additional locations in California, Florida and coming soon in Virginia. Today Sal's Pizza and Salvatore's Restaurants make over 40,000 pizzas a week!

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# Proposal for Merrimack Valley Regional Innovation Network

"Culture Eats Strategy for Breakfast," Dr. Berkeley Cue, former Vice President of the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer

## John Michitson & Seth Itzkan

The Merrimack Valley has a golden opportunity to meet a regional challenge by once again demonstrating its ingenuity.

In two MassINC publications, "Mass Jobs: Meeting the Challenges of a Shifting Economy," released this month and, "Reconnecting Massachusetts Gateway Cities," released earlier this year, two conclusions were made regarding cities in the Merrimack Valley: 1. There have been significant job losses since 2001 that have not been recovered, and 2. The gateway cities, such as Lawrence and Haverhill, have not found their niche in the knowledge economy.

At the highly successful Green Chemistry Business Summit held at the Northern Essex Community College Technology Center in Haverhill on October 31, Dr. Berkeley Cue, former Vice President of the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, said that the biggest hurdle to deeper penetration of green chemistry in the pharmaceutical industry is that "culture eats strategy for breakfast." He cited compelling business cases for products based on green chemistry principles, but cautioned that the myth - if it is good for the environment it must be bad for business - still prevails because it has been embedded in our business culture for decades.

He believes that a mindset change is needed to routinely apply green chemistry and other Design for Environment (DfE) principles at the very beginning of product design, so that these three main benefits will prevail: 1. A manufacturing process that minimizes or eliminates hazardous wastes; 2. An end product that contains little or no hazardous materials; and 3. An environmentally sound manner to dispose of the

## SWEENEY: from page 11

actions concerning the sale of city-owned properties. Their blatant disregard for the process and fairness was a slap in the face to taxpayers and individuals placing bids.

Still, hope is on the horizon. Councilor Nilka Alvarez-Rodriguez has been trying to right the ship.

I honestly believe that Councilors Jorge Gonzales and Grisel Silva also want to do the right thing. Additionally the city will benefit from the professional leadership of newly elected City Councilors David Abdo, Michael Fielding, Frank Moran and Roger Twomey.

Now I wonder if I can get the State Ethics Commission and the Attorney General's Office interested in what happened regarding Providence Street. To be continued...



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.

*"Being in the San Francisco Bay area, I get to live in and near municipalities that are competing with each other in this way. Oakland was first with its no-Styrofoam law; San Francisco's law came 6 months later. San Jose will hopefully soon allow composing of used paper towels in corporate restrooms—catching up to San Francisco's existing allowance. Chicago and San Francisco are close for requiring green buildings (LEED certifications)."*

- Pamela Gordon, TFI President

product at the end of its lifetime. Dr. Cue's assertion presents an opportunity for the Merrimack Valley to meet the challenges identified in the MassINC reports - by helping to reverse the myth.

Technology Forecasters Inc. (TFI), a research and consulting firm from Silicon Valley that participated in the Green Chemistry Business Summit agrees



*"Dr. Berkeley Cue, former Vice President of the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, speaking at the Green Chemistry Business Summit at NECC in Haverhill on October 31st." [Cue] said that the biggest hurdle to deeper penetration of green chemistry in the pharmaceutical industry is that "culture eats strategy for breakfast."*

wholeheartedly with Dr. Cue's assertions. At the Summit, Technology Forecasters identified several tools to help change the culture at corporations in the United States to think about the ecology at the same level as profit.

According to TFI's President, Pamela Gordon, some municipalities are starting to address the needed mindset shift, "Being in the San Francisco Bay area, I get to live in and near municipalities that are competing with each other in this way.

Oakland was first with its no-Styrofoam law; San Francisco's law came 6 months later. San Jose will hopefully soon allow composing of used paper towels in corporate restrooms—catching up to San Francisco's existing allowance. Chicago and San Francisco are close for requiring green buildings (LEED certifications)." The Merrimack Valley aims to provide such leadership on a broader scale by networking.

The Merrimack Valley Regional Innovation Network (MVRIN) is being proposed to support rapid product development in the area of eco-friendly technologies through Intellectual Property (IP) brokering and cross-industry and financial sector

The Innovation Valley initiative seeks to help stimulate economic growth and quality-of-life enhancements in the Merrimack Valley. Every month we will report on innovative businesses, practices, and ideas that are helping to make Merrimack Valley the place to be. Look for our article in print media and online at [www.ivalley.org](http://www.ivalley.org).

collaboration - with initial focus on Green Chemistry. It will also support robust communication among the larger pool of regional stakeholders including elected officials, regional planners, academia, business and engaged citizenry.

The long-range goal is to brand the region as innovative and eco-friendly and

to attract and retain businesses that invent and develop emerging technologies, transform them into profitable, eco-friendly products and provide related services such as workforce development and retail. A key strategy is to help change corporate mindsets to apply Design for Environment principles at the start of product design as proposed by Dr. Cue. This will help brand the region and spur business development by encouraging a new class of eco-friendly products..

The proposed network would employ the model of "Open Innovation" that is streamlining product development and breaking the traditional "silos" of corporate research and development departments.

The network will facilitate the interaction of scientists, industrial executives, and financiers to co-develop profitable, eco-friendly products. An online emerging technologies marketplace complimented with face-to-face events and services will spawn corporate interaction and create investor opportunities. This approach is essential to keep the region viable as a center of clean technology industry for a global marketplace.



John Michitson was a Haverhill city councilor for 10 years; the last 2 as president. He is a manager and electrical engineer at the MITRE Corporation in

Bedford, Mass. John and his wife, Heidi, are enjoying the childhood of their 4-year-old daughter and 6 year-old son. email: [jmichitson@verizon.net](mailto:jmichitson@verizon.net)

The Merrimack Valley Regional Innovation Network would tie into and build upon the precedent setting networks already established in the Commonwealth for multidisciplinary collaboration and technology transfer. These models, all of which were represented at the Summit, include: (1) The Green Chemistry and Commerce Council, (2) Massachusetts Technology Transfer Center (MTTC), and (3) InnoCentive and Yet2.com

"Open Innovation Marketplaces."

In addition to supporting rapid product development, the MVRIN will build a coalition of regional stakeholders committed to economic growth and quality-of-life improvements through a trusted network that facilitates purposeful collaboration, timely and germane information sharing, and robust discussion.

Tim Jordan, Co-Chair of Team Haverhill said: "It is my personal belief that this could be a great opportunity for Haverhill to pursue this type of economic development.

It would be wonderful for the Merrimack Valley, and Haverhill in particular, to become a leader as the destination for innovative and eco-friendly companies to locate."

Topics from workforce development to international business management will be par for the course. This regional stakeholder communications network can be a template for the rest of the Commonwealth. Using the Merrimack Valley as a model, subsequent networks can be established in 4 other principal economic regions in Massachusetts: Greater Boston, Southeast Mass, Central Mass and Western Mass.

The MVRIN will be formed in close collaboration with the stakeholder agencies that played an instrumental roll in the Green Chemistry Business Summit and that are at the cutting-edge of Green Chemistry and economic innovation in the Commonwealth.

These are: 1. The Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council; 2. The Merrimack Valley Venture Forum; 3. The Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce; 4. The Warner-Babcock Institute of Green Chemistry; 5. InnoCentive; 6. Yet2.com; 7. Massachusetts Technology Transfer Center; 8. The Green Chemistry and Commerce Council; and 9. Beyond Benign Foundation.

Immediate next steps include (1) Surveying the Summit participants for their thoughts on moving forward, (2) Creating the regional impact assessment for how this network could affect the Merrimack Valley (what companies, industries and academic institutions would be most affected), and (3) Create the business model - how are revenues and IP shared by partners?



Seth Itzkan is president of Planet-TECH Associates, a consulting agency identifying innovations in economic development.

Recently, Mr. Itzkan helped The Boston Foundation to conceptualize and implement its Hub of Innovations tool. You can email him at [seth.itzkan@gmail.com](mailto:seth.itzkan@gmail.com)



In Memory of  
**Lawrence Police Officer  
 Kevin Callahan**

For those of us who knew and cared about you, time cannot heal the pain nor minimize the loss we feel since you left us. The number of people whose lives you touched and the joy you brought to the world is immeasurable. We miss you and we pray for you.



- The editors of the Valley Patriot

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PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

## Come on, gimme a kiss!

Boxford resident, "Prince" enjoys a warm November day eating hay and lounging around in the back yard of her owner, Kate Whitney (see page 4) while foster puppy, "Patsy" leaps up on her hind legs looking for a kiss from her new friend. Patsy is staying with the Whitney family in Boxford while waiting to be adopted by a responsible family who can give her a safe and loving home.

See page 4 for story



Residents of Marguerite's House Assisted Living gathered to show their appreciation to UNICO for their donation of a new entertainment centre. The celebration included an Italian Theme Day with pasta and meat sauce for lunch. Later in the day Fr. Peter Gori, OSA led the residents in prayer for all of those deceased members and family members of UNICO. Then everyone enjoyed Italian music while they feasted on gelato from Dolce Freddo Gelato in Methuen.

Standing above, UNICO Chaplain Fr. Peter Gori OSA and President, Tom Grella pose in front of the entertainment centre with Joanne Grella and Michael Slauter, Director of Marguerite's House. Mike is displaying the plaque expressing gratitude to UNICO for their generous support. UNICO is the largest Italian American Service Organization in the USA. Seated are residents, Dorothy Fischer, Rosaline Habeeb, Gaye Kamm and Connie Barbagallo of Marguerite's House gathered for the festivities.

## Wishing you Joy and Peace this Holiday Season and Throughout the Year



State Representative Linda Dean Campbell, Donald, Marie, Zachary, and Typhoon

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell has office hours in Methuen every Friday.

Methuen Senior Center, 10A.M.-11A.M. and City Hall 11A.M.-12P.M.

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## Town meeting, love it or leave it

George Vozeolas  
GUEST COLUMNIST

With another Special Town Meeting taking place last month, I would like to make it clear what I am trying to do and why.

First the why. Our existing town charter was adopted over 22 years ago and North Andover has grown considerably. Like an old sweater, we know it is comfortable but we need to make sure it still fits. If one was to examine several recent Town meetings that were held, you start to question if it still fits and then it becomes easy to understand the why

1) July 23, 2006 - Uncivil Disobedience

A Special Town Meeting was held to discuss trash fees. This Town Meeting set a State record for attendance and uncivil behavior. It pointed out deficiencies in our ability to support a town meeting, if everyone wanted to exercise their right to vote. For the override, we had 8,000 people vote, which was a good thing, now if they all show up for a Town Meeting - where do we hold it - Boston Garden? Fenway Park?

2) May 14, 15, & 21, 2007 - A Tale of Three Cities

Town Meeting was extended to three nights with attendance of 1300, 400, 160. Who would like to debate that if any of the closely contested articles were voted on another night the results would be different. Does that make sense to anyone? Is that any way to run a town?

3) June 4, 2007 - Bataan Death March with Voting Cards

A Special Town Meeting was held to approve the 40R zoning at Osgood Landing. Despite a recommendation by the FINCOM for further evaluation, five hundred people endured 2 1/2 hours of discussions and when the issue was put to vote - it passed 495 to 4. Seems like an awfully long time for a decision that was nearly unanimous.

Don't forget this meeting was delayed first from February then May. If North Andover is telling businesses we will roll out the red carpet for them, let's not tell them how long it is!!

4) November 26, 2007 - The Doomsday Scenario

The Open Town Meeting Doomsday scenario goes something like this: A special interest group (Wireless Bylaw Committee?) gets 200 signatures, which forces the selectmen to call a special town meeting (as specified in our current charter), a few people show up (no quorum is specified) and the article is

passed which serve the narrows needs of the special interest group but not the needs of the town as a whole. So right now we are half way there - let's see how many people show up. This meeting will cost the town \$5,000 - 10,000. Now I can't speak to the legitimacy of this issue but if no one shows up to analyze the merits of the article and it passes, it could cost the town another \$10K to defend litigations.

Another way to look at this meeting, there were four articles on the warrant, so this town meeting will cost the town \$2,500 a decision. In addition to delaying cell tower permits, there are 2 articles expanding the scope of serving liquor. A humorous thought, if we pass having a moratorium on issuing cell tower permit renewals and expand the scope of liquor licenses, how will the drunks be able to call a taxi to get a ride home?

Seriously, I am not sure how any person can reflect on the past meetings and not ask "Is there a better way?"

My answer is: "There has to be, I don't know what it is, but I want to find out."

Which leads into - what I am trying to do. I am circulating a petition to have a charter commission elected which would review our charter and then recommend either modifications to our existing charter or adoption of a new charter. A nine-member charter commission is elected and their recommendations are voted on again. All charter commission meetings are open meetings with plenty of public participation so we will have a lot of say in what happens.

If you agree will all this, then here is the rub. Petitions don't sign themselves.

You need to sign a petition!! Better yet, get some petitions and ask your neighbors to sign one at the neighborhood holiday get-together or school holiday socials.

We have a little under 1,000 signatures and we need 2,400, so nothing will move forward unless people step up and help out.

You can get petitions from Joyce Bradshaw in the Town Clerks office or you can contact me at [NAC charter@comcast.com](mailto:NAC charter@comcast.com) [mailto: [NAC charter@comcast.net](mailto:NAC charter@comcast.net)]. It is best to return signed petitions to the Town Clerks office as well. If you have a business in North Andover and would be willing to put a petition out and be added to list on the left or if you are looking for additional ways to help please contact me [mailto: [NAC charter@comcast.net](mailto:NAC charter@comcast.net)].

One last thing, Tracy Watson who is an advocate of reviewing our town charter is running for Selectman. Besides being a supporter for a charter review, she has lots of positive ideas for the Town.

## SCIENCE: continued from page 3

axle are repelled by magnets fixed to the base of the motor, but FOSS never explained why this same force would not stop the rotation after the motor's axle turned by half a full rotation. Key to the basic functioning of an electric motor is that the polarity of the rotating magnets are reversed every half rotation to keep the rotation going.

The Houghton Mifflin text explained that this is necessary (in fact, it is the function of the motor's commutator and brushes) and therefore provided a full explanation of how a motor functions. The FOSS booklets routinely gloss over important facts or key physical mechanisms such as this, while the Houghton Mifflin text-books routinely provide more complete explanations; albeit ones that are tailored to the elementary school level.

Publishing school textbooks and educational materials is big business. Those with Ph.D. degrees from our colleges of education periodically come up with plans to "revolutionize" teaching and learning. As paid consultants, they join with the publishers, assisting them in developing something "new" and "innovative" to increase profits and market share for the publishers and add to the list of published works for the educators.

As with most consumer product industries, styles are changed and new features are added as a matter of course, needed or not. In the educational publishing industry, we are not just talking millions, but billions of dollars.

Past pedagogical failures have been, for the most part, strongly endorsed at their inception by major education professional associations and college of education gurus. Inquiry-based instruction is no exception. Like the now defunct "open classroom" theory, the "whole word" method of learning to read, and "new math" (now labeled "fuzzy math") - all were total failures, to the detriment of millions of American students, and all were once warmly endorsed at the outset by the education professors in their ivory towers. [Note: I am not referring to professors who are actually experts in some subject area and teach that subject area. Instead, I'm referring specifically to professors in our "education colleges" that are experts at nothing more than inventing new teaching methods.]

Alan Cromer, Professor of Physics - a real professor! - at Northeastern University, in his paper "Science Standards: An Update," described the trend to inquiry-based instruction as "a redefinition of science that borders on antisience."

He remarked that the trend "is about science for the least engaged students, not the most engaged."

A document published by the National Academy of Sciences, entitled National Science Education Standards (NSES), has probably had the most direct influence and has taken a bold, if not insistent, stand for mass adoption of the inquiry-based approach.

In 1998 however, the California Academic Standards Commission released a draft report of its own three-day standards writing conference. According to Professor Cromer, "The California Draft breaks with NSES in a number of important ways. First, the Draft doesn't confuse methods and goals. It doesn't say how science is to be taught, but only what is to be learned. Inquiry is not touted as the 'the central strategy for

teaching science.' Second, it doesn't confound the teaching of science with the burden of teaching sociology, history, philosophy, and technology as well... Third, the Physical Science part of the Draft is organized into teachable units, with detailed descriptions of the expectations of each unit. This is very helpful for designing curricula and allocating time." He reports that defenders of NSES "are actively campaigning against the [California] Draft precisely because student-initiated inquiry is not central to it."

Cromer concludes that the NSES proposal "is a radical postmodern document that replaces focused investigation with student-initiated inquiry in order to define a finger-painting version of science that is accessible to all. This movement has been met head-on by the movement to make schools accountable through statewide testing. The logic of testing requires standards that are far more specific than NSES supporters find acceptable. [They complain] that the California 'draft standards have too much detailed content and too much technical jargon at all grade spans.' Yet details and specific vocabulary are absolutely necessary if the standards are to be the basis for statewide testing."

The new and fashionable inquiry-based method is the latest buzz. By the time these programs hit the classrooms, the media and the educational blogs have been saturated with publicity and rave reviews. Those with an interest in serious evaluation hardly have a chance to critically assess a new program's effectiveness before wholesale introduction into classrooms across the nation begins.

All the while, publishers pour millions of dollars into marketing materials, pamphlets, videos, and sales pitches to school districts. The promotion video on the inquiry-based program shown in North Andover was strictly Hollywood. The child actors knew their lines and followed the script as they demonstrated how the program is supposed to work (in theory). But there can be a serious disconnect between theory and practice. Parents and school administrators should not be misled or fooled by hypothetical, make-believe scenarios on video used to promote education programs or products for their children.

What is Inquiry-Based Science, and how may it impact student's test scores? See Part 2 in next month's Valley Patriot.

Editors Note: The following researched article by Ralph Wilbur is being serialized by The Valley Patriot into two parts. This month, Part 1 examines one school system's failed experiences with experimental teaching techniques. It focuses on their latest new venture, Inquiry-Based Science, and School Committee inattention to selection of teaching materials. Part 2, appearing next month, will explain more fully what Inquiry-Based Science teaching is all about, its costs, and the handicap it poses to improving student test scores. For the complete article, see our website, [www.valleypatriot.com](http://www.valleypatriot.com).



Ralph Wilbur is the vice-president of The Valley Patriot, a member of the North Andover Taxpayers Association and the owner of Graphic Litho on Glen Street in

Lawrence. You can email your comments to [sales@graphiclitho.com](mailto:sales@graphiclitho.com)



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## Debriefing my 7<sup>th</sup> grader

Paula Porten  
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

Last month, my 7<sup>th</sup> grade daughter at the North Andover Middle School came home from school and said that she learned in her Spanish class how the leader of Venezuela (Hugo Chavez) was a "good guy" for giving cheap oil to poor people here in the US. She also said that she learned in class that Chavez hated George Bush.

At first, I was shocked, but once I was able to speak without throwing a fit, I had to explain to her all about Hugo Chavez and Joe Kennedy. I told her how President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela paired up Joe Kennedy in providing oil to low income families through the program dial-joe-4-oil.

But, I also had to take the time to debrief her from the notion that the dictator from Venezuela was a "good guy". I told her how Chavez' motivation was simply to exploit the United States and that if he really cared about poor people, he would take care of his own. I explained that Venezuela was a sham of a democracy where free speech was punished by the government, that Chavez was a brutal dictator who closed down TV and radio stations, jailed and murdered people who spoke out against him and that Chavez was no friend of the United States. It had nothing to do with President Bush.

We had a long talk about how Hugo Chavez used the platform of the United Nations to spew hatred for the United States and that he called George Bush "The Devil" while embracing the president of Iran who wants to exterminate every Jew living in the world today.

"But, why didn't my teacher tell me all this?" my daughter asked. "Apparently your teacher is a fan of Hugo Chavez and is only telling you the things she likes about him," I had to respond. "It is something you are going to be dealing with throughout your high school and college career," I told her.

I also explained how Hugo Chavez was a friend and admirer of Fidel Castro and has aligned himself with Cuba, a communist country which is also an



Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez with Cuban dictator Fidel Castro

enemy of the United States. She seemed so surprised as I told my 7<sup>th</sup> grader that Joe Kennedy should be ashamed of himself for teaming up with Chavez, especially in light of the fact the Joe Kennedy's Uncle, the late President John F. Kennedy, fought against Cuba and communism and defended free speech.

I then called my local member of the North Andover School Committee and told him the sad story of the indoctrination of the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Spanish class. Finally, I printed out several stories for my daughter to read about the so called "good guy" of Venezuela that her teacher had her practically idolizing, including the Wall Street Journal editorial from last year "Dial Joe-4-Chavez" which I recommend all of her 7<sup>th</sup> grade classmates and her teacher read.

It was bad enough that a teacher in the North Andover Schools was trying to indoctrinate my child to revere an anti-Semitic dictator, but what made it worse, was that it wasn't a social studies teacher whose job it is to discuss current events and the nation of Venezuela. This was a Spanish teacher in a Spanish class.

Who knew?



Paula Porten is a Valley Patriot editor, a former member of the N.A. Finance Committee and a member of the N.A. Republican Town Committee. She is also an attorney at the Tarshi Law Office in Lawrence. You can email her at [plporten@comcast.net](mailto:plporten@comcast.net)

## Silence of town officials at N.A. Special Town Meeting is unacceptable

Sandy Glead  
NORTH ANDOVER UNITED

This Monday's special town meeting demonstrated far more about the shortcomings of municipal government than it did about the average citizen's desire to exert control over wireless communications. The wireless article sparked very legitimate concerns about:

\* our town's failure to monitor current cell tower permits

\* our town's failure to enforce our own cell tower bylaws

\* the presence of a cell tower in a church steeple 300 feet from the Atkinson School, clearly in violation of the 650 setback required in our bylaw.

Our town attorney advised citizens that federal wireless communications laws typically override local wireless zoning laws in court. He did not speak to the issues of who is responsible for monitoring and enforcing our bylaws, why it hasn't been done, and what procedures are in

place to revise unenforceable bylaws to bring them into compliance with state and federal statutes.

When former Board of Selectman Susan Haltmaier asked why these permits were allowed to expire and run up large, probably uncollectible punitive fees, and whether our Planning Board had sent letters out to wireless vendors encouraging them to speed up their permit applications because a moratorium was pending, the silence was deafening.

North Andover United believes that it is unacceptable for town officials to ignore important questions from our citizens. Not answering Ms. Haltmaier's questions damages the credibility and accountability of our local government.

Ms. Haltmaier's first question had everything to do with sound municipal management practices. Whose responsibility is it to oversee these permits? Town Manager Mark Rees owes citizens an explanation of why the

## ALL ABOUT GEORGETOWN

### Scumbag developer or responsible businessman?

Lonnie Brennan

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Some are referring to developer John Longo as a lying scumbag for reneging on an agreement with the Georgetown Planning Board to deliver two affordable housing units. All very strange. Seems in 2002, Mr. Longo was granted permission to build on 24 lots (reportedly one of the more recent selling at over 600K) in exchange to a pledge to devote two units to affordable housing. Agreement signed, he went forth and built his homes. Now, he wants a good-sized part of his bond money back.

That's part of the over \$200K that the Planning Board has in a tripartite agreement, as a guarantee that Mr. Longo will fulfill all his promises.

Problem is, the units haven't been built. And at their Nov. 14th meeting, Mr. Longo informed the board that he didn't want to talk about his earlier promise and told the board that they can talk to his lawyer about it. Simply distilled: he made a deal and got the green light to build. He built and now seeks to change the terms of the bargain. Not very nice play.

But who would expect nice play from most developers in Town? Their goal appears to be: make a killing and move on. Promise anything and never deliver. All rather sad if true. I, for one, hope that's not the case with Mr. Longo. I'm sure it was a heated moment, a misperception, a bad night. We all have them. It happens. Goal now is to shake off the mistake, the misstep, and move forward.

Most big men can.

On Nov 6, 2007, Mr. Longo wrote a letter asking the Planning Board to lower the bond. Eight days later at the Planning Board meeting, the Board said sure, we can talk. Where are our two affordable housing units?

It ended up with threats of lawyers and Mr. Longo storming out of the building. Rumors have floated on the off-camera language uttered in the stairwell, but I have no confirmation. The fact remains, if a man gives you his commitment, his pledge, and then reneges on it, what kind of a man is he? Would you trust him? Would you release his bond money? This will be an interesting one to watch. Will the duly elected members of the Planning Board cave to a developer? Or hold him to his promise?

Will some lawyer find some trick to release Mr. Longo from his promise to the Town? Will the Planning Board ever trust any developer again? Or, will, in this most holy of seasons, kindness find all involved, and sanity and trust be as rapidly restored as a smile on a previously sullen face? Stay tuned. More details as soon as I get them.



Lonnie Brennan is a selectman in Georgetown and the owner of the Chocolate Cellar. He was the Republican candidate for state representative in 2006

and is active in the Republican party. You can email him at [lonnie@thechocolatecellar.com](mailto:lonnie@thechocolatecellar.com).

#### ROWLEY - GEORGETOWN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**Sunday -12/2, 9AM, Mass.** There will be an installation of officers for the year 2007/08. The event will take place at the Rowley St. Mary parish in Rowley. An invitation is extended to the public to observe. **Tuesday -12/4 at 6PM** the annual Light Up For Christ night will take place at the council of the Knights on East Main Street in Georgetown. We will be serving hot dogs, hamburgers, and all Brother Knights and families are invited. We have asked member knights to bring a bag of non-perishable foodstuffs for the People-Helping-People program for their Christmas food drive. **Wednesday -12/19** is the annual Christmas party that the Knights celebrate at their council home on East Main St. in Georgetown. Please bring an unlabeled gift in the ten to fifteen dollar range to be put under the tree for the Yankee swap. This is a well-attended event and the invitation is extended to all eligible men who wish to check out the Knights.

permits weren't tracked. Then both he and the Board of Selectmen owe us an explanation of what systems have now been implemented to ensure that the permits [all permits] are renewed and not allowed to lapse again. If we have bylaws, we are legally required to follow them – not get tripped up in unenforceability issues we've created for ourselves. If the bylaws themselves are inherently flawed, then we are long-overdue in revising them to make them enforceable.

Ms. Haltmaier's second question concerns whether the Planning Board is acting in the best interests of the town or the holders of the permits. If they sent out a letter, it's a public document, and they need to release it to the public, now. The Planning Board needs to confirm that their actions must always put the interests of the town first. They also need to explain how or why a permit was issued that so flagrantly violated our bylaws,

allowing installation of a cell tower in an area occupied by three schools and close residential neighborhoods.

North Andover United took no position on the moratorium article itself. Our concern is that the terms of the **Joint Resolution**, pledging open and accountable government, be upheld. Our Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Finance Committee, and every other committee and board in town must understand that as citizens of North Andover, we deserve honest answers to honest questions, regardless of whether the news reveals bad judgment or just benign neglect.

Strong leadership requires you to be accountable for your actions when the going gets rough. We ask that our officials do the right thing – answer Susan's honest questions with honest answers, explain the cell tower next door to Atkinson, and do it at the next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting.

## ARINC: continued from page 10

airports. Using this technology in an emergency response communication system means we can now talk to any fire department, police department or ambulance on the same channel so we can communicate with each other.”

“Before we had this system, we couldn’t talk directly to North Andover. So, for example, if Dracut has a radio from Ipswich or Topsfield, those two communities could talk to each other with just that one radio. But nobody else in those units could communicate with anyone else but the person who had the radio.”

“Now, with this ARINC communication system, we can put every department responding to an emergency onto the same frequency no matter where they are coming from. I can even call in to the Fire Alarm [building] and they can patch me into the system. I can talk to my men right on the scene.”

Under a plan designed by Homeland Security, Massachusetts has been sectioned off into fire districts (see map) with one community in each district being fire control points. Currently there are four control points: Lawrence (in district 15), Beverly (in district 5), Ashland (in district 14) and Westford (in district 6).

The ARINC communication system was designed so that there is enough redundancy to allow other targeted communities to take over if there is a fire or other emergency tying up emergency officials within a particular district.

“If there is another explosion like the one in Danvers last year, and Beverly [being the control point in that district] is all tied up with their own fire or emergency, they can hand off command and control to Lawrence,” Chief Takvorian continued. “We have all the information in our computer system so that we can call up exactly what that community needs and which neighboring communities to notify first.”

“For example,” he continued, “if a community calls us and says they need a forestry truck, we can pull up this system to see which community is closest to the emergency and dispatch that forestry truck to the community in need. Until we got the ARINC system we would have to start calling other communities to see who had a forestry truck and we lost valuable time responding to that emergency.”

Takvorian said that because Lawrence has an emergency communication system which in a stand-alone building, (as opposed to other communities that house their 911 call centers in a police or fire station), Lawrence was chosen as the first community in the state to receive the funding and training.

Currently, Lawrence and Beverly are interoperable and have nearly completed all their training and installation of the ARINC communication system, with Ashland and Westford scheduled to come on line early next year. “Right now we are working with cardboard cards that tell us, if Danvers goes to a third alarm, here



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Sy Uliano Jr. and Tom Arcand of the Lawrence Fire Alarm on Bodwell Street manning the ARINC communication system. Uliano has already been trained on the system and is now training other Lawrence officials to use the system effectively.

are the pieces of equipment that Lawrence should call out for help. But, later when we get this system all hooked up, we will be able to use the computer program to give us the list right away and the ARINC system will allow the radios of everyone responding to be able to communicate.”

Next Month The Valley Patriot will detail more about the ARINC system and provide updated information as other communities begin to train and use the emergency communication system.

# Merry Christmas From our family to Yours!!

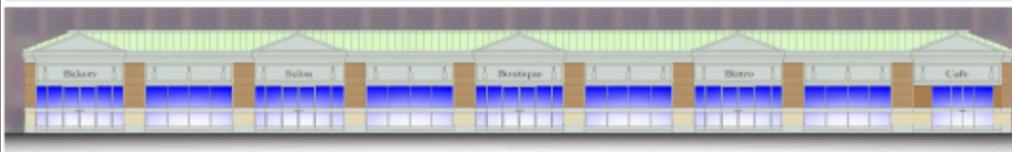
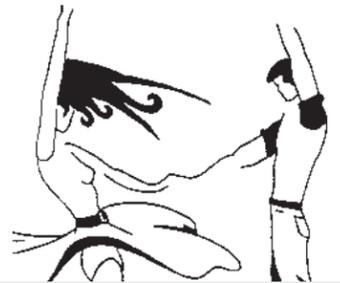
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## Mayor Manzi & Superintendent Whitten announce Methuen scholarship

Mayor William M. Manzi, III and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jeanne Whitten are pleased to announce the creation of the Charles J. Amshy and Sally A. Amshy Scholarship Fund.

Sally Amshy and her late husband, Charles J. Amshy, designated that their legacy aid students who have graduated from Methuen High School. Sally Ann (Vaitkunas) Amshy was born in Lawrence on December 20, 1911 to William and Madeline Vaitkunas, who were immigrants from Lithuania.

Sally attended school in Lawrence and Methuen. She graduated from Searles High School in 1930 and married Charles Amshy in 1933. She worked in local mills and later as a secretary at Raytheon Company in Andover prior to her retirement. A member of the Methuen Senior Center, she enjoyed taking trips with the seniors and gardening. Sally Amshy's desire was that the family's funds be used as scholarships to deserving students of Methuen High School.

These funds have been turned over to the City of Methuen and are to be maintained and invested for the purpose of annually awarding scholarships to graduates of Methuen High School who shall be attending a college or university to further their education. The Charles J. Amshy and Sally A. Amshy Scholarship

Fund Committee will award \$5,000 each to four deserving seniors at this year's graduation ceremonies. The trustees would utilize the funds for college tuition and/or room and board, books and related expenses for needy and deserving students. As part of the criteria for receiving these funds, it is clearly stated in her last will and testament that a scholarship committee be established, known as the Charles J. Amshy and Sally A. Amshy Scholarship Fund Committee.

The Scholarship Fund Committee is comprised of Mayor Manzi and/or his designee Colleen McCarthy, Superintendent of Schools Whitten and/or her designee Ann Marie Krusell, the Principal of Methuen High School, Arthur Nicholson, and the City Auditor, Thomas J. Kelly.

Applications are available in the Methuen High Guidance office. Applicants must be a Methuen High School Senior beginning his/her plan of study in an educational program above high school within six (6) months of high school graduation.

The awards and amounts will be based on the following criteria: financial need, academic performance, character, involvement in extracurricular and community activities during their high school years, a personal essay, and letters of recommendation. Semi-finalists will be invited to an interview.

RONNIE'S RANTS

# Ruminations

Ronnie Ford

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Last month I attended a great affair honoring Veterans Day and the two hundred thirty-second birthday of the USMC, 11-10-07.

It's hard to imagine, the sacrifices made by U.S. Marines goes back that far, (not quite as far as the US Army Rangers). Seeing the monument of the Marine Corps and their Corpsmen. gave me a tingling experience and a great time. Happy birthday and Semper Fi USMC.

\*The City of Lawrence lost five incumbents, some good, some bad. A switch in their school committee is also going to happen. If Lawrence is to become the vibrant city it once was, it is crucial that the elected officials put their personal agendas and their egos in their collective back pockets. This also pertains to Methuen, Haverhill and Lowell.

I say to them all, you need to find a common ground and stop the bickering and one-ups-man-ship that goes on. You work for the citizens. Do the people's business! We will be watching!

\*Methuen still has a powder puff derby, electing three members of the fairer sex. I always get a kick out of people who state that, if women ran the world there would be no wars. Maggie Thatcher kicked A-- over a few pelicans in the Falkland Islands. Indira Gandhi invaded Red China! Who in their right mind even thinks of invading a nation with a multi-million man army?

There was the princess of Ceylon, or one of those countries, who lopped off heads like they were pineapples, to say nothing about Golda Maier — she would fight anyone. Yeah, sure, women are soft and kind and nice. Try messing with one of their off-spring.

Oh I forgot, Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan. If she had her way as prime

minister, she will be as tough as she is beautiful. Bye bye Taliban.

\*Up in Haverhill, Ken Quimby finally got elected. He has been running for office since Custer got it at the Little Big Horn (some perseverance huh?). Jim Rurak did a lot worse than I thought he would. Jim is a great guy, but Fiorentini doesn't sleep and I knew he would be hard to beat.

City Councilor Bill Ryan is still around. He has held every office imaginable in the city of Haverhill. His dad asked him what he would like to be when he grew up. Bill answered EVERYTHING! People love him though.

\*The Lowellians have some new city councilors sitting on that distinguished board, including Allen Kasanjian. Word has it that Bernie Lynch might be under the bus, or at least on the verge of being thrown there. Kasanjian isn't giving Lynch anything for Christmas this year. If Lynch gets anything, it will probably be a gift certificate to a Dale Carnegie course. Keep your eyes and ears open for some fireworks in Lowell in the coming year. Look to Bud Caufield for your next Mayor.

\*There is a petition to eliminate the excise tax and lower prop 2 1/2 to prop 1. Any questions, contact Ronnie Ford at 978-686-3365. BOTH OF THESE ARE NOW DEAD!!

Finally, the freedom and privileges we enjoy in this great country are very expensive. To all those who wore the uniform, thanks and God Bless.



Ronnie Ford is a Methuen resident and the former host of the "Hot Line" radio program. Ford is also a former methuen police officer and a former member of the Methuen school committee and city council. You can email

Ronnie at [irishmmr@earthlink.net](mailto:irishmmr@earthlink.net)

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# Merrimack Valley Red Cross

**Kathleen Corey Rahme**  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Having one of the world's most recognizable logos, second only to the United Nations, the Red Cross invokes an unquestionable level of comfort. I had the opportunity to meet with Jay Foley, Director of Community Development at the Bradford headquarters and he was able to share some very interesting things with me about the Merrimack Valley Red Cross.

There is an expectation that the Red Cross is always dealing with tsunamis or hurricanes like Katrina but in actuality, the Red Cross is also very busy with local needs. The local chapter serves the 25 cities of the Merrimack Valley including Lawrence, Methuen, Lowell, Haverhill, and Salem, New Hampshire. Some 650,000 residents are in this service area. While the 2006 Mother's Day flood received national attention and the local chapter of the Red Cross was very busy, Foley noted that in the past year, 2007, a large number of fires, especially in Greater Lowell and Greater Lawrence areas made a greater impact on the service level. Surprisingly, 500 residents were served in 2006 (including those affected by the floods) and more than 1000 have been served this year.

Less publicized is the work that the American Red Cross performs on a regular basis. Foley remarked, "When a family in your town was on the street in front of their fire ravaged home, it was the American Red Cross of the Merrimack Valley who showed up to provide the food, shelter, clothing, health, mental health and referral services that they desperately needed."

The key to this operation is volunteers. There is a board of directors who are all

volunteers. There are local disaster action teams and they are all volunteers. The local chapter has only five employees. The local chapter recruits and trains all volunteers and they respond 24-7-365 as needed. Every volunteer is screened and background checks are conducted. Their individual training is varied after receiving basic training. Some are oriented toward office staffing needs while others are trained in disaster assessment. In rare situations, they can also use one day volunteers. This need would be for a large scale disaster.

Local chapters also deploy volunteers across the country and sometimes the world as needed. They respond to disasters like tornadoes and wild fires. The Red Cross pays the expenses of these volunteers while they are on the road and they often live in shelters with other volunteers during their deployment. Foley had the opportunity to volunteer during Katrina which was a life changing experience for him.

The Red Cross model is very impressive. Each local chapter must be capable of sustaining itself during a very large disaster for up to five days. It must be able to deliver services independently for this amount of time with all the necessary resources including staff and materials while other chapters deploy assistance. The average local chapter could not be capable of managing a very large disaster without this system. This is how the network of Red Cross chapters works.

Local donations are the key to the existence and survival of each chapter. They depend on the local support to be able to get the job done. They also work with each city in their jurisdiction for disaster preparedness. Shelter agreements



PHOTO: COURTESY, JAY FOLEY

Jay Foley, American Red Cross Director of Community Development, volunteering for Katrina efforts.

are in place. Local high schools are often used during disasters because they provide the perfect accommodations of space, toilets, showers, and kitchen needs. Methuen High School was used during the 2006 floods.

The guiding principles make the Red Cross a very attractive agency. These include universality, neutrality, humanity and independence. These are amazing attributes. They are not a government agency yet they are chartered by the United States government to do the job. They are a not-for-profit and are a four-star rated charity for the sixth year in a row by the Charity Navigator ([www.charitynavigator.com](http://www.charitynavigator.com)) a watchdog of the nation's nonprofit sector, because \$91 out of every dollar goes directly to services.

All Red Cross disaster services are provided free. Beyond the fires, tsunamis and tornadoes, you know the work of the Red Cross. They are about more than blood drives. They train certified nurse's assistants in their Bradford location, they teach children to swim, they train hundreds in CPR, and they have a long and proud history of involvement in our armed services.

Perusing the antique poster collection in Foley's office reminded me of their

numerous and varied contributions. Donations are accepted all year. They can be made in memory of someone or in honor of someone. Mr. Foley indicated the need is great because the chapter is fiscally challenged. There have been so many more disasters this year. For more information about how you can be part of the solution and for a greater understanding of this valuable resource in our community, visit their web site at [www.ARCMV.org](http://www.ARCMV.org). Please consider helping them to continue to help you. Donations can be mailed directly to the headquarters located at 177 Ward Hill Avenue, Ward Hill, MA 01835.

As Jay Foley stated, "We need your help now so we can help you and your neighbors tomorrow. You count on us all year long. We're counting on you today."



Kathleen Corey Rahme is the former Central District Councilor in Methuen and was elected as a city councilor "at large" in 2005. She is currently the vice-chair of the city council and is the founder of the Methuen Youth Corps. She hosts a TV show honoring our veterans named: "Call to Serve." You can e-mail her at [kcoryrahme@comcast.net](mailto:kcoryrahme@comcast.net)

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Barbara Peary, M.Ed.  
VALLEY PATRIOT PARENTING SPECIALIST

**I have noticed that some of my daughter's friends – all twelve year olds- are starting to wear eye makeup and lipstick to school. This to me is too young. My feeling is to tell her she can wear it for special occasions, but not to school until she is fifteen.**

You are in charge, it is your decision. Be prepared for arguments and have some consequences in hand, if she chooses to disobey you.

**My five year old is a trash collector. Picks up papers, etc. off the street after being told time and again not to do this and being disciplined when he has disobeyed.**

This does have health repercussions, so you should help him drop the habit.

Since punishment has not succeeded, go the opposite route and reward him. Sit down with him and tell him that a favorite toy can be earned. Give him a reasonable amount of days, say three or four, and if he can go that long without picking up papers, etc. he will earn the toy.

At the same time, encourage him to collect acceptable items, rocks, leaves, twigs. You might try to get him started on a rock collection or a leaf collection and help him identify the ones he has chosen.

**My four and a half year old is starting to try to tie her shoes. How can I help?**

One way to help is to put your child on your lap, as you tie her shoe. From this angle, she will be able to clearly see what you are doing. For most children, the easiest technique to master is looping each string like a bunny ear and then tying the loops into a knot.

Teacher supply stores sell inexpensive shoe lacing boards that can be useful or you could have her practice with her

shoes removed, this is easier to do than when it is on the foot itself.

Children need well developed small motor skills to tie shoes, so if she tries and gets frustrated encourage her to stop trying for a few weeks.

**My teenage daughter loves to babysit and has talked about getting a job in a day care center after school. What kinds of qualities are they looking for in their teen helpers?**

Usually teenagers supplement the regular staff from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. By that time the staff has worked with the children all day so a high energy level is a definite plus.

Directors look for young people with good judgment, a sense of humor, compassion for children and the ability to be flexible and patient. Teenagers are not expected to have knowledge about children's physical or developmental needs. Directors seeing the above qualities in a potential staff member know that training can instill the information needed over time.

**I am a single female parent at loss as to what to do about all the “spam” that keeps appearing on my home computer. My young children should not be exposed to all this stuff, but the computer is new to me, I am learning with use.**

One suggestion that seems to work is combining numbers with your name, if you use it as your computer address. For example, instead of using John Smith, have the address read 123JohnSmith987. Check under your “mail center.” There should be a spam folder where you can add words that will prevent some of this from appearing. If you can't do it yourself, ask a friend. Someone will know how to show you.



Please send questions to RAISE 'EM RIGHT™, e-mail to RAISEEMRIGHT@aol.com.

SIMPLE WISDOM

Different kind of angels

Gail Van Kleeck  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The Christmas more than 20 years ago, when my sister made me an angel, was nothing at all like the perfect Christmas I'd tried to create. While the weather was bitter and blustering, there wasn't any snow and my husband's father was so frail and feeble that all of us knew it would be our last Christmas together. Our differing sense of sadness caused our entire family to be sometimes distant and impatient with each other. While I'd shopped and wrapped and decorated and baked in the hopes of making this bitter-sweet holiday more perfect, the harder I tried, the more tired, heartsick I felt.

When Christmas morning finally arrived, I watched with a sort of resigned melancholy as my family unwrapped their gifts then reached out for one of my own. Lying amidst the tissue in the box was a Christmas angel that bore absolutely no resemblance to my blonde-haired, nymph-bodied, harp-playing image of the way angel should look.

She was about a foot long and my sister had made her from paper-mache, fashioning her untidy hair from wads of typing paper dipped into coffee colored paste. Her arms and legs ended with such abruptness that harp playing and golden stair climbing were completely out of the question. Her body which was totally naked except for two poorly proportioned wings, was decidedly more lumpy than cherubic and sported a pair of flaccid and sadly misshapen breasts. “My whole life looks like this pathetic little angel”

I thought miserably. Then I looked down again at the present I was holding. Suddenly my eyes filled with tears as I imagined my sister's gleeful pleasure in making her for me. When I looked up, something in the room had changed.

For the first time I noticed that our son had draped himself on the arm of his sister's chair, that my mother-in law had reached out to hold her ailing husband's hand, and that my grieving husband was looking at all of us with both tenderness and love. I felt the gentle warmth of the fire in our fireplace, smelled the aroma of our Christmas dinner and noticed that great white flakes of snow had begun to fall silently outside our window.

It was amazing how perfect our imperfect Christmas seemed when I saw it through my heart instead of my eyes.

This bitter sweet holiday season is so often filled with both tender and sad memories and with hopes and dreams that have yet to come true. In the midst of that, I wish each of you the gift of seeing life's different kinds of angels through your heart's more compassionate, accepting and loving eyes.

WHAT WE FOCUS ON IS TRULY WHAT WE SEE



To E-mail International inspirational author and motivational story teller, Gail Van Kleeck gail@simplewisdom.com

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Members of the Northshore Youth Symphony Orchestra (NYSO) will perform their winter “Afternoon of Concerts” on Sunday, Dec. 9, 2007. The concerts, sponsored by the Institution for Savings and the Ipswich Cultural Council will take place at Ipswich Performing Arts Center at Ipswich High School on Route 1A and 133, just west of Ipswich center. A variety of music will be performed by the ensembles and orchestras that make up NYSO. The 3:00 p.m. concert will feature the two Prelude String Ensembles, Intermezzo Orchestra, the Junior, Senior and Senior Flute choirs and the Clarinet Choir. The 5:00 p.m. concert will feature the Senior Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. Admission is free. All are welcome to attend and the event is handicapped accessible. A reception will be held between concerts.

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YOUR HEALTH BY DR. RALLIE McALLISTER

# Family meals promote good health

## DR. RALLIE McALISTER

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

Now that the holiday season has officially arrived, many families will be gathering around their dining room tables to enjoy good food and fellowship. Eating together is beneficial for the whole family, but it's especially important for children and teens, according to a growing body of research.

University of Minnesota researchers surveyed more than 1,500 students while they were in high school and again when they were 20 years old. The primary goal of the survey was to determine the long-term effects of family meals on diet quality and the structure and frequency of meals.

In September 2007, the researchers announced their findings: Having more meals with the family during adolescence is associated with healthier eating habits and more nutritious food choices during adulthood. Young adults who ate the most family meals were found to consume more fruits and vegetables and fewer soft drinks compared to those who had grown up eating solo.

After following 8,000 children from kindergarten to third grade, researchers at the University of Missouri-Columbia

recently concluded that kids who ate fewer meals with their families had a significantly higher risk for becoming overweight or obese. Previous research has demonstrated that young children who regularly eat meals with their families are less likely to struggle with weight issues as teenagers and adults.

If you want to maximize the health benefits of family meals, turning off the television is a great strategy. According to a survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation, an estimated 63 percent of American households keep the television turned on during mealtimes, a habit that contributes to a greater risk for obesity in people of all ages.

It's easy to eat too much when you're dining in front of a TV set, primarily because you tend to pay more attention to what's on the tube than to what's in your stomach. While you're tuned in to your favorite show, you can easily tune out your internal signals of hunger and satiety, and you may end up eating far more than you wanted or needed.

Studies show that young children who eat while watching television eat fewer vegetables and whole grains than children who dine with the television off. TV dining also leads to greater consumption

of fried foods, pre-packaged items, and sodas.

There's another reason that watching TV can be fattening.

Restaurants and food manufacturers go to great lengths to tempt us to eat more — and more often.

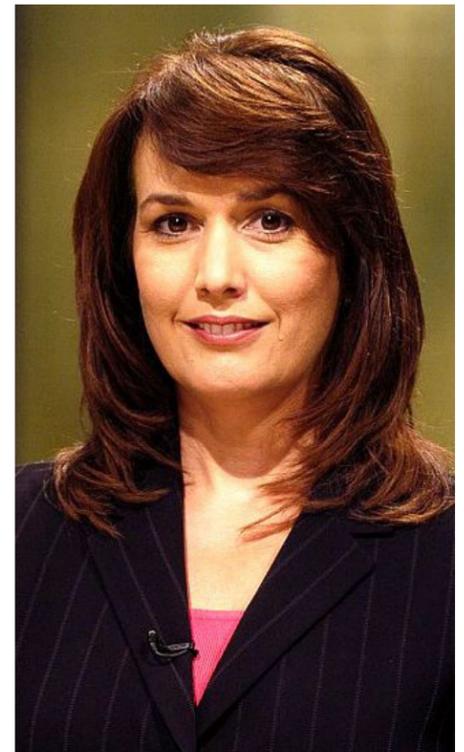
Earlier this year, a study conducted by psychologists at the University of Liverpool revealed that watching food advertisements on television had a profound effect on the volume of food that children consume. The researchers found that overweight children more than doubled their normal food intake immediately after watching food advertisements on television.

During the study, 60 children between the ages of 9 and 11 were shown a series of advertisements for food and toys followed by a cartoon. The children were then offered an opportunity to consume a variety of snacks.

The children's food intake following the food advertisements was found to be significantly greater than their food intake following the toy advertisements. Researchers noted that food consumption following the foods ads increased by 134 percent among the heaviest children. Among the normal-weight children who watched food advertisements, food intake increased by 84 percent.

According to an article published in the medical journal, Pediatrics, the average young person views more than 40,000 ads per year on television alone, and a significant percentage of these ads feature fast food, soft drinks, and sugary snacks. Data from the Federal Trade Commission suggests that even 2-year-old children are exposed to an average of 5,500 food ads per year.

The more television our children watch, the more food ads they see and the more likely they are to be overweight. On average, American children spend nearly four hours a day with their eyes glued to the tube.



Rallie McAllister is a board-certified family physician, speaker and the author of several books, including "Healthy Lunchbox: The Working Mom's Guide to Keeping You and Your Kids Trim." Her website is [www.rallieonhealth.com](http://www.rallieonhealth.com). To find out more about Rallie McAllister, M.D., and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). COPYRIGHT 2007 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

That's significantly more than the TV time allotment recommended by most experts. The American Academy of Pediatrics, for instance, recommends that children's television viewing be limited to two hours or less each day.

Just turning off the tube during meal times could shave as much as an hour a day off the average family's television consumption. Even better, it could help parents and kids make more nutritious food choices and avoid gaining a few extra pounds over the holiday season.

## Home Health Foundation welcomes Margaret Hogan as Vice President of External Relations

Lawrence, Mass. — Home Health Foundation is pleased to announce that Margaret Hogan has accepted the position of Vice President of External Relations.

Margaret Hogan brings over 25 years of healthcare and not for profit experience to the Home Health Foundation.

Ms. Hogan created and served as Principal of the Collaborative Consulting Group (CCG) an affiliation of healthcare not for profit, and association professionals who offer their expertise in strategic planning, program management and development, marketing and communication services, web and graphic design, strategic education and event planning, and fundraising. Her areas of expertise included strategic marketing, communications, leadership education, and corporate fundraising.

Prior to creating CCG, Ms. Hogan served as the Chief Operating Officer for the National Patient Safety Foundation (NPSF). In this role she oversaw all day to day operations and successfully re-located the Foundation from McLean, Virginia to Massachusetts.

Ms Hogan has served as the Executive Director for the New England Healthcare Assembly, Director of Education for the Massachusetts Hospital Association, Director of Business Development and Marketing for Retreat Healthcare, and began her clinical career as a social worker.

"We are delighted to welcome Meg Hogan to our agency," said Joan Stygles Hull, RN, MBA, President / CEO of Home Health Foundation. "Her extensive knowledge of the health care industry and the not for profit sector will be a tremendous asset to our agency. We



are fortunate to have someone of her caliber joining our team."

Ms. Hogan received her B.A. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and MBA from Western New England College. She has served on the Maryland Patient Safety Center Education Committee, Healthcare Advisory Board of BostonWorks (a division of the Boston Globe), and as President of the Board of Directors for Hawthorn Services located in Chicopee, MA.

Ms. Hogan resides in Amesbury.

Home Health Foundation is a not-for-profit Family of Agencies, comprised of Home Health VNA, Merrimack Valley Hospice and HomeCare, Inc.

Together, the three agencies serve more than 80 communities throughout Northeastern Massachusetts, the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire. To learn more, visit [www.homehealthfoundation.org](http://www.homehealthfoundation.org).

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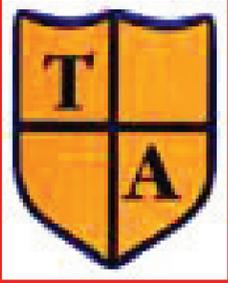
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## BENEFITS FOR OUR VETERANS

## Give to a vet this Christmas

Susan Piazza

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

If you're like me, over the last couple of months, your mailbox has been visited by an inordinate amount of donation requests. All of these requests represent legitimate, valuable organizations. As we consider these pleas for assistance, I implore you to remember and contribute to organizations that care for our country's veterans, and those men and women currently serving in our military.

All veterans deserve our help and consideration, from the WW II veterans who fought as a result of direct attacks against our military bases, to the veterans of the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Without these selfless men and women, this country would be in jeopardy.

Many people think the fighting in the Middle East is unjustified, but I'm not here to write about or debate the legality or morality of such an action. But, what I am here to say, is that our military that are currently fighting needs our support, and our veterans who have fought need our support.

The men and women who protect this country are honorable people who strongly believe in this country's ideals, and fear that with every physical or ideological attack, our way of life may suffer irreparable harm. These defenders, these guardians of us all, are entitled to all this country and its citizens can afford to give them - and then some.

We have all seen and heard horror stories of how our military, once they return home, have been subjected to care that is less than stellar. Fortunately there are many organizations, all with local branches, that will come to the aid of those who have fallen on hard times. I

hope that as you consider your charitable contributions and your holiday gift lists, that you donate to one of the many veterans' organizations around such as the: DAV, American Legion, VFW, Lawrence Vietnam Memorial, Am Vets, as well as local military organizations such as New England Caring for Our Military. All these worthwhile associations, and their people, are extremely dedicated. Most, if not all, of the money collected stays locally to take care of our local needs.

The holiday season is upon us. This season can be a stressful time for people as they try to buy that perfect something for that perfect someone. Numerous individuals on your shopping list of wants may not have needs, and that is great; but there are too many of our heroes who have needs.

These individuals could certainly benefit from a pair of warm gloves, a heavy coat, or extra food; bare essentials that so many of us take for granted. Instead of giving a meaningless gift to a friend or acquaintance, try giving to one of the above organizations in the name of your friends or relatives.

It will make you feel better, make your friend or relative feel better and will give the true meaning of the holiday season to a patriot.

God bless, and may all have a happy, healthy, and prosperous holiday season, and New Year.



*Susan Piazza is the past Commander, Chapter 2, Queen City, DAV and was the first female commander of the DAV in 75 years. She has been involved with*

*the DAV for over twenty five years. You can email Susan at WithMara@aol.com*

## ORMSBY: continued from page 3

Huge deposits of oil sands are available in the U. S., Asia, South America, and Canada. Both Canada and Venezuela have reserves of oil sands that approximate the total world reserves for conventional oil (between 1.5 and 2 trillion barrels). The Canadian reserves are concentrated in Alberta in the Athabasca region near Ft. McMurray. Venezuela's oil sands are found primarily in the Orinoco Oil Belt, but exploitation of this resource is stymied by political instability and government interference in the economy.

It is important to note that these reserves are already known. They are not subject to the risks of discovery. They are a sure thing. What is needed is massive capital investment and capital is always available when profits are possible and the associated risks are reasonable.

So, can oil be extracted from oil sands at a competitive cost?

The answer is unequivocally yes. Several economical extraction techniques for oil sands are currently proven and several even more efficient techniques are under development or being piloted.

In some situations, surface mining can produce synthetic oil for as little as \$15 to \$20 per barrel, but most deposits of oil sands require more expensive techniques (e.g., Vapor Extraction Process, Steam-

Assisted Gravity Drainage, Cyclic Steam Stimulation, Toe to Heel Air Injection, or some combination). Even these more expensive extraction techniques can produce synthetic crude oil at less than \$50 per barrel - half the current world oil price.

The oil is there and it can be extracted at a profit. There are minimal risks ... except government intervention and interference.

Guy Caruso, Administrator of DOE's Energy Administration, has stated, "Oil production growth rates of one to three percent per year will not soon be constrained by the size of the technically recoverable resource base, particularly when extra-heavy oil and bitumen resources are included."

In his report "When Will World Oil Production Peak?" Caruso provides predictions for peak oil production, including oil sands, extending to the end of this century with peak production ranging from 2.4 to 4 times the current production.

So far, we have only considered the potential of oil sands to replace traditional oil sources. Other energy sources include nuclear, oil shale, coal, and geo-thermal, not to mention solar-electric, wind, and bio-energy.

Obviously, there are numerous alternatives for entrepreneurs and

## TAKING CARE OF OUR VETERANS

## Tis the season

John Lenotte

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST  
AMERICAN LEGION

Once again the Holiday Season is upon us - a time for exchanging gifts and greetings with friends and family.

But let us not forget the troops who are defending us while we enjoy ourselves. Mailing a package to them now will not get to them in time for Christmas or Chanukah, but so what! They will appreciate the gift, and even more so the thought behind the gift, whenever it does get to them.

Or send a card or an email. Besides looking forward to coming home, every military member looks forward to hearing from home. This hasn't changed with the times.

Technology has improved the methods of communication so that we can now email or even get a phone call, text message or instant message to each other very quickly. And let's not forget the families here at home, whether it be a spouse, significant other, children, parents or siblings.

They too need our support.

Whatever we may feel in regards to the political situation, let's remember that our military does not have a vote in terms of whether they want to go somewhere. They can vote in the political elections and decide whether or not to reenlist, but when the orders come to deploy, the bags get packed and off they go.

And let us remember those who served in the past. Many of our 'greatest

generation' are in nursing homes. Even a short visit, a card or a phone call are appreciated by them. And there are the homeless veterans. A donation to the Northeast Veteran's Outreach Center in Haverhill (they service much of the Merrimack Valley) or the NE Shelter for Homeless Veterans are options.

Your local Veterans' Agent may know of a family who is in need this time of year. Give them a call and ask how to help.

As the Massachusetts American Legion Chairperson for Children and Youth Programs, I have the responsibility to process requests for financial assistance and I can tell you that there are a number of families trying to figure out how to pay for heating fuel when their bills are already maxed out, their significant other is deployed and they have to stay home with their children.

We all have a lot to be thankful for in our lives. There are many who are not so fortunate and need our help. I'm sure you get requests for donations through the mail as I do at home. One cannot give to all of them. But choose a group, make sure they are reliable and make a donation.

I have given you several ideas in this article. There are more out there. Remember, all gave some but some gave all. God Bless America and the troops who defend our way of living.



*John Lenotte is the American Legion, Commander, Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4 Haverhill and Vice Commander, Dept. of Massachusetts. You can Email him at JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net*

homesforourtroops.com

capitalists to exploit (I love that word!). So, what are we worried about? There is only one thing that can place our future prosperity in jeopardy: Government interference in the energy market.

Warning: The cost of any energy source can be amplified and rendered uneconomical by the whim of short sighted and self-serving politicians.

We have already witnessed the destruction - hopefully not permanently - of the nuclear power industry based on the rantings of a small group of scientifically illiterate fear mongers. And this is true despite the fact that nuclear power plants offer the most economical and environmentally friendly energy source capable of significantly reducing our use of fossil fuels.

Thankfully, after being dormant for 30 years, the nuclear industry is beginning to show some signs of life. Highly skilled engineers are developing new, standardized designs with incredible safety features and favorable nuclear waste cycles. Unfortunately, the same uninformed, anti-technology and anti-progress goons that stopped nuclear energy developments in the 1970s and 1980s will certainly arise to engage gullible citizens and legislators again.

News flash: Electric power does not just magically appear at the wall plugs in

our living rooms. When traditional oil supplies start to diminish, there better be several replacement energy sources ready to come on line. If not, the horrors of economic collapse, as previously described, will emerge.

The technologies for such sources and the capital investments needed to exploit them take decades to develop. Investors will not make these needed investments if their returns are subject to the arbitrary whims of lawyer-legislators held hostage by political extremists.

If we listen to those who cannot and who will not invest in providing solutions - those who advise us to have government solve the problem - few if any of us will survive the economic collapse.

But Adam Smith's invisible hands powered by the remarkable engine of capitalism - the greed of others harnessed to serve your needs - will save us all, if we will just let them.



*Dr. Ormsby is a member of the North Andover School Committee. He is a graduate of Cornell and has a doctorate from MIT. You can contact Dr.*

*Ormsby via email: ccormsby@comcast.net*

## HERO: continued from page 1

proprietor of a small clothing store. A familiar face, a friend to many. Another day for Arthur Rauseo, age 82.

Peeling away the years, one stands in awe at the simplicity, the determination, the sincerity, the energy, the Americanism of this gentleman citizen. At age sixteen and a half (although his photos from the era make him look more like age 14), Mr. Rauseo enlisted in the armed forces. We were at war, and, like so many in our Country, this young lad stepped forward with deliberate eyes to serve our country. He kissed his mother goodbye, and that was the last time he would ever see her. She died before he could return from the war. "I never saw my mother again."

Mr. Rauseo sports his familiar cap: U.S.S. LOWNDES A.P.A. 154, IWO JIMA - OKINAWA. A reminder of challenging times as he related the events of a long-ago journey to bring an end to hostilities.

His brother Joe was a U.S. Marine. "A miserable bastard when they wouldn't let him fight!" Mr. Rauseo said. "My brother George, he flew. We were all fighting. There were seven, seven of us kids, Georgie" his eyes began to well up a bit, "Georgie was, well, we, my brothers, we all, we did, we all served." His siblings: Nicholas, Angelo, Joseph, Michael, Mary, and George. Arthur was the youngest. One sister, five brothers. Mother Marian Maringello, father Pasquale, Italian immigrants.

On board the U.S.S. Lowndes, Mr. Rauseo served as an electrician's mate. "I fixed things, and sometimes I shot things. We did whatever we needed to do. They trained. We served." He received medals. He received a Combat Action Ribbon. He lived war.

"Saipan. I was there," he said with a big long, drawn sigh as he pointing to old photographs showing staging areas. "That was just one place. We were preparing, you know, for assaults. Assaults. You know, supplies," he said. "Lowndes' a transport ship. I served on two ships. See. Supplies, soldiers, thousands of them. Okinawa. You know. They shot at us. From the sky, from the sky."

Boxing gloves? "Yeah, in the navy. Those are mine," he offered as I turned them over. "In those days, they would keep you for training, you know, until, until you know, you're supposed to be 17, O.K., so I get into Boston, and I was supposed to be, well, we were in war,

they just sent me (to active duty)," he explained.

Medals. Medals in boxes, dusty in a basement. Photographs. Folders. Aerial photos, scrubbings. Treasured memories hidden away. "Yeah, some of this stuff, I guess I should show" he said.

Decades of service on the Georgetown Light Commission, past chairman of the Cable T.V. Advisory Board, past member of the finance committee, a former water commissioner, former real estate broker, construction supervisor, electrician, and having served in many other capacities within the town, Mr. Rauseo is a life member of V.F.W. 7608, and the American Legion. He helped start little league baseball in town. A former president of the Georgetown Student Athletic Fund, the Georgetown Fire Dept. Inc., and Georgetown Shoe Sales, Inc., Retired from the Georgetown Savings Bank board of directors this past June, after serving as a bank director sine 1991. He was a member of the Massachusetts 100 club, a charity organization that provided thousands to children ... a lifetime of work and volunteerism. His proudest involvement is his 55 years with the Georgetown Fire Department's Central Fire Company.

Everyone who's been in Georgetown for more than a handful of years seems to know Mr. Rauseo. He's seemingly done every position except selectmen. "I wouldn't do it. They put me up to it. I said no. I can't do it. You know what you get. I run a store. I don't want it. I don't want it. So I killed it, and said no. I wouldn't take it. And still, they voted for me. I can't have it with the business. People. You know. It's too much," he explained as why he avoided that one position.

Ah, the smile as he shuffled and lifted the heavy old fireman's coat. A big grin. "This was mine. Chief. When I was chief" he said. "Original. These, they protected you. Heavy like this. You know" he said. Wife Marjorie, son Jim, daughter Sharon. Four grandchildren, all girls: Catherine (16), Alex (15), Megan (14), and Sarah (12).

Pouring through more photographs and old documents, he showed one of small ships around larger ships. "See, we were the small guys, we went in here," he said pointing towards some unidentified shoreline. "I don't want a kid to see a photo like this," he said showing wounded soldiers. "You see we were getting the s\*\*\* kicked out of us. How can I show that to a kid? I don't want to."



PHOTO: COURTESY ARTHUR RAUSEO

Again, you could see history scanning across his face. A mix of dedication, sorrow, and energy. Good energy. Friends and service. Service to his country, a patriot. A hero.

"This is the hardest thing you had to do," he said relating to a photo of sea burial. We paused.

Mr. Rauseo returned from the war and did what many others have done. Raised his children. He seldom spoke of the war even when prodded his daughter Sharon said. "He didn't, most of them. That generation, they didn't want to talk about it too much. Look, he has so much. I tell him, people should see this," she said. A loving daughter. "Dad, this really should be someplace," she said holding another memento. "Ten years ago, they wouldn't talk" she said about the war heroes. "I saw a documentary they're doing. Now, they're starting to talk. They're at that point. They know they have to. I never heard some things when I grew up. Now, I see these, and he tells more now."

Turning over another package of photos, Mr. Rauseo exclaimed "everything but the kitchen sink," his ship delivered to the front. "That's going in. I kept these in pretty damn good shape," he said" showing yet another set of photos.

The Valley Patriot is proud of the heroes in our midst. And we are especially proud of those who served in war, and then continued to serve in our communities, adding to the fabric of our lives, helping in whatever way they could to help others. Engaged in the community, serving, helping. Working with others. "Enjoying life," he said. As the long-time proprietor of Georgetown Clothing, his shop, now manned by his son Jim, serves yet another generation. Long gone is his cobbler's shop. And long-ago memories from Sharon's sewing lessons at dad's store. "I used to take a shoe box cover and run that in the sewing machine. That's one of my earliest memories," she related.

Mornings at Theo's coffee shop. 'Arthur' gets called out by many, raising their voices so he can hear them, deaf in one ear now. Talking of the day's events, he shuffles a paper. Just another day in a small town. Sitting alongside a hero. A hero in our midst.



Lonnie Brennan is a selectman in Georgetown and the owner of the Chocolate Cellar. He was the Republican candidate for state representative in 2006 and is active in the Re-

publican party. You can email him at [lonnie@thechocolatecellar.com](mailto:lonnie@thechocolatecellar.com).

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**City of Lawrence Job Posting**



**Building Inspector**  
Inspectional Services

**Job Group 14**  
(\$ 35,230.65 - \$ 39,679.25)  
Union: AFSCME

**Duties:** The local building inspector shall enforce all the provisions of the State Building Code and any other applicable state statutes, rules and regulations, or ordinances and bylaws, and act on any question relative to mode or manner of construction, and the materials to be used in the construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, demolition, removal, installation of equipment, and location, use, occupancy and maintenance of all buildings and structures, including any building or structure owned by any authority established by the legislator but not owned by the commonwealth. The Local Building Inspector shall perform any and all other related duties as deemed required by the Commissioner of Inspectional Services. The Local Building Inspector shall be under the direct supervision of the Commissioner of Building and the Commissioner of Inspectional Services Department.

**Qualifications:** Each local inspector shall have had at least five (5) years experience in the supervision of building construction or design or in the alternative a two years associated degree in a field related to building construction or design. In addition, such persons shall have a general knowledge of the accepted requirements for building construction, fire prevention, light ventilation and safe egress; as well as general knowledge of other materials essential for safety, comfort, and convenience of the occupants of a building or structure.

**Appointing Authority:** Michael J. Sullivan, Mayor  
**Posting Date:** November 26, 2007 - **Deadline:** December 7, 2007

Applications are available in the Personnel Office of the Lawrence City Hall, 200 Common Street, Room 302, Lawrence, MA 01840 Detailed job postings are available in the Personnel Office or on our website at [www.cityoflawrence.com](http://www.cityoflawrence.com)  
An Equal Opportunity Employer  
**Frank Bonet, Personnel Director**

**City of Lawrence Job Posting**



**Media Services Dept. Coordinator**  
Lawrence Public Library

**Grade 8 (\$534.47 - \$610.79/wk)**  
plus educational & evening incentives  
Union: Library

**Schedule:** Work may be performed at the Main Library and/or the South Branch. Work may be scheduled Monday-Saturday during the hours the library is open to the public. Every other Saturday and one or two nights per week is required.

**Duties:**

- Assist the public in making effective use of library materials offering reader and reference assistance to all age levels - children and adults - using the online catalog and accessing the Internet.
- Perform Library Assistant duties at the Lawrence Public Library. Work may be performed at the Circulation Desk, Audiovisual Department, Children's Area, and/or in the Technical Services Department.
- Duties may include checking in and out materials, collecting fines, handling ILL transactions and reserve requests, providing assistance to patrons visiting the library and the computer lab - basic instruction on how to use available software; processing new materials.
- Community outreach including some offsite work is required, such as manning the library information booth at community events and delivery of library materials to shut-ins.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Assistant Directors.

**Qualifications:** Associate's degree or currently enrolled in an AA program which will result in obtaining a degree within one year after hiring. Bachelor's degree preferred. Good knowledge of computers and their use in the library environment - MS-DOS; Windows; Word; Internet. Good organizational skills. Strong customer service. Team player with a lot of creativity and initiative. Fluency in Spanish preferred.

**Appointing Authority:** Michael J. Sullivan, Mayor  
**Posting Date:** October 26, 2007 **Deadline:** Until Filled

Applications are available in the Personnel Office of the Lawrence City Hall, 200 Common Street, Room 302, Lawrence, MA 01840 Detailed job postings are available in the Personnel Office or on our website at [www.cityoflawrence.com](http://www.cityoflawrence.com)  
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## City of Lawrence Job Posting



### Animal Control Officer Police Department

Grade 12 - \$37,440 to \$40,624 (\$720.00 - \$781.24 / wk; \$18.00 - \$19.53 / hour)

Local # 3, Labor

**Duties and Responsibilities** - Under general supervision of the Patrol Commander, performs specialized work in the enforcement of state statutes and municipal ordinances pertaining to the regulations and control of dogs and other animals. Investigates complaints concerning the regulations, licensing, and control of dogs and other animals. Impounds loose animals as provided for in municipal ordinances and state statutes. Determines if any state statutes or local ordinances have been violated and take appropriate action such as catching, confining, quarantining and destroying animals. Issues citations to animal owners and appears as a witness in district court should circumstances require such action. Arranges for and attends vicious or barking dog hearings held before the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

Rescue or aid in the rescue of trapped, wounded, sick, or injured animals. Destroy sick, wounded, or injured animals and dispose of their bodies. Coordinates and cooperates with area and state animal control officers and humane organizations. Assists local veterinarians with immunization programs. Wear the prescribed uniform during each tour of duty and otherwise present a neat and clean appearance. Cleans and maintains all issued equipment. Performs other related duties as assigned by supervisor.

**Physical Requirements:** Some lifting required.

**Qualifications** - Minimum Associate of Sciences in related field. Specialized knowledge of state and municipal ordinances pertaining to animal control. A valid Massachusetts driver's license is required.

**Appointing Authority: Michael J. Sullivan, Mayor**

Applications are available in the Personnel Office of the Lawrence City Hall, 200 Common Street, Room 302, Lawrence, MA 01840 Detailed job postings are available in the Personnel Office or on our website at [www.cityoflawrence.com](http://www.cityoflawrence.com)  
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**Frank Bonet, Personnel Director**

## City of Lawrence Job Posting



### Crime/Disorder Analyst Police Department

**TWO positions (One Full Time, One Part Time (NTE20 H/W))**

**Grade 2**

**(35,000 - 45,000) yearly salary**

**Non-union**

**Duties:** • Assist with the direction of the Crime Analysis process and related tasks. • Daily maintenance and updating of Crime Disorder Data Bases. • Perform extensive quantitative and qualitative research on wide range of crime and community related issues. • Conduct various types of analysis on Data Sets. • Contribute to the grant writing process. • Familiarize themselves with social, crime and demographic data on citywide, community and street levels. • Reports to Police Chief, Chief of Staff and Crime Analysis Director. • Perform other related duties as required  
**Requirements:** • Working knowledge of GIS software • Have exceptional verbal and written communications skills (so as to formulate reports, present briefs, and interact routinely with Patrol, detectives, command staff, citizens & community leaders). • The successful candidate will demonstrate a working knowledge of computer applications (Excel, Access, Word, PowerPoint & the internet). • Ability to perform research utilizing several different methods on crime related topics. • Ability to collect, organize, analyze & disseminate information on tactical & strategic operations. • Requires a high level of attention to detail. • Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Required.

**Entrance Requirement:** Applicants must possess an understanding of rules of Chain of Command, have the ability to operate general office equipment and pass an extensive background check.

**Appointing Authority: Michael J. Sullivan, Mayor**  
**Posting Date: 11-01-2007     Deadline: Until Filled**

Applications are available in the Personnel Office of the Lawrence City Hall, 200 Common Street, Room 302, Lawrence, MA 01840 Detailed job postings are available in the Personnel Office or on our website at [www.cityoflawrence.com](http://www.cityoflawrence.com)  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

**Frank Bonet, Personnel Director**

## City of Lawrence Job Posting



### Library Assistant Lawrence Public Library

**Grade 6**

**(24,311.56 - 27,736.28)  
plus educational incentives**

**SEIU - Local 285**

**Duties:** This is a challenging public service opportunity in a pleasant work environment. The Coordinator attends to routine tasks in the Media Services Department, including assisting customers at the Main Library media services desk using computerized systems, answering and directing telephone calls, putting materials away and performing data entry. The Coordinator is responsible for planning, developing, executing and supervising all library media services policies and procedures. Supervises all Media Services staff. Assists the public in making effective use of the library. Attends to a variety of routine activities and functions as part of the daily operation of the library with emphasis on work in the Media Services and Interlibrary Loan Depts. 1. Works at the Media Services desk on a regular schedule. Checks A/V equipment, video and audio cassettes, LPs and other items in and out; orders AV materials and supplies; assists patrons with their A/V needs. Searches newspapers on microfilm for patrons and assists with genealogical inquiries. 2. Checks-in, shelves and organizes all issues of all newspapers. Keeps shelves orderly, discards newspapers according to schedule, and checks-in newspaper microfilm. 3. Handles duties related to daily Interlibrary Loan requests for patrons and other libraries via the computer terminal and on paper. 4. Is familiar with and instructs patrons in the use of the library's audiovisual equipment. 5. Presents film and video programs with staff supervision. 6. Maintains A/V equipment, including repair of videocassettes. 7. Oversees the operation of the public computer word processing lab. Performs a variety of other routine tasks as assigned by the Assistant Directors.

**Qualifications:** Must be well organized individual who enjoys working with the public and does so in a positive manner. Knowledge of computers and library procedures required. At least three years progressively responsible public library work experience, including work in the circulation area required. Bachelor's degree preferred. Bilingual English/Spanish a plus.

**Appointing Authority: Michael J. Sullivan, Mayor**

**Posting Date: October 26, 2007     Deadline: Until Filled**

Applications are available in the Personnel Office of the Lawrence City Hall, 200 Common Street, Room 302, Lawrence, MA 01840 Detailed job postings are available in the Personnel Office or on our website at [www.cityoflawrence.com](http://www.cityoflawrence.com)  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

**Frank Bonet, Personnel Director**

## City of Lawrence Job Posting



### Director of Community Development Community Development Department

**Grade 8**

**(80,000 - 95,000) yearly salary**

**non-union - exempt**

**Duties:** Under the administrative director of the Mayor, provides leadership and oversight, supporting the implementation of programs relating to economic development, community development and housing activities in the City. Employee is responsible for managing employees, programs and services to achieve specific goals in activities related to neighborhood revitalization, economic development and housing development. Performs all other related work as required.

**Qualifications:** Master's Degree (M.A.) in Community Development, Urban Planning, Public Administration or equivalent. Experience must include substantial experience (10+ years) in community development, management of publicly funded programs, budget preparation and management, experience at the local level and grant writing experience or equivalent combination of education and experience. Prior management/supervisory experience required.

**Appointing Authority: Michael J. Sullivan, Mayor**

**Posting Date: 11-1-07     Deadline: Until Filled**

Applications are available in the Personnel Office of the Lawrence City Hall, 200 Common Street, Room 302, Lawrence, MA 01840 Detailed job postings are available in the Personnel Office or on our website at [www.cityoflawrence.com](http://www.cityoflawrence.com)  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

**Frank Bonet, Personnel Director**

# "A Campaign for Proficiency for ALL"



Lawrence Public Schools

Embraces

The "7" Essential Elements  
of School Transformation  
"A Campaign for Proficiency for ALL"



School Committee : Mayor Michael Sullivan,  
Peter Larocque, Patricia Reyes, Gregory Morris, Martina Cruz, Omaira Mejia,  
James Vittorioso