



The

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF NEWS, COMMENTARY AND OPINIONS, SERVING THE MERRIMACK VALLEY

Valley Patriot

*Free

www.valleypatriot.com

"Congress shall make no law..."

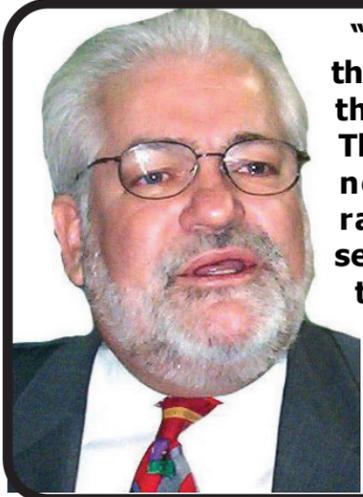
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Exclusive!

Laboy: Race Politics is Ruining Lawrence



"It is really painful that people use this loaded word, "segregation". And they know what they're doing ... They are using this word which, to newly arriving Latinos means racism. Those who say we are segregating are telling them that they are being discriminated against because of their race and that just isn't fair to anyone."

Wilfredo T. Laboy, Superintendent of the Lawrence Public School System

Tom Duggan

Lawrence Superintendent of Schools Wilfredo Laboy has been under fire by critics over the last month for his decision to house newly arrived immigrant students with lack of English proficiency in the "old" high school building on Haverhill Street once the new \$110 million campus is officially opened.

Teacher's union president Frank McLaughlin has publicly protested Superintendent Laboy's decision calling it "segregation," a word that has spread like wild fire in the Spanish Language media in Lawrence.

"Latino activists" have taken to the radio waves calling Laboy a racist and likening his decision to the racial segregation of the 1960's. Spanish language newspapers also jumped on the bandwagon to brand Laboy a "segregationist," arguing that Laboy was purposely denying "Latino" school children the privilege of getting an education at the new high school campus.

"It's utterly ridiculous," Laboy told The Valley Patriot.

"This community needs to come to grips with its diversity," he continued. "We need to have inter-group relations in Lawrence and we have to stop blaming each other, stop whipping up racial resentment, and put an end to the racist allegations that always seem to be made in Lawrence."

"We need to pick ourselves up and do what's right. Everyone has the same opportunity in America and using the word segregation to describe a program for at risk immigrant kids who are temporarily housed in a separate building is just plain wrong. It conveys to new immigrant children that they are being picked on. And because they don't know any better this word 'segregation' continues to get repeated and

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The Valley Patriot can now be found at



in Lawrence, Andover, N. Andover, Methuen, Haverhill, Lowell, Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Tewksbury and Westford!

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Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi Endorses Eileen Donoghue for Congress!

Methuen Mayor Billy Manzi and his "team" endorsed Lowell City Councilor Eileen Donoghue to replace Marty Meehan in congress. Donoghue (2nd from right), was also endorsed by State Senator Steve Baddour, former councilor Mike Condon, State Rep. Linda Dean Campbell, former State Senator Jim Jajuga and Councilor Debbie Quinn.



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I'm Teresa Zingales
I'm a Member of Team Zingales



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 Please See Our Ad on Page 30

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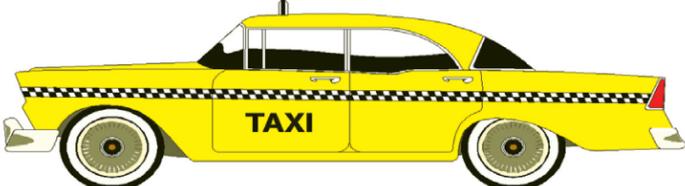
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Valley Patriot

* Editorial *

Talk Radio: Congress Shall Make No Law ...

Careful readers of this paper have probably noticed the above byline under The Valley Patriot banner since our very first printing.

We chose this byline, the first five words of the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, because we believe that this amendment is the first line of defense against government trampling our rights as individuals. It is a boldly stated "No Trespassing" sign that tells the government to do nothing that interferes in any way with our right to practice whatever religion we choose and our right to openly communicate our beliefs — whether orally or in writing, and whether alone or in concert with others.

The legitimacy of our government is critically linked with the tradition of forbidding any government interference with our right to freely receive, formulate and communicate ideas. If our government interferes with the very intellectual discourse that results in the selection of our elected representatives or that shapes our laws, then the institution of government itself is illegitimate and will ultimately lose the support of its citizenry. Often, violent revolution is the only remedy.

Today, our First Amendment rights are under attack.

First there was the McCain-Feingold campaign finance legislation that not only interfered with the use of private property to exercise one's rights protected by the First Amendment, but also placed explicit limitations of the exercise of political speech — a clear violation of "Congress shall make no law" What is it about "no law" that Congress or the Supreme Court doesn't understand?

Now there is a concerted campaign to impose a "fairness doctrine" on talk radio. Anybody who thinks he wants government to be the referee of fairness when it comes to political speech — and, like it or not, talk radio is clearly political speech — is woefully naïve and ignorant of history.

Our freedom of speech has never been put at risk by an institution with greater resources. The New York Times may have tremendous resources, but radio, TV, cable, satellites, the Internet, and even papers such as The Valley Patriot ensure that a wide variety of ideas will be available to readers/listeners.

The only risk to our First Amendment rights comes from government.

How do we determine what is "fair"? Should the idea that suicide bombers are positive role models be given the same amount of airtime as a discussion of education reform? Why not? Who is to say how available airtime should be parceled out? Do we want the government to decide that?

Freedom works. Just as the raving lunatic on a street corner in New York City only draws a handful of listeners while others, with more valuable messages, fill Yankee Stadium or draw millions of readers or listeners, the marketplace of ideas responds to the people's demands.

When governments pollute the process of their own evolution, they evolve tyrannies. If we let that happen, we will set the stage for Jefferson's remedy: "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

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See page 13 for our new political cartoon from David Sullivan of Dracut

Dear Dr. Ormsby,

My name is Elaine Jiadosz Brasseur. I in North Andover, Massachusetts for 70 of my 71 and one-half years. Our local cable access television programs covering the various town board meetings are what I attempt to observe every time they are broadcast. My heart is heavy today when I learned of the success of the override passage. My husband and I live on a very limited fixed income. We are certainly not destitute, but as the taxes increase, our living expenses increase, water bills increase, but our incomes do not increase. Our health insurance costs us almost \$700 per month. But, do our town fathers care? NO!!!

I love this town. My Polish grammy raised me in this home from 1937, and when I was wed in 1954, my husband and I stayed at this address. We have dutifully paid our taxes over the years, as well we should. Riverview Street is located in the poorest neighborhood in town. However, I would never want to live elsewhere. Our home was

assessed for \$271,200 in 2006. Now, the assessed value is \$290,700! Our real estate tax is approximately \$3,300 per year! We have tried to keep our property in good repair, but have not made any updates for over 35 years (except for painting ... which I have done myself in order to save money). When I spoke to one of the assessors this morning because our home's assessed valuation had increased by almost \$20,000, and I wanted to know why, he told me that was because this is a mandate of the state.

I wanted you to know how much my husband and I appreciate everything you, Mr. Tripp, and Mr. Wilbur have attempted to do to educate our citizens. Unfortunately, insanity has won!

Thanks for listening and I look forward to your unending concern for our town.

Sincerely,

Elaine Jiadosz Brasseur

North Andover

To the Editor:

I have been a resident of the Merrimack Valley since 1990, and until last week I felt very welcome. The first and only insult I have witnessed was your editorial cartoon from the issue of "The Valley Patriot," dated June 2007. I was extremely offended by your insinuation that any Jew or Christian that believes that God created the universe and all that is in it, should be in a museum of stupidity.

"The Flat Earth Display." What is wrong with someone's belief that does not interfere with your way of thinking? If you want to believe in the Big Bang Theory, fine, you have the right to that belief, as I and other Christians and Jews have the right to believe in creation by a

Higher Being. My belief won't hurt you; it won't prevent you from printing your paper, nor interfere with your wages. Indeed, it will not have any impact on you. So, why throw insults at us?

Overall, I enjoy your newspaper. I enjoy the stories of the heroes of WW II & of the Korean Conflict. I share other ideas with your publication, but I do not believe that you have the right to insult those who do not agree with all of your thinking. That is not what the Constitution guarantees you as a free press.

David A. Sheehan

Atkinson, NH

Editor's Note: It's clearly Tom Duggan's Fault. He is mistakenly thought that the cartoon was making fun of evolutionist (sometimes, he really doesn't pay attention). We are sorry, however, that your misguided reading of the The Constitution of the United States has left you with the impression that speech you disagree with should be left unprotected.



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Lawrence on the Move

Mayor Michael J. Sullivan

American Training: Changing Lives in Lawrence and Beyond

One of the greatest honors I have as mayor of Lawrence is to witness the tremendous efforts being made by Lawrence residents and business owners to make this community a better place to live and work in every day.

This month I would like to take the opportunity to tell you about Tom Connors, one of the unsung heroes in our city. Tom, a lifelong resident of Lawrence, is the CEO and President of American Training, Inc. on Glenn Street, right in the heart of our industrial park.

Along with his partner, Arthur Brady, Tom started American Training in 1979 in a small office on Haverhill Street. They started American Training to help people in the community better prepare for the changing job market and to provide life skills and education to people most in need. [I had the pleasure of experiencing first hand the tremendous success they have achieved at their recent Business Awards Ceremony. I learned quickly that when it comes to consistent performance they are the go-to agency in our area!]

American Training started with 28 employees and a budget of approximately \$700,000. Thanks to the Herculean efforts of Tom, Arthur and their business partners, American Training now employes over 300 Merrimack Valley residents and has a budget of more than \$15 million. From that little office on Haverhill Street so many years ago, American Training has grown to service more than 10 cities and towns – from as far south as Cambridge and Boston to communities in Southern New Hampshire.

The services provided to people in this area by American Training runs the gamut

from helping those with disabilities, to retraining and reemploying those who lost a job at Lucent Technologies or Malden Mills, to helping those looking for a career change and wanting to brush up on their skills to better prepare themselves for newly emerging job opportunities.

American Training also manages 12 homes throughout the valley, servicing at-risk youths who are coming out of programs run by DYS (Department of Youth Services) and DSS (Department of Social Services) as well as individuals with physical and other disabilities who often find it difficult to master life's basic skills or job-related skills that would encourage employers to give them a chance.

In short, American Training is like a private community college, serving the youth of the Merrimack Valley as well as those well established in the world of work. From senior citizens who need help getting to and from the supermarket to young parents who've had children at a very young age and did not finish their own education or acquire work experience, American Training seems be able to do something to help everyone who walks through their doors.

The help they give people with little or no public recognition is truly amazing. But even more amazing is the attitude and philosophy of Tom Connors, Arthur Brady and the rest of the dedicated people at American Training who are making such a huge difference in the lives of Lawrence residents and the others they serve outside our city limits. They truly believe and have

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Hi, I'm Kathy Mamos
I'm a Member of Team Zingales
 360 Merrimack Street, Bldg. #5 in Lawrence
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Thinking Outside the Box!

Dr. Charles Ormsby, N.A. School Committee

Snookered

It is easy to be cynical when it comes to politics. We have come to expect lies, distortions and outright misrepresentations.

Unfortunately, we now tend to view politics as a sport and, except for the most egregious violations, we accept whomever or whatever prevails as deserving of praise and congratulations despite the legitimacy of tactics, methods, or claims.

That is sad because truth does matter.

The recent override election in North Andover provides an excellent example.

A variety of claims were made by the override proponents – North Andover United (NAU) – during the recent campaign. One claim was the subject of a well-designed and widely-distributed postcard sent at the very end of the campaign, which left no time for rebuttal.

The claim, seemingly supported by legitimate data, was that North Andover's lack of willingness to raise taxes and provide greater funding for its schools was responsible for a 17 percent loss of real estate value since 2002-03 when compared to Andover. The data reported on that postcard – plus two previous years conveniently NOT REPORTED by NAU – is provided nearby (years are mid-June to mid-June).

In reviewing the table, what “% Difference” value seems to be the most out of step? Could it be the -2 percent chosen by NAU as its “starting point”? ALL the other percentages, including the two preceding values, are between -9 and -16 percent. Was 2002-03 chosen as the baseline year to create a perception of a subsequent decline that didn't really occur?

Given NAU's analysis methodology and its claim that under-funding our schools is causing a decline in our real estate values, it is particularly odd that in the 12 months immediately following the voters rejection of the \$4 million override in May 2002, we supposedly gained 8 percentage points (from -10% to -2%) in market value against Andover.

This is the same override campaign during which school accreditation loss was threatened, 42 teachers were to be fired, and AP Calculus was going to be eliminated. Now in 2006-07, after having doubled our AP enrollments, our real estate values plummet? Very odd!

A more realistic assessment of the data indicates that, over the seven years listed, North Andover property values have averaged approximately 10 percent below

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Average Single Family Home Sales Prices				
Year	North Andover	Andover	%* Difference	%** Difference
Two Years Prior Data (NOT Reported by North Andover United)				
2000-01	\$454,459	\$502,071	-10%	-9%
2001-02	\$478,599	\$533,398	-11%	-10%
Years Chosen by North Andover United				
2002-03	\$529,277	\$538,650	-2%	-2%
2003-04	\$500,903	\$585,614	-17%	-14%
2004-05	\$569,139	\$640,318	-13%	-11%
2005-06	\$608,407	\$665,349	-9%	-9%
2006-07	\$527,294	\$629,081	-19%	-16%

Data from MLS Property Information Network
 * Exaggerated percentages calculated incorrectly by North Andover United using North Andover sales data as the basis
 ** Percentages calculated properly with Andover sales data as the basis

Salisbury Beach Summer Entertainment Schedule

July 2007

Tuesday, July 3rd - Music Performance: B-Street Bombers - Time: 7 PM

Wednesday, July 4th - Music Performance: Smokin' Joe and the Henchmen - Time: 7 PM & 8:30 PM

Thursday, July 5th - Music Performance: R.B. Entertainment - Master Entertainer - Time: 7 PM & 8:30 PM

Friday, July 6th - Music Performance: Reminisants - Time: 7 PM & 8:30 PM,

Saturday, July 7th - Saturday Night Sock Hop with Gary Francis - 7 PM

Friday, July 13th - Music Performance: R.B. Entertainment - Master Entertainer - 7 PM & 8:30 PM

Saturday, July 14th - Saturday Night Sock Hop with Gary Francis - 7 PM

Friday, July 20th - Rico Barr and the Jump and Jive Revue - 8 Piece Band - 7 PM & 8:30 PM

Saturday, July 21st - Saturday Night Sock Hop with Gary Francis - 7 PM

Friday, July 27th - Music Performance: B-Street Bombers - 7 PM & 8:30 PM

Saturday, July 28th - Saturday Night Sock Hop with Gary Francis - 7 PM

August 2007

Saturday, August 4th - Saturday Night Sock Hop with Gary Francis - 7 PM

Friday, August 10th - Don't Call Me Shirley - 7PM & 8:30 PM

Saturday, August 11th - Saturday Night Sock Hop with Gary Francis - 7 PM

Friday, August 17th - Music Performance: Squeezebox Stompers - 7PM & 8:30 PM

Saturday, August 18th - Saturday Night Sock Hop with Gary Francis - Time: 7 PM

Friday, August 24th - Music Performance: R.B. Entertainment - Master Entertainer - 7 PM & 8:30 PM

Saturday, August 25th - Saturday Night Sock Hop with Gary Francis - 7 PM

September 2007

Saturday, September 1st - Saturday Night Sock Hop with Gary Francis - Time: 7 PM



WCAP's Gary Francis will host Saturday Night Sock Hops at Salisbury Beach starting Saturday, July 7th - at 7 PM



Moving Haverhill Forward

Haverhill Mayor James Fiorentini

This edition is about more — more fireworks, more businesses, more jobs, more downtown improvements and more about our budget. Most importantly, we have more good news for our schools. Earlier this year the state said that they would label Haverhill's school district under-performing. Now the state says that they will NOT label us under-performing. More later. Thus far this year, 64 communities have asked for overrides. All throughout the state, communities are laying off police and fire, cutting music and sports, cutting library hours and asking for tax increases. We are adding police, adding library hours and increasing our budget for education by 4%. Our long term problems of a structural deficit remain, but this year we have more. Thanks to an anonymous donation, this year's fireworks display is going to be bigger and better than ever! Fireworks start at 10 PM on July 3rd at the stadium. More details are in this newsletter. We are sprucing up our downtown and putting in flower baskets, new docks and a bocce court — all as public/private partnerships. Read on! We have more businesses, more jobs and more places to shop. Until the next edition, I remain at your service, your mayor, Jim Fiorentini.

More Good News for Haverhill

Manufacturing Business in Ward Hill Expands, Adds Jobs. Over the past four years we have made a concerted effort to streamline permitting and bring new business to our city. Our latest success is Adom Engineering, a Ward Hill based manufacturer of jet engine parts. Adom is expanding and adding top-flight manufacturing and engineering jobs.

More Fireworks

Thanks to an anonymous donation of \$10,000, this year's fireworks display at Haverhill stadium will be twice as big (twice as intense, but not twice as long). This will be the biggest fireworks display in the Merrimack Valley and our biggest ever. Our fireworks display is completely paid for with funds we raise privately. Fireworks start at 10 PM at the stadium. Before that, we have entertainment geared to families and kids starting at 6 PM. Please join us.

More Improvements to our Downtown Parks

If you have ever driven by the outside park in Boston's North End, you often see groups of people gathered around to watch a game where people throw a small wooden ball on a stone-dust court. The game is called "bocce" and is rising in popularity around the country. Thanks to a public/private partnership with a number of Haverhill businesses, we'll be installing a bocce court downtown in the area behind the Tap Restaurant. To improve recreation, we've added swing sets, removed baseball tournament fees, added our outdoor skating program, and added free, indoor ice skating.



Bocce courts are very inexpensive — about \$1,500 for materials. Our highway/parks department is installing it. Thus far, we have pledged of about \$4,000 in private money to help pay for the court and to improve the park area. We want Haverhill's downtown to look nice and be a fun place — fun for senior citizens, fun for kids and fun for families. Last year we added more benches, tables with umbrellas, and barrels. This year we partnered with one of the businesses to add movies downtown, added hanging flowers, put in more docks, and now, a new bocce court.

More About the Budget — Stoneham — and More

Thus far this year, 64 communities throughout the state have asked their citizens to pay more through an override. Other communities are forced to lay off police and fire. Most of the 64 proposed overrides went down to defeat. In Stoneham, where I got my start many years ago as a substitute teacher, a failed override meant that all school sports' programs were canceled. In Haverhill, there is no override request. Instead of cutting services, we are adding two police officers, increasing money for police patrols, and increasing our school budget by 4%. This budget is a far cry from where we were just 4 years ago when we were closing fire stations, closing libraries and our high school was threatened with loss of accreditation. Despite our success this year, we still have serious long-term financial problems called a "structural deficit." Long term solutions are required. The Municipal Partnership Act proposed by Governor Patrick is one such solution. Last week, I traveled to Boston to join with Governor Patrick and mayors throughout the state in lobbying our legislators to pass the badly needed Municipal Partnership Act.

Forest City Wants to Improve This...



Forest City Ltd. of Cleveland, Ohio, one of the largest residential developers in the country, wants to turn this old junkyard and buildings downtown into upscale residential housing. The area shown here would be their parking, and the buildings to the left, which long ago housed Hamel Leather, would be housing. The Forest City development is the largest development in the history of the city, about a \$60 million investment in our downtown. The development means an additional \$300,000 in tax revenues over and above what the building pays now.

Mayor Names Professional Search Team to Choose New Highway Director

Saying "it is time to reform and change the highway department," Mayor James J. Fiorentini today named a professional team to advise him in choosing a new highway director. The mayor named Robert Moylan, Jr., longtime superintendent of public works in Worcester, to head the search team. Mr. Moylan is an engineer, and is a nationally-recognized public works official. In 1998 he was recognized by the American Public Works Association as one of the top ten public works directors in the country. Also



on the committee: William Pauk, former water/waste water director in Haverhill, and Personnel Director Mary Carrington. "We're determined to reform, change and bring in the most highly qualified professionals to run that department," said Fiorentini.

Insurance Reforms Save \$1.5 Million

One reason we were able to provide more resources to public education and public safety was that we have been able over the past three years to reform our health system. Every employee union has agreed to increase their contribution towards health care costs. Those health care reforms saved \$1.5 million in this year's budget, making it possible to add more resources to schools and police.

New Docks Downtown

A few years ago, we added a dock fee to improve boating downtown. This year, the dock fee provides for newer, stronger and better docks in our downtown. Please, pull up your boats, play some bocce, and have a drink at the Tap or one of our other fine downtown restaurants.

A Downtown Master Plan

Thanks to generous private contributions, we have been able to hire a national economic consultant to put together a master plan for downtown. The consultant chosen by the Mayor's Downtown Task Force was Aaron Gruen of Illinois. Here are a few details of Mr. Gruen's report: Restaurants are a key component to revitalizing a downtown — we are on the right track, but we need more; downtown should not try to imitate malls, it should be an anti-mall, with restaurants, housing, and small niche shops; certain small retail stores, like yarn stores



and small book-stores, work well with downtown; we have a perceived parking problem, not a real one; big box retail on the outskirts of downtown complements a downtown rather than competing with it; we should continue with the conversion of abandoned factories to residences - the residents provide customers for downtown.

State: Haverhill Schools are NOT Underperforming

Several months ago, the state educational audit division asked the state education department to declare the Haverhill school system underperforming. This week, the state education department declined to declare us underperforming, and said we are moving in the right direction. The state noted we have a new superintendent and that we have instituted many of the changes and reforms that the state requested in their audit report.

Feedback: Last month, most of you felt that while class size and books are both important, if we have to choose, we need to choose text books that align with the curriculum. This month's questions: 1. The city is making an extra effort to keep downtown clean and looking nice — with new flower boxes and more street sweeping. How do you feel the downtown looks for cleanliness and aesthetics? () generally good, () needs work. What can we do to improve the appearance of downtown? 2. We have a number of programs at Plugs Pond and other areas for kids this summer. What other programs would you like to see? How do you feel about the allocation in the budget I submitted: () As good as could be expected with the financial situation, () I am not happy with the allocation of resources, here is why:

Jim Fiorentini is the mayor of Haverhill and is in his second term. He is seeking a third term in November. You can email him at jimfior2@aol.com

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NECC's English Department Presents Writing Awards

Each semester, Northern Essex Community College English professors select the top essays in their English Composition I and English Composition II and recognize the student authors at the Writing Awards Ceremony.

This year's ceremony was held on Friday, May 4th, and 35 students were honored.

With almost 100 sections of English Composition offered at the college this spring semester and an average of 20 students in each class, these awards are extremely selective. According to Suzanne Van Wert, English Dept. Chair, the 35 award recipients were selected from a pool of about 10,000 essays. "People are always delighted when they hear our students' essays at the ceremony and realize the quality of work generated by our students," she said.

Receiving the Professor Elizabeth Arnold Award for her English Composition I essay was Aura Valdes of Newburyport. Professor Arnold, who taught journalism and composition at the college from 1969 to 1988, initiated the college's journalism concentration and was the faculty advisor to the Observer, NECC's award winning student newspaper. Valdes received a laptop computer donated by Dell Inc.

The Roland Kimball Award for Excellence in Composition II was presented to Mark Combs of Bradford for his Composition II essay. Professor Kimball served as professor of English from the college's beginnings in 1961 until 1992 and was the first chairman of the English Department. Combs received a \$300 scholarship. All students received certificates of excellence. Students whose essays were judged to be worthy of special recognition were honored with scholarships or gift certificates to the Barnes & Nobles bookstore.

Students Honored Included

Amesbury: Kevin Cotty, English Comp. I, \$50 scholarship, Jame' Joefield, English Comp. I, Michael Ortu, English Comp. I. Andover: Katherine Riendeau, English Comp. I, \$50 scholarship. Bradford: Sara Adams, English Comp. I, Kelley

Danielson, English Comp. I, \$100 scholarship, Mark Combs, English Comp. II, \$300 scholarship and the Roland Kimball Award for Excellence in Composition II. Patricia Steele, English Comp. I. Byfield: Michelle Fortin, English Comp. I, \$25 gift certificate to Barnes & Nobles. Dracut: Brenda Caunter, English Comp. I, \$25 gift certificate to Barnes & Nobles. Georgetown: Laura Driscoll, English Comp. I. Haverhill: Diannely Antigua, English Comp. II, Donna Johnson, English Comp. II, \$50 scholarship, Jason LaBonte, English Comp. I. EmmaLeigh Lawrence-Wilbins, English Comp. II, Erika McCann, English Comp. I, Hope Oulette, English Comp. I, \$200 scholarship. Katie Russo, English Comp. II, \$50 scholarship, Danielle Taylor, English Comp. II. Ipswich: Candice McLaughlin, English Comp. II. Lawrence: Catherine Blais, English Comp. I, Yanitza Perez, English Comp. I. Merrimack: Holly Flinn, English Comp. II, Mary Pettoruto, English Comp. I, \$50 scholarship, Nicole Trimble, English Comp. I. Methuen: Jessica Demers, English Comp. I, Christian Gebauer, English Comp. I, Richard Reynolds, English Comp. II, Ashley Smallwood, English Comp. II. Newburyport: Aura Valdes, English Comp. I, Dell Laptop computer and the Elizabeth Arnold Award for Excellence in Composition I. North Andover: Chunning Huang, English Comp. II. Hampton, NH: David Kepner, English Comp. II, \$100 scholarship. Newton, NH: Amanda Basler, English Comp. II, \$150 scholarship, Eileen Patterson, English Comp. I. Pelham, NH: Dave Mullins, English comp. I.

With campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence and extension sites in Andover and Methuen, Northern Essex Community College is a state-assisted college, offering over 70 associate degree and certificate programs as well as hundreds of non credit courses designed for personal enrichment and career growth. Close to 13,000 students ranging from recent high school graduates to workers employed locally attend classes days, evenings, and weekends. Northern Essex is the only state college located in the lower Merrimack Valley Region of Massachusetts.

Exchange Club of Haverhill Announces Karen Currier Exchangite of the Year

Haverhill and Wakefield – The members of the Exchange Club of Haverhill eagerly anticipate the crowning of their Exchangite of the Year each June, and this year the award was deservedly bestowed upon Karen Currier.

The Exchangite of the Year is a closely held secret within the club, with previous recipients of the award making the decision. The selection committee is comprised of Glenn Strauss, Exchangite of the Year 2006 (Wakefield), Rick Barry, Exchangite of the Year 2005 (Lowell), Karrie Eaton, Exchangite of the Year 2004 (Kingston, NH) and Rocky Cimino, Exchangite of the Year 2003 (West Newbury). The committee encourages suggestions from club members and presents the recipient with a beautiful plaque at a luncheon in their honor. The recipient is not announced until the day of the presentation.

"Karen is an outstanding member of our club," said Strauss. "Her work with the Haverhill Police Department and her dedication to the Exchange Club has been right in line with our mission of child abuse prevention."



Karen Currier holds the prized Exchangite of the Year Award!

Currier, a Haverhill resident, has made a career out of caring for this community. As a Detective with the Haverhill Police Department (HPD) she deals directly with domestic violence cases. Currier has also been responsible for getting sex offenders off the streets. In her 14 years on the force, she has served as the Accreditation Manager for the HPD and has held the post of President for the Police Relief Association. Karen is a Board Member for the Essex County Child Advocacy Center and is working to see one built here in Haverhill.



Another Point of View

Mark Palermo, Haverhill (NECC) Professor

My Summer Wish List

I wish mediocrity were not so politically expedient. My father has always said, "BS will get a man further in life than talent." For proof, one need look no further than Marty "Midas" Meehan, who went along, broke promises, and spent his entire congressional career railing against campaign finance abuses. Yet, in the end, Midas drank more deeply from the poisoned cup of campaign finance than any of his ethically-challenged colleagues. Which brings me to my next wish:

I wish all lobbying were illegal, especially by foreign governments. Lobbying is just another word for bribery. How can we have a foreign policy in the best interests of the American people when we allow China, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Japan, and anyone else to buy into our legislative process?

I wish Congress would take a lesson from Doors' drummer John Densmore, who refused a \$15,000,000 offer from Cadillac for the rights to use "Break On Through" in the company's advertising campaign. Densmore says the Doors music is "not for rent." (Jim wouldn't approve) The Doors had more talent, passion, and artistic integrity than any other rock group- then and now.

I wish U.N. observers were called in to monitor all future public works projects in Haverhill. Then, maybe it wouldn't take six years to replace an 800-foot bridge through the center of town.

I wish Howie Carr, AKA "Howie, the Jackal," avowed Nemesis of immigrants - illegal and otherwise- would find one good

thing to say about one immigrant. Any immigrant will do. The image of Howie in the act of praise is somehow inconceivable, maybe even surrealistic. Like George Bush dancing the Macarena. Or Dick Cheney reading Allen Ginsberg's poem, *Howl*, in some smoky, waterfront tavern.

I wish the people of the United States would stand against torture, secret detentions and similar abuses for which we condemned the Nazis at Nuremberg. We are a nation of laws, not of men.

I wish the government would allow a full tax deduction for those who pay their own medical insurance.

I wish so-called conservative columnist, Ann "the Cruel Nun" Coulter would practice civility and restraint, which are the hallmarks of democracy. Every time the shrewish Coulter speaks, she makes conservatism look more like fascism.

I wish there were an enforced anti-noise ordinance in Haverhill. We shouldn't have to legislate common sense, respect and consideration, but we must.

I wish we had National Orgasm Day here as they do in Brazil. The town of Esperantina, whose residents are deeply religious and conservative, hosts the annual event dedicated to "the health giving benefits of orgasm," within a committed relationship of course. Esperantina's mayor, Felipe Santolia says, "I've seen scientific studies that show when a woman is unloved, when her husband can bring her

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Exchange Club of Haverhill Honors Area Residents in "So Proudly We Hail" Program

Haverhill, Mass. – The Exchange Club of Haverhill has been celebrating patriotism long before it became a fashionable. For years, they have been hosting an annual program entitled "So Proudly We Hail", a program in which they honor individuals throughout the city of Haverhill who proudly display the American flag.

On June 14th (Flag Day) the Exchange Club of Haverhill invited several members of the city to enjoy lunch at Winnekenni Castle and receive plaques in honor of their dedication to patriotism. Sue Ellery, Exchange Club President, organized the event and presented each recipient with a beautiful plaque recognizing their patriotic efforts. Recipients of the award included Lois and Roger Chadwick, David and Roseann McMenemy and H.L. Farmer & Sons Funeral Homes, which was represented by Louis Farmer. Each of these Haverhill residents have certainly displayed an enormous amount of dedication to flying the symbol of freedom, and the Exchange Club of Haverhill is proud to recognize

them for their continued efforts. The club also sponsored the installation of a flagpole at the entrance to Winnekenni Castle. They pre-sented the flagpole to the Winnekenni Foundation that same day, with a ceremony following the "So Proudly We Hail" luncheon.

"It was wonderful to be able to host these two events on Flag Day," said Ellery. "We hope that the visitors to Winnekenni Castle enjoy the flag and flagpole for years to come."

The Exchange Club of Haverhill is a not-for-profit service club that meets weekly on Thursdays at the Olivia's at 12:00 p.m. (noon). The club is made up of approximately 45 volunteers from throughout the community. Their primary focus is on the prevention of child abuse. Through fundraising efforts they are able to provide programs such as the Junior Police, Read Across America and Trees for Tots. Scholarships are given by the Exchange Club of Haverhill, like the Youth of the Year and ACE Award. For more information on how to learn more about the Exchange Club visit their website at www.haverhillexchangeclub.com