



3 Year Anniversary Edition!

Educator to Pay Back \$25K in 'Missing' Money

Former North Andover Program Director Agrees to Repay Missing Money as Part of Plea Deal with Town

Paula Porten

Last year, North Andover Community Programs Director Catherine Entsminger resigned after an independent audit of the Community Programs revolving account found discrepancies and monies unaccounted for.

The school system hired the auditing firm of Sullivan, Rogers & Co., LLC, which reported that Entsminger admitted she only deposited checks and money orders, and that she did not keep books or records to account for the missing cash.

Sullivan said in its report that Entsminger told her assistant "early on" not to tell anyone that they collected cash and to give all cash payments directly to her.

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N.A. School Chair Perry Registers New Car in N. H. See Story Page 11

Heroes In Our Midst Valley Patriot of the Month

Gunners Mate 3rd Class Thomas Petrillo

U.S. Navy - WW II
Part I

Ted Tripp



METHUEN – Sixteen million Americans served in World War II. Only a fraction of this number saw action in both the European and Pacific Theaters. And only a handful of those served on both a battleship and an aircraft carrier. This brings us to Seaman Tom Petrillo, who served on the Battleship Massachusetts during the 1942 landing in North Africa and later aboard the Escort Aircraft Carrier St. Lo in the Philippines.

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Lawrence Mayor

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Valley Patriot

* Editorial *

We Miss the OLD Blanchette

When Lawrence City Council President Patrick Blanchette first took office, he was honestly interested in making a positive difference in the city. He asked fair questions, exposed wasteful spending, looked at each issue objectively, advocated for better relations with both the mayor's office and the public, and fought for his constituents regardless of their local political leanings.

But today we have a different Patrick Blanchette.

Since becoming council president, Blanchette now spends most of his time interfering with the executive functions of the mayor. He shamelessly slanders city workers, drives department heads out of their jobs, uses the public forum of City Council meetings to threaten and embarrass political enemies, and makes excuses for his political friends and allies no matter what their transgression.

We're not sure exactly what happened to the once promising Blanchette over the last few years. Formerly the peacemaker when disagreements and conflicts arose in the city, he is now the single biggest cause of such conflicts as he abuses his presidency to get even with councilors who oppose him. He also misleads the public about proposals he disagrees with.

In short, Blanchette is clearly out of control. He has not only made disrespectful and uncivil personal attacks at the council table acceptable, but has, leading by example, allowed this kind of abuse of power to become the norm among other councilors at public meetings.

We want the old Patrick Blanchette back! The one who was easy to get along with. The one who wasn't trying to manipulate every situation and put a spin on every issue. The one who didn't have a political answer for everything. The one who wasn't looking for special favors. The one who didn't see hidden motives in everyone he spoke to. We liked the Patrick Blanchette who would pick up the phone and work with people behind the scenes to smooth over political difficulties in order to get something accomplished for the city. We liked *that* Patrick Blanchette because *that* Patrick Blanchette was motivated by what was truly best for the city of Lawrence, not what was best for his own political future.

Whatever the reasons for his political transformation, we say it is time that Blanchette revert to past form or step down as council president and go back to the basics of being a district councilor. Perhaps stepping away from the enormous burden of the council presidency at such a young age will re-align his moral compass and clarify his political thinking. So that some day, a smarter, wiser and better prepared Patrick Blanchette can lead the city of Lawrence in a positive direction.

One thing is clear. As long as Blanchette continues to wage political war from the council table against all those who oppose him (or those seen as political threats), the rest of the council will follow such destructive behavior. We say the council president's chair should be reserved for those who can put aside personal vendettas to *lead* the council and, by extension, the city, in search of a positive direction.

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See page 5 for our new local political cartoonist David Sullivan

Our Voice is Your Voice!

The Valley Patriot welcomes letters to the editor on any topic. We also welcome column/article submissions from elected officials, neighborhood associations, community organizers, average citizens, and newsmakers. Though we may not agree with the opinions expressed in submissions, our mission is to give readers the unique opportunity to receive important information from those who are driving important public issues without the "creative editing" policy employed by most newspapers. Submissions from guest columnists/writers in The Valley Patriot are published without the filtered agenda of an editorial board. If you would like to write a column, letter or article for The Valley Patriot, please email us at: ValleyPatriot@aol.com

To the Editor,

In the upcoming March 27th election, voters in North Andover will choose a new representative to their School Committee.

I am one of three candidates for the position. With my 15 years of experience as a Selectman, I hope to bring some "common sense" leadership back to a badly troubled school system that has lost the respect of the town's citizens. I propose a three-part plan to restore credibility to our schools. I call this the Affordability, Accountability and Academic Goals Initiative.

Affordability means putting together a budget that the town can afford and without raising taxes. Accountability signifies linking employee compensation to our children's educational outcome. Academic Goals means we must challenge our students and their teachers to reach significantly higher levels of achievement.

If this Initiative sounds like a "common sense" approach to you, then I ask for your vote on Tuesday, March 27th.

Don Stewart
North Andover

To the Editor,

After reviewing the article in your Feb. 2007 issue regarding Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon, I would like to make a few comments.

I recently moved to Methuen from Everett, Mass. where I was very involved in my community. I started and implemented a program called the BlockParent SafeHouse Program with the assistance of city officials and our Chief Steve Mazzie. It permitted residents who passed a background investigation to place a placard in the window of their home that identified them as a safe place to go to seek assistance from harm. It was set up to assist the elderly and children. I also have been employed in public safety for many years, and have had the pleasure of meeting and working with many law enforcement officials.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with and speaking with Chief Soloman about

how I can now become involved in this community and what programs he has put in place and what future ideas he has. The citizens of Methuen should take pride in Chief Soloman. I have researched numerous programs he has implemented and he has made himself available to the public to answer any questions they may have.

I ask people to remember, when you are in public life, such as Chief Solomon, it is very difficult to please everyone. So I ask that you judge Chief Solomon on the good things he has accomplished for the city of Methuen, and give him the opportunity to continue to attempt to make this community a safer and better place to live and work

I can state without hesitation that, chief, you have my support. Keep up the good work.

David Vitale,
Methuen

To the Editor,

In regard to "A Rigorous Exercise in Defining Grounds for a Recall," written by Michelle Thone: writing this column, which appears to be her general opinion as a disinterested third party, was inappropriate without informing the readers or you as to the real reason she (Michelle Thone) is writing such a letter.

She is the one being recalled! Michelle Thone should have let you and the public

know that she is the councilor being recalled. The column she has written exemplifies the reason why she is being recalled. She does things in an underhanded, behind the scenes manner and doesn't see the problem with it.

Steering Committee Member / Committee to Recall Councilor Michelle Thone

David Frick
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Lawrence on the Move

Mayor Michael J. Sullivan

The month of March is filled with exciting activities for Irish Heritage Month in the city of Lawrence. Right off the bat I want to thank the dozens of individuals and groups who work throughout the year planning and organizing the many events that will be going on this month. Whether you are from Boston or Manchester, N.H., people will come from all around to participate in at least one of the happenings related to Irish Heritage Month in Lawrence.

This past Sunday I had a great time running four miles with many people from all across the Merrimack Valley who came for the 13th Annual Irish Classic Road Race. I was joined by Nora "Cotton Tail" Carroll, Tom "Rabbit Foot" Schiavone, Police Chief John "Mercury Wings" Romero, Councilor Joe "Lightning Bolt" Parolisi, Attorney James "Float Like a Butterfly" Bowers, Veteran's Services Director Francisco "Galloping Ghost" Urena and Attorney Michael "Sting Like a Bee" Sweeney. We had a lot of fun running for a worthy cause and it provided the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones, which is what these community events are all about. Over 400 people came out to run and support the effort to benefit cancer research.

This entire month you have the same opportunity to come into Lawrence and join us for the multiple events taking place. The 136th Saint Patrick's Day Dinner Dance on March 10th at the Claddagh Restaurant, then on Sunday the best parade in the Merrimack Valley kicks off for the Saint Patrick's

Day Parade, and on Monday the 12th there will be Irish story telling at the South Lawrence Branch Library starting at 11 a.m.

Of course, no one is to miss the 38th Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Luncheon on Friday, March 16th. It will be a packed house at the Claddagh, filled with laughter and good spirits. The Irish Film Festival on Saturday the 18th at Lawrence Heritage State Park starting at 11 a.m. will be a treat. My personal favorite will be when the New England Civic Ballet presents "The Enchanted Glen" on Sunday, March 25th, at the Rogers Center at Merrimack College starting at 2 p.m.

This truly is a special month for the city of Lawrence, as many people remember their heritage and share the same with people new to the area. Find some time this month to bring family and friends into our wonderful city and come to see the people and places that I love.

Finally, I want to send a very special congratulations to Mr. Tom Duggan of The Valley Patriot, as this month is the 3rd anniversary of the paper that has become the new voice of the Merrimack Valley. Tom, keep up the good work and congratulations on your award!

Michael Sullivan is the mayor of Lawrence and is in his second four-year term. You can email him at Sull33@aol.com or call his office at 978-794-5858 and ask for Nora.

Elect **Don Stewart** *March 27th*
North Andover School Committee
"A Bridge Over Troubled Waters"
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Thinking Outside the Box!

Dr. Charles Ormsby, N.A. School Committee

Legislation Filed to Save Our Community

Three Bills That Everyone Should Support

Just over one year ago, I addressed the four key policy failures that underlie the perpetual funding crisis that afflicts our municipal governments. These are the same policy errors that are responsible for the abysmal failure of our public "education" system.

Unless these errors in policy are addressed, there will be no relief from the annual financial crunch and our children's future will suffer. Those who support these failed policies either personally benefit from them or believe naively that increased taxes offer the only solution.

Nothing will convince those who are driven by personal gain and don't care about the harm they cause. Those who stick to these policies and prescribe more taxation as the cure need to assess the havoc caused by ever increasing tax burdens—in the home, in lower economic growth, in a reduced standard of living.

When it is proclaimed that, "it is worth it, because it is for the children," three facts are gratuitously ignored:

- * **First, our children are not immune from these negative effects. They are not just recipients of the benefits – if any — of greater spending on the schools, they pay the same price their family pays as economic growth is stymied and standards of living reduced**
- * **Second, our children face these consequences for a lifetime because they will inherit greater tax burdens and face fewer job opportunities as adults**
- * **Third, this entire debacle is unnecessary since a much better educational result is possible at a lower cost and with no drain on the economy or anyone's personal freedom.**

The four underlying problems outlined in the previous article (The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, The Valley Patriot, February 2006) are as follows:

1. Lack of school choice or, alternatively, the lack of widespread competition in the provisioning of educational services
2. Compulsory collective bargaining, which gives unions a monopoly

stranglehold on the labor needed to police our communities, to protect us from risks such as fire, and to provide our children educational opportunities

3. Special Education regulations that assign a strict funding priority to the needs of one segment of our student population while consigning the remaining regular education students to the back of the bus

4. Our socialist healthcare system. After this article was published last year, some of the diehard big spenders that infect our North Andover School Committee meetings approached the microphone and said, "That is all very nice, Dr. Ormsby, but we can't fix those problems so you need to get on the bandwagon and support raising taxes. It's for the children."

Well, as noted above, it is not for the children: it is for the special interests. Increased spending won't improve academic outcomes anyway, and increased taxes hurt the children both today and for the rest of their lives. It is a lose-lose proposition any way you look at it – unless of course you look at it through the lens of the public employee unions.

But the critics do have a point. We need actionable legislation to rally around that will correct these policy errors. I have drafted the needed legislative initiatives for the first three problems cited above and they have been filed by State Senator Steven Baddour.

The impact of our nation's healthcare catastrophe is a tar baby of galactic proportions. It consumes 1/6th of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) now and is projected to devour 1/5th of our GDP by 2016. This catastrophe is felt in every aspect of our lives, including when it adversely impacts the cost of government services because of rich health benefits demanded by public unions. Dismantling the union monopolies will reduce the impact of healthcare costs on our municipalities, but a full solution to the wider impact of the healthcare monster must be mounted at the national level.

Here are the three bills that need your immediate support:

Continued on Page 13



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Planning for Your Future

*Lawrence Planning Director
Michael R. Sweeney*

This week the City of Lawrence will begin the first move in a historic direction concerning the sale of city owned land.

Mayor Michael J. Sullivan recommended that the City Council approve the sale of a Market Street lot to PowerHouse Enterprises. This home will be constructed in a manner that will save the future owners of the property between 65% and 80% each year on their utility bills.

The company making the purchase, PowerHouse Enterprises, is also a Lawrence based company taking the lead in New England in the placement and construction of homes that are on the cutting edge of environmental technology.

For over 100 years Lawrence has been known as the heavy, industrial mill city where back breaking work served as the city's signature.

The next few years presents us with the opportunity to change that imagine and to place the City of Lawrence on the cutting edge of technology and green engineering. Walking in partnership with private business owners such as Mr. Sal Lupoli and Mr. Robert Ansin, who have both seized onto the economic sense of green technology, Mayor Sullivan is moving us in a direction to seriously consider issues of storm-water management and creating homes that permanently address utility costs through the effective uses of modern technology.

For perhaps the first time in the history of the Commonwealth, a municipality has set out to sell property with the intention of

creating housing on a site that provides for utilities reductions of 65% to 80%.

With the successful completion of this transaction, we can all watch as PowerHouse Enterprises constructs the house and view the final product. Under the leadership of A. Quincy Vale, company president, and John Rossi, design principal, PowerHouse Enterprises will build a modular home that is highly energy efficient, built of materials from recycled and sustainable products, and the house itself will generate less pollution through it reduced dependence on the standard energy grid.

The future is wide open for Lawrence and our citizens. If we continue to push the envelope and think creatively, we do not have to constantly play catch up. Instead, we can take the lead and show both government and the business community how successful partnerships between a municipality and a private company can help transform a city's imagine.

Mayor Sullivan has been clear in asking us to think of ways to attractive and maintain dynamic businesses here in the city of Lawrence. With the growing interest in green technology and America's need to gain energy-independence, fully exploring the opportunities presented by new technology will further strengthen the city's position as a leader in the decades to come.

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.

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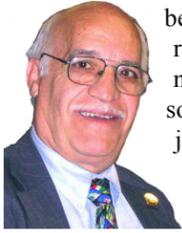
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Footnotes from

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

Councilor DiMarca: His Own Worst Enemy

You would think someone with such an obvious conflict of interest in the Frank McCann/DPW matter in Lawrence like Councilor Nunzio DiMarca that he would be flying below the radar screen to let someone else take the lead in defending Frank McCann. But you would be wrong. Councilor DiMarca just can't resist taking positions on issues he knows nothing about just to look like he knows something. DiMarca, who recently got a job for an immediately family member in the DPW (and is making deals to get jobs for other friends and family members), is either too clueless to understand the severity of his conflict or he just doesn't care. And it's not like he hasn't been warned.



Last month The Valley Patriot was sent a copy of a letter that was mailed to the Ethics Commission complaining that DiMarca was abusing his authority and trying to trade votes for jobs. But even after we posted the story on The Valley Patriot website, DiMarca continued to publicly attack Mayor Sullivan and even had a family member (who works for McCann) speak at the meeting to defend him. It is this kind of self-serving behavior that reminds the voters why they threw DiMarca out of office in 2003 and will most likely lead to yet another defeat this coming November. At the pace he is going, he will be lucky (VERY lucky) to even win the primary, never mind get reelected. And that's too bad because six months ago he was paced for an easy reelection win, but his constant appearances on the radio and his self-serving behavior have all but guaranteed that DiMarca will now be in big trouble come election day. And he only has himself to blame.

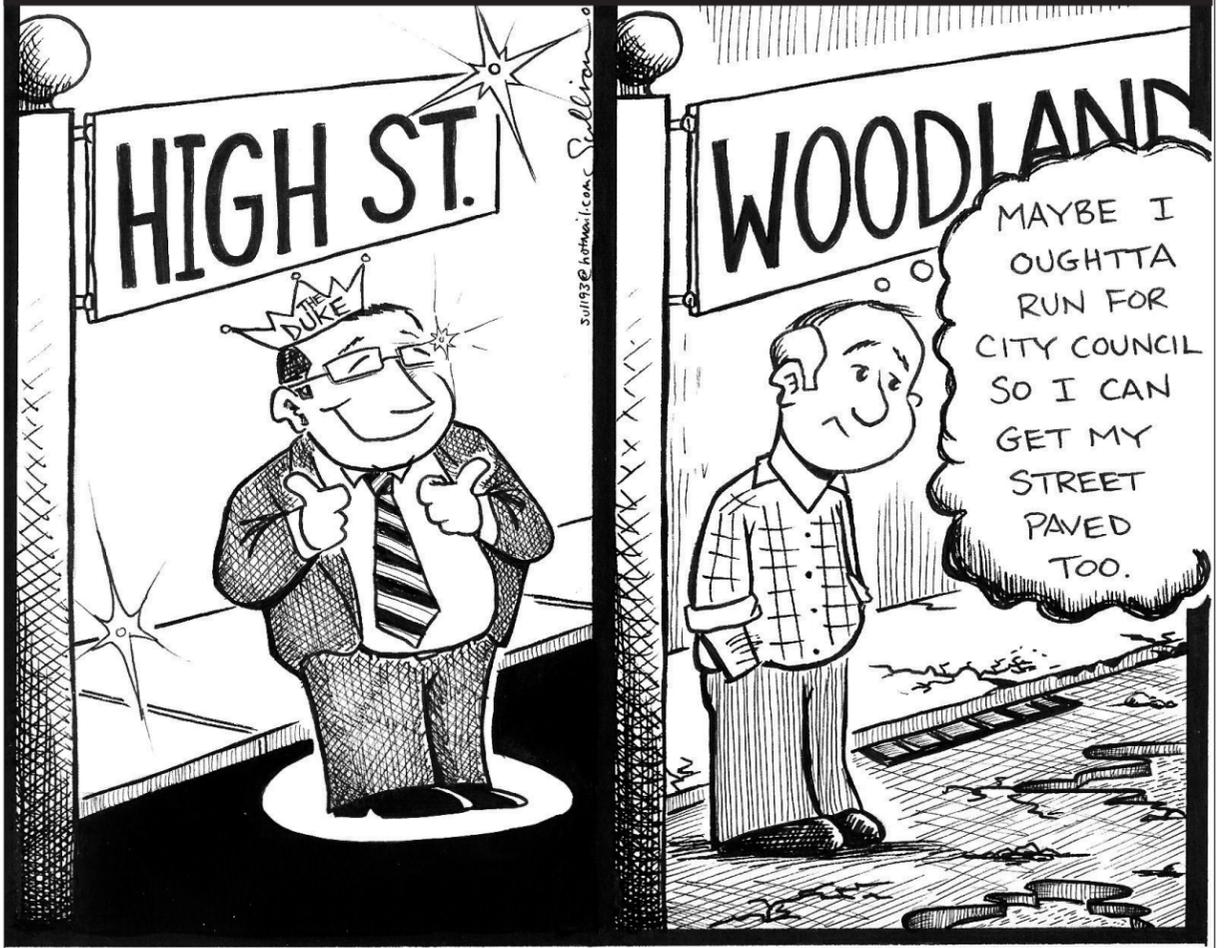
Why Does an Elected Official Need to File an FOIR?

You might think that North Andover is taking its cues from Lawrence these days when it comes to hiding public documents from elected officials. Recently, School Committeeman Chuck Ormsby requested copies of the Middle School grading for the last three years and the administration simply refuses to hand them over. So now, a duly elected member of town government has to file a Freedom of Information request to get copies of the Middle School grading and there is no guarantee he will ever get them.



The Middle School is on a quarterly grading system and Ormsby was only provided with the first quarter results for this year. His concern is that grades are being inflated and wants to review them so that the School Committee can monitor its policy on "grade inflation." Maybe, once Al Perry is gone, it will be easier to get this type of information. All I can say is: Thank God Mr. O'Connor is only the

News Item: Lawrence Council President's Street Paved at 200% of the Original Bid



"acting" superintendent or we would have another Harry Harutunian on our hands.

Joe Smith Signs Tax Pledge, Smedile Refuses (Huh?)

She may be a registered Republican, but Selectman Rosemary Smedile has not voted that way over the last few years. She has even refused to sign the North Andover Taxpayers Association "Taxpayer Pledge" not to raise taxes if she is reelected this month. Candidate Joe Edward Smith, on the other hand, DID sign the pledge promising not to support overrides or tax hikes. So let me see if I have this right ... Joe Smith, the Democrat in the race, promises NOT to raise taxes or support overrides, but the Republican Rosemary Smedile REFUSES to make that promise? WOW! We know Rosemary Smedile as a hard working selectman and we admire her for some of the work she has done in the past, but when it comes to raising the tax bills in town, I will take my chances with Joe Smith ... again!



into the race, but Twomey and Moynihan are the undisputed front runners the minute they pull nomination papers. Just imagine, city councilors Roger Twomey and Dave Moynihan! What a difference that would make on the tone of the City Council; who knows, maybe we will even get a new council president!

Pro-Override Forces Back Allen Anti-Override Forces Support Stewart

The North Andover School Committee race being held on March 27th is going to come down to three candidates (two being polar opposites) vying for one open seat being vacated by Al Perry (YEAH!) Running on the TUFF "we need overrides" platform is Christine Allen and running on the "no override" side is former Selectman Donald Stewart. The third candidate is invisible and nobody knows if he is still in the race. But, not to worry, no matter which side of the override issue you happen to stand on, there is a candidate for you to support. Allen seems to have gotten a head start as her signs and supporters have been hard at work for months trying to get the school spending advocate elected while Stewart took a much more laid-back approach. That is, until two weeks ago when Stewart's campaign exploded into high gear and signs began popping up all over town. No doubt the late start is going to hurt Stewart and the head start Allen got will inflate some of her numbers, but this one could be a horse race depending on voter turnout.

Roger Twomey & Dave Moynihan At-Large?

With at least two of the three at-large city councilors (Nilka Alvarez and Nunzio DiMarca) in trouble with Lawrence voters for the upcoming municipal election, at least two very credible candidates are gearing up to replace them. Word on the inside has it that former DPW foreman Dave Moynihan and former licensing chairman Roger Twomey are ready to throw their hats into the at-large ring. Even if both Alvarez and DiMarca were wildly popular with the voters this year (which they are clearly not), they would be facing an uphill battle with both Twomey and Moynihan in the race. And given that Alvarez and DiMarca are quite vulnerable (and incapable of raising the money they need to mount a viable reelection campaign), this looks like a blood bath before the first ballot is even cast. We don't even know how many other candidates will jump

Poverty Pimps Bill Taxpayers for Party at Sal's

Ah, you have to love Bill Traynor and his poverty pimps at Lawrence Community Works. They love the poor people of Lawrence so much that they held a party at Sal's Riverwalk last year and now they are billing the city of Lawrence for more than \$4,000, including hotel accommodations for their guest speaker, the room service, the food, the advertising in The Eagle-Tribune and other amenities. Here's the funny part: all of the reimbursement receipts they submitted to the city for payment were from out-of-town businesses. Funny, huh? I guess practicing what you preach (helping Lawrence businesses, fighting for the little people, etc.) is not part of the mission statement at LCW. What I find most hilarious about all of this is how The Eagle-Tribune castigated Methuen's Chief Solomon for submitting reimbursement receipts for a pretzel and cheese whiz, yet no word from the Trib about the abuse of public funds for Poverty Pimp Central to throw a party (which I am assuming you, the general public, did not get the benefit of attending).



In Memory of Lawrence Police Officer Thomas Duggan, Sr.

Killed in the line of duty March 16, 1990

Time may have passed, but we have not forgotten how you protected our community so well for 18 years. Nor have we forgotten what you lived for and what you died for.

Sadly missed by family, friends, colleagues and a very grateful community!



Gino Barone: Giving Back to Lawrence

Tom Duggan

With engineering and construction management degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Merrimack College, and courses taken at Harvard Graduate School of Design and Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Gino Baroni has his pick of just about any corporate job he wants in any corner of the world where he decides to live.

Yet, this former Lawrence native, at the very height of his success in business and construction management, chose to forgo more lucrative job opportunities around the world to come back to his roots and work on projects in Lawrence and surrounding communities in the Merrimack Valley.

"I was born in Lawrence and lived at the corner of Chestnut and Lawrence Streets for years before urban renewal drove us further up the street," Baroni says. "Lawrence is my hometown. I went to preschool at the Venerini Sisters, and attended Holy Rosary Grammar School and Central Catholic High School. Our family has been in Lawrence for many years. I know Lawrence has had problems, but I love this city and I really wanted to come back and do something to make it better."

"Because of the nature of my profession," he continued, "I had to travel all over the country. But when things slowed down a little and I finally got the opportunity to decide what I wanted to do next, I decided to come back to Lawrence. I could see there were a lot of really good things happening here, things you just don't seem to hear enough about."

Baroni said that the millions of dollars in private investments being poured into the city of Lawrence by people like Bob Ansin of Monarch on the Merrimack and Sal Lupoli of Sal's Riverwalk had a lot to do with the timing of his return.

"I felt it was a critical time to look at coming back when I saw people like Sal (Lupoli) and Bob (Ansin) making millions of dollars in investments in Lawrence out of their own pockets. To me, it was the key sign that things were really happening here in

Lawrence. For years, people talked about revitalizing Lawrence, but it was only talk because nothing was happening when you looked around the city. You didn't see major corporations looking to relocate here, you didn't see major renovations happening by private developers. But, suddenly, everything changed. It wasn't just talk. People saw they could do something positive in Lawrence and they were actually doing something about it. It made me want to be a part of it. So I came back to my home town to make a difference."

"You know, Lawrence is ideally situated from a real estate development/planning point of view. It has rail access, excellent highway access, the Merrimack River, an airport - so many resources and so much potential. Finally, that potential is starting to be realized. I give Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan a lot of the credit for that," Baroni said. "With all that he has to deal with, it is a credit that he has been able to promote Lawrence the way he has and been able to attract so many new companies to not only come here, but be a living part of the solution to revitalizing the city. That's the key and I believe if it wasn't for Mike and his trusted people, it wouldn't be happening."

Baroni credits his strong ties to Central Catholic High School with his sense of connection and loyalty to Lawrence and the Merrimack Valley. "I went to school with Mike Sullivan and Billy Manzi, so I knew these guys since we were kids," he continued. "They both continue to promote the success of the area."

"Brother Tom Long was a year ahead of us at Central and when I saw him come back to take over the presidency of CCHS and take on an ambitious \$10 million renovation project, I said to myself, I need to be here. I need to figure out what is really going on in Lawrence. From the outside I started to see the community truly investing in Lawrence kids at the Boys & Girls Club, the Adalente Youth Center, and all the other initiatives that were just starting to happen and it drew me back to the city. I knew I had the ability



Lawrence Mayor Michael J. Sullivan with former Central Catholic classmate Gino Barone at last year's St. Patrick's Day Luncheon.

to do something here in Lawrence and make a difference, and I'm glad I came back."

Asked what he was doing before he returned to the city, Baroni talked about a long list of accomplishments that would make any grad student or business person green with envy.

"Prior to starting Trident I was executive vice president and chief operating officer at Beacon Skanska Construction Company, which is part of a world-wide firm based in Sweden. I was able to steadily grow the volume of the New England division and, most importantly, increase profits. We had a lot of fun with some great people working on projects like Gillette Stadium, Rows Wharf, One Post Office Square, One Lincoln Street, Delta Terminal A, and a lot of other signature projects in Boston and the country. It was fulfilling to be engaged on very exciting and challenging projects, working with some very top notch, highly talented people in project design and project management."

"I earned my graduate degree from MIT and immediately went to work for Beacon Construction Company. Quite frankly, I thought I was going to retire there, you know, the old cradle-to-grave theory. I thought I was going to be there forever, but unfortunately that theory no longer works in corporate America. We had a mutual parting of the ways when they wanted me to go to another part of the country to duplicate what I had done in Boston. I wasn't ready to leave New England; I didn't want to leave my roots."

"But I believe things happen for a reason. I've never been one to wring my hands and say 'what do I do next?' I've been an entrepreneur all my life and I have always believed in making your own opportunities. I also believe that out of chaos comes opportunities. I wanted to come back to the Merrimack Valley for a long time, so I reacquainted myself with people in the Valley that I knew and began to take on local projects."

Baroni started Trident in 1986 when he left Beacon briefly and went out on his own. "I have a lot of respect for the small business

person. If you are part of a large corporation, you get kind of lost in the energy and you are focused on your particular job. But when you are a small business person you are the janitor, the accountant, and the president - you do it all. One of the best educations I got was when I left the large organization and started my own company. Although I have tremendous respect for the large corporations, I respect more the small business person who runs his own business because you really have to do it all alone and you have to know everything it takes to keep the doors open every day."

"We provide services for a mix of non-profit and for-profit organizations. I like to work with non-profits, advising on how they can efficiently deliver their projects. Every penny we can save working in a nonprofit situation makes a very big impact. Each dollar they spend on construction costs in a project takes away another dollar from accomplishing their mission. So if we can save them, say 10%, that's more money for the kids, for the mission. For Lawrence's future, we need to make a difference, to provide an opportunity, with the kids in Lawrence. I came back to the area and have participated in some tremendous projects like the Central Catholic High School renovation project, the Lawrence Family Development Charter School project, and the Lawrence Boys & Girls Club project. I am glad to be back home."

What does Trident do?

"Trident's **PROJECT ADVANTAGE GROUP** assembles client driven and project specific senior level staff with a proven project delivery model geared towards that of a trusted program, business and process advisor to our clients. Our primary purpose is ensuring the opportunity to provide our clients with an advantage over all delivery methods in providing an array of professional services for oversight, assistance and direction in land/building acquisition, due diligence, development, design, construction, and financial instrument procurement and project administrative services, targeted at managing the outcome from concept to completion."



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Our new 300 seat authentic family Italian Restaurant offers cafeteria style luncheons and casual-elegant evening dining; with panoramic outdoor riverside seating available. Executive Chef Antonio Veneziano from the Amalfi Coast in Italy has created a menu that challenges any Italian Restaurant in New England.

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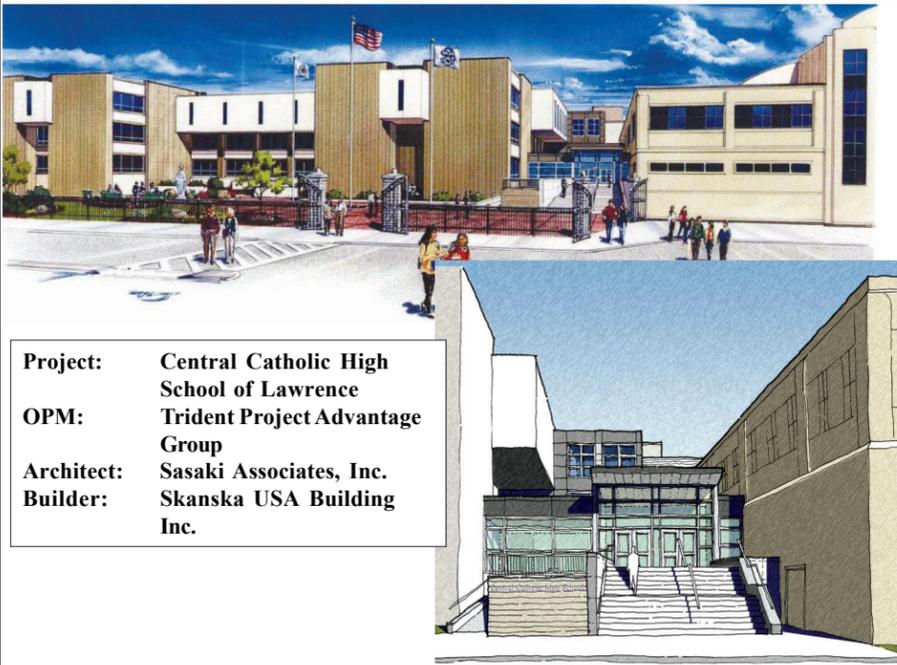
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Project: Central Catholic High School of Lawrence
OPM: Trident Project Advantage Group
Architect: Sasaki Associates, Inc.
Builder: Skanska USA Building Inc.

Project: Monarch on the Merrimack
OPM: Trident Project Advantage Group
Architect: Finegold Alexander + Associates
Builder: J Calnan & Associates, Inc.



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Project: Lawrence Charter School
OPM: Trident Project Advantage Group
Design/Builder: Cutler Associates, Inc.

Project: Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence
OPM: Trident Project Advantage Group
Design/Builder: Channel Building Company, Inc.



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HAVERHILL'S FUTURE!

Jim Rurak, Former Mayor of Haverhill

Leadership Needed to Solve Parking Crisis

The mayor canceled last Thursday's public meeting on where to put the downtown parking garage.

His aide said that they needed more time to respond to a growing set of concerns that a five-story structure on the Ted's for Tires lot would be downright ugly.

They can take all the time they want, but unless they make it invisible, the massive garage will be ugly as sin. It will spoil the ambience of the district it is supposed to serve. It will be taller than any of the beautiful buildings around it. Its ugliness will be matched only by the vast shadow it will cast over the streets and square beside it.

The mayor's in a real bind. His repeated failures to win approval of a parking plan means that he must now race to get that plan approved and begin to build a garage.

Otherwise, the grant monies for the garage could be lost. He also needs to do something before the election. But now that his favorite site is controversial, he seems to face the choice between building an ugly garage or losing a lot of votes.

So what do we do?

As I understand it, the federal and state grants require that we construct parking facilities that serve more than just automobiles. The Ted's site works because it's close to the railroad station and we plan to move the bus station there. Bingo, it's cars, buses and trains, or "multimodal" as

planners call it. But a five-story structure is just so ugly. Some, therefore, want to put the massive structure on the other side of the tracks, on the way to Lafayette Square. That works theoretically, but it's too far away from the businesses and residences it's supposed to serve.

To get beyond this impasse, we need to think outside the big-box approach to parking in which both sides of the above impasse seem to be stuck. We need at least to talk about an approach Lou Fossarelli proposed a short while ago.

Lou wanted to buy air-rights over the Wingate Street lot, build a one-story

garage, sell the lots upstairs to condo owners, improve the downstairs (the existing Wingate lot), and then give it back to the city. It's a classic public-private partnership that might work. But that's not my point just yet. I want to talk about the one-story design.

Go to the Ted's site. Imagine a one-story platform at the same level as the railroad station and tracks. Imagine it covering the existing lot and the other private lots that form the whole site where they want to put the massive garage. The bus station could be down below as well as perhaps 60 spaces. Eighty more spaces could be added on the upper level. You gain a lot fewer spaces, but you actually beautify the area.

Continued at Bottom of Pg. 21



Random Thoughts

Haverhill (NECC) Professor
Mark Palermo

Hey Dude, We Want Our Library Back!

In the Haverhill Library one afternoon in February, I was looking through a bin of CD's when a disturbance started not ten feet away from me.

Two lines of adolescent boys squared off against each other over some perceived or real violation of turf jurisdiction. After about two minutes of blustering and vague threats, the two sides withdrew, satisfied that their territorial imperatives had been reaffirmed.

I am glad they negotiated their turf issue without violence (this time), but I wondered about the turf issue of my own group. The group that uses the library for quiet study and to borrow books. You know, the group that *pays taxes* for this privilege. Where is our territorial imperative and who is affirming it?

As I looked around the library, I was dismayed to see that the library has become a hangout. I saw perhaps 40 young people of high school age, few - if any - of whom appeared to be reading or doing research. Nothing wrong with being young, but being a young person with no structure and too much time on your hands is, to paraphrase P.J. O'Rourke, "...like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys."

No wonder the library is starting to feel like a minimum security prison. If you want to use the men's room, for instance, you sometimes have to go to the main desk and get a key because the door is locked. To prevent what?

Drug dealing, violence, assaults, vandalism? One woman I spoke with says she was browsing through the aisles of books when she overheard one side of a

cell phone conversation where a young man was planning a murder.

My experience in the library has convinced me that now is the time to do something about this.

The library staff is not to blame. I spend a lot of time in libraries and they are the most friendly, helpful, and efficient staff I have ever encountered. But they are not trained as security guards, they have no powers of arrest, they carry no weapons, nor should they. It is easy to say the staff should call the police if they have a problem. But most of the undesirable behavior in the library is not criminal, but inappropriate or vulgar, and thus contributes to a negatively charged environment.

There are ways to deal with this, but first we have to admit we have a problem. Remembering it is not a crime to be a kid, let's consider what we want and what they want. Kids want to get together after school; we don't want them to use the library, except for quiet study or research.

One idea is to make an afternoon Internet café for the kids at the high school and maybe put in a big screen TV. There would be no cost to the public of building or renting and maintaining another building. And at the same time adopt a no-tolerance policy in the library. It's time to generate some ideas.

Is anybody in Haverhill listening? Hey dudes, we want our library back!

Mark Palermo is a professor at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill. You can email him at markpalermo@lycos.com.

Celebrate St Patrick's Day Early! Firehouse Center for the Arts in Newburyport

Presenting The Hit the Bottle Boys in Concert - Thurs., March 15th - Two Shows! 7PM & 9PM

NEWBURYPORT, - The Firehouse Center for the Arts will celebrate St Patrick's Day two days early with The Hit the Bottle Boys Irish Band on Thursday, March 15th for two shows.

This musical group, formed in 2004, is a Philadelphia-based five piece, performing a mixture of traditional Irish songs and original music. Their music is a blend of anarchic rock & punk energy with a genuine passion for the traditional music of Ireland with hints of American bluegrass and an Eastern European influence.

Singer/Songwriter Donal McCarthy, a native of Ireland, arrived in the United States over 10 years ago and quickly established himself as a sound engineer and producer. Not long after opening a recording studio in Philadelphia, he met and befriended Christian Bradley and Ed Docktor, two very talented musicians and songwriters. Within months, they started a live hip-hop project together and developed a musical relationship which would later become the heart of The Hit the Bottle Boys.

Late in 2003 they quickly put a band together for a wedding and the seed of the Bottle Boys was sewn. The audience loved the Irish music they played, and their energy, and soon after Kurt Mitman and Hotdog Wolf from arrived on the scene, and The Hit the Bottle Boys became a reality. The band is currently recording their second CD.

If you are looking for a rollicking good time, this is the concert to come to! Tickets can be purchased at the Firehouse Box Office by calling 978/462-7336 or visit us online at www.firehouse.org.

Tickets for this concert are \$14 for Firehouse members and \$16 for non-members.

The Firehouse is an arts and culture, member-based organization located on the waterfront in Newburyport, with a 195 seat theater, which offers diverse programming, including film, dance, theatre and concerts, children's series, new works festival and has a gallery which exhibits works by local and



The Hit the Bottle Boys Irish Band will perform on Thursday, March 15th for two shows at the Firehouse Center for the Arts in Newburyport.



Moving Haverhill Forward

Haverhill Mayor James Fiorentini

Wall Street Journal Touts Haverhill & More

Last month, The Wall Street Journal gave Haverhill a nice plug in its Monday edition. The Journal story was based on a report by Mass Inc. which is summarized inside the WSJ.

The final EQA audit report on our public schools now makes it clear: school improvement is not just about money. It's about standards, accountability and priorities. Speaking of accountability, we report here on our two-year efforts to control overtime in the city budget.

We're making progress. We report here on the rebirth of Lafayette Square. Haverhill has received the final state approval of our 40R Smart Growth Zoning Overlay District. Finally, the governor's budget is out — a state deficit is bad news for Haverhill and all our cities and towns. The new governor,



to his credit, managed a small increase in state aid despite the state's problems.

The Rebirth of Lafayette Square

Three years ago the state redesign of Lafayette Square meant that businesses in the square were hurt. Now, Lafayette Square is back! — and an integral part of our continued retail revitalization.

Where the old Marble Motors was located, a new CVS Pharmacy will take its

place. It is a \$2 million investment which will add seventy (70) jobs to our city. Across the street is a new shopping plaza, with a Dollar store and three or four more new stores going in.

State School Audit Report: School Progress is Not Just About Money

Friday several of us met with state officials performing what is called an "EQA" audit of our schools. The report makes it clear: improving public education is not just about money. Over the past four years, we have improved funding for public schools by over \$5 million.

Is Haverhill Next? Brookings Report on Gateway Cities

The Brookings Institute, in conjunction with Mass Inc., created a lengthy report on "gateway" cities — old mill cities on the outskirts of Boston. Boston has done a much better job than the surrounding "gateway" cities. Since 1960, Haverhill has lost 57% of its manufacturing jobs, as the shoe industry went bust.

Our per capita income is growing, and our population continues to grow, but at a slower pace. House prices have risen dramatically, yet we are still much more affordable than Greater Boston.

State Gives Final Approval to City's Smart Growth Zoning Overlay District

We received final state approval this week of our Chapter 40R Smart Growth Zoning Overlay District. Our "40R" district is in the old shoe shop industrial area of downtown. In a chapter 40R zoning overlay district, investors can build mixed-use projects — housing on the upper floors and retail on the first floor — provided they meet historic design standards. Approval puts the city in line for a \$600,000 one-time bonus, and a bonus of \$3,000 for each unit that is built in the area.

Open Space and Recreation Committee Plans for the Future

The Open Space and Recreation Committee plans for areas of the city that should always remain as open space. I have entrusted the committee with a new task: help me identify new tools and new ordinances to preserve open space and protect our trees. Our smart growth policies are designed to push growth towards the center of the city and preserve open space on the outskirts. We need to plan for future growth and be prepared.

Mixed Reviews on Snow Plowing

Over 100 people responded to our request for feedback on snow plowing. Here are a few: **Craig**: "The city did a good job on my street." **CF**: "Please have the sidewalk plowers really take their time plowing." **Sue**: "In my 22 years of living in Haverhill, I haven't seen a worse plowing job." **Steve**: "Excellent, our streets were noticeably better than streets in other communities." **Jack and Cathy**: "This is our first winter in Haverhill and the snowplowing effort was excellent." **Dana**: "Our streets were noticeably better than Lawrence's." **Carla**: "I didn't get home that night until WELL after midnight — the highways were atrocious! As soon as I made it to Haverhill, the roads were both clear and wide!" **JCF**: "For a city of over 33 square miles, Haverhill does a great job." **CJRT**: "The plows do a wonderful job on the main streets, but when it comes to the side streets they need to pay more attention..." **Lynn**: "This was the best I had ever seen my street and the surrounding streets plowed. Great job." **Conni**: "This was the only major snowstorm so far, and we were disappointed!" Thank you, all of you, for your comments. We will use them to try to improve service.

Controlling Costs

Over the past three years, we've made great progress in controlling overtime costs.

Every month, I ask for a detailed report outlining how much overtime has been spent in each department. We then project what the department is scheduled to spend in the course of the year. If they are over our projections, we inform the department they are required to live within their budget. We've successfully negotiated with our unions to reduce what we called "mandatory overtime" in the contracts. Next edition, I'll report on our efforts to control sick leave costs.

State Budget Increases Aid to Cities

The governor's budget provides a \$574,000 increase in state aid for Haverhill, slightly less than we anticipated. The increased aid was balanced by a \$563,000 increase in state assessments and charges — mostly for charter schools. Governor Patrick has proposed some good ideas to help cities and towns. His proposal to allow cities and towns to join the state insurance commission might save us money. His proposal to allow us the option of local meals taxes is something we have to explore. I'll be speaking more about this in my state of the city speech next week.

Report Card! On a grade scale of A-F, how would you rate this Valley Patriot newsletter edition as for being informative? Our growth policies are to encourage and control growth in our downtown area by encouraging the reuse of old factory buildings, and to discourage growth in the outskirts and preserve open space. Please give us a report on how we are doing in achieving that goal (A-F): _____

Jim Fiorentini is the mayor of Haverhill and was elected to his second term last year. Mayor Fiorentini is a Democrat and is up for reelection this November. No public money was used to produce or distribute this newsletter. You can E-mail Jim Fiorentini at: jimfior02@aol.com or call 978-374-2300

Kidsfest in Haverhill

Haverhill, Mass. — The Laurie Chase KidsFest will be held Saturday May 5, 2007 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival will take place in Railroad Square, Columbus Park and Wingate Street in downtown Haverhill.

There will be activities for all ages including the Haverhill Youth Idol Contest, Candy Land, the doll parade, face painting and many other games and activities for children and teens. More activities will be announced in the coming month. All residents, service clubs, and businesses are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the festival.

The Haverhill Downtown Association is also looking for volunteers to help organize and staff this event. The KidsFest committee is already meeting regularly to plan this event and would welcome new members to the committee. Please contact Master Catherine Chang of Chang's Tae Kwon Do America to learn how you can be involved in this fun and exciting event. Call 978-556-1616. You can download a sponsor form at www.changstkdamerica.net. All financial donations to offset the cost of KidsFest are welcome and should be made payable to the Haverhill Downtown Association and mailed to the HDA, P.O. Box 1322, Haverhill, MA 01831.

The Laurie Chase KidsFest is a Haverhill tradition that directly benefits the children and families of Haverhill and of surrounding communities. The Haverhill Downtown Association will continue to lead the Merrimack Valley in providing safe, fun and educational events for our children.

HIGHLOW OF THE NORTH SHORE

**Would like to invite you to go swimming!
1 hour of swimming, gathering afterwards**



**WHEN: SUNDAY, March 18th
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**WHERE: Haverhill YMCA
81 Winter Street
Haverhill, MA 01830
Phone: 978-374-0506**

<http://www.northshoreymca.org>

\$5.00 per Family

**RSVP: By March 14th to: Julie Sparages -
highlownorthshore@verizon.net**

Haverhill Food Company's Relocation to Provide 60 New Jobs

Mayor Calls Move Key Addition to City's Growing Food Manufacturing Cluster

Mayor James J. Fiorentini announced that the Silver Spoon Food Company, a high-end prepared salads and foods manufacturer, has agreed to relocate to Haverhill, a move that will mean sixty more jobs for the city. Silver Spoon, which will purchase the old Gazette building on Lowell Avenue, plans to expand their current operation. In making the announcement, Mayor Fiorentini called Silver Spoon a "significant addition to our food manufacturing cluster and a great opportunity for more jobs and more tax revenue for our community."

As an incentive to attract Silver Spoon from its current location of Chelsea to Haverhill, the mayor has agreed to recommend a small tax break called a "TIF"—Tax Increment Financing—for Silver Spoon. The city of Haverhill has developed a significant cluster of food manufacturers and distributors. This cluster includes Cedar's Mediterranean Foods, Hans Kissel, General Foods, and Joseph's Pasta.

"Building upon our strength is a key part of our economic development strategy," said Mayor Fiorentini. "One of our strengths is our growing food cluster. A key part of any good economic strategy is to build a cluster, and then continue to build that cluster."

The Silver Spoon Food Company, located in Chelsea, is a producer of high quality salads and upscale fresh pizzas for the supermarket industry, including Shaw's Supermarkets, Trader Joes, and other chain stores.



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