

# TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK: (Continued)

plunge. Our sources in Methuen say that Mayor Billy Manzi is jumping on the Baddour-for-Congress bandwagon early so that he can also climb the ladder of political opportunity and position himself perfectly to replace Baddour in the state senate if he gets to Congress. Now, that's a lot of "if's" and a lot of "maybe's," but as anyone who plays chess knows well, thinking ahead and positioning oneself for later is the only way to win the game. What will be interesting to watch is how the voters will react to all these elected officials trying to vacate their current positions to advance themselves and their own political agendas.



## Mayor Mike Sullivan Gives the Key to the City to Sully Erna of Godsmack

Sully Erna, lead singer and drummer for the highly successful rock band Godsmack, was presented the key to the city by Mayor Sullivan in advance of his soon-to-be-released book, "The Paths We Choose."

Erna admitted his book does not paint Lawrence in a very positive light (the opening scene starts with a violent showdown between a gun-toting Sully and a knife-wielding assailant), and that he was stunned to be given the honor. Dressed in jeans among elected officials in three-piece suits during the honor, Sully also admitted, half jokingly, that "I spent my whole life trying to get out of this place and now they want to give me the key to the city to get back in." Erna, whose family is very tight with City Councilor Nunzio DiMarca, grew up in the Arlington Neighborhood and is a devoted warlock in the Wicken religion. While I am a huge fan of Godsmack's music, it seemed a little odd that a rock and roll star who is telling the world how awful the city of Lawrence is in his new book, would get the key to the city and a proclamation from the City Council. I guess fame really is much more important to people than substance.

## Huster Appointed to NAMS School Council

The Valley Patriot wants to give a hearty thank you to former School Committeeman Dianne Huster, who was recently named to the North Andover Middle School Council. We want to congratulate Huster for her hours of dedication to the school as we know she will fight hard to restore services and increase the middle school budget.

## No Bids for Tow Companies?

According to the Lawrence City Charter, any tow company that does business with the city during snow removal must be selected by competitive bid. Section 10.32.140 of the charter states: "*The chief of the police department ... is authorized to remove to some convenient place, through the agency or a person or persons in the employ of the police department, or by an independent*

*contractor selected in accordance with law on the basis of competitive bid...*" In other words, when it snows and the police department calls various towing companies to remove vehicles parked on the wrong side of the road, the list of towing companies it calls must have been previously selected by going through a competitive bid process so that favoritism cannot be dolled out to tow companies "friendly" with certain individuals in the city.

Anyone want to guess how many towing companies being used by the city of Lawrence actually submitted a bid and competed for the business the city so generously gives them? If you guessed ZERO, you would be correct. Maybe the City Council should spend a little more time trying to find out why tow companies are not bidding as required by law - instead of calling for department heads to be fired, and interfering with internal investigations in City Hall.

## So, Who's the REAL Treasurer?

Last month The Valley Patriot attended a Willie Lantigua function at the Lawrence British Club. Upon entering the room, former Lawrence City Councilor Julia Silverio approached one of our reporters and began yelling, "You are not invited, I am the treasurer of the Lantigua campaign and if you want to stay, you have to pay." We found it funny that Silverio would portray herself as Lantigua's treasurer when Lantigua himself has former Councilor Michael Fielding listed

on his January campaign finance report as his official treasurer.

Apparently, Mr. Lantigua himself was pretty unnerved by our presence as well. As he took the microphone to thank all of his supporters in the room, I began snapping his picture. "Tommy Duggan, if you take one more picture I am going to beat you over the head with it," he threatened. Of course, never passing up a challenge like that, I took another picture anyway. And, Lantigua, never one to break a promise (LOL), charged at me, grabbed my camera and tried to do just as he promised until three of his supporters pulled him off. My only question is this: If a "Latino" reporter had been assaulted and thrown out of an event run by a white politician, wouldn't he be the first one to cry racism?

**\$25 off your first cleaning!!**

## Maid Brite Cleaning

At Maid Brite...It's Made Right

Residential cleaning company servicing the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire. Fully bonded and insured. Dependable, flexible...references.

Call for a free estimate

20 Mablin Ave, North Andover

(978) 479-4899

(978) 975-2049

hajj33@mac.com

\*Offer Expires 3/31/07



JOIN US at the

2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL TEDY'S TEAM PARTY

@ THE CLADDAGH

399 Canal St. Lawrence (upstairs)

Buffet Friday, March 2, DJ Cash bar - 8:00 -Huge Raffle

- \$20.00 donation

TO BENEFIT NEW ENGLAND PATRIOT  
TEDY BRUSCHI'S "TEDY'S TEAM"

Of the Boston Marathon &

THE AMERICAN STROKE ASSOCIATION

Hosted by Debbie Boda, running in Memory of her Dad, Mel Marino

SILENT AUCTION

Bruschi signed items: replica jersey, replica helmet, footballs, pictures. Red Sox tickets, Round of golf for 4, Limo/dinner pkg, Pat's memorabilia, gym, tanning & spa pkgs....& LOTS MORE!!!

BUY TIX @ The Claddagh, OR CALL (978) 204-3203



Locally Owned and Family Operated

**Farrah Funeral Home**  
Across from our Old Location

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

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



Louis Farrah, II  
David Moynihan  
(Manager)





# Dominican Brotherhood to Take Over of Sacred Heart

Since the selling of Sacred Heart Church by the Archdiocese of Boston, the people of the Mount Vernon neighborhood in Lawrence have been fighting to return catholic masses to the church.

ETC Development, the developers in charge of the Sacred Heart project, announced last month that they have struck a deal with the Dominican Brothers giving the impression that catholic masses will be held in the church once again.

Further research, however, has revealed that the Dominican Brotherhood is not affiliated with the Catholic Church and has in fact, disassociated themselves with the church.

Parishioners attending catholic mass at Saint Patrick’s Church on South Broadway in Lawrence were greeted with a bulletin message last week from the Archdiocese of Boston concerning the Dominican Brothers taking over Sacred Heart Church. The Archdiocese stated clearly that the Dominican Brothers are not Roman Catholics.

Below is the Dominican Brothers’ answer to the allegations of the Archdiocese of Boston.

*To all concerned fellow Catholics:*

The latest development regarding the sale of Sacred Heart Church in Lawrence, MA, has received some attention from the media. We believe it is our duty to explain our position as traditional Roman Catholics. Statements have been made which question our stance as being true Catholics, and these accusations are simply unfounded. The Willing Shepherds of Jesus Christ believe in all dogmas and teachings of the Catholic Faith, which of course includes the Papacy. Christ established His Church upon the

Continued on Page 24

## Community Auto School (978) 688-1033

Call NOW for  
Class Schedules



Check out our Second  
Location! 1049 Lakeview  
Avenue in DRACUT!  
978-957-9770

Classes run  
5:30pm-8:30pm

Age requirement for classroom is 15 YEARS, 9 MONTHS

- \* Classroom Instruction
- \* 6 Hours of Road Instruction
- \* 6 Hours of Observation
- \* Training vehicles are 2006 Honda Accords

\$325 Complete  
Course

4 Winthrop Ave., Suite A, South Lawrence, MA.  
(1 mile north of Showcase Cinema on the right)

# Anticipating Without Forgetting

Peter Larocque, Lawrence School Committee

According to Webster’s Dictionary, to anticipate means to look forward to; to expect, and to expect means to wait for.

To expect implies a considerable degree of confidence that a particular event will happen.

These words have tremendous significance to us, the citizens of Lawrence.

We are anticipating and expecting our new state-of-the-art high school to be open and be ready for business September 2007. Six small individual high

schools on one campus, a concept that is growing throughout the country.

This concept of small high schools was well promoted by Bill and Melinda

Gates when they appeared a few years ago on the Oprah Winfrey show. She did a two-part program on schools in crisis in the United States, which the Gates participated in.

Also, several years ago Mr. Bill Gates addressed the governors of the United States at the governors’ annual convention and spoke of having his foundation support the small high school idea.

Here are the names of the six small individual high schools of Lawrence:

1. The Lawrence High School for the Performing and Fine Arts
2. The Lawrence High School for Mathematics, Science and Technology
3. The Lawrence High School for Humanities and Leadership Development
4. The Lawrence High School for Business, Management and Finance
5. The Lawrence International High School
6. The Lawrence High School for Health and Human Services.

With great anticipation and expectation we await the grand opening of the new Lawrence High School campus. But until then, what about the graduating class of 2007? What will the graduating class of 2008 have that the class of 2007 doesn’t have? For sure, the class of ‘08 will have better facilities and learning environment, and top-notch tools to enhance better learning. But even with all these wonderful improvements, they are still not a reality yet; they are still in the future.

Until the new buildings become occupied, they have no soul; there is no life in them. The buildings have no life in themselves.

The class of ‘07 is alive and well and they are learning. Yes, learning is still taking place at the old building on 233 Haverhill Street in Lawrence.

We have some of the best teachers and students at the old place and they are working very hard on their studies and are preparing to continue on to higher education or entering into the full time work force.

The class of ‘07 has been asked to endure a lot this year. A year of transition, a year of an overcrowded school and a year of overlapping sessions. None of which they have asked for or is the perfect environment for learning.

Now, we can choose to look at this as a year of hardship and just wish it would come to an end or we can choose to look at this year as a year of challenge and preparation. Due to the fact that we have the leadership in place who are working diligently to make sure learning is happening in spite of all the difficulties.

The class of ’07 has the distinction of helping future classes prepare to enter the new buildings. A distinction that will not be forgotten or go unrewarded.

As part of the leadership of the Lawrence public schools and as one who has walked the halls of the old place and seen first hand the hardship and sacrifice that we have asked the class of ‘07 to endure, I also believe that this situation can help build their character and stamina that they will be able to have with them for a lifetime.

So, as we go forward with much anticipation and you hear many conversations concerning the opening of the new Lawrence High School I would like to assure you, the class of ‘07, that we continue to stand behind you and support your efforts in this time of your life.

We have not forgotten you and remain thankful for your continued diligent work towards your graduation coming in June.

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

## St. Mary of the Assumption School

301 Haverhill Street \* Lawrence, MA 01840  
Tel (978) 685-2091 Fax (978) 688-7244

Catholic Schools: “An Advantage For Life”  
“Restoring Faith in Education Since 1859”

Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Any Student entering Kindergarten must be 5 years old by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> Pre-Kindergarten: Full Day / Half Day Programs

Age accepted 3.9 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup>

### STRONG ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Early Morning Program Club: 7:00AM -7:30AM  
After School Program 2:10PM – 5:30PM (Grades Prek-5)

Financial Aid Available \* Breakfast / Lunch Available

Office Staff Bilingual ( Se Habla Español )

**APPLICATION ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED**

Vouchers accepted for Pre-K and K - OPEN-HOUSE -

January 28 (11am – 12pm) \* January 30<sup>th</sup> (9am -11am)



Visit us in our new office  
location at  
Sal's Riverwalk  
Complex in Lawrence

**Ranked in the top 25 teams  
in New England**

- \* Seller Agency
- \* Foreclosure Properties
- \* Bank-owned Properties
- \* Investment Properties



- \* Buyer Agency
- \* First-time Buyer Programs
- \* Commercial Properties
- \* Fix and Flip Properties

**We have the formula to help you buy and sell real estate  
Call or visit us TODAY!!**

**www.TeamZingales.com**



RE/MAX Prestige  
360 Merrimack St. Bldg 5, Lawrence, MA 01843 (978) 688-4277  
Licensed in MA & NH



# **Lawrence Firefighters FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

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

**Special  
Certificate Offers**

**5.25% APY\***

for 13 Months Minimum  
Deposit \$500

**5% APY\***

for 9 Months Minimum  
Deposit \$500



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









Back row (l-r):students Natasha Rodriguez (Methuen), Stephanie Menendez (Lawrence), Jennifer Chico (Lawrence), Yazira Jimenez(Lawrence), Alexandra Ovalle (Methuen), and Elaine Miller (N. Andover) who is the Volunteer Coordinator at Home Health VNA.Seated: Lioiza Tejeda (Lawrence), Fatima Tineo (Lawrence) and Carla Tavarez (Lawrence).

## Home Health VNA Hosts Job Shadow Day for Gr. Lawrence Technical High School Students

Lawrence, Mass. – Students from the Greater Lawrence Vocational Technical School spent the day on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Home Health VNA’s Lawrence office learning what exactly makes the agency run on a day to day basis.

Eight students from the Allied Health program at the school participated in the Job Shadow Day. Elaine Miller, Volunteer Coordinator for the agency’s Home Health Partners Volunteer Program, worked with Valley Works to serve as a host for Job Shadow Day.

“This is a great opportunity for students to get a closer look at how our agency functions on a day to day basis,” said Miller.

“They had an opportunity to hear from direct staff as well as those who work in our main offices. Students learned more about what makes home care different than other traditional types of health care.”

The students who visited Home Health VNA were part of a group of more than 150 that visited companies throughout the Job Shadow Day.

The group visiting Home Health VNA had direct contact with staff from the Human Resources Department, the Vice President

of HomeCare, Inc., and a Home Health Aide Manager. They also had an opportunity to hear from visiting nurses and therapists who worked out in the field.

“Home care is different than some of the other kinds we’ve seen,” said Yazira Jimenez from Lawrence. “It’s more challenging, with a lot of one on one with the patients.”

Throughout the day they were able to ask questions and learn more about specific types of care the agency provides and the unique challenges that working in the home brings.

“I didn’t realize there were so many choices in home care,” said Carla Tavarez from Lawrence. “There are a lot of people who go into the home, not just nurses. There’s a lot of responsibility being in a patient’s home and not in a nursing home where other people are around.”

Home Health VNA is a not-for-profit agency affiliated with HomeCare, Inc. and Merrimack Valley Hospice. Together, the three agencies serve more than 80 communities throughout the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire. Home Health VNA was recently named in the Top 5% of home care agencies nationwide. Visit them on the web at [www.homehealthvna.org](http://www.homehealthvna.org).

## Pop Warner Cheerleading Holds Open Registration



Lawrence Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading, Inc. will be holding open registration on the following dates:

**Saturday 2/10/07  
& Saturday 2/17/07  
from 12-2pm**

**at the Knights of Columbus on Market Street in Lawrence.** For more information, please call Karen @ 978-683-6150. Discount applies to early sign ups.

**2007 Cheerleading and Tumbling Clinic, hosted by Lawrence Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading.**

Open to all children ages 8-15. Clinic runs from February 5th, through April 23rd. Learn tumbling, stretching, jumping and stunting, from certified tumbling instructors. Please call Lindsay at 978-869-6017 for info. Clinic will be held at the South Lawrence East School gym.

## RAISE ‘EM RIGHT™ Nap Insomniac

Barbara Peary, M.Ed.

My daughter has attended a preschool program for the past two years and has loved going. She has made some great friends and talks to me about all the fun things they do in school each day.

The problem lately has become nap time. She says she “hates it.” Otherwise, she has nothing but wonderful things to say about her day there. I have talked with the teacher and she reports that indeed my daughter is quiet, but is wiggly on her mat and no longer seems to need the rest time. The problem of course is the other children need their rest. Nap time is for about one hour each day. I have told her to make the best of it. Any other suggestions?

There is no easy answer to this dilemma. Most states have a minimum rest time requirement for children in full day child care programs. You could talk to the teachers and see if it is available for her to look at books or do some other quiet activity on her mat for part or all of the rest time.

There may be other older children also experiencing this difficulty and perhaps they could be separated from the younger children who need their sleep.

Generally, teachers are open to suggestions and are willing to try to accommodate the needs of all the children as they grow and develop. If quiet activities are not available, another recommendation would be to teach your daughter some relaxation techniques. Challenge her to try to recall her favorite movie, scene by scene, as she rests. You could also suggest that she spend this time imagining herself doing something special with her friends or family such as going on a picnic, swimming at the beach, etc.

My child’s preschool teacher does not feel my child is ready for kindergarten next year. My husband really wants to send him

with all the boys that are in our neighborhood.

Preschool instructors see high numbers of children over the course of a few years and usually have a pretty good take on which children are ready to move on and which are not. I have heard many parents say, “I wish I had waited to send my child to kindergarten” but, I have never heard a parent say they wish they had sent them to kindergarten earlier. There are many positive reasons for allowing a child to remain in a preschool setting for an extra year. You and your husband should have a formal conference with your child’s teacher.

Before you meet, ask the teacher to do observations of your son interacting with the other children. At the meeting take the time to discuss the observations and also have the teacher relay what the advantages and disadvantages of moving the child on would be. Make the decision after weighing all the information.

**Help! We are living with a mega-slob. He is an eleven year old boy whose room is strewn with clothes and everything else imaginable.**

**My biggest gripe is that he doesn’t know the clean clothes from the dirty ones and he puts the clean ones down the laundry chute. I’ve tried deducting a buck from his allowance each time he does this, but it hasn’t made him change.**

When school gets out, go on strike and stop doing his laundry, be it dirty or clean. Eventually when he runs out of clothes or is looking for a favorite item, he will get the message.

Please send questions to RAISE ‘EM RIGHT™, P.O. Box 831, Carlisle, MA 01741 or e-mail to [RAISEEMRIGHT@aol.com](mailto:RAISEEMRIGHT@aol.com).

**Discount Prices SINCE 1978!**

## Bider Music



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



**for a complete selection of musical  
equipment and accessories**

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



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

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



# Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing: Attacks on Our Children

How much do you know about Planned Parenthood? The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation? The Wheels of Justice? Or the publishing company Alyson Wonderland? Let’s just say, this column isn’t for the faint of heart, nor the children, so be forewarned. Each of these groups is after you, and your children, and some have their digs in local school systems.

At first blush, you would assume that their names reflect the true nature of each organization. So, let’s play into that fantasy for a moment: for Planned Parenthood we might assume them to have a number one focus to help educate teenagers to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Mass Taxpayers Foundation, again in our fantasy interpretation, would have as its primary goal the reduction of taxes, and the logical, frugal expenditure of hard-earned tax dollars. The Wheels of Justice would present a balanced view of the plight of all sides of an issue, and publisher Alyson Wonderland would put out books to help educate kids about their lives. Nothing could be further from the truth.

As has been well documented, Planned Parenthood is nothing but a front for for-profit abortion clinics. For \$350 - \$700, you can use mifepristone to break down the lining of the uterus to kill an unborn baby, methotrexate to stop the baby from growing and die, then misoprostol to cause the uterus to contract and “empty.” That’s the gentle way ... you could just go for the surgical and vacuum method. Sure, they put on a good face, with a few words about adoption on their website (with no references to resources), but that’s a drop in the bucket compared to the thousands of words and references and fees and such for their primary focus: dealing with the choice of death.

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation is another sham. Remember the name Michael Widmer. He’s their president, and the guy goes blind when it comes to finding anyplace to cut spending. Remember former Gov. Romney’s attempt to slash more than \$380 million in what the Boston Globe had referred to has a legislative spending spree? Some of this spending could be justified and supported, but it also included some of the finest pork projects a politician could imagine (can you say gazebo?). Widmer opposed Romney tooth and nail. Widmer couldn’t find one tax dollar that shouldn’t be spent. Stay tuned, fellow taxpayers, as this misnamed group is on center stage again as a strong ally to our new together-we-can-raise-taxes governor.

## Georgetown Selectman Lonnie Brennan

Why bother to write about Wheels of Justice? Haven’t they been exposed enough in the Lawrence Eagle Tribune, The Valley Patriot, and the Andover Townsman, amongst others? Well, we’re talking about kids here and despite the nice name, this group presents a very aggressive, very partisan point of view (distilled down to six words: Jews are evil, Palestinians are victims). What’s more, they solicited phone numbers and emails from minors attending the Andover schools. School Committee members, including David Samuels, and a crowd of parents and residents, joined in protest, taking great offense with their message and, more importantly, their actions. The lesson

## Georgetown Today

Lawrence “Lonnie” Brennan, Georgetown Selectman

learned: anyone with any biased view can give themselves a nice name, and that name and the threat of lawsuits over free speech will gain them access to your children. Be scared, be very scared.

So I ask you, what would you think if a Hustler magazine or Penthouse decided they wanted to reach your children? Let’s say their goal was to promote sexual promiscuity, a desire to divest oneself of any inhibitions of society and perform early and often? The answer is simple; they could create a publishing company and call it something like Red Riding Hood, or Lion Queens, and publish kids’ books about clothing, friendships, and such. Sound far-fetched? The reality is worse. This brings us to the last funny-named organization: Alyson Wonderland Publishing.

Alyson promotes books which have found their way into local school systems and libraries. King & King is one famous book (just ask David Parker, a parent from Lexington who dared to question the value of teachers using this book, which promotes homosexuality and divorce.) “When I was your age, I’d been married twice already” is but one mild line from the book. Mr. Parker thought the subject matter and its handling was just a little off-target and age-inappropriate for his child. But his superintendent of schools felt it was just free speech. Yup, that’s right; Parker was told this is a good book for his second-grader. Yup, promote homosexuality and divorce to a kid who still

believes in the Easter Bunny, Santa Claus, and the tooth fairy!

Silly me, I thought that was the end of the story. Until a friend did some research on Alyson. It didn’t take too long to find the other titles they publish: **Chi Chi LaRue: Live and Raw**, Hot up and coming porn superstars!, **Skin Deep 2: More Real-life Lesbian Sex Stories** and **Slow Grind: Gay Men Tell Their Real-Life Sex Stories**. That’s just a few printable titles from their core business. But their kids line, with King & King, now that’s their future!

Planned Parenthood, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, Wheels of Justice, Alyson Wonderland. Why do these folks have to use phony names? Because if they told the truth, their organizations would be named: Abortions ‘R Us, Taxmoney for Unions and Our Friends, Jews are Evil, and We Want Every Kid to Be Gay, respectively.

## Georgetown Today

Shifting to the nicer world of Georgetown, there’s a lot in the works: fire department re-organization, opening of the Bailey Lane Bridge, safety improvements to allow faster, safer, more effective response to fighting fires and budget season. The School Committee’s first pass at next year’s proposed budget resulted in a trimming of the sails by \$650K from the initial published requests. More territory needs to be covered in the upcoming weeks as many folks will be scrambling and pushing for increased spending, hours, positions, equipment, and programs. Town Meeting warrant is now open, and many groups are expected to bring forth proposals. Stay tuned. Also, if you experience any water issues (sulfur, chlorine, mis-colors), please send me the vitals of location, date, time, or just copy me on your send to our water department. More later.

## Georgetown Today Media

Updates of events and items and links of interest can always be found on [www.GeorgetownToday.com](http://www.GeorgetownToday.com). It’s a freebie site, so just send your posting along.

Lonnie Brennan is a selectman in Georgetown, you can email him at [lonnie@thechocolatecellar.com](mailto:lonnie@thechocolatecellar.com).



# Hi, I'm Teresa Zingales

## I'm a Member of Team Zingales

360 Merrimack Street, Bldg. #5 in Lawrence

Please see our ad on Page 10





# THE CHOCOLATE CELLAR™

at Georgetown Square

“A really cute place!”

## Fine Chocolates, Turtles, Truffles, Hearts

Winter Retail Hours  
Wed-Fri 12-5:30  
Sat: 10-5  
Extended Retail Hours - Valentine's Week  
Daily 10-7 (sometimes ealier, sometimes later)

500+ Styles of Baloons

giftcards

978-352-8803

www.TickleChocolates.com

FREE CHOCOLATE PRETZEL with this ad 1 per person please





# Auditions at Firehouse Center for the Arts

## February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

Newburyport, MA

### Open Auditions

Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> 1PM  
Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> 12 NOON

### June Performance of Run for Your Wife

Co-Production with;  
Firehouse Center for the Arts &  
Busy Boy Bad Boy Productions  
Director, Peter Honegger

6 Men Ages 28-45  
2 Women Ages 28-45

No prepared materials necessary, however resumes are required.

For more information, please phone 978/499-9931.



# Clueless in North Andover



Ted Tripp

No, this is not about the school department's fantasy budget. There will be plenty of "good stuff" to report on that subject next month in The Valley Patriot.

This month we want to revisit trash. Early last month the North Andover Solid Waste Committee/Recycling Committee enclosed a copy of its latest flyer in the local daily paper.

And there on the lower front page of the newsletter was the story, "Does North Andover Need PAYT? The time for Pay As You Throw may be now."

The only expression I could muster at the time was ... Disbelief!!

It has been just six months since the town resoundingly defeated a trash fee/tax at a raucous town meeting of 3000 people and now proponents of the fee think the town should revisit the issue. (Here I will pause as you catch your breath or finish laughing.)

The article starts by saying we still have a *trash generation* problem – although North Andover significantly reduced its trash amounts this past year. It goes on to say that PAYT addresses the issue of *fairness*. By this the committee means that we all pay the same for trash removal whether we throw out ten bags of trash a week or only one. This, the committee seems to conclude, is unfair.

I can actually agree with the committee on this latter point. But if this applies to trash, should it not also apply to other services? For example, we all pay the same taxes to support the education of our children. Yet I have no children in the schools – and never had – so shouldn't I be exempt from

paying this portion of my tax bill? After all, for *fairness*, we should expect only those households with children in the schools to pay for the school budget. And, of course, the more kids you have, the more you pay.

That would be great for me. It would reduce my tax bill by thousands of dollars. Sounds *fair* from my perspective.

The article goes on to say "Unfortunately, PAYT was introduced to the taxpayers under very strained circumstances." I'll say! The school spending zealots tried to ramrod an unpopular tax/fee through town meeting and the people rose up and said "No way!"

Isn't it the ultimate hypocrisy that the same people who think that its OK for property taxes to pay for the operation of our schools also think that it's not OK for those property taxes to pay for trash removal?

Now let's talk about Global Warming. What, you say, does this have to do with trash?

There is another incredible article in the recycling flyer that implies if North Andover residents don't a) reuse items that have already been produced, b) recycle paper products and c) compost yard and food wastes, that this will contribute to Global Warming. And the article goes on to say this may lead to "more frequent and intense storms, flooding of low-lying areas, changes in regional weather patterns, and an increase in infectious diseases carried by pests such as mosquitoes."

Does anybody really believe that by *not* putting a few more cans or newspapers into your recycle bin every week, you will cause malaria to spread into North Andover? This is what the Global Warming alarmists want you to believe. They want to "scare you" into doing what "they" want you to do. It is all about control and their quest for absolute control.

Now, don't get me wrong, I am all for recycling. Before I moved to North Andover, I lived in Wilmington for 20 years. There I was a member of the recycling committee and volunteered many Saturdays to help run the recycling drop-off center. To me it made sense to recycle items such as glass and newspapers and maybe some plastics.

But recycling should be based on an economic benefit or strategic national need. If it costs less to recycle a product than make it new, then that's probably a benefit. Also, if recycling some products reduces our energy needs, then that would probably be a strategic national benefit.

Many things don't make sense to recycle. We don't recycle plastic foam or thumb tacks, for example, because it costs too much to pick them up and would use far more energy to collect and transport such items to a foam or thumb tacks manufacturer than is required to make new product.

So a good recycling policy should be based on common sense, not some threat of Global Warming.

Too many do-gooders today treat Global Warming as a religion – and they do so because the science isn't there to support many of the dire predictions. Beware of those preaching such "religious" beliefs to the masses. Step back for a minute and use a little common sense to evaluate the world around you.

Remember, Al Gore is no scientist – but he did attend divinity school at Vanderbilt.

**Ted Tripp is an International Consultant in high-tech manufacturing methods. He has BS and MS degrees in Chemical Engineering from MIT. You can reach him at [tripp@gis.net](mailto:tripp@gis.net).**

**\*ELECT\***



**Joe Edward Smith**

**\*ELECT\***



## Candidate for North Andover Selectman



**Army Veteran, Principal Civil Engineer, Principal Electrical, Notary Public** - North Andover resident since January 1977 **Member of Town:** (former) Zoning Board of Appeals, (former) Zoning Task Force Member, American Legion, Rotary Club, and Saint Michael's Church Parish Council, VFW - Office Planning, Design & Construction State Engineer's Union (M.O.S.E.S.) Executive, Board Officer and Steward (14 years) Trustee/Treasurer Heritage Green Condominium Trust

**Voters need to ask "Am I happy with my tax rate, fees, assessments, funding for our seniors, education, police/fire Town Services??"**

We need you, your family, neighbors and co-workers to go to the polls on **March 27, 2007** and give Joe Edward Smith your vote for Selectman! Let's fight for a **cleaner environment**, equitable funding for education, larger return from the state of **our tax dollars**, as well as **smart government spending**, expansion of **our tax base** and **equal access** and input in Town government **decision making**.

Let me know your concerns! (978) 689-0845 or [joeeds@msn.com](mailto:joeeds@msn.com)

**"It's not the critic who counts; it's not the one who points out how the brave man stumbles or how the doer of deeds may have done them better; it's the one in the arena, who's face is covered with sweat, dust and tears!" - Teddy Roosevelt**  
**Paid for by The Committee to Elect Joe Edward Smith 16 Edgelawn Ave #3, North Andover, MA-01845**