



valleypatriot.com

# THE VALLEY PATRIOT

A NEW ENGLAND PRESS ASSOCIATION AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

"Congress shall make no law..."

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

## Mayors compete to be Valley's "Biggest Loser"

Manzi, Sullivan team up to promote better health at Latitude's Sports Club

Tom Duggan  
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan and Methuen Mayor Billy Manzi have teamed up to promote better health through weight loss, exercise and better eating habits as part of Latitude Sports Club's Merrimack Valley's Biggest Loser competition. The competition is taking place at all four Latitude's locations: Methuen, Andover, Bradford, and Salisbury. The finale will be held at the Methuen location.

The twelve week competition kicked off on March 1st, with 21 teams, meeting with trainers and recording their starting weight at the Methuen Latitudes Sports Club on Pleasant Valley St. Proceeds from the competition will go to benefit the Children's Miracle Network.

During an on-air discussion about Latitude's Biggest Loser Competition on WCAP radio (980AM), Methuen's Mayor Manzi called in to challenge Lawrence's Mayor Sullivan, saying he could "definitely lose more weight" than Sullivan but hinted that Sullivan

may be "too chicken" to go head to head against him.

"He knows he will lose again." Manzi told the radio audience. When told that Sullivan had already expressed an interest in competing against him, Manzi charged, "Mike Sullivan is going to do what he always does in every competition we have ever had ... come in second. I accept the challenge and I am telling you, Mike Sullivan is going down!"

"Not only do I accept the challenge to beat Billy Manzi in Latitude's Biggest Loser Competition, and on his home turf in Methuen, I might add" Sullivan huffed in his office later, "but I want to up the ante. He has to face me in a bench pressing competition. Let's talk about 'who's chicken.' Look, Manzi could lose 25 pounds in a week if he just stopped eating a box of Twinkies ever day. Let's make this a competition that matters," Sullivan charged.

"This isn't just about weight loss, it's about fitness and being healthy and staying healthy. I'm sure the guys at



PHOTO: SID HARRIS

### The Big Weigh-in

Steve Buco, of Team Zingales/Remax Prestige at Sal's Riverwalk in Lawrence and Latitude's Sports Club in Methuen witnesses the big weigh-in between Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi and Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan. Manzi Weighed in at 243lbs. while Sullivan weighed in at 228lbs.

LOSER, page 18

### VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH:

Sponsored by...

**Sal's PIZZA**  
Home of the 19" 3lb. PIZZA  
Straight From Boston's North End

Steven Label

Tech. Sgt. James Moore  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

METHUEN - For the past four years The Valley Patriot has used this space on our front page to honor and thank those men and women who have served in the U.S. military as our "Valley Patriot of the Month."

This month, however, on our four year anniversary we decided to reach out to some of the young people in our community and let them know that we

PATRIOT, page 33



### INSIDE

Editorial/Opinions	2-3
Dr. Ormsby	3
Your Pets	4-5
Live the Wow!	5
Haverhill	6
Lowell	8
Lawrence	9-13
North Andover	13-15
Duggan's Notebook	16-17
Kids & Education	20-21
Your Health	22-23
Methuen	24-26
Georgetown	26
Innovation Valley	28-29
Real Estate	30-31
Sal's Pizza	32
Seniors & Vets	33-34
Classified	35
Andover Surgery Center	23 & 36



Haverhill Mayor  
Jim Fiorentini

Page 6



Dr. Rustum from  
Pain Management  
Center at LGH

Page 22



Georgetown  
Selectman Lonnie  
Brennan

Page 26



Lowell Columnist  
Richard Howe, Jr.

Page 8



## Everybody Gets It!



Don't Miss WCVB-TV Channel 5 EyeOpener News  
LIVE on Your Radio 980 WCAP

5AM & 5:30PM

Listen on-line at

980wcap.com



# Editorial

## Methuen police did the work

What started off as a paperwork dispute between the Department of Justice and Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon has resulted in (among other things), other officers accused of being paid for work they did not do.

The fact is, the U.S. Department of Justice has never questioned whether or not Methuen police officers actually worked while being paid under the federal Weed & Seed grant. What is, and has been questioned, (from all the documents available), is whether or not those officers worked in conjunction with the restrictions in the grant and whether or not the work was documented to the satisfaction of the DOJ.

Yet, the Methuen city council has asked the city's attorney to investigate whether or not it's legal to make the police officers who worked, pay back the city for hours that they ... worked. Rediculous!

Mayor Manzi told listeners on the Paying Attention! radio program last month that there wasn't any evidence that these officers did not work.

How can this be? It's simple. Police officers put on their uniform and go to work. They are told by their chief that they will be assigned to work as part of the Weed and Seed program. The officers report to work, spend time with neighborhood kids, reach out to the community and respond when they are needed. But, when the chief submits his paperwork to the Department of Justice for payment on the grant, he is told that the backup information is inadequate.

Hardly a reason for the city council to unanimously seek legal means to make police officers pay out of their pocket for money that has been lost due to mishandling or administrative red tape.

We find it shameful that these fine officers have had to read their names in the paper, had their integrity questioned, and have been slandered by members of the community; all because they happened to be the officers who worked under a federal grant that has been called into question since the day it was awarded.

We find it even more shameful, however, that those who know better (and those who should know better) continue to mislead the public by repeating allegations that have long been proven untrue in order to gain political favor or praise in the daily press.

## Another milestone

Four years ago this month, the very fist Valley Patriot rolled off the presses at Graphic Development, in Hanover, Massachusetts. Since then, we have expanded our coverage area and our distribution by more than 1,000%. We have reached out to more than 20 communities in the Merrimack Valley and have been received well in all of them.

We are proud to have been able to provide news, opinion and commentary to the people of the Valley over the past four years. And we want to thank all the contributors, advertisers, readers, business associates, and especially our confidential news sources who make such a significant contribution to our success every month.

To everyone who is, and has been part of the Valley Patriot team in the last four years, no matter how big or small your contribution ... Thank you!

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

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

### News tips

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

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

### Corrections

Please contact the editor at valleypatriot.com

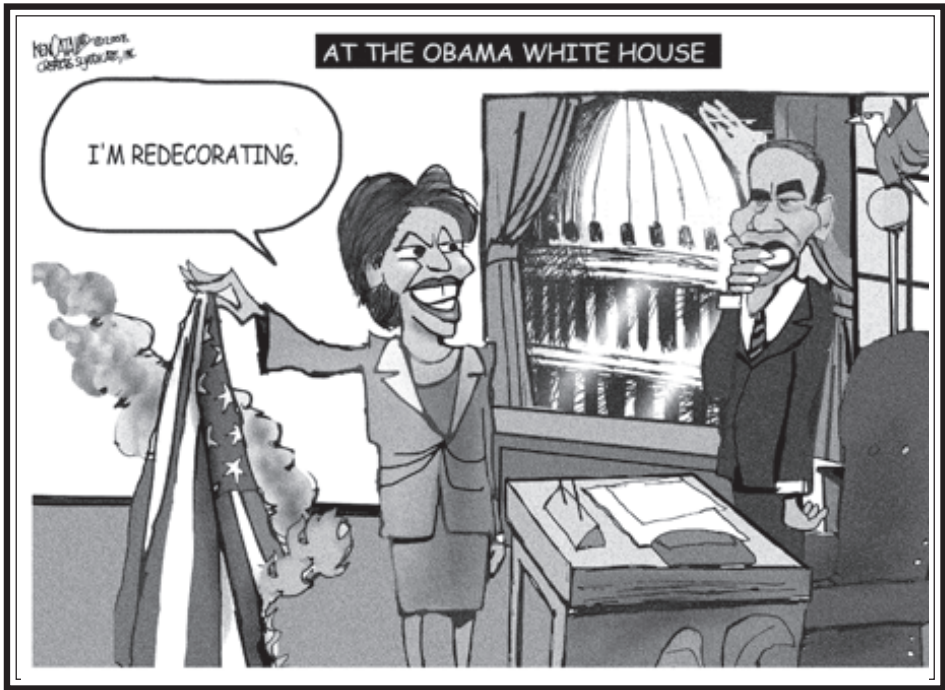
### Editorial Board:

**Advertising Director:** Paula Porten  
**President:** Tom Duggan, Jr.  
**VP/Director:** Ralph Wilbur  
**Editor:** Dr. Charles Ormsby

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



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



## LETTERS

DiBella Considering a Run for State Representative?

I found Mr. DiBella's announcement to the Lawrence Eagle Tribune that he is considering another run for State Representative to be both ironic and troubling. As a former member of our Community Development Board and a Methuen resident who remains engaged, I am troubled that he appears unaware of the most basic developments in Methuen.

It is ironic that he bemoaned the lack of progress on a new high school at the same time the "groundbreaking," on track for 2008, was announced.

That battle is over. -Our current State Representative, State Senator and Mayor, have secured the Commonwealth's partnership for our new and / or renovated high school. I and many others participated in this effort - Mr. DiBella missed the fight.

Similarly, volunteers from **our** community have been serving on a state committee to select a plan of action for the Routes 110/113 & I-93 Rotary. Just this quarter, they completed the review required of the many complex options available for completing this project. Their plan will soon be published for the required period of public review and comment.

Once the preferred design is determined, the environmental impacts must be reviewed by both the federal and state governments, before breaking

ground. Again, many members of our community have been "getting it done" and Mr. DiBella has been absent. This explains his lack of understanding regarding this major project.

Mr. DiBella, a West Methuen resident, has also missed the construction of the additional traffic lane put in for improved access to Pelham Street at the I-93 Interchange in West Methuen. Like most completed road projects, it was initiated many years ago and required lots of work before coming to fruition. A lot of that effort came from our current State Representative Linda Campbell while a City Councilor, and it was delivered by our current State Senator, Steve Baddour.

Mr. DiBella - If, as in your own words, you are "...sick and tired of being told that things are going to happen and not seeing any results," why haven't you been engaged in making the fix? Instead you have been "missing from the action" and are decidedly "uninformed." Your candidacy announcement highlights your lack of contribution and involvement within this community to date. It also displayed a profound lack of understanding regarding what currently is going on in Methuen.

I recommend that Mr. DiBella establish some bona fides, interest in our community, before considering a third try at elected office.

Sarah Dagher  
Methuen

\* murano glass & swarovski crystal jewelry \* stackable & stretchy bracelets \* trendy hand bags \*

*Give her the gift she Reall wants*

*Enjoy a unique shopping experience when you enter Salem's newest Fashion Jewelry and Accessories store!*

*It's all about Moi!*

**Fab & Faux**

JEWELRY \* ACCESSORIES

Located at the Breckenridge Shoppes  
254 N. Broadway (Rt. 28) Salem, NH  
(near the Colosseum Restaurant & Chatila's Bakery)

Store Hours: Sun 9am - 5pm Mon closed  
Tues - Sat 9am - 7pm  
Tel: 603-898-2345 [www.fabNfaux.com](http://www.fabNfaux.com)

\* variety of hair accessories \* scarves \* evening bags \* watches \* rings & BLINGS ...and much more! \*

\* magnetic clasp bracelets & necklaces \* cell & purse charms \* anklets

\* tiaras & salon hair clips \* accessories for Brides, Proms, and school dances \*



## Former Lawrence Personnel Director speaks out on Padellaro lawsuit

Editors Note; Former Lawrence Personnel Director Larry Lefebre contacted The Valley Patriot last month complaining that he sent the following letter to the editor to the Eagle Tribune concerning their coverage of the Padellaro Lawsuit "...but they never published it." Since then the city to settled the lawsuit to the tune of \$610,000. To read up on the Padellaro lawsuit go to [valleypatriot.com/VP020408pa.html](http://valleypatriot.com/VP020408pa.html).

To the editor:

I'm writing to correct the record concerning former City Clerk James McGravey and his actions toward Assistant City Clerk Jennifer Padellaro. My comments will center specifically on the response of city leaders in April 2000 and not on Mr. McGravey's subsequent actions in Spring 2004, which occurred after I had been retired from city service for close to a year.

I say that Ms. Padellaro wasn't speaking truthfully when she said, first, that the city never took any steps in the past to rectify Mr. McGravey's actions; second, that she had never received an apology; and third, that McGravey had never been disciplined or counseled for his 2000 actions.

When informed about Mr. McGravey's actions, Mayor Dowling wanted to "kick his butt" out of the Hall and terminate him; but I informed her that we would be in violation of the city charter because (1) McGravey came under the authority of the city council, (2) his union contract specified certain disciplinary steps, and (3) we would violate the trust of Ms. Padellaro, who said she did not want Mr. McGravey fired but simply wanted the incidents to cease.

On April 12, 2000, I immediately took the following actions:

1. Confronted Mr. McGravey with the allegations.
2. Interviewed other personnel in the city clerk's office to gather information about what they might have heard or seen.
3. Confronted Mr. McGravey again and informed him that I had gathered additional information and that I agreed with Ms. Padellaro that the allegations against him were true.
4. Stated that his subordinates have a right to work in an environment free from harassment as well as a right to legal protection against retaliation for their complaint
5. Informed him that Mayor Dowling wanted to proceed with removing him but that Ms. Padellaro had prevailed on the administration to not dismiss him.
6. Told him that Ms. Padellaro did not want to meet with him for a face-to-face apology but would accept a letter of apology, a copy of which would be placed in his file while another copy would be given to Ms. Padellaro.

7. Ordered Ms. McGravey to write a letter of apology to Ms. Padellaro and stated in no uncertain terms that the city expected the mistreatment to cease immediately; and fortunately for him, Ms. Padellaro said that she believed they could continue to work with each other on a professional basis.

8. Took steps to secure Ms. Padellaro's computer by having Internet service eliminated from her workstation and by denying anyone else access to her computer.

9. Instructed the city's computer information technician to purchase and install a program that allowed the city to easily identify computers that accessed pornographic websites (so that the city could prove such violations in court).

10. Met with Ms. Padellaro on many additional occasions, as well as other city clerk personnel, to ask if the hostile work environment had ceased.

11. Required Mr. McGravey to attend a Supervisor's workshop on Sexual Harassment as well as attend regular Fall and Spring work environment workshops that were required of all employees of the city while I served as Personnel Director through 2003.

Ms. Padellaro knew these steps the city took to meet her requests; and at one point she even came to my office to tell me that she saw Ms. McGravey coming out of the EAP office (run by Family Services, Inc. of Lawrence) and wondered if they were seeing the same counselor. Further, she knows that I, in turn, contacted the EAP administrator, Len DeBenedictes, who assured me that they were in fact seeing different counselors.

Apparently, by 2004, she had forgotten somehow all of these events of 2000, and after a failed attempt to become city clerk in 2004 she perhaps had other things on her mind (other than the truth). Indeed, over the four years that I worked with Ms. Padellaro, through several union negotiations, she never voiced another problem involving Mr. McGravey; and what's more, she was primarily responsible for the salary increases he and others in the union she represented received

Last, and on a personal note, I would like to add that I was blessed to be born into a family with five sisters. They always kept an eye out for me and I love and adore them. In no way would I ever leave a woman unprotected in the face of mistreatment.

Lawrence Lefebre, former Personnel Director for the City of Lawrence

### THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

## Conservatives need to re-discover their core beliefs ... part I

Dr. Charles Ormsby  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Do you ever ask yourself if you are a Conservative? Do you think like a Conservative?

Many of us view ourselves as Conservatives because of our perspectives on taxes or the size of government. For example, if "I" am against raising taxes, I am probably a Conservative. If "I" am against expanding government, I am probably a Conservative.

But true Conservatives adhere to a very specific set of core principles that can be precisely delineated and from which other "conservative points of view " originate. These same core beliefs reflect the thinking of our Founding Fathers as they carefully crafted a new Constitution for our young republic.

These are the core principles of Conservatism:

- \* A dedication to individual liberty and the primacy of the individual,
- \* A government dedicated to the rule of law (starting but not ending with strict interpretation of our Constitution based on the original intent of the Founders),
- \* A no-compromise stance in defense of our most fundamental rights with particular focus on our First and Second Amendment rights, and
- \* An insistence that government violations of our property rights be substantially reduced through a radical reform of our tax laws.

These four basic principles must serve as the rigorous foundation upon which decisions are made on other, less fundamental, but still important issues. Such matters dominate the daily political babble, but rarely are they coherently tied to essential principles.

It is not news that Conservatives have failed to rein in the expansion of government power. In fact, they have been a major contributor to that expansion. Now, those who believe in the classical liberalism

of our Founding Fathers need to re-build the Conservative movement from the ground up. Conservatives must either reach a consensus on core principles, or just splinter and go their own ways.

To fully embrace the first and most basic principle of Conservatism logically compels acceptance of the others that follow. Conservatives and Liberals break ranks on the first test:

1. Conservatives, first and foremost, believe in individual liberty.

This is a fundamental distinguishing characteristic. Liberals believe in the primacy of the state (it takes a village or a commune) while Conservatives believe that the only excuse for the existence of the state is to protect individual rights. The state is established to protect the individual, not to be our master.

When we speak of individual rights, the modifier "individual" is redundant. Only individuals have rights. When we say, "We have this right" or "We have that right," we mean that we have those rights as individuals.

Members of groups such as "the poor," or "the disabled," or "immigrants," or those of a particular race or gender or sexual preference, derive no additional rights because of their membership status. They have their rights as individuals, period.

Conservatives often debate the source of our rights. Religious Conservatives believe that our rights are God-given. In support of this position they quote scripture or religious statements made by our Founding Fathers.

I happen to think individuals have rights derived from our nature as human beings, independent of any religious explanation. But the fact is that the source of our rights, while an interesting intellectual topic, is not politically relevant. All that matters is whether we have them.

I am perfectly comfortable holding hands with religious Conservatives who share my belief in individual liberty, and they should

ORMSBY, page 29



*I'm Andrea Delehanty*  
*& I'm a member of*  
**Team Zingales**  
at Sal's Riverwalk 360 Merrimack St.  
Building #5 in Lawrence



RE/MAX  
Above the Crowd!



**Steve Sirmaian**  
Chief Operations  
Manager  
[steve@firstinteg.com](mailto:steve@firstinteg.com)  
Cell: (978) 771-2906  
24-hr.  
[www.firstinteg.com](http://www.firstinteg.com)

*"First in Rates, First in Service"*



**FIRST  
INTEGRITY  
MORTGAGE** LLC  
354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk  
Lawrence, MA 01843  
Tel. 978.685.9700 \* Fax 978.685.9701  
MA Mortgage Broker #MB 4520  
• Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.

# Lifestyles

## FURNITURE



### Complete selection of home furnishings & accessories

- Entertainment centers
- Bedroom sets
- Recliners
- Curios
- Grandfather clocks
- Lamps
- Sofas

### Free local delivery!

### Layaway up to 1 year!

33 S. Broadway, Lawrence (978) 681-1840  
Hours: Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sunday, noon - 5 p.m.



### \* 10% OFF with this ad!

\* Not to be combined with any other offer.



PUPPY LOVE

Protecting your pets from Lyme Disease

Kate Whitney

VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

For my column this month, I thought I would write about a very common disease that is talked about often; Lyme disease. Who better to talk to about this subject than one of the best veterinarians on the North Shore, Dr. George Myers of Danvers Animal Hospital. My family has been bringing our pets to Dr. Myers for over 25 years. He has been there for the happy times of brining a new kitten in for her first check up and he’s been there for the not so happy times of having to put a beloved family dog to sleep.

When I decided to write an article about Lyme disease, Dr. Myers was my number one person to talk to about it. He is so knowledgeable and I trusted that he would give me all the information I needed to write an informative article about Lyme disease. I tried to think about basic questions that I had regarding this disease...I hope you find this information as helpful as I did.

The disease known as “Lyme disease” was originally discovered in Lyme, Connecticut and the first documented case of Lyme disease was in 1883. This disease is carried by the deer tick, scientific name Ixodes Scapularis. Lyme disease is becoming more and more common in dogs. Some of you might be asking “can cats get Lyme disease?”



Being a cat owner myself, I asked Dr. Myers this exact question. He told me that cats can not contract Lyme disease.

What’s very important to remember is that this deer tick is active for 12 months of the year. What this means is that Lyme disease can be contracted in any given month! Some people wrongly think that because it’s cold out and there is snow on the ground, ticks don’t exist.

FALSE! I thought that the biggest time would be Spring and Summer, but I was wrong. Dr. Myers told me that despite what most people think, early winter is one of the peak times for dogs to become infected with Lyme disease. When I heard this I was shocked! The deer tick is a stubborn thing that never goes away, no matter the temperature or month. It’s important to treat your dog all year long with an effective product that will help protect your dog from Lyme disease (more about this later in the article).

So how exactly is this disease spread? If you live in an area with woods and deer, then your dog is at risk. You don’t necessarily need to have deer in your yard in order for your dog to get this disease, it can be transported by mice. Another fact to be aware of, is that an infected dog cannot spread Lyme disease to other dogs or humans. A dog can only become infected if it is directly bitten by a tick carrying the disease. This disease can infect a dog of any age. Puppies and older dogs are all at the same risk level of getting Lyme disease.

What areas are common for Lyme disease? Lyme disease is common in lots of areas, but especially in Connecticut, Cape Cod, the North Shore of Boston, and other areas of New England. It’s starting to show up in areas all around the country. The highest possibility for Lyme disease is when there are woods, deer, and ticks present.

The three of these things feed off each other to create a not so nice breeding ground for Lyme disease. Dr. Myers said, “In our practice on the North Shore of Boston, approximately one in three dogs are infected.” I know when I heard this, I was shocked. One in three is a very large percentage. Being a dog owner myself, I wanted to learn more about this disease and find out how to prevent my puppy from getting it.

Dr. Myers went on to say, “In towns such as Ipswich and Essex, and on Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, and Nantucket, over half the dogs walking around are infected. It is important to understand that most of these dogs never get sick.”



PHOTO: COURTESY

Boxford resident Kate Whitney holds Marley, a puppy she took in temporarily as a foster parent until he was adopted by a loving family.

Some of you might be asking how can you keep your dog safe?

The answer is an inexpensive, simple blood test done at your vet’s office and also keep them on a year-long tick preventative. Once a year, ask to have this blood work done, so that you can be in-the-know with one more thing about your pet’s health.

I believe that you can’t know too much about your pet! Because of the current testing we have, veterinarians are learning more and more about this disease every day. What we currently know is that this simple blood test detects the presence of antibodies to the Lyme organism. What’s interesting about this test is

WHITNEY, bottom next page

ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW

Who are we? Why are we here?

Mark Palermo

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Many years ago, I worked as a janitor at a local hospital. My co-workers were an eccentric assortment of social misfits, chronic alcoholics, unskilled immigrants, and college students, like myself, who comprised the part-time weekend crew.

It was a subsistence level job, but supervision was light on weekends, which afforded us time for flirting with aides, napping, playing cards and even drinking beer. But one day on the job, I received an unexpected lesson from the most unlikely of teachers. It was a lesson about the mystery of life and death on planet earth.

It was a Sunday in 1969. I was dry mopping patients’ rooms, and working off a hangover from partying with my friends the previous night. I came to one of the last rooms on the ward and went in. I saw a young woman about my age sitting up in bed smiling at me. She seemed surrounded by ethereal light. Her gaze was like an enraptured beam of knowingness which contained a recognition of me; her presence penetrated my personal boundaries, but not in a way which made me feel angry or intimidated. Instead, her gaze induced in me a hazy remembrance of who I really am, and made me more concentrated in the present moment.

I was 19 at the time, and she was attractive, not in the way most attractive girls seemed to me then- - all legs, breasts, hair and nylon stockings with a discarnate voice attached to the “package.” No, this one was different. She was cutting through all that-loud and clear. I realize now that what I was feeling was a state not so much unknown to people, as forgotten. I think we are all like

this for a time in childhood. And I have come to think some people are like this just before they die.

We talked for about five minutes and afterwards I could not recall what we said. A nurse came in to administer a treatment to her, and I had to leave the room. Once outside, I paused to consider. I had limited experience with women at that time, having attended a boys’ high school, and I wondered at this witnessing of her Christ-consciousness.

This was indeed the real thing, unlike the contrived righteousness of proselytizers and religionists I had known. Since I worked only on weekends, I decided that the following weekend, I would get her number so I could ask her out when she got better. The idea entered my thoughts and even my dreams that week.

And so Saturday came, and I went to work as always, dumping garbage, buffing floors, and cleaning patients’ rooms. For some reason, I didn’t get to her room right away even though I had

been anticipating it all week. I put it off. I knew that with women, you couldn’t appear too eager, even if you have steam coming out your ears. I also knew that sometimes trying to repeat a great experience ruins it. I was afraid that my attention and eagerness might disrupt a delicate psychic balance and somehow ruin what might become a great friendship, love affair or an earth-shaking spiritual encounter of some kind. But finally it was 2 o’clock and I still had done nothing, so I resolved to take action.

I went to her room, took a breath and entered with my mop, ready to see the face of a saint. But instead I saw an old woman. I said nothing, quickly assuming the girl had been discharged during the week. When I came out

of the room, a nurse was passing by and I said, “Excuse me, but can you tell me where the girl is who was in this room last week?”

The nurse looked crestfallen and said in a low voice, “The girl you’re talking about passed away last Monday.” The girl I had talked to had been living her last day on the earth....

I didn’t know how to process this experience and I mentally “put it in a box” for future reference. But a few years later, Elizabeth Kubler-Ross’ *On Death and Dying* was published, which, despite its morbid sounding title, was inspirational and life-affirming.

I recognized what she termed the final stage of acceptance; I had seen this with my own eyes. I knew then that I wasn’t crazy or imagining things. There have always been people like this, there was a name for this, and moreover, these experiences are common.

We live in interesting times. In western civilization, our scientific acumen has come at the price of the abandonment of our instinctive ancient knowledge of death and dying, but this is about to change. As the baby boomers progress to the last phase of life, many of them will choose to age and die consciously. People will see death in a new way, which isn’t new at all. The world is a place of unceasing mystery and we are much more than we think.

<http://markpalermo.tripod.com>



Mark Palermo is a professor at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill and is the past vice-president of the faculty union. You can email him at [markpalermo@lycos.com](mailto:markpalermo@lycos.com).



# Live the WOW!

Feeling Really Lucky? Counting on that Rabbit’s Foot and Four Leaf Clover to get ahead? Leaving your Future to Chance? Here’s Reality. Ain’t Gonna Happen!

Thomas Connors  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Still trying to convince yourself that the only way to get ahead is through Luck? Putting all your Faith in Winning the Lottery to turn your Life around? I know it sounds great, but what it really amounts to is just wishful thinking. In the end, it will leave you no closer to living the life you want than you are right now.

Stop wishing your life away! That’s all you are doing. Stop kidding yourself into thinking that there is an easy way out of everything. There isn’t. Stop leaving your life to chance. It’s no way to live. Especially when you know that you can live your life with a **WOW!** each and every day with all the gifts you already have right inside you!

Why let Lady Luck determine who you are and what you will become when the power to control your future is right there inside you!

Some people go through life expecting some miracle to drop from the sky and fall smack dab in the middle of their laps. Seems logical, I guess, when you are looking for an easy way out. Afterall, you see some people who seem to have all the luck. They end up with all the toys and goodies and appear to put little, if any, effort into their lives. I’m here to tell you, it’s not luck. It’s the passion for what they are doing, the dedication to making the effort and most importantly a Belief in themselves that really makes them succeed! It’s a desire to control their own destiny and not rely on “what ifs” or crossed fingers to get ahead.

All the Luck you will ever need lies right within you! There’s a treasury of good and wonderful things piled sky high just waiting for you to gather them all up. All the money, all the material things, all the peace of mind and achievements you could ever imagine are available to you just for the asking.

The talent is there. The knowledge is there as well. And on top of that, there is even more available to you if you just make the effort to discover it.

Let a Belief in yourself power you to SOAR higher and further than you ever thought possible.

Patience, Effort and a Belief in Yourself will give you all the *stuff* you need to achieve your Goals; to Live your

## WHITNEY: from previous page

that it detects a specific antibody that occurs from infection and not vaccination. Thus, the test is not interfered with in vaccinated dogs.

Topical Insecticide or collar? There are a few different things to ponder when deciding on a tick preventative. There are some new topical products that are effective and safe, but remember no product is 100% effective. Dr. Myers recommends **Frontline**. Not only very effective, but Frontline is also very safe. He told me that it’s so safe in fact, that the ingredient in Frontline is sprayed on many of the fruits and vegetables that we eat.

Your dog doesn’t have Lyme disease and you hope it never does, so what do you do now? Dr. Myers says that “protection and treatment are the best strategies.” He recommends the three best things to do are, “vaccination, tick prevention, and test and treat.” As in most studies about medicine, there is some controversy on not only *if* to vaccinate but *what* vaccine to use.

Dr. Myer’s choice for a vaccine is called the “DNA” vaccine.

He believe that it is safer and more effective. He pointed out that “No vaccine for Lyme disease is 100% effective, but we believe the vaccine has value and works in most situations. There is also a compelling study to support this idea.”

Be sure to have a “snap test” done at your dog’s annual health check up. This test consists of a heartworm, Lyme, and erlichia canis blood test. Dr. Myer’s reports that “this test is extremely accur-ate for detecting the presence of antibodies to Lyme disease. It can indicate if your dog has been exposed to Lyme disease.”

Life with a **WOW!** Just like it does for a couple of Colleagues in our VANWAY Division at American Training. They are proud examples of how powerful a Belief in one’s self can be. They refused to leave their future to chance. Instead, they invested their time and effort to get a GED. That accomplishment led to unexpected opportunities and promotions. And their momentum continues, as they move confidently to the next step on their way to even more successful and meaningful lives.

All you have to do is BELIEVE!

Real Success. Real Peace of Mind. Really Living the **WOW!** All these begin with an undoubting Belief in YOURSELF!

There is nothing more effective than having such a strong and unwavering Belief in who you are and what you are capable of doing. It’s knowing that when the going gets rough you can handle problems one step at a time and see your way though. It’s knowing that you can answer questions that pop up with the knowledge you have or are confident you can find the answers. It’s knowing that your efforts will pay off with handsome rewards though it may take patience and not immediate gratification. It’s knowing that you have chosen a course of action that fulfills your God-given Purpose here on earth. It’s committing to a philosophy of life-long learning so you can better yourself each and every year. It’s MAKING your own Luck by Believing in yourself!

Yes, your Belief in YOU brings you all the Luck you will ever need. It gives you the motivation and enthusiasm to reach deep inside yourself and bring to light the confidence and determination to persevere when times are challenging. It changes the way you think and the way others see you. It stops you from giving in to false promises or misguided hope when it concerns your future.

Take your God-given Gifts and a Belief in Yourself to Create a Life filled with WOW!

NEVER ever forget! We have been given some very precious Gifts. Our Creator assured us that by Believing we can accomplish all we would ever want in this life. Living a Life filled with **WOW!** is right here for all of us.



PHOTO: COURTESY: KATE WHITNEY

So what happens if your dog becomes infected? Be on the lookout for symptoms of Lyme disease. Remember however, that not all infected dogs will exhibit these symptoms. Some symptoms of Lyme disease include fever, lethargy, and poor appetite. If you think your dog might be infected with Lyme disease, consult your veterinarian right away.

According to Dr. Myers, 15% will come down with Lyme Arthritis 2-5 month after the infection. A symptom of this would be one joint or several joints are swollen, causing him to become lame or walk with a limp.

Treatment of this Lyme Arthritis is easy and inexpensive with antibiotics. If not treated, your dog’s Lyme disease might progress into the most serious manifestation of the disease, Lyme Nephritis, or Lyme Kidney Disease. This disease, although rare, is very serious and can be fatal. Many times when a dog is infected with Lyme disease, they are also infected with other tick diseases, such as Anaplasmosis.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Remember, He made us not only in His image but, in fact, we ARE God! Each one of us. He is not only *with* us, He is *WITHIN* us. And THAT is a power greater and more effective than all the rabbit’s feet, all the four leaf clovers and all the good luck charms you will ever find. Use that knowledge to gain the unstoppable confidence that anything is possible ... if you just Believe!

Forget the lucky charms and use the Gifts you already have and will develop as you journey through your Life.

Take your talents and attitude and set your direction and your goals and achieve the greatest accomplishments you ever dreamed of reaching. Then when you look back at the abundance that fills your life, when you experience a life fulfilled with all you hoped for, then, you will take pride in knowing it was not luck. Rather, it was because you Believed!

Now, that’s a **WOW!**

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

Researchers believe that this disease may be as common as Lyme disease. The possibility of multiple tick-born infections is common. It would be much easier to study these diseases if they occurred separately from each other. But this is not the case. Thus, making for a difficult diagnosis and understanding of each infection.

A closing thought from Dr. Myers: “If your dog test’s positive for Lyme disease, don’t panic. There is a very good chance they will be fine. Respect the disease and do what you can to prevent it.”

(\*as always, please consult your own veterinarian for their suggestions and recommendations for your dog. Opinions often vary between veterinarians.)



*If you are interested in adopting a puppy or becoming a foster parent to a puppy waiting for a home you can email Kate at [Kwswingrite@aol.com](mailto:Kwswingrite@aol.com)*



# H A V E R H I L L

## HAVERHILL ON THE MOVE

# From the desk of Haverhill Mayor Jim Fiorentini

This past month, I've been meeting with residents in neighborhood offices, checking city buildings, and visiting our schools. But most of my time and energy is spent on the budget deficit that cities are facing. In this issue, I outline the deficit reduction package I presented to the city council a few weeks ago. Last month, I told you that despite our budget difficulties, I am still bullish on Haverhill.

All over the country, housing developments are paused because of the mortgage crisis. In Haverhill, the \$70 million Forest City Project, has financing and is going forward. The largest housing developer and its financiers have confidence in our long-term future. So should we. Until next month, I remain at your service,

James J. Fiorentini, Mayor

PS: For periodic updates, please check my website [www.jamesfiorentini.com](http://www.jamesfiorentini.com).

### A Plan to meet the deficit

Last Monday I appeared before the city council and presented them with a first draft of a plan to meet our \$5.8 million budget deficit. Because of the long-term budget planning we have been engaged in over the past few years, the deficit is \$5.8 million— not the \$9.2 million we once thought it would be. However, the State economic downtown causes severe problems for all of our cities.

My goal is to preserve vital services in the city— public education and public safety. Here are some of the ideas I presented to the council:

**Health care reform:** joining the State insurance program, which requires union approval, would save us about \$1.5 million. Thus far, unions are not in agreement;

**Sell unused and not-needed city land,** including a parcel we own in the Town of Boxford. **Potential results:** about \$1.2 million.

**Bring on the dirt!** The dirt companies pay us to bring dirt into our landfill in Bradford: Potential result: \$450,000;

**Sewer hookups** to out-of-State businesses: Potential, up to \$1 million;

**State aid in** Governor's budget— \$1 million.

**Raise fees** like building permit and electrical permit fees— Potential up to \$250,000;

**Restructure fees** that now go to water or waste water funds to the general fund— up to \$500,000;

**Regional cooperation:** We meet as regional Mayors once a month to plan, trade best practices, and engage in joint regional purchasing to save money. Our first regional bids go out shortly. As I told the council, these are items we are working on. Not every item will prove to be viable. We will keep you informed.

### Coffee with the Mayor

In February, I start my annual "Coffee with the Mayor" meetings with residents. At Broadway Variety, DPW Director Mike Stankovich, Deputy DPW Director Bob Ward and I met with about 20 residents to discuss neighborhood issues like broken fire hydrants, potholes, and street lights. This past Saturday, we went to The Bradford Country store where we heard questions concerning missing street signs, potholes, the Salem Street reconstruction project and others. If you have a location where you would like to see a "Coffee with the Mayor," let me know.

### New Faces of Haverhill— Frank Flahive and Rebecca Devaney

Frank Flahive, 26, and Rebecca Devaney, 28, are two of the new residents moving into refurbished factory buildings in downtown Haverhill. Flahive and Devaney moved from Boston to the Cordovan building at the corner of Walnut and Locust.

They run a design business that focuses on multimedia Web sites, videography, and photography. Previously located on Boylston Street in downtown Boston, their business was expanding and the company was in need of a larger space.

They are now able to live in and run their business, Lyve Media, from their live-work space at the Cordovan. The move has been good for business. Says Flahive, "the vertical space and the fact that we get lots of light is good for creativity. We're really happy to have moved our business here."

They and their friends enjoy the city's restaurant scene. Frank and Rebecca bring their friends to Haverhill where they go together to local restaurants. Developing factory buildings downtown brings in customers for our restaurants, and has helped spark the new eating establishments going into the downtown area — a new Italian restaurant, a new Thai Restaurant, a new coffee house, and a new variety store. Welcome to Haverhill!!



PHOTO: KEN LABELLE

### Firefighters and Ladder Truck Work Well in Emerson Street Fire

Since I took office, we have purchased two new pumper trucks and have reopened fire stations. We have a working ladder truck and a new ladder truck on order. During the Emerson Street fire in December, both our men and our equipment worked well. Here is a photo taken by free lance photographer Ken LaBelle that made us very proud of the great job done by our firefighters during the fire on Emerson Street and should answer any questions about whether our ladder truck works: You can view all the photos at Ken's web site at <http://nrfirephotos.com/>



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

## THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF HAVERHILL HOSTS

# 7th Annual St. Patrick's Day Charity Breakfast

## to benefit the Prevention of Child Abuse Programs

HAVERHILL, MA – Pull out the green top hats and ties and get ready for some belly laughs as the Exchange Club of Haverhill plans it's seventh annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. at DiBurro's of Ward Hill.

This event will benefit the child abuse prevention programs through the Exchange Club of Haverhill.

The event will feature the musical talent of The Square Riggers and other exciting Irish entertainment. Those who have attended in the past know of a certain green rabbit that always makes a real impression on the audience!

Major support for the event comes Merrimack Valley Hospital, Pentucket Medical Associates, Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce and Trinity Ambulance.

Tickets are a \$25 donation, and tables of ten are available for \$250. All proceeds from this event will be directed to programming for the prevention of child abuse.

The Exchange Club of Haverhill's mission is to combat this national problem and to ensure the safety and well being of children in their community. Throughout the year the club hosts many fundraising efforts and has developed many nationally recognized

programs for youth in the community including Fire Prevention, Junior Police, Read Across America and the Youth of the Year and ACE Award scholarship programs. For more information on the breakfast and how to obtain tickets, please contact Rick Barry, program co-chair at (978) 372-9311.

"Every year this event gets bigger and better – and we promise to deliver again this year!" said Rick Barry, former president of the club, event co-chair and of Farmer and Sons Funeral Home..

"Last year we were able to give \$4,000 to the Michael B. Christensen Family Support Center, which is directly related to the club's national mission of child abuse prevention."

Sam Ambra, of Simply Elegant Catering, and also a former Exchange President, will be co-chairing the event with Rick Barry.

"The Exchange Club of Haverhill is committed to bettering the lives of children in this community," said Ambra. "This event gives us a chance to raise awareness for the prevention of child abuse and also to give people a chance to support our efforts and have fun at the same time."

The Exchange Club of Haverhill is a non-profit service organization that meets weekly on

Thursdays at 12:00 p.m. (noon) at Olivia's in Haverhill. To find out more information on how to join the club, contact Rick Barry at (978) 372-9311. Visit them on the web at [www.haverhillexchangeclub.com](http://www.haverhillexchangeclub.com).

Haverhill

95 Winter Street (Rte. 97)

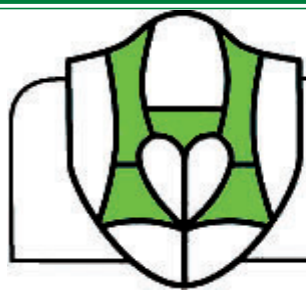
Sal's

PIZZA

Home of the 19" 3lb. PIZZA

*Straight From Boston's North End*





# Diaz - Healy

Funeral Home



Daniel Healy  
Director



Thomas Murphy  
Manager



Manny Diaz  
Director

**Turn to a Neighbor... Turn to Us**

107 South Broadway, South Lawrence, MA 01843

Tel (978) 685-5732

## A Historic Landmark

A South Lawrence Tradition



In the Shadows of Saint Patrick's Church



## LEO & SONS AUTO REPAIR



**Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:00**

**157 South Broadway, Lawrence**

**978-687-1155**

*Major credit cards & personal checks accepted*

**We Do Inspection Stickers!**

**\$10.00 off**

**Lube, Oil & Filter Special**

*Up to 5 qts. of Oil, 10W30*

**\$10.00 off**

**Wheel Alignment**

*4 Wheel alignment extra*

## Lawrence's Home Town Credit Union

**Serving the City of Lawrence Employees Since 1950**

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY  
AUTO BUYING THE NO HASSLE WAY**



**LAWRENCE FIREFIGHTERS  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

14 Amesbury Street, Lawrence, MA 01840

For a free no hassle pre-approval call Lawrence Firefighters Federal Credit Union 1-978-687-1919.

Then go to a dealer of your choice and make the best deal you can on the price of the car and Proudly tell them you'll be financing with Lawrence Firefighters Federal Credit Union your home town Credit Union!



**14 Amesbury St. Lawrence, MA 01840**

**Contact us at 978-687-1919**

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





RICHARDHOWE.COM

# A pothole on the cultural road

Richard Howe, Jr.  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Early in February the city of Lowell experienced one of those bitter political fights that leave everyone scratching their heads and asking, “What just happened?”

The flashpoint was a proposal to make the director of the nonprofit Cultural Office of Lowell (COOL) a city employee who would be responsible for coordinating and promoting cultural affairs in the city.

While five of the nine councilors voted for the proposal, it needed a super majority of six to pass.

Those who supported it – Kevin Broderick, Rodney Elliott, Bill Martin, Armand Mercier and Jim Milinazzo, saw this as the first step in implementing the recommendations of a widely-praised June 2007 report called “On the Cultural Road: Strategies for the Creative Economy in Lowell, Massachusetts” and pointed out that since the city was already paying the COOL director’s salary, this proposal would require no additional city funds.

The four councilors voting against the proposal – Alan Kazanjian, Mike Lenzi, Rita Mercier and Mayor Bud Caulfield – cited a variety of financial and philosophical reasons for their opposition.

As is often the case with such issues, the public reasons, while sincere, mask deeper conflicts. At one level, this dispute is largely about control.

Right now, the city already spends more than \$2 million in taxpayer funds in support of cultural activities with the biggest expenditures being annual subsidies of more than \$1 million to the Tsongas Arena, \$400,00 to the Lowell

Memorial Auditorium, \$100,000 to the Convention and Visitors Bureau and \$75,000 to the Merrimack Repertory Theatre.

The “Cultural Road” report, which was produced by Mt. Auburn Associates, a Somerville-based economic development consulting firm, and paid for by the privately funded Lowell Plan, recommended a consolidation of activities such as booking, ticketing, grant writing and website management for the city’s cultural organizations as a cost-saving measure.

Those in established cultural institutions already subsidized by the city prefer the current model that gives them complete independence.

Those who are not the beneficiaries of the city’s largesse anxiously await a shake up of the status quo. On the city council, the supporters of the respective camps voted accordingly.

But to say this dispute is simply a power struggle would be to miss the larger issue, what I’ll call the strategic dispute, and that’s a struggle between competing visions of our economic future.

Many in Lowell have embraced the controversial concept of the “creative class” as the key to the city’s economic future. The creative class describes workers in a wide variety of fields who - create things.

Painting a picture, constructing a website, inventing a more efficient light bulb, designing a building, teaching a class or publishing a weekly newspaper are all examples of work done by the creative class. While members of the creative class will do well wherever they live, communities that attract them in significant numbers will thrive in the new economy.

According to Richard Florida, the urban theorist who leads this school of thought, members of the creative class are attracted to communities that have the three T’s – technology (meaning the technological infrastructure needed to work and live), talent (a population that is highly educated and skilled) and tolerance (a diverse population with an open-minded attitude towards others).

In Florida’s view, just as cities in the industrial age provided the infrastructure (roads, sewage, water, electricity) for large scale manufacturing facilities, cities of today should provide the infrastructure needed to attract the creative class – high speed internet, diverse recreational, educational and entertainment opportunities).

But the creative class is a divisive concept that amplifies latent resentfulness. A quick scan through the comments left by readers on the popular blog, Left in Lowell (www.leftinlowell.com), reveals this vein. To the artists complaining about the defeat of the cultural plan reorganization, one person wrote, “Now that you live here, get used to stepping aside for those who don’t.”

Another commenter, displaying an attitude that so powerfully influenced the outcome of last fall’s city election complained that longtime city residents had grown tired of having their schools and their city administered “by people with no idea of what it’s like to live and raise their kids in Lowell.”

As a lifelong resident of Lowell who once moved away (courtesy of the U.S. Army) but then returned with an “it’s not such a bad place after all” attitude, I have, on occasion, harbored a bit of this resentment myself. But the more I learn of the creative economy theory, the more value I see in it.



In some ways, it’s a throw-back to our pre-industrial age where artisans and small, home-based businesses were highly valued.

It taps into a feature of our national character that has been present from the beginning – that we are a nation of tinkers, embracing gadgets and seeking ways to improve them. Ironically, the same forces of globalization that have sent our manufacturing sector into its death spiral also empower individuals of the creative class to do well for themselves and their communities.

I think we should give it a shot. After all, what’s the alternative?



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

FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSMAN TSONGAS

## As gas prices soar, Tsongas works to spur investment in renewable energy

WASHINGTON, DC – February 27, 2008 – Congresswoman Niki Tsongas released the following statement today after voting to support legislation that will make significant new investments in renewable energy sources, spur the growth of new green collar jobs, help end our dependence on foreign oil, and slash taxpayer funded subsidies to oil companies. Congresswoman Tsongas was an original cosponsor of this bill and joined thirty-two members in introducing it earlier this year.

“I was pleased to support the passage of the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008 this afternoon, legislation which takes significant steps to encourage the growth of domestically produced clean energy sources in order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and to combat global warming.

“Last year, following the passage of the landmark energy bill that increased fuel efficacy standards for the first time in more than thirty years, I sent a letter to the Speaker asking her to consider legislation which would establish tax incentives for renewable energy development. I am pleased that the Democratic leadership has made this issue a priority, and that as a result of today’s vote American alternative energy innovation will be further encouraged.

“Right in our backyard, Nuvera Fuel Cells in Billerica and Ballard Power in Lowell are

producing the alternative energy technologies which will help limit our foreign oil dependence and the harmful effects of climate change, while simultaneously creating outstanding green collar jobs for residents of the Fifth District. During recent visits to both companies I saw first hand the fuel cell technologies being developed and manufactured at each location, which can power everything from home appliances to cars in a manner which emits virtually no harmful greenhouse gases.

“As Nuvera and Ballard have demonstrated, the Fifth Congressional District is fertile ground for the development of alternative energy sources and the fuel cell investment tax credits contained in the bill passed by the House today will help encourage the growth of this industry in our region.

“With oil prices reaching another record high of \$102 per barrel today and families paying \$3.15 a gallon for gasoline we should be doing all that we can to further the development of these types of alternative energy technologies by relying on clean, renewable sources here in the United States, on American ingenuity, and on our entrepreneurial spirit.

“The Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act extends and expands tax incentives for renewable electricity, energy and fuel, as well as for plug-in hybrid cars, and energy efficient homes, buildings, and appliances. Additionally, the bill includes solar energy tax credits that could reduce carbon dioxide pollution by 240 million tons. It is these steps which will help us combat our growing climate crisis and help fulfill our generational responsibility to reverse the threat of global warming.

“The legislation approved today takes the sensible step of repealing \$18 billion in unnecessary tax subsidies for big, multinational oil and gas companies. As working families in the Fifth District and across the country struggle with rising gas and home heating fuel costs, the last thing we should be doing is subsidizing oil companies like ExxonMobil, which earned the largest corporate profit in American history this past year. This bill invests in new forms of clean technology like those being advanced in the Fifth District, and encourages the creation of high paying, green collar jobs, and I was pleased to support this much needed legislation.”

Lowell

1201 Bridge Street (Rte. 38)

Home of the 19" 3lb. PIZZA

Straight From Boston's North End



# Lawrence begins to rise to foreclosure challenge

Robert O’Koniewski  
LAWRENCE ZONING BOARD

For at least a year politicians and governments at all levels have contemplated various actions to address the home mortgage foreclosure tsunami that has overwhelmed the United States economy.

The root causes of this crisis are stupidity and greed, plain and simple. Nothing more; nothing less.

Mortgage companies and other financial institutions couldn’t wait to push paper and get people into bad deals and sub-prime loans with the intent of making even more money on the deals as they were sold off in bulk to other institutions.

Home buyers signed contracts without reading them, or took part in fraudulent transactions by lying about income, or repeatedly refinancing as values rose to the point that the mortgages on the property are now more than what the property is worth.

Now they want us taxpayers to bail them out.

Several banks such as Bank of America have secretly floated plans to Congress for remedying the aftereffects of their gorging on people’s own weaknesses that would involve the expenditure of federal dollars to rebalance their financial statements. People who engaged in highly ill-advised and irresponsible loan and spending practices – especially those who refinanced time and time again to fuel

their exorbitant consumer spending – want government dollars handed over to them in order to right their own personal balance sheets.

Although some states and communities have gone down the road of making tax dollars available to holders of foreclosed properties, for now President George Bush and other members of Congress have refused to cave to the pressure for a federal tax-financed bailout. However, political circumstances may dictate that the federal government does eventually create a mechanism whereby the financial institutions are provided incentives to encourage negotiating new loan rates on problematic mortgages.

Through all this, we need to maintain proper perspective and not engage in a media frenzy of panic and emotional hyperbole. True markets, like the real estate economy and the stock market, experience upward and downward adjustments all the time. Most real estate is held for long-term investment. As such, stable homeowners can ride out downward swings, unless they occur when they were getting ready to sell. Nevertheless, when buying a home one should expect some value adjustment in both directions over time. Further, the number of mortgages involved nationally is approximately one million, valued at around \$750 billion in total.

Nationally, these represent less than five percent of all mortgages; certainly not a large segment of the overall pie. Finally, consumers and businesses are not suffering from a credit crunch. Credit

availability is not tight. In fact, the Federal Reserve has just moved, again, to make money even more available at favorable rates.

In the end, how this resolves itself will be eventually determined once the President and Congress agree on a set of parameters for a deal. For now the responsible tack would be to avoid the use of taxpayer monies to bailout banks and consumers who were simply greedy and stupid.

Locally, however, we can see the detritus of this fallout everyday: blight, abandoned properties being vandalized and stripped clean of valuable items such as copper piping, suspicious fires, squatting by drug users and other criminals, property values plummeting, just to name a few.

Here in Lawrence, at least our Planning Department is not sitting on its hands. Under the leadership of its director, Michael Sweeney, the Lawrence Planning Department — almost a year ago — began to analyze the emerging problem and formulate solutions to pursue and make sure our city was not engulfed in the disruptions to the real estate economy experienced twenty years.

In 2007 over 700 Lawrence homeowners, throughout all corners of the city, experienced some procedural step related to a foreclosure action. Just open your newspaper and see for yourself all the public foreclosure notices.

Certainly , no one wants to go back to the 1980s with its multiple arsons on a

daily basis, vacant properties, and shrinking real estate values. Events demand that our city get a fundamental handle on the situation.

Toward this end, the Planning Department has put forth a proposed ordinance that would put on notice owners of foreclosed properties, at this point banks and other financial institutions, that they have a responsibility for the proper upkeep of their properties while the market corrects itself and the foreclosure actions result in a sale to another buyer.

The properties would be registered with the city’s Department of Inspectional Services, and fines would be levied against non-complying owners.

Such a program would ease the strain on police and fire personnel who now must physically drive every neighborhood and “eyeball” properties to determine the status of homes. Moreover, it would give the city the ability to take legal action against institutions that allow their properties to attain a state of disrepair that endangers the rest of the block.

The proposed ordinance will need approval from the City Council before its terms are implemented. The Planning Department and Michael Sweeney should be saluted for displaying the foresight to tackle this problem head on. Hopefully the City Council can complete its due diligence in a timely manner and place this valuable tool on our ordinance book in time to properly address just one part of the foreclosure fallout.

## The Merrimack Valley Christian Film Festival returns for the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

Gavin MacLeod from Love Boat and The Mary Tyler Moore Show appearing in person

What began at the old Salem Tri Cinemas on route 28 in Salem, NH back in 1993 during Easter Week is back for its 16<sup>th</sup> year.

Now held at the Showcase Cinemas 1-6 on Route 114 in South Lawrence, the Merrimack Valley Christian Film Festival was originally expected to be a one-time event.

However, after 12,000 people viewed the 4 movies shown, free of charge, at that very first film festival, Tom Saab and his volunteers realized that they had something very special and held the event for a second year at which over 11,000 people attended.

After the outstanding response, the Merrimack Valley Christian Film Festival became an annual event. Then in 1996 Mr. Saab was invited to the Central Coast of California to direct a Christian Film Festival in the Salinas area, and Christian Film Festivals of

America, Inc., a non-profit corporation was born.

Tom Saab, has now directed 33 Christian Film Festivals. Besides the 15 here in the Merrimack Valley, there have been 4 on the Central Coast of California, 2 in Southern California, 3 in South Carolina, 5 in Orlando, FL, 2 in Syracuse and one each in Memphis, TN, and Rochester, NY.

Palm Sunday, March 16 thru Easter Sunday, March 23 the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Merrimack Valley Christian Film Festival will be held at the Showcase Cinemas 1-6 in South Lawrence where it has been for 8 years now. Admission is completely free to all shows at all times, just as it has been at all previous Christian Film Festival’s, and no offering is taken in the theater.

This year the festival is showing a number of brand new films including the World Premier of *The Secrets of*

*Jonathan Sperry* starring **Gavin MacLeod who will be appearing in person at the film festival.** Also, showing only in its second location prior to its national release in April, is the new motion picture *Pilgrim’s Progress ~ Journey to Heaven.* This is a spectacular film which is the first ever modern day adaption of John Bunyan’s classic adventure.

The #1 Christian motion picture of 2007, *Facing the Giants* returns which is a movie that is more powerful and emotional than Remember the Titans and Rudy. In addition, “The Incredible Joe Manno, Christian comedian and actor, will **appear in person and perform his family comedy show.**

Joe Manno’s hit film, for which he won an Emmy Award, “*All In One*” will also be shown. Other films include the sequel to one of the most thought provoking films ever produced *Another Perfect*

*Stranger*, The intriguing time travel movie *Time Changer*, also starring Gavin MacLeod.

Three additional children’s films will be shown including the new VeggieTales feature *The Wonderful Wizard of Ha’s.* Besides guest appearances from Joe Manno and Gavin MacLeod, also appearing in person will be , Don Davis 3 time Superbowl champion from the NE Patriots, Producer/Director Rich Christiano and Producer/Director Danny Carrales.

For the complete movie schedule, to download a poster and for other information please go to [www.christianfilmfestival.org](http://www.christianfilmfestival.org) or call 978-686-4242.

Donations are greatly appreciated to help defray the cost to bring this free film festival into the Merrimack Valley area. Donations can be sent to: Merrimack Valley Christian Film Festival - 25 Jackson Street - Methuen, MA 01844

Cell: (978) 382-0716 24-hr.



Robert Sharpe

Reverse Mortgage Specialist

[rsharpeb@firstinteg.com](mailto:rsharpeb@firstinteg.com)

[www.firstinteg.com](http://www.firstinteg.com)

“First in Rates, First in Service”



FIRST

INTEGRITY

MORTGAGE LLC

354 Merrimack St., at Sal’s Riverwalk

Lawrence MA 01843

Tel. 978.685.9700 Fax 978.685.9701

MA Mortgage Broker #MB 4520  
Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.

328 Boston Road (Rte. 3A) - Billerica

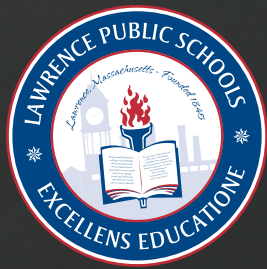


978-671-9393





# "A Campaign for Proficiency for ALL"



**Lawrence Public Schools**

**Embraces**

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




School Committee: Mayor Michael Sullivan, Gregory Morris, Peter Larocque, Martina Cruz, James Vittorioso, Priscilla Baez, and Sam Reyes



# Don't sell our kids' education to the casino lobby

A photograph of two women sitting at slot machines in a casino. The woman in the foreground, wearing a red top, is smiling and looking at the screen of a slot machine. The woman behind her, wearing a blue top, is also smiling and looking at the screen. The slot machines have various displays, including reels and payout tables. The background shows other slot machines and the casino floor.



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

TheNorthEndDeli.com		North End Deli		Hours M-F 9am-4pm Saturday 9-3pm			
				Catering Menu Also Available			
95 Common St Lawrence, MA		phone - 978.688-3539		fax 978.688.3559			
Our Famous Jumbo Rice Balls .....			\$4.00				
Rice stuffed with beef, mozzarella, peas, romano and our secret sauce							
Homemade Soup of the Day (please call for soup of the day)							
Chicken Escarole, Sausage Soup, Beef Stew, Tortellini, Wedding Soup and many more!							
Cold Subs or Wraps							
Italian (Imported Ham, Salami, Sweet Capicola, Mortadella).....			\$6.00				
Angus Roast Beef .....			\$6.00				
Roast Turkey.....			\$6.00				
Tuna Fish.....			\$6.00				
Imported Ham.....			\$6.00				
Veggie.....			\$5.50				
Hot Subs or Wraps							
Homemade Meatball.....			\$6.00				
Homemade Sausage.....			\$6.00				
Chicken Cutlet (fresh breaded).....			\$6.25				
Veal Cutlet (fresh breaded).....			\$7.25				
Homemade Eggplant Parmesan.....			\$6.50				
Steak and Cheese (fresh butcher cut).....			\$6.50				
Teriyaki Steak and Cheese (fresh butcher cut).....			\$6.50				
Stuffed Pork Roast (pork, prosciutto, spinach and cheese).....			\$7.00				
Pastrami Melt.....			\$6.50				
Specialty Subs or Wraps							
Cold Eggplant.....			\$6.75				
breaded eggplant w/ fresh mozzarella, roasted red peppers, fresh basil and extra virgin olive oil							
Caprese.....			\$6.00				
fresh mozzarella, sliced tomato, balsamic vinegar, extra virgin olive oil and fresh basil							
Italian Ham and Cheese.....			\$6.75				
Imported ham, prosciutto, sweet dry cappicollo, fresh mozzarella fresh basil & extra virgin olive oil							
The Godfather.....			\$7.50				
Prosciutto, hot dry cappicollo, hot sopressata, pepperoni, mixed hot pepper, roasted red peppers, pepato cheese, fresh basil and extra virgin olive oil							
Julius Caesar.....			\$6.75				
Imported ham, salami, sweet capicola, mortadella, fresh mozzarella, mixed hot pepper, fresh basil, Extra virgin olive oil							
Papa.....			\$7.50				
Prosciutto, salami grande, sweet dry cappicollo, sweet sopressata, roasted red peppers, fresh mozzarella, fresh basil and extra virgin olive oil							
House Special.....			\$7.00				
Prosciutto, fresh mozzarella, roasted red peppers, extra virgin olive oil & fresh basil							
Balboa Bomb.....			\$7.00				
Fresh butcher shaved steak, salami, pepperoni, peppers, onions, provolone cheese							
Buffalo Chicken.....			\$6.75				
Our cutlets soaked in hot sauce, blue cheese, romaine lettuce and tomato							
Popeye.....			\$7.00				
Marinated grilled chicken, spinach and cheese							
Grilled Chicken Caesar Wrap.....			\$6.50				
Cesar covered grilled chicken, romaine lettuce, homemade crutons, romano cheese							
Eggplant & Chicken Parm Combo.....			\$7.95				
Dijon Chicken.....			\$6.75				
Marinated grilled chicken , romaine lettuce, tomato, fresh basil with dijon dressing							
Grilled Chicken with Feta.....							



# Striders present check to Merrimack Valley Hospice

LAWRENCE, MA – The Merrimack Valley Striders (MVS) running club presented Merrimack Valley Hospice with a check for \$10,000 at their Annual Meeting to support the building of the Merrimack Valley Hospice House. Merrimack Valley Hospice is the primary beneficiary of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Feaster Five Road Race on Thanksgiving Day in Andover.

Over 8,000 runners, walkers and supporters attended this race. For many years, Home Health VNA, an agency of Home Health Foundation, has been the beneficiary of the runner/walker pledges and voluntary donations at the time of registration. In 2006, Merrimack Valley Striders chose Merrimack Valley Hospice, an agency of Home Health Foundation as the primary beneficiary of the race for the next five years.

“This year, we had the greatest number of participants in the history of the Race,” said Tom Licciardello, Development Coordinator for the Merrimack Valley Striders.

“We are confident that with the collaboration between the Merrimack

Valley Striders and the Home Health Foundation that the event could raise \$100,000 annually to support the many agencies of Home Health Foundation”

Home Health Foundation President / CEO Joan Stygles Hull, RN, MBA, concurs.

“Not only are we thrilled that the Merrimack Valley Striders have chosen to continue with us as their priority charity for the next three years, but they have gone above and beyond our expectations in making a commitment to helping us raise Hospice care awareness and support for the Campaign to build a Merrimack Valley Hospice House,” said Hull. “We are overwhelmed with their generosity and support.”

In addition to the \$10,000 check, an additional \$5,000 was raised in runner/walker pledges and voluntary donations. These funds will be directed to the construction of the Merrimack Valley Hospice House to be located at 360 North Ave. in Haverhill, MA.

The Merrimack Valley Striders (MVS) running club was founded in 1979. It



PHOTO: COURTESY

Pat Palermo, Director of the Campaign for Merrimack Valley Hospice House, Tom Licciardello, Development Coordinator for Merrimack Valley Striders, Dave McGillivray, President of DMSE, and Janine Papesch, Manager of Development for Merrimack Valley Hospice.

serves the needs of runners in the greater Merrimack Valley and all parts of New England with a simple mission statement - to encourage and enhance running at all levels. Visit their website [www.mvstriders.com](http://www.mvstriders.com)

To learn more about the Feaster Five Road Race, go to [www.feasterfive.com](http://www.feasterfive.com).

Merrimack Valley Hospice is a not-for-profit agency dedicated to serving the

terminally ill and their families. The agency is affiliated with Home Health VNA and HomeCare, Inc. Together the three agencies service more than 80 communities throughout the Merrimack Valley, Northeastern Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. To learn more about the Merrimack Valley Hospice House, visit [www.merrimackvalleyhospice.org](http://www.merrimackvalleyhospice.org)

## Lawrence Residents Attend Boston Celtics Game in Dunkin' Donuts "KidZone"

Boston, MA - Dunkin' Donuts hosted children from Arlington Middle School from Lawrence at the Boston Celtics game on Wednesday February 6th against the Los Angeles Clippers. The children received tickets in the Dunkin' Donuts "KidZone" located at the TD Banknorth Garden.

Dedicated to local youth and charitable organizations, the Dunkin' Donuts "KidZone" is a special seating section in which Dunkin' Donuts hosts twenty-four children at each Boston Celtics home game. Dunkin' Donuts' sponsorship of the "Dunkin' KidZone" ticket program is part of a broader community outreach initiative through which Dunkin' Donuts hosts youth and charitable organizations at local sporting events.

This program is consistent with Dunkin' Donuts ongoing commitment to support the communities it serves. The mission of this program is to provide ticket accessibility to children who might otherwise not have the ability to attend these events. Founded in 1950, today Dunkin' Donuts is the number one retailer of coffee-by-the-cup in America, selling 2.7 million cups a day, nearly one billion cups a year. Dunkin' Donuts is also the largest coffee and baked goods chain in the world and sells more donuts, coffee, bagels and muffins than any other quick-service restaurant in America. Dunkin' Donuts has more than 5,800 stores in the United States and 29 other countries. For more information, visit [www.dunkindonuts.com](http://www.dunkindonuts.com).



Back row pictured from left to right: Amylis Mauk, Grismaldi Martinez, Kavier Tejada, Leonelis Vives, Jake Paplardo, Glen Davis (Celtics Forward), Eric Rodriguez, Anensky Rondon, Colleen Farrell, Courtney Breen, Tamika Valasquez, Angelina Ortega, Jay Condon, and Taina Burgos. Front row pictured from left to right: Crislauris Cruz, Yanilo Duran, Matt Papalardo, Joldie Batista, Mariely Rodriguez, Cindy Quijada, Francisco Paulino, Tony Rojas, Roque Reyes, Alfredo Terrero, Stefany Santiago and Ramon Vilorio.



Anne Marie  
Concemi  
Chief Mortgage  
Planner

Cell: (978) 852-9707  
24-hr.

[www.firstinteg.com](http://www.firstinteg.com)



"First in Rates, First in Service"

**FIRST  
INTEGRITY  
MORTGAGE** LLC

[aconcemi@firstinteg.com](mailto:aconcemi@firstinteg.com)

354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk  
Lawrence MA 01843  
Tel. 978.685.9700 x15 \* Fax 978.685.9701  
MA Mortgage Broker #MB 4520  
Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.

# Salvatore's

354 Merrimack Street, Lawrence

Please See our Ad Page 32

## Farrah Funeral Home

133 Lawrence St., Lawrence, MA 01841  
Across from our old location

Locally Owned  
and  
Family Operated



Phone: 978-682-4060 • Fax: 978-682-3234 • Louis Farrah, II • David Moynihan (Manager)





ROGER A. TWOMEY

AT-LARGE CITY COUNCILOR

Lawrence, Massachusetts

Lawrence residents, save on water bills

Residents can save on monthly water bills by installing additional meter



It is not well known or advertised to any great length, but Lawrence home owners have the option of installing a separate water meter, at their own expense, in order to reduce the sewer charges which are presently incorporated into every water bill.

The installation of an additional water meter will not benefit everyone, however residents who have swimming pools and sprinkler systems will benefit.

The homeowner will be responsible for the installation fee by a plumber of their choosing, along with the cost of the meter.

In the water department’s abstract of rules and regulations, it states, “An adjustment to sewer charges will be made for any user consuming metered water which is not discharged into the wastewater collection system provided that a separate seale meter, approved by the city, is provided at the user’s expense to measure this water.”

If you would like more information regarding this topic, I would be more than happy to answer your questions or provide you with additional information.

17 Leeds Terrace • Lawrence, MA 01843

978-685-7558

City Hall • 200 Common Street • Lawrence, MA 01840

rtwomey@cityoflawrence.com • 978-620-3219

16 year old arrested, arraigned for bomb threat at North Andover High School

Freshman Girl Confessed to writing threats on bathroom wall

Tom Duggan

VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

NORTH ANDOVER, MA – March 3, 2008 – North Andover Police conducted an investigation this weekend at North Andover High School after administrators at school found a bomb threat written on a bathroom wall on Friday, February 29, 2008.

Police were notified at 2pm Friday as the principal sent out a warning to parents that a bomb threat had been made at the school, prompting police to search the school with “Julie”, the bomb sniffing K9 officer.

According to North Andover Police Lieutenant Gallagher, the message appeared to be very serious in nature and was very clear on where and went the bombing was to take place.

“We’re bomming (sic) North Andover High! We’re killing everyone 3-20-08 be ready!” the threatening message said.

On Monday March 3, 2008 North Andover police increased their presence at the school, and according to Gallagher,

administrators at the school conducted their own investigation.

“They interviewed a number of students and were able to determine who it was that wrote the threat on the bathroom wall,” Gallagher told The Valley Patriot in an exclusive interview.

“Obviously we cannot give any details because the student is a minor but I can say we made an arrest today and the student was charged with disrupting a school assembly and threats of an explosive device which carries a 20 year felony,” Gallagher said.

Sources at Lawrence Juvenile court told The Valley Patriot this afternoon that the student was a 16 year old freshman girl at the high school and that she confessed to writing the threats on the bathroom wall, but did not know if the student had been released to her parents as of this afternoon.

For up to date information on this story visit us on line every day at [valleypatriot.com](http://valleypatriot.com). To submit a news tip email us at [valleypatriot@aol.com](mailto:valleypatriot@aol.com)

North Andover

978-688-7733  
478 Chickering Rd.

NOW Delivering!

\*ELECT\*



Joe Edward Smith



\*ELECT\*

Candidate for North Andover Selectman



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

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

We need you, your family, neighbors and co-workers to go to the polls on **March 25, 2008** and give Joe Edward Smith your vote for Selectman! Let’s fight for a **cleaner environment**, equitable funding for education, larger return from the state of **our tax dollars**, as well as **smart government spending**, expansion of **our tax base** and **equal access** and input in Town government **decision making**.

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

“It’s not the critic who counts; It’s not the one who points out how the brave man stumbles or how the doer of deeds may have done them better; It’s the one in the arena, who’s face is covered with sweat, dust and tears!” -Teddy Roosevelt

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Joe Edward Smith 16 Edgelawn Ave #3, North Andover, MA - 01845



# Why I’m supporting Tracy Watson for Selectman

In case North Andover voters haven’t noticed, Election Day is on its way. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, voters in town will be going to North Andover High School, and electing two new members to our Board of Selectmen.

I place particular emphasis on “new” because both incumbent members of the current Board, who would be up for re election, have chosen to not seek an additional term. As a result, we have four very different candidates campaigning to fill the two open seats that will be on the ballot.

Of these candidates, I would like to encourage voters to seriously consider Tracy Watson.

I was fortunate enough to meet Tracy this past fall, as she was considering running for the Board of Selectmen. Upon meeting her I immediately became impressed by not just her grasp of the issues, but by her desire to serve the community.

As a life long resident of North Andover, Tracy told me that she wanted to make sure that her five year old son, Cameron, could grow up in a town that had provided her with so much. Not only did she emphasize a need to strengthen our schools, but also she placed a particular emphasis on community development and attracting businesses to our town.

Tracy talked about the need to encourage responsible commercial growth along routes 114 and 125, as well as revitalizing our downtown.

As a student at Merrimack College, and as a resident of town who lives within

walking distance of Main St., this discussion peaked my interest.

Over the past several years, North Andover has seen considerable commercial growth primarily along 114. This growth has provided our community with an increase in revenue, but without sacrificing the character of North Andover.

Tracy has said that she would continue encouraging this responsible growth, by ensuring that this area was appropriately zoned to allow for greater commercial development.

In addition to facilitating commercial growth along 114 and 125, Tracy discussed the importance of our community continuing to assist with the redevelopment of downtown. This includes greater communication and cooperation between our town government, and the businesses and residents of Main St. Tracy stressed that we needed to make sure that we strengthened and sustained downtown’s role as our civic, social, and governmental center of North Andover.

By the end of our conversation, I was confident that Tracy Watson would not only be an excellent and effective Selectman, but she would be a community leader that North Andover would be proud of.

To learn more about Tracy, and the other issues effecting North Andover, please visit her website at [www.TracyWatsonForSelectman.mysite.com](http://www.TracyWatsonForSelectman.mysite.com). On March 25<sup>th</sup>, please join me in supporting Tracy Watson for Selectmen.

Phil DeCologero, North Andover



# Candidates for Selectman

## Tracy Watson

Watson says she has spent sixteen (16) years professionally managing virtual “mini” towns and communities, “which has afforded me the opportunity to develop and administer multi-million dollar operational and capital budgets while also being responsible for multi-millions of dollars in physical assets.”

Watson has managed dozens of employees at all service and professional levels and has worked directly with disparate government agencies as well as private sector entities. “I have also spent the last six (6) years as a college level instructor at the Community and Professional Development Center for Northern Essex Community College.”

“I have been active in numerous community activities and currently still am. I am an active member of the town’s Housing Partnership Committee as well as the School Committee’s Facilities Review Subcommittee. I am also a past-appointed member of the N. Andover Housing Authority. I feel that my professional experiences as well as my strong connection to our community will allow me to bring the right voice capable of making the right choices to the Board of Selectmen.

Although there are numerous reasons as to why I am seeking election to the

Board of Selectmen the most important one I feel is very simply my son Cameron. My parents always taught me the value of community and I want to give that lesson through my own actions to my son as well.”

Some of the issues Watson addressed during last week’s debate were: commercial growth, particularly along the corridors of Rtes. 125 & 114. Revitalizing downtown “to make sure that we strengthen and sustain its role as the business, civic, social and governmental center of North Andover.” Building an appropriate facility for the early childhood mandated program. Planning for a Town Charter Review. And finally tax classification that treats homeowner’s fairly. It is time to look at all options in this process.

## Rick Nardella

Rick Nardella announced his candidacy for Selectmen saying that, “Account-ability and strong leadership are required to resolve many of the issues facing North Andover and I will provide both while serving on the Board of Selectmen”. A long-time resident, Mardella is well known as Chairman and member of the Planning Board. “My background is finance and accounting and I have been a CFO/Controller of a



# Candidates for North Andover School Committee



**Chris Nobile**  
**Family:** Married with sons 4, 7, and 21. Resident of Hillside Road North Andover for 13 years.

**Education:**  
Economics & Psychology BA - University of Vermont

**Profession:** Director for GMAC Bank Correspondent Lending

Over the past 25 years Chris has been recognized as a respected manager, and consensus builder in the mortgage banking industry. His experience includes regular evaluation of financial statements and negotiation of numerous contracts.

“With a child in elementary school I’ve seen the tremendous challenges today’s financial squeeze puts on resources in our schools. But I believe we’re headed in the right direction with a solid School Committee and Superintendent.”



**Stanley B. Limpert**  
**Family:** Wife, Mary Ann. Two children: Son, Paul, a 2005 North Andover High School graduate (age 20), and daughter, Alison, a junior at North Andover High School (age 16). A North Andover resident since 1984.

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Work Experience:** Over thirty years of management and technology experience in the software and engineering services fields. Twenty-five years as a program and software development executive for Dynamics Research Corporation. Current president of RTSConsult, providing best practice software solutions to major corporations and businesses. Former instructor of Integrated Technology Concepts course at North Andover High School.

**Community Service:** Provided volunteer support to the North Andover Schools, including team leadership for elementary school technology standardization. Current member on the School Facilities Review Committee. Ten

public company and several service companies. I possess a strong management, financial, and systems background. Documenting, assessing, and providing adequate controls is my profession. In a word, “accountability.”

“I am a decision maker, forward thinking problem solver, dedicated and committed to any task I undertake,” he added. Nardella and his wife Mary reside on Haymeadow Road where they raised their three daughters, all graduates of North Andover public schools. Their children attended the Kittredge and Franklin, elementary schools, the Middle School and the High School.

“Mary and I both appreciated the education our children received. I know that quality communities have quality schools. As a Selectmen, the best thing I can do for the N. Andover schools is help solve our current financial crisis by increasing planned commercial development and narrowing the gap between our revenue and expenses. This will benefit all town services and help us recruit a top-notch Superintendent of Schools.”

years as a Boy Scout leader and Eagle Candidate mentor for Franklin School Troop 87.

**Campaign Platform:** “I believe a sense of community is one of the most important characteristics of our town. As a 30-year professional manager and executive, long-time resident, parent, school volunteer, and educator, I will take a team approach in order to effectively:

- \* Work with the entire community to choose our next Superintendent of Schools.
- \* Support a unified K-12 curriculum district-wide.
- \* Encourage better use of technology in our schools.
- \* Prioritize and optimize existing resources.
- \* Review and evaluate best business and educational practices, programs, and trends.
- \* Build relationships with local and state officials.
- \* Listen to individual concerns and seek solutions that will further a quality education for all.”

## Mike Quinlan

**Family:** Mike Quinlan and his wife Lynne have five children and have lived in North Andover for seven years.

Quinlan states that the annual operating costs of North Andover schools represent over two-thirds of our town’s budget and the demand for more school spending outpaces revenue increases every year. He says that we need to focus on controlling costs. “If elected to the School Committee, I will fight to manage costs so that the educational needs of our children can be met within available revenues and without increasing property taxes,” Quinlan says.

Quinlan also says that we are generous to our schools and we should have high expectations for academic results. To ensure this, Quinlan says; “the School Committee must adopt teaching materials and programs that make sense. Enough with experimental curricula and pet projects.”

Quinlan says that fiscal responsibility is especially important this year as we negotiate a new teachers’ contract. “North Andover must not sign contracts we can’t afford” Quinlan says.

(Source: [www.northandover.org](http://www.northandover.org))

Over the last twenty years he has dedicated much of his free time to the Town and helped shape the town’s residential and commercial development through his eighteen years of continuous involvement with the Planning Board. As the current Chairman he notes that, “We are working on many important initiatives to increase the town’s commercial base and provide new sources of revenue. We encourage good development and attempt to mitigate the effect of forced development. One example is the successful effort to bring smart growth zoning to the former Lucent property.”

“Demanding and practicing accountability from one’s self and others, while making tough decisions today, will allow us to better deal with tomorrow’s challenges and make North Andover a better town,” promised Nardella.

Nardella works as a Compliance Manager controlling and mitigating financial risk. He received a bachelor’s degree in Management from Suffolk University.

(Source: [www.northandover.org](http://www.northandover.org))



# Quick, Tell Me What I Need to Know About My Town’s Finance Committee

**Douglas J. Swatski**  
CHAIRMAN, N.A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

You asked, so here’s the short answer.

## What is the mission of the Finance Committee?

The Finance Committee’s mission is to make objective and concise recommendations to Town Meeting on the annual budget and any other finance-related warrant articles. To achieve this mission, the Committee reviews and considers any matter which may have a long- or short-term fiscal impact on the town and communicates with other Town boards, departments, employees, and members of the public for the purpose of gathering relevant and accurate information for evaluation, debate and the formulation of a recommendation.

## Where does the Finance Committee fit with respect to the town’s government?

Three boards have significant responsibilities associated with Town Meeting: the Board of Selectmen, the School Board, and the Finance Committee.

Town citizens elect the selectmen and the school board members, and the Town Moderator chooses the members of the Finance Committee. Members of the Board of Selectmen set policy for a majority of the Municipal departments, except for the School Department.

The Town Manager reports directly to the Board of Selectmen and oversees the day-to-day operations of all municipal departments. The Town Accountant, also reports to the Board of Selectmen, and is responsible for maintaining accurate accounting for the whole Town. All other municipal departments report to the Town Manager.

By state law, the public school system is somewhat independent of the town government. While the town’s legislative body (you) controls the level of funding the school department receives, the day-to-day operational control of the school falls to the Superintendent, who reports directly to the School Committee.

Similar to the Board of Selectmen, the School Committee’s role is to set policy for the schools only. The Finance

Committee, or FinCom, is a committee which has no authority over setting policy. All nine members are volunteers and receive no compensation for their services.

## What does the town’s Finance Committee do?

Our number one responsibility is to make a recommendation to you, the citizen, on any warrant article which has a financial impact to the Town. In doing so, The FinCom does two key things: we review and modify the budget to be presented to the town at the annual Town Meeting, which is typically in May, and second, we write brief explanations of any warrant articles that have a financial aspect to them.

These explanations are in plain English and are meant to explain the warrant articles to our town’s citizens. We then distribute the budget and the warrant articles in a booklet to each household in town prior to the annual Town Meeting. At this meeting, every North Andover citizen of legal age can vote to accept, modify or reject our town’s budget.

## How does the Financial Committee put together the final budget recommended at Town Meeting?

First, all department heads prepare a budget and submit it to the Town Manager for review. The School Department prepares their budget, submits it to the School Committee for approval, and then submits it to the Town Manager.

The Town Manager then prepares the initial budget and submits this to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen, after review and any changes, will vote to send the budget to the FinCom.

The budget has two parts: the operational budget, and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The operational budget is the money that runs the town day-to-day (including salaries). The CIP contains all items funded with debt, such as buildings, equipment, and vehicles. The FinCom reviews each item in the operational budget, line by line.

The FinCom has the authority to change the amount of money listed for a given department in the operational

budget, but not at the line item level. That means, for example, that we can increase or reduce the total amount of money listed for schools or for public health and safety.

At a town meeting, we also have the authority to recommend modifications of items in the CIP. For example, if a capital project to construct a building is in the CIP, the FinCom can vote to recommend to leave it in the budget, remove it, or modify the amount of money specified for it. The FinCom spends months reviewing and deliberating on the budgets.

We talk with the Town Manager, the Town Accountant, department heads, members of other committees, and anyone else that can provide insight on town operations to help us make informed decisions on the finances.

Our job is to put together a budget that best represents the needs and desires of the entire town, not just one select group or individual.

## How can you have a say in our town’s budget?

“So, what?” you may say. If we town citizens don’t like the budget, we can just change it on the spot at the Town Meeting. This is true, but if you have ever attended one of these meetings, you probably realize that this is not the best forum for carefully considering all the issues in detail.

Well-meaning citizens often present emotionally-charged arguments and the crowd’s sentiment may tip in one direction or the other as each speaker talks.

Changes to individual line items may be put to a vote, but it is often difficult to garner enough support to make a change. A much better approach would be to talk to the FinCom or one of the Boards as they are considering the budget. All town committees and boards have public hearings. You can attend these and ask questions.

The FinCom is required, by law, to hold a public hearing once a year. We typically do this in February or March, after we have received the Town Manager’s recommended budget. Town citizens may submit a warrant article which is voted on at the annual Town

Meeting. Articles that have a financial impact are reviewed by the FinCom.

The chair of the FinCom may ask the authors of these articles to attend a committee meeting and present on their article. Also, any citizen may contact the chair prior to a meeting and ask to speak on an issue. There is a link for the chair’s email on the town’s Web site.

If you have specific information that the committee needs to hear, the chair may then ask you to present at a meeting. As the chair of the FinCom, I invite you to talk to members of the FinCom any time you have information on an issue, so that we can make informed decisions. The best time to have your say about the budget is well before the annual Town Meeting.

## How can you stay informed?

You can read the local papers to stay informed on the issues. Another option is attend the Fincom meetings, which are open to the public. We rarely have even one or two people join us, so there should be room to sit. At least two days prior to a meeting, we officially post the meeting date and time at Town Hall with the Town Clerk.

We try to post the meeting’s agenda on the town Web site a few days prior to a meeting. We post our meeting minutes on the town Web site following the next meeting (after they’ve been officially approved), and also post them officially with the Town Clerk.

## When does the Financial Committee meet?

From June to October, we meet once a month at the Town Hall. In November, we start meeting twice a month. As the budget deliberations get more intense, we add more meetings. In January, we may meet weekly.

In February, March, and April, we meet twice a week if needed. Our normal meeting day is Thursday at 6:30 p.m. If we have to meet twice a week, we add Tuesdays.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article. Our committee foresees making some difficult choices to reach our recommendations, and your voice is important.

# SELECTMEN: from previous page



### Joe Smith

Joe Smith has been a resident of North Andover since 1977. He is a State Principal Civil Engineer, Director and Steward with the State Engineer’s Union (MOSES).

He holds a B.S. in civil engineering from Lowell Tech University and an A.S. in civil engineering from Franklin Institute of Boston.

He has sat on the North Andover Zoning Board of Appeals and the Zoning Task Force. His public service includes being a USA Army Veteran, Commander of the American Legion, VFW, Knights of Columbus, St. Michael’s Usher, Choir and Eucharistic Minister.

He is a member of the N.A. Rotary Club, a volunteer of the Franklin School’s 5th grade chess club and treasurer/trustee of Heritage Green Condos. Joe’s issues include attracting environmentally

friendly businesses, smart growth planning, lobbying for a larger return of our tax dollars, exploring creative solutions for affordable housing and ensuring equitable funding for education and special education.

### Don Stewart

Stewart is a former Selectman who served more than 18 years on the board until he was deposed two years ago by North Andover Police Officer Dan Lanen. He then ran for School Committee last year and was defeated and is now seeking to return to the Board of Selectmen.

Stewart says he has only supported one override in the years he spent on the board and promised during a recent debate that he will personally sue the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to start paying for “unfunded mandates.”

Stewart owns his own painting business in town and considers himself a fiscal conservative.

## MEET THE CANDIDATES - Wed. March 19th 7pm - NA Middle School Auditorium

Sponsored by NAMS PTAC’s

### Mark Your Calendars to Vote March 25, 2008

#### There are open seats on the following committees:

- Board of Selectmen, 2 seats
- School Committee, 2 seats
- Housing Authority, 1 seat
- Greater Lawrence Tech, 1 seat

Visit NAU’s 2008 Town Election Forum at [www.northandover.org](http://www.northandover.org) for candidate profiles, upcoming election events, and other general election information.



TOM DUGGAN’S NOTEBOOK

Devers v Lantigua

It’s round two for State Representative Willie Lantigua and former Lawrence Mayor Marcos Devers. Devers is challenging Lantigua once again to represent Lawrence at the state house and this time Devers is not running as a write-in candidate; this year he is on the ballot as a democrat challenger in the September primary. In 2006, Devers garnered a huge percentage of the vote as a write-in candidate — much more than predicted by all the insiders, causing political observers to wonder if Lantigua could have been beaten by Devers had his name officially been on the ballot. Lantigua looks particularly vulnerable this year, but a little help from Governor Deval Patrick and being head of the black caucus gives Lantigua a slight edge. One thing for sure, if Devers is going to unseat Lantigua, which could be done, he is going to have to do more than complain that Lantigua doesn’t live in the district. If Devers hopes to unseat his nemesis this year, he has to attack Lantigua on his voting record and not his personal life.

Dave Sullivan’s One-Year Anniversary

While the Valley Patriot is celebrating our 4th anniversary this month, our talented local cartoonist David Sullivan of Dracut is celebrating his very FIRST anniversary doing custom made, local, political cartoons for our newspaper. And, to be completely honest, we are more excited about Dave’s anniversary than we are about our own. Dave is not only a political cartoonist, he is a writer, an actor, a new daddy, and has more talent in his little toe than I have in my entire body. You can look back at a year of wonderful local political



cartoons on the Valley Patriot website; valleypatriot.com/cartoonindex.html. Here’s hoping that Dave Sullivan is with us for a very long time. His contribution to the Valley Patriot is invaluable.

Senator Tucker holds office hours

Senator Sue Tucker will be holding local office hours at the Moses Greeley Park Memorial Library on Tuesday, March 11 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. All town residents are invited to stop by with questions, comments or any other issues. Residents are also invited to contact Senator Tucker at her State House office by calling 617-722-1612 or by emailing her at susan.tucker@state.ma.us.

Mark Andrews

First, Lawrence Finance Director Mark Andrews tried to save the city money by taking away the gas and car allowances of inspectors in the city’s inspectional services department, despite the fact that it was a clear violation of their union contract. Then, Mr.



Andrews told the Lawrence City Council that he was in “negotiations” with the union and that doing away with the gas allowance would not be a problem. But then we learned that Mark Andrews had not been meeting with the union (though he did meet with them later) and when he finally did meet with them he proposed letting them keep their gas reimbursements in exchange for them allowing the city to move to a two-week pay period (another contract item that can’t be violated). He hasn’t been here all that long but it seems like Mr. Andrews’ priorities are a little out of whack. He’s even entangled himself in the “Watergate



Watergate Investigation Continues

investigation” trying to appease the city council president and involving himself in personnel matters when he is having a hard enough time doing his own job. Instead of spending his time trying to placate politicians and trying to play behind the scenes politics, maybe Mr. Andrews should be looking at the shelf life of former finance directors who thought they were smart enough to play with fire without getting burned. Anyone see Carl Prussing, Joe Kelley, or John Griffin around lately? The over/under on Andrews not being here in one year is 4 to 1.

Don Stewart to sue state?

Candidate for the North Andover Board of Selectman Don Stewart served at least 18 years on the board before being deposed two years ago. Stewart told the voters during a debate at town hall last week that if he is elected to the board again he will sue the state for “unfunded mandates” but, to our recollection Mr. Stewart never made such an effort when he was on the board previously and if he had, he would have realized that it takes more than one selectman’s vote to file such a lawsuit. Insiders are predicting that Stewart will win his seat back this year so, if that happens, we want the voters in North Andover to know that we are going to hold him to his word and will report on his lawsuit against the state within 90 days of his election (providing the insiders called this one right).



investigation” into how the Valley Patriot obtained public information about Council President Patrick Blanchette’s \$5,000 raise. Our sources say the city attorneys have gone so far as to interview department heads and accuse a few city employees of “leaking” Blanchette’s Employee Action Form to the press. This “official investigation” is now in its 8th week, while at least one sexual harassment complaint continues to sit on the city attorney’s desk with no action being taken (and no investigation taking place) as well as dozens of other workplace complaints that could result in another major payout. Talk about an abuse of power.

Speaking of abuse of power

I am certainly not one of those constant critics who are always looking for an excuse to attack Lawrence Police Chief John Romero, but a recent story in the Eagle-Tribune had me scratching my head wondering if there really is something to what his detractors have been saying. The story goes like this: someone in Puerto Rico sent a engraved plaque to the chief, complete with a badge and fake gun bolted to it calling him a “corrupt cop”. The story then reveals that Romero is conducting an “official investigation” into who sent it. The chief even went so far as to bring in the United States Postal Inspector claiming that federal laws may have been broken because the so-called perpetrator had used the US mail for “threats and intimidation.” So, let me see if I have this right; the chief of police in Lawrence, Massachusetts actually felt “intimidated and threatened” by someone a thousand miles away sending him a plaque in the mail calling him a corrupt cop and now the chief, in an attempt to

prove he is not corrupt, is using his official law enforcement position to investigate (and, I assume, try to punish) whomever sent it? This is reminiscent of Chief Romero’s “official police investigation” into a city councilor who bad-mouthed him after a council meeting last summer in violation of her civil rights. Now, I know the chief has done a good job overall in running his department and making the streets of Lawrence safer. So, I am really not trying to pick on him here, but I don’t believe for one second that a man of the stature of John Romero is so sensitive that he can’t handle a little criticism, no matter what form it comes in. I also believe it is a waste of time, money and resources to “investigate” someone because they insulted you. The public expects a little bit more.

Pristash Award Committee Announces Winner

Congratulations to Sandy Glead as the 2008 Pristash Award winner. The Pristash Award established in 2006 to honor David and Leanna Pristash is voted on by all the parent / teacher organizations in town. The recipient is selected based on their selfless dedication to our public schools. The award will be presented



to Sandy on Thursday, April 10th 2008 at the Top of The Scales from 6 to 9pm. Tickets are \$35 per person and are on sale at B-Sporty on Chickering Road (across from Hafners). For further information, or to place an Ad in the Best Wishes Book, please contact Margaret Shaheen at [eccincorp@aol.com](mailto:eccincorp@aol.com). This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it. Or call 978-686-6562. All proceeds are used to fund the Pristash Scholarship at the High School.

FREE ADMISSION

The 16th Annual

Merrimack Valley Christian Film Festival

SHOWCASE CINEMAS 1-6

Palm Sunday, March 16 thru Easter Sunday, March 23

FREE ADMISSION

Rte 114 at Rte 495, Exit 42B, South Lawrence, MA

MOVIE SCHEDULE				PLEASE ARRIVE 15 MINUTES BEFORE SHOWTIME			
CHILDREN'S MATINEE A – DOUBLE FEATURE				CHILDREN'S MATINEE B – DOUBLE FEATURE			
Veggie Tales – “The Wonderful Wizard of Ha’s” & “All In One”				Veggie Tales – “Gideon Tuba Warrior” & “The Story of Eric Liddell”			
PALM SUNDAY MARCH 16	MONDAY MARCH 17	TUESDAY MARCH 18	WEDNESDAY MARCH 19	THURSDAY MARCH 20	GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 21	SATURDAY MARCH 22	EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 23
<b>CINEMA 4</b> 11:00 AM Children's Matinee B 12:45 PM Children's Matinee A 2:30 PM Another Perfect Stranger 4:30 PM Facing the Giants 6:45 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 9:00 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven  <b>CINEMA 5</b> 1:00 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven 3:15 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 5:30 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven 8:00 PM Facing the Giants	<b>CINEMA 4</b> 11:00 AM Children's Matinee B 1:00 PM Facing the Giants 5:30 PM Another Perfect Stranger 7:30 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven  <b>CINEMA 5</b> 11:30 AM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven 4:30 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 6:45 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 9:00 PM Facing the Giants	<b>CINEMA 4</b> 11:00 AM Children's Matinee A 1:00 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven <i>After School Special</i> 3:45 PM Facing the Giants 6:30 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 8:45 PM Another Perfect Stranger  <b>CINEMA 5</b> 11:30 AM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 5:00 PM Another Perfect Stranger 6:45 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven 9:00 PM Facing the Giants	<b>CINEMA 4</b> 11:00 AM Children's Matinee B 1:00 PM Children's Matinee A 4:30 PM Facing the Giants 7:00 PM Joe Manno LIVE 8:00 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven  <b>CINEMA 5</b> 11:30 AM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven <i>After School Special</i> 3:45 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven 6:30 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 8:45 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry	<b>CINEMA 4</b> 11:00 AM Children's Matinee A 1:00 PM Facing the Giants <i>After School Special</i> 4:00 PM Children's Matinee B 6:00 PM Joe Manno LIVE 7:15 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 9:30 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven  <b>CINEMA 5</b> 11:30 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 5:00 PM Another Perfect Stranger 6:45 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven 9:00 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry	<b>CINEMA 4</b> 10:30 AM Children's Matinee A 12:15 PM Facing the Giants 2:45 PM Time Changer 5:00 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 7:15 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven 9:30 PM Time Changer  <b>CINEMA 5</b> 11:00 AM Children's Matinee B 1:00 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 3:15 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven 5:30 PM Facing the Giants 8:00 PM Joe Manno LIVE 9:00 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry	<b>CINEMA 4</b> 10:30 AM Children's Matinee B 12:15 PM Facing the Giants 2:45 PM Time Changer 5:00 PM Facing the Giants 7:30 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven 9:45 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven  <b>CINEMA 5</b> 11:00 AM Children's Matinee A 1:00 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 3:15 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven 5:45 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 8:00 PM Joe Manno LIVE 9:15 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry	<b>CINEMA 4</b> 1:00 PM Children's Matinee A 2:45 PM Facing the Giants 5:15 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 7:30 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven  <b>CINEMA 5</b> 1:00 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven 3:30 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 6:00 PM Pilgrim's Progress - Journey to Heaven 8:15 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL SHOWS

For information call 978-686-4242 or visit website [www.ChristianFilmFestival.org](http://www.ChristianFilmFestival.org)



As managed competition shifts into high gear

## State launches auto insurance website

**BOSTON, MA** – Governor Deval Patrick’s Administration has launched a web site this week that allows consumers to compare sample auto insurance premiums, helping them find the best deals as the state’s new managed competition system shifts into high gear. February marks the start of the policy renewal process and, for the first time in 30 years, auto insurers can now offer lower rates to good drivers, more product choices and better services. The Division of Insurance estimates that responsible drivers across Massachusetts can save at least 10% on their 2008 auto insurance premiums.

“Now that consumers finally have choice in our auto insurance market, they should exercise it by comparing different rates and policies to find the one that’s best for them,” said Commissioner of Insurance Nonnie S. Burnes. “This web site will help them begin this important process by showing them the considerable opportunities for savings that are out there and how to contact the companies and agents for more information.”

Available at [www.mass.gov/autorates](http://www.mass.gov/autorates), the Division of Insurance portal shows consumers the range of prices and discounts they may qualify for and tells them how to contact insurance companies and agents directly for quotes. Consumers can easily generate a list of sample premiums by providing their zip code, number of years licensed, the type of vehicle they drive, their driving records and coverage levels.



**Central Grad, Leo Lamontagne wins TV Emmy**

2001 Central Catholic Graduate Leo Lamontagne, (formerly of Lawrence) received an Emmy for Outstanding Achievement for “On Camera Performance” by the TV academy. Lamontagne is a professional dancer with the Jump Rhythm Jazz Project in Chicago.

A documentary was made about his Dance Company and the documentary received four Emmys. Lamontagne is the son of Lawrence residents Leo and Debbie Lamontagne.

Leo Sr. is a member of the Greater Lawrence Technical School Board and owner of Leo & Sons (see page 7) on Broadway in Lawrence.

His mom, Debbie Lamontagne is the owner and proprietor of North Andover School of Dance in North Andover. His proud aunt and uncle are Lawrence City Councilor Roger Twomey and wife Marilyn.

**Voting in schools**

Last month WCAP’s Regina Faticanti and I had an on-air debate on the merits of giving public school children the day off on election day to prevent strangers from walking through our public schools and putting them at risk while classes are in session.

Within a few days, Haverhill City Councilor Bill Ryan was proposing to do just that in the city of Haverhill. So, I had a series of off the record conversations with city clerks and election department workers in the various cities and towns in our coverage area to find that the idea is being widely (though quietly) being embraced in city and town halls all over the Commonwealth.

“There’s no reason the school committee can’t schedule an in-service day for teachers on election day, so that the kids won’t be in the school while people are voting,” one town clerk told me.

“I love the idea, and believe it or not most of my colleagues feel the same way.”

We will be watching this development over the coming months as councilors and selectmen across the Valley have hinted that they will make a similar proposal in their community.

As a side note, North Andover High School is closed on Election Day in November.



**Estera Suziedeliene, Jonas Stundza and Asta Grigalauskiene celebrate Lithuanian Independence Day**

### Lithuanian Independence Day

Last month, I had asked our good friend Jonas Stundza to submit a picture from the Lithuanian Independence Day celebration, but by the time the newspaper made it to the printer it had somehow been overlooked. My apologies to Jonas and here’s hoping we can attend next year’s event.

## Penny Social

### March 29, 2008

**BRING A FRIEND!**

**Sponsored by**

**V.F.W. Post #8349 Ladies Auxiliary**

**26 River St. - Methuen MASS**

*Mark Your Calendar for March 29th at 5pm*

Any and All Donations will be greatly appreciated.

**For more information please call Ellie at 978-685-3382**

**Doors Open @ 5pm**

**Raffle Starts at 6pm SHARP!**

**Tickets Will Sell for \$1 Per Sheet**

RAFFLE TICKETS \$1.00

## Jennifer Ortiz Foundation 2nd annual Prom Expo and Fashion Showcase

The Jennifer Ortiz Foundations second annual Prom Expo and Fashion Showcase will be held at the Elks Lodge, 652 Andover St., Lawrence, MA on Friday, March 7, 2008. This year’s event will include 2 contests to award 4 scholarships to lucky Merrimack Valley students attending college in the fall of 2008. Entry deadline for both contests is Fri. February 8, 2008.

One couple will be awarded a \$500.00 scholarship each for our dance contest and two aspiring models (male & female) will be awarded the same. In addition to the contests, students will have the opportunity to see dozens of Merrimack Valley businesses catering to all their prom needs. Come see our vendors that include; formal shops, florists, limousine companies, hair salons, makeup artists and more.

In 2007 The Jennifer Ortiz Foundation awarded 5 scholarships to Merrimack Valley Seniors, provided 500 elementary students will fully equipped “Back to School Backpacks” with our Project Stepping Stone, and visited Children’s Hospital at Christmas with Santa to bring presents and the spirit of hope and giving to the children in the cancer ward. Your participation at any level will help us reach even more young people in 2008. We are a fully volunteer organization and welcome new volunteers for our events.

For information on how to become a vendor, volunteer, sponsor or contest participant, please e-mail [promexpo@comcast.net](mailto:promexpo@comcast.net) , you can also call me at (978) 764-6672.



# Manzi, Sullivan, Biggest Losers: From 1

Latitude’s would agree with me on that.”

Manzi weighed in at 243lbs. while Sullivan weighed in at 228lbs, something Manzi says is not a problem. “Just remember, this isn’t about who weighs more, it’s about who can lose more and there is no doubt in my mind that I am going to lose more weight than Mike,” Manzi said. “And when that happens, he will *still* be the biggest loser because he hasn’t beat me in a competition since we were at Central Catholic.”

“But this isn’t just about losing weight,” Mike Sullivan said. If we can inspire even a few people in the Valley to eat better, exercise more and make the effort to lose a few extra pounds then, we’ve made a difference and that’s what this is all about.”

Ralph Bagarella, owner of Latitude’s Sports Club in Methuen said they have already raised \$9,000 from more than 20 sponsors.

“This all started when we sat down with Joe Zingales from Remax Prestige in Lawrence, who came up with the idea and it just snowballed from there. I can’t believe we have so many people participating,” Bagarella said.

Weekly updates on each team and the progress of each mayor will be posted on The Valley Patriot website; valleypatriot.com or latitudelose.com.

Sponsors of the Merrimack Valley’s Biggest Loser include: Team Zingales from Remax Prestige in Lawrence, Valcom Internet Services in Methuen, Sal’s Riverwalk, The Valley Patriot, United Mortgage, Corporate Express, [www.flivingstone.com](http://www.flivingstone.com), Law Offices of Atty. Michele N. Struffolino, Torromeo Industries, Inc., Mortgage Resource Solution-Loss Mitigation Specialists, Grella Financial, Corporate Express Services, Hasbany Insurance, Dunkin Donuts-Cafua Management, Superior Cleaners, Whirlaway Sports Center-Methuen, Good2Go Sports Nutrition-Bradford, Sal’s Pizza, Michaels Harborside-Newburyport, Newburyport Bank, Spa Ni’Joli, Andrew Travel & Cruise Center, Grand Wireless, Mann Orchards, Joseph’s Trattoria.



Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan (Right) makes fun of Bill Manzi’s enormous flab before the weigh-in at Latitudes in Methuen. (above right) Mayor Manzi turns his “Twinkie Cookbook”. (below, right) Sullivan weighs in at 228 lbs. (below, far right) Kathy Mamos, Theresa Zingales and Joe Zingales with BILL Manzi.



LATITUDE  
sports clubs

**BIGGEST  
LOSER**



SPONSORED IN PART BY ...

 THE VALLEY PATRIOT

 TEAM ZINGALES

 VALCOM

 Unlimited Mortgage Corporation

978-689-4285 Internet Services  
Website hosting and custom design

## LATTITUDE SPORTS CLUBS AND TEAM ZINGALES

PRESENTS  
1st Annual

### Merrimack Valley Biggest Loser Competition

This Fat Loss competition begins on March 3, 2008. Each Participant will be assigned to a team of 10. All teams will be assigned to a Latitude Sports Clubs fitness professional.

At the end of the competition, the team with the total overall weight loss will be awarded prizes.

The overall winner will win a trip for two to an exotic vacation desination.

Contest Format  
12 Week Program  
Twice a week with Fitness Pro.  
Weigh in once per week  
Team weekly updates

Contest Registrations

Member \$120 - Non-Member \$140

For more information contact our fitness manager at any of our locations.

(888) 5 LATITUDE

Or register online at  
[www.latitudelose.com](http://www.latitudelose.com)

Tracy V  
The Right Voice. T



Vote March 25th at NAHS

Proudly en  
North Andover Fire F  
An  
North Andover Police U  
  
Please feel free t  
Tracy@TracyWatsonFor  
Or v  
[www.TracyWatsonForS](http://www.TracyWatsonForS)

Paid for by the Committ





PHOTOS: COURTESY SID HARRIS



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

## Speaking for Campbell

Massachusetts House Ways and Means Chairman, Robert DeLeo appeared at the Sweetheart Inn last month to endorse Methuen State Representative Linda Dean Campbell in her reelection bid this fall. DeLeo attended the Campbell fund raiser along with State Senator Steve Baddour, Mayor Bill Manzi and a host of elected officials from the state. Campbell may face former State Rep. candidate Chris DiBella for the Democrat nomination.

# Watson

The Right Choice.

Promising to the bring the “right voice” with the capacity to make the right choices for all of us TRACY WATSON asks for your vote on March 25th for North Andover Selectman

endorsed by  
Fighters Local 2035  
and  
Union NEPBA Local 2

to contact me at  
rSelectman.mysite.com  
visit  
Selectman.mysite.com

ee to Elect Tracy Watson

FREE ADMISSION

The 16th Annual

Merrimack Valley Christian Film Festival

SHOWCASE CINEMAS 1-6

Rte 114 at Rte 495, Exit 42B.

South Lawrence, MA

Palm Sunday, March 16 thru Easter Sunday, March 23

GUESTS

Appearing Throughout The Week!

See Website for Appearance Schedule

Gavin MacLeod

Actor

The Secret of Jonathan Sperry

Time Changer

TV Shows: Love Boat, WKRP in Cincinnati, The Dick Van Dyke Show

Rich Christiano

Producer/Director

The Secret of Jonathan Sperry

Unsettled

Time Changer

End of the Road

Secret Cinema

Danny Carrales

Producer/Director

Plains Progress

Journey to Heaven

Capitol Hill

The Gathering

Final Cut

Don Davis

NE Patriots

Former Linebacker

3 Time Super Bowl Champion

Current Assistant Coach

& Team Captain

Other NE Patriots

scheduled to

Appear during

the week

Entry Award Winner

"The Housewife"

Joe Manno

Actor/Comedian

The Housewife is in the

It's A God Thing TV Show

A Fighting Chance School, Bus

Tom Saab

Founder/Director

Christian Film

is a film of America

8 Days & Nights • 2 Theaters • Children's Matinees and Much More

Jensen Pennette

Gavin MacLeod

Robert Guillaume

The World Premier

THE SECRETS OF

JONATHAN SPERRY

What He Teaches Them...Will Last Forever

An Inspirational Masterpiece

PG

The Return of a "Life Changing" Motion Picture

FACING THE GIANTS

An experience you do not want to miss!

A Must See For Your Family & Friends!

Spectacular on the "BIG" screen

PG

You Must See For Yourself

What happens In The Future?

(Only 3 Shows)

Meet

Gavin MacLeod

In Person

TIME CHANGER

D. David MORIN

Sam MacLEOD

Hal LINDER

Jessica O'NEILL

Paul RODRIGUEZ

PG

CHILDREN'S MATINEE

A DOUBLE FEATURE

Wonderful Wizard of Haas

VeggieTales

NEW FEATURE FILM

The Story of a Prodigal Son

Hilarious!

Starring Emmy Award Winner Joe Manno

Great Encouragement for Children of All Ages

The New Major Motion Picture

PILGRIMS PROGRESS

JOURNEY TO HEAVEN

A MODERN ADAPTATION OF JOHN RUNYAN'S CLASSIC ADVENTURE

PG

APPEARING LIVE

Direct from Orlando, Florida

"The Incredible" Joe Manno

Family Comedy Show

The #1 Jerry Lewis Impersonator & Star of Stage, Screen & TV

www.joeManno.com

Sit Next to Jesus on a Plane Ride Across The Country

ANOTHER PERFECT STRANGER

The sequel to one of the most thought provoking films every produced.

PG

CHILDREN'S MATINEE

B DOUBLE FEATURE

Gideon

VeggieTales

A Lesson in Trusting God

From Chariots of Fire,

the true story of Eric Liddell

THE ERIC LIDDELL STORY

For all children a great message on the importance of commitment and sacrifice

MOVIE SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday March 16 Cinema 4	Monday March 17 Cinema 4	Tuesday March 18 Cinema 4	Wednesday March 19 Cinema 4	Thursday March 20 Cinema 4	Good Friday March 21 Cinema 4	Saturday March 22 Cinema 4	Easter Sunday March 23 Cinema 4
11:00 AM Children's Matinee B 12:45 PM Children's Matinee A 2:30 PM Another Perfect Stranger 4:30 PM Facing The Giants 6:45 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 9:00 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven	11:00 AM Children's Matinee B 1:00 PM Facing The Giants 2:30 PM Another Perfect Stranger 7:30 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven	11:00 AM Children's Matinee A 1:00 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 3:45 PM Special After School Show 6:30 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 8:45 PM Another Perfect Stranger	11:00 AM Children's Matinee B 1:00 PM Children's Matinee A 4:30 PM Facing The Giants 7:00 PM Joe Manno LIVE 9:00 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven	11:00 AM Children's Matinee A 1:00 PM Facing The Giants 4:00 PM Special After School Show Children's Matinee B 6:00 PM Joe Manno LIVE 7:15 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 9:30 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven	10:30 AM Children's Matinee A 12:15 PM Facing The Giants 2:45 PM Time Changer 5:00 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 7:15 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 9:30 PM Time Changer	10:30 AM Children's Matinee B 12:15 PM Facing The Giants 2:45 PM Time Changer 5:00 PM Facing The Giants 7:30 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 9:45 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven	1:00 PM Children's Matinee A 2:45 PM Facing The Giants 5:15 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 7:30 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven
Cinema 5	Cinema 5	Cinema 5	Cinema 5	Cinema 5	Cinema 5	Cinema 5	Cinema 5
1:00 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 3:15 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 5:30 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 8:00 PM Facing The Giants	11:30 AM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 4:30 PM Another Perfect Stranger 6:45 PM Facing The Giants 9:00 PM Facing The Giants	11:30 AM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 4:30 PM Another Perfect Stranger 6:45 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 9:00 PM Facing The Giants	11:30 AM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 3:45 PM Special After School Show Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 6:30 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 8:45 PM Facing The Giants	11:30 AM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 4:30 PM Another Perfect Stranger 6:45 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 9:00 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry	11:00 AM Children's Matinee B 1:00 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 3:15 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 5:30 PM Facing The Giants 8:00 PM Joe Manno LIVE 9:15 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry	11:00 AM Children's Matinee A 1:00 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 3:15 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 5:45 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 8:00 PM Joe Manno LIVE 9:15 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry	1:00 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 3:30 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry 6:00 PM Pilgrim's Progress Journey to Heaven 8:15 PM Secrets of Jonathan Sperry

FREE ADMISSION

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before showtime and please bring a friend!

FREE ADMISSION

For Information Call: (978) 686-4242 or www.christianfilmfestival.org



## John MacDonald elected to Leadership & Literacy Foundation Board

**LAWRENCE, MA –** Sal Lupoli, President/CEO of Sal’s Pizza Retail and Wholesale Divisions, Salvatore’s Restaurants, Riverwalk Properties and Chairman of the Leadership & Literacy Foundation along with Susan Leger Ferraro President/CEO of Little Sprouts Child Enrichment Centers and President of the Leadership & Literacy Foundation are proud to announce that John MacDonald, VP of Corporate Strategy and Communications for Lupoli Companies has been elected to the Leadership & Literacy Foundation board of directors.

“John is an enormous asset to the L&L board. His strategic talent in alignment with his connection to the Greater Merrimack valley community will be a grand addition to L&L’s future vision” said Susan Leger Ferraro.

“Sal Lupoli has made contributions to teachers that work with at risk children (in Little Sprouts), donated free space, discounted on food, donated funds for



books and parent training. Sal has been at the forefront of ESOL GED leadership, workforce development training for at risk young adults (provided transportation, paid them while they were taking classes, supported with one to one tutoring, created succession plan so they could advance in the company and helped them move into leadership roles. I’m very excited to help Sal & Susan enhance their efforts in these endeavors as a member of the board” said MacDonald.



The Leadership and Literacy Foundation operated for several years through Little Sprouts Child Enrichments Center and became an official separate organization in June of 2000.

The foundation evolved from the visions of Susan Leger-Ferraro, the Chief Executive Officer of Little Sprouts, who desired to improve literacy,

**LITERACY, page 21**

## RAISE ‘EM RIGHT Talking in the Night

**Barbara Peary, M.Ed.**  
VALLEY PATRIOT PARENTING SPECIALIST

Read the following and decide whether the percentage given is true or false:

A recent survey conducted by a high school teacher indicated that 70 % percent of the students asked said they had received phone calls from fellow students, drop outs, and older friends after 12 a.m., after 1 a.m., after 2 a.m., after 3 a.m. and after 4 a.m. They received these calls on their cell phones and talked with these friends, sometimes for hours in the middle of the night.

The answer is false. Actually the percentage was 90%. To prevent this, do what parents who have caught on are doing. Do not allow the child to have the cell in the bedroom after lights are out.

**My ninth grader uses the phrase “shut up” frequently when speaking with friends. She doesn’t realize how immature and rude this sounds. How can I get her to see that this habit needs to be dropped?**

Tape her when she least expects it and replay it. After she hears it, be frank with her and ask if this is a smart way to treat friends, if she intends to keep them as friends.

**My child’s preschool teacher reported that when a minor accident**

**occurred at school, my son claimed it was done on purpose. A small block was dropped on my son’s foot (he was not hurt) and he carried on and on about being hurt deliberately. He has two brothers and has been doing the same thing with them. Telling me that they meant to hurt him when they bumped him or stepped on his toes accidentally. I don’t know how to stop this. He will be turning five shortly.**

If you can not put your finger on why he may be doing this, attention seeking may be the only reason.

Try when he is calm taking him to the side and explaining that young playmates and occasionally siblings may deliberately hit him when they are mad. Stress that teachers will not hit him on purpose. If he is almost five, he should be able to grasp the difference between deliberate actions and those that occur accidentally. Explain that when he says people are hitting him intentionally and they are not, that is a lie.

Lying is not acceptable behavior. If he continues you should come up with a logical consequence as punishment for this misbehavior.



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

# Tufts University research shines positive spotlight on Valley economic practices

**Kathleen Corey Rahme**  
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

Have you ever wondered why some immigrant groups are more economically successful than others in the United States? Does ethnicity, family, or religion influence the process of acquiring the values and skills that families use to adapt successfully to the U.S. economic world? Interestingly, a team of researchers at Tufts University is seeking the answer to this very question in their project, *Culture, Identity, and the Economic Socialization of Children*.

As we are all aware, helping children develop the skills to function competently and effectively in today’s economic world is becoming increasingly challenging for all parents and teachers of young children.

“While this challenge may be particularly difficult for immigrant parents, some immigrants, like the Lebanese, tend to respond more effectively to the challenge than others,” says Jeannette Belcher-Schepis one of the researchers from Tufts.

According to the most recent U.S. Census, Lebanese immigrants, as a group, have been very successful in adapting to the U.S. economic environment.

What accounts for the success that Lebanese immigrant families have in adapting to the U.S. economic world?

What do their children learn from them about the economic world and how to succeed in it?

To answer this and other, related questions, researchers at Tufts University are interviewing members of the Lebanese Muslim and Christian communities in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Southern New Hampshire.

The main goal of the project is to learn more about the kinds of experience that help these children understand the economic world and the roles they may play in it, and thereby develop into healthy, productive adults.

The researchers intend to include other ethnic groups in these studies, in addition to Lebanese immigrants, and to monitor the children through their high school years, contingent on receiving additional financial support for

this project. “I think that there are numerous benefits to this research,” according to Belcher-Schepis.

The project, which is currently carried out among Lebanese Muslim and Christian immigrant families, is the first stage of three in an overall program.

In the second stage of the program, the Tufts Research Team intends to work with school teachers, after-school program providers, curriculum specialists, and others who work directly with the children of immigrants—specifically, to apply the knowledge gained from the research to the improvement and development of curricula and educational programs whose subject matter includes economic and financial literacy, youth entrepreneurship, and career planning.

In the third stage of the work, the economic curricula and materials developed during the second phase of the project will be evaluated—in order to determine how the materials may be further improved in order to best address the values, skills, and needs of children of Lebanese immigrants, as well as children from other immigrant groups.

Policy makers and practitioners will be informed about the results of this work, and the Tufts research team will work with them to obtain their support for legislation and funding for school and after-school programs fostering the economic skills that children of immigrants will need to succeed in the evolving global economy.

The Tufts University study is nearing the end of the initial phase of work in the Lebanese community here in Merrimack Valley and they still need additional participants.

If you qualify, you will be contributing valuable information to the understanding of the Lebanese in America by sharing your story with them. They are seeking interviews with Lebanese immigrant parents who are Muslim or Christian (and their spouses who do not need to be Lebanese, Muslim, Christian, or immigrants) living in the greater Boston area; and, of course, their 8-14 year-old children. Do you qualify for this project?

Do you know anyone who does? Interviews will be scheduled at times convenient to the participating

families; in addition, interviews will take place in participating families’ homes or, if preferable, at another location in or near the communities of these families.

My own family participated in this project and we found it to be quite rewarding. I think this is a valuable opportunity for the Lebanese community to share some of the values that they instill in their own children that have lead to their economic successes. When the researchers came to our home, we felt very comfortable in their company and we thoroughly enjoyed the exchange. I would highly recommend participating in this worthwhile project.

“I really didn’t know what to expect, but it was really fun to answer their questions,” said Madeline Rahme, who was 11 years old at the time of the interview.

“They gave me a gift card for participating and that was cool.”

The interviews are a positive experience for participating families, and provide children with a unique opportunity to voice their thoughts and opinions in an interview with an adult.

If your family qualifies for this project, or you know of others who do, please contact Jeannette Belcher-Schepis at [Jeannette.Belcher\\_Schepis@tufts.edu](mailto:Jeannette.Belcher_Schepis@tufts.edu). For further information about the study, please contact Lawrence Gianinno, Ph.D., Research Professor, and Principal Investigator at: 617-627-4449 (Office Phone) or [Lawrence.Gianinno@Tufts.edu](mailto:Lawrence.Gianinno@Tufts.edu).

I believe that far too often research focuses on the negative aspects of a particular community or fails to offer a solution of any sort. It is refreshing to witness research occurring in our own backyard in the Merrimack Valley, in order to shape economic and financial literacy curricula in schools and after school programs. I believe that this research will have a positive impact on our children’s future.

If you are eligible, here’s your chance to make an important contribution by participating, or encouraging eligible friends and family to participate. Please get involved and contact the Tufts University Research Team today!



SIMPLE WISDOM

# The box of daily cards

Gail Van Kleeck  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Last New Year’s Eve Parker and I started a new tradition. We cut some 4x6 index cards in half to make a blank deck of cards. Then we put them in a box on the shelf behind our bed and took turns writing about our day before we went to sleep.

Mostly we wrote about simple things, a conversation with one of our grandchildren, an evening with friends, playing ball with our dog Katie, times we’d simply spent together.

We wrote about what we’d appreciated in the day, what we’d learned, how we’d resolved an argument or avoided one altogether.

Once in a while we were too busy or tired to write. Occasionally one of us wasn’t in the mood so the other one took an extra turn. Sometimes we only wrote a few sentences. More often we had so much to say that we turned our card over to write on the back. We wrote with love, humor, honesty and with respectfulness towards each other.

When we sat down for dinner the last night of the year we took turns reading the cards aloud. It took longer than we’d thought.

We laughed and remembered together. We felt blessed by the tenderness of each other’s words and sometimes surprised by their point of view. We read more of the cards before we went to bed, and more at dinner the following night. It took us over

than a week to finish. We didn’t want to rush. When we’d read them all, we set them aside in a box labeled “2007”. Some day perhaps we’ll go through them again. For now we’re too busy writing our new cards for this year.

There is much about our world that we are seemingly unable to change. Wars, hunger, poverty, politics, misunderstanding between family and friends. It’s so easy to defend our point of view and to focus on the differences between us. Yet there is much in life that all of us have in common and so much more that we have the absolute power to change.

When we take a stand against negativity in our own lives, we clear a place for the compassion and understanding to grow. When we touch the lives of others with our own sense of faith and gratitude we participate in healing this sometimes confused and challenging world.

Gandhi told his followers to be the change they wanted to see in the world. Parker simply says he’s trying to honor the sense of light and peace he finds in his own heart. I think both of them are very wise men.

WHAT WE FOCUS ON IS TRULY  
WHAT WE SEE



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



Notre Dame High School English teacher Sara Harrigan (l. to r.) Franyris Moncion, Stephanie Tineo and Elianny Cacerez.

## Winner of Notre Dame High School Poetry Out Loud Contest to compete in Boston

Eleven sophomores took part in Notre Dame High School’s competition for the Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest.

The contest, presented in part-nership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, is a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition.

Poetry Out Loud, which began in 2005, helps students master public speaking skills, build self confidence and learn about their literary heritage.

On Monday, February 4, 2008, Marilyn Almonte, Elianny Cacerez, Cynthia Flores, Joselyn Gomez, Namiotka Morales, Franyris Moncion, Irwin Ospina, Tiesha Santos, Francisco Tineo, Jr, Stephanie Tineo, and Franchesca Vasquez each recited 2 poems in front of

an audience of students, parents, faculty, staff and visitors.

English teacher Sara Harrigan, coordinator of the competition, said; “I asked the students to take a risk, to open their minds and their hearts to poetry and I am thrilled at the result; 14 and 15 year olds uttering the words of Longfellow, of Wordsworth, of Shelley.”

Stephanie Tineo, who recited Solitude by Ella Wheeler Wilcox and Still I Rise by Maya Angelou, was the winner of the competition.

She will advance to the Poetry Out Loud contest in Boston on March 8. Franyris Moncion and Elianny Cacerez were first and second runners-up.

The Boston champions will earn \$200 and all expenses paid trips for them and 2 guests to the Poetry Out Loud National Finals on April 28-29 in Washington, DC, where \$50,000 dollars in scholarships and school prizes will be awarded.



Front row pictured from left to right: Kurstyn Bowermaster, Tracy Bowermaster, Leigha Farrar, Troy Tetiva, Jen Farrar, Tyrone Farrar, and Jared Costiello. Back row pictured from left to right: Jose Gonzalez, Juan Lara, Jordan Leon, Sean Morin, Frances Rivera, and Skyla Bowermaster.

## Lawrence Children attend Boston Bruins game in Dunkin’ Donuts “KidsZone”

**BOSTON, MA -** Dunkin’ Donuts hosted children from the **Lawrence Public School Educational Department** at the Boston Bruins game on Tuesday February 12<sup>th</sup> against the Carolina Hurricanes. The children received tickets in the Dunkin’ Donuts “KidZone” located at the TD Banknorth Garden.

Dedicated to local youth and charitable organizations, the Dunkin’ Donuts “KidZone” is a special seating section in which Dunkin’ Donuts hosts twenty children at each Boston Bruins home game.

Dunkin’ Donuts’ sponsorship of the “Dunkin’ KidZone” ticket program is part of a broader community outreach initiative through which Dunkin’ Donuts hosts youth and charitable organizations at local sporting events.

This program is consistent with Dunkin’ Donuts ongoing commitment to support the communities it serves.

The mission of this program is to provide ticket accessibility to children who might otherwise not have the ability to attend these events.

Founded in 1950, today Dunkin’ Donuts is the number one retailer of coffee-by-the-cup in America, selling 2.7 million cups a day, nearly one billion cups a year. Dunkin’ Donuts is also the largest coffee and baked goods chain in the world and sells more donuts, coffee, bagels and muffins than any other quick-service restaurant in America. Dunkin’ Donuts has more than 5,800 stores in the United States and 29 other countries.

For more information, visit [www.dunkindonuts.com](http://www.dunkindonuts.com).

## LITERACY: from previous page

communication, and leadership skills in the community.

The Leadership and Literacy Foundation operates as a separate, non-profit entity from Little Sprouts but both “sister” companies continue to work closely together to co-sponsor key events and make learning a civic priority

Lupoli Companies is the parent company that represents all the divisions within the organization of Sal’s Pizza Retail and Wholesale Divisions, Mary’s Pasta & Sandwiches, Salvatore’s Restaurants and Riverwalk Properties. Sal’s Pizza has corporate-owned

properties in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

The business with over 30 locations has become a large retail franchise and wholesale operation serving all of New England with additional locations in California, Florida and coming soon in Virginia.

Today Sal’s Pizza and Salvatore’s Restaurants make over 40,000 pizzas a week!

Riverwalk Properties is one of the largest pieces of office and retail space in all of Massachusetts.

Discount prices since 1978!

# Bider Music

for a complete selection of musical equipment and accessories

- Lessons
- Repairs
- Rentals

Guitars, banjos, amplifiers, PA systems, mandolins, drum sets, full line of percussion

Open: Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Sunday, 12-5 p.m.



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



THE DOCTOR IS IN

More on Living with and treating Osteoporosis

Rami Rustum, M.D.  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

This month, we continue our discussion about osteoporosis that we started last month by discussing treatment and prevention.

Pain physicians do not usually get involved in treating osteoporosis, however interested practitioners may see themselves treating the consequences of the disease, namely "Spine compression fractures".

As mentioned last month, the disease results in fragile bones that are easy to break.

Fractures may happen anywhere, but are mostly seen in the hip, wrist or the spine where a vertebra may collapse (compression fracture).

The pain physician may get consulted regarding back pain as a result of collapsed vertebrae. Treatment, as we will see later, may vary.

Other long bone fractures may require a consultation with an orthopedic surgeon.

Treatment of Osteoporosis has been known and available for years, however this disease is best treated by paying attention to how to prevent it!!

5- Maintaining your body weight within normal Body Mass Index (BMI) values

6- Avoiding steroids and hormonal medications unless given for other medical reasons

Despite what is listed above, we will still see the disease happening because there are other factors, as mentioned last month, which we can't control such as strong family history, early menopause, medical conditions requiring steroids (e.g., asthma), ... etc.

Medical treatment for osteoporosis is available and proven to be helpful and effective in some cases. It increases the bone density by different percentages.

Choosing one agent over another may be governed by the severity of the disease or the patient's ability to tolerate the agent.

I will briefly mention some of the available medications below, leaving the details to your treating doctor about the side effects, medication instructions, ... etc:

1- Bisphosphonates (e.g. Fosamax, Actonel) are a type of medication that helps to regulate calcium and prevent bone breakdown. Bone turnover, or replacement of old bone with new bone, is a normal process within our body. In



Rami R. Rustum, M.D. is the director of the Pain Management Center at Lawrence General Hospital. For any questions or concerns, please email Dr. Rustum at: ramirustum@comcast.net

bone, the osteoclasts. Calcitonin has long been known to be beneficial in patients with osteoporosis, but the injections were difficult to administer, and had unpleasant side-effects. The nasal spray has greatly improved the use of calcitonin, and it is much more commonly used today. Calcitonin has been shown to slow bone loss, and also decrease pain associated with osteoporosis fractures

3- Raloxifene Raloxifene is a newer medication that has been developed to provide some of the same advantages as estrogen (HRT), without the potential side-effects. Raloxifene is a Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulator, or SERM. The effects of Raloxifene have been shown to be similar to estrogen, including an increase in bone mass and lower cholesterol. However, the SERMs do not have the same effects on the uterine lining, and therefore do not need to be combined with progesterone. Furthermore, there is evidence that Raloxifene may decrease the risk of breast cancer

4- Estrogen: also called Hormonal replacement therapy (HRT) not only helps maintain but can also increase bone mass after menopause. Multiple studies have shown the benefits of estrogen therapy, including a lower risk of osteoporosis and fractured bones. In addition, other benefits of estrogen replacement in the postmenopausal patient include lower cholesterol,

decreased risk of colon cancer, and fewer postmenopausal symptoms. HRT was shown to increase the risk of uterine cancer, but this risk is eliminated when the estrogen is combined with progesterone. There have been studies showing an increase risk of breast cancer in some study populations. Patients on HRT have also shown a slightly increased risk of developing blood clots and strokes.

Other agents, such as Reclast, are available now for intravenous infusion once a year and seem to be promising!

In terms of treating spine fractures from osteoporosis, there two minimally invasive procedures offered to relieve the pain: Vertebroplasty and Kyphoplasty.

The procedures have improved significantly the quality of life for many patients, including lowering possible side effects like breathing difficulties compared to patients treated conservatively with rest and pain medications.

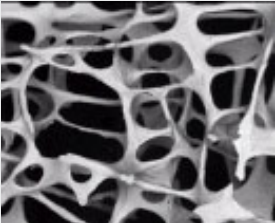
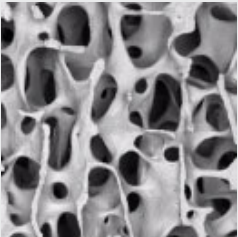
At Lawrence General Hospital Pain Management Center we offer both procedures as we perform about 110-130 procedures per year with great outcomes.

1- Vertebroplasty:

This procedure involves injecting cement into the affected or broken

OSTEOPOROSIS, page 23

Normal Bone Density vs. Bone stricken with Osteoporosis



Normal BoneOsteoporotic Bone

Prevention is best started early in life....in the twenties.

It is as simple as remembering the following:

- 1- Sufficient daily intake of calcium with adequate Vitamin D (1200-1500 mg)
- 2- Participating in regular, light, weight-bearing exercises such as walking for ½ - 1 hour four times perweek, gardening, and low-impact aerobics.
- 3- Avoiding smoking
- 4- Low alcohol intake

patients with osteoporosis, the replacement with new bone does not maintain pace with the breakdown of old bone. Bisphosphonates slow the rate of bone breakdown to help maintain bone mass by inhibiting the osteoclast, the cell responsible for bone breakdown. The medication can be taken once daily, once weekly, or every three weeks.

2- Calcitonin (Miacalcin) Calcitonin is a naturally occurring hormone produced by the thyroid gland that can be given as an injection or taken as a nasal spray. Sold under the trade name Miacalcin, calcitonin also inhibits the function of the cells that breakdown

Armano Chiropractic PC

Serving the Merrimack Valley For Over 17 Years



Dr. John Armano

WE'VE MOVED!! to 200 Sutton St.

N. Andover, MA 01845

Phone: 978-327-5571

Preventative/Maintenance Care

Accident Injuries

Sports Injuries

Headaches

Family Care

Se Habla Español

Same Day/Evening Appointments

Most Insurance Accepted





The Andover Surgery Center has expanded its facilities to include more convenience, larger recovery areas, and expanded services such as orthopedics, pediatrics and elective surgeries.

## Andover Surgery Center expands facility, services

The Andover Surgery Center on Park Street in Andover is now reopened after closing briefly in December for major renovations.

Patients visiting the surgery center today may remember it as the old walk-in clinic run by the Lawrence General Hospital. It was the very first stand alone surgery center in licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Today, the surgery center services 200-250 patients per month but with the expansion of the facility there is now room to service 350-400 patients per month.

The center now has brand new recovery areas and private pediatric

recovery rooms that allow a patient's family members to stay with their children throughout their visit.

What's more, the Andover Surgery Center provides a more quiet and convenient environment than day surgery at a local hospital.

The center has also increased office space for physicians, making it easier for doctors to see patients when they are not performing surgery.

The Valley Patriot will be publishing a detailed report next month on the variety of specialties offered at the center and introduce you to the doctors who practice there and the staff who run and manage the facility.

WWW.BERARDCHIROPRACTIC.COM

DR. CHRISTOPHER BERARD

678 LOWELL ST. / RTE. 110

METHUEN, MA 01841

978.685.4444

CONVENIENT

LATE EVENING &

EARLY MORNING APPOINTMENTS.

FREE CONSULTATION WITH AD.

I'll Fight'em for it!

Your business that is...

Insurance rates are competitive, shouldn't your agent be?

You could save hundreds! Let me compare your current Auto & Home insurance to several of the most competitive companies in the industry!

Daniel J. Seaman Insurance

Call today for a no-obligation quote!

978-374-2500

## Worth the weight

Dr. Amy Berard  
CHIROPRACTOR

If you ask 100 patients to describe their chiropractic adjustments, you may get 100 different answers!

That's because there are many adjusting techniques for a chiropractor to choose from.

Berard Family Chiropractic, Methuen's newest chiropractic office, is actually only one of approximately 502 chiropractors in the country that use the Pettibon technique.

Practitioners of the Pettibon System use Pettibon-specific tools (such as isometric weights, balancing devices, and traction) to fight the effects of gravity and other damage, creating permanent positive changes in misaligned spines. The goal of a Pettibon practitioner is the same as that of a conventional chiropractic doctor: to return a misaligned spine to a normalized position and remove nerve interference, eliminating pain and other related ill-health side effects.

However, this is achieved through more gradual methods intended to create permanent change rather than immediate adjustments that may offer pain relief with no real long-term spinal correction or spinal normalization.

There's more to chiropractic than the relief of headaches and back pain. The primary focus at Berard Family Chiropractic is the integrity of the nervous system, which controls and regulates every cell and tissue of your

body. The moving bones of the spinal column can impair this vital communication link between the brain and the body.

Our patients range from the newborn to the elderly. "Spinal damage or injury at any age and result from falls, sports, poor posture, and birth trauma," continues Dr. Berard,. "This can misalign bones and shift the head off-center.

The result is stress on the nervous system, muscle spasm, postural distortion and spinal decay. Nerves going to all parts of the body can be affected. Correcting the spine can alleviate stress, pain and discomfort, allowing the body to heal and function properly."

The Pettibon chiropractic technique can help improve the function and structure of your spine, reducing nervous system compromise.

The result? Dr. Berard states, "even non-spinal related health problems can show improvement naturally without drugs, surgery, or side effects."

"Our patients choose our office and the Pettibon system we provide because they want a natural approach to better health" adds Dr. Berard. Dr. Berard attended St. Monica's School, Central Catholic, and the University of Massachusetts. He earned his Doctorate of Chiropractic at Life University in Atlanta, Georgia.

For more information on the state of the art Pettibon technique visit [www.berardchiropractic.com](http://www.berardchiropractic.com) Contact: Amy Berard 978-683-9031

## Osteoporosis: from page 22

vertebrae to glow glue??? the bone pieces under live x-ray. This is a quick and reliable procedure in relieving the pain within minutes. I usually perform it under local anesthesia with light sedation so the recovery time is fast. No incision is made here and there is no need for hospital admission.

### 2- Kyphoplasty:

Very similar procedure to Vertebroplasty however, a balloon is inserted through the needle into the vertebrae and inflated to restore the previous shape of the collapsed bone. Some height could be gained but the significance of that is debatable! But it may offer better safety by involving less chance of cement leakage outside of the vertebra.

Some physicians perform it under general anesthesia but, personally, I see no difference in outcomes when we do it under local anesthesia with some sedation! It's good to remember that having any of these two procedure performed doesn't prevent further fractures from happening!

Despite having advanced treatment for osteoporosis, we continue to see more cases of it that could be the result of living longer and having better and improved technology to diagnose the problem. Remember, this is a problem you may be able to control.

*Rami R. Rustum, M.D. is the director of the Pain Management Center at Lawrence General Hospital. For any questions or concerns, please email Dr. Rustum at: [ramirustum@comcast.net](mailto:ramirustum@comcast.net)*

WE FEEL SECURE!

"Dan Seaman has the knowledge and experience to handle all our Senior Insurance & Retirement needs"

FREE CONSULTATION & REVIEW

\* Medicare & Medicaid Consultation

\* Long Term Nursing Care Concerns

\* Insurance Savings for Senior Drivers

\* Making Your NestEgg last a Lifetime

\* Funding a Funeral for a fraction of it's cost

"Serving seniors for over 25 years!"

Call Today

978-374-2500

Daniel J. Seaman Insurance & Financial

Licensed in MA & NH





## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

House of Representatives

State House, Boston, MA 02133-1054

**Linda Dean Campbell** STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Contact infoChris Dwelley617-722-2060

BOSTON, MA (State House) - Rep. Linda Dean-Campbell, D-Methuen, announced today that the House of Representatives overwhelmingly voted to invest \$1 billion in the state's burgeoning life sciences industry. The economic development package takes a targeted approach to growing high-paying, quality jobs, drawing biotech companies to Massachusetts, and retaining talented scientists and researchers at state institutions.

The 10-year initiative includes \$250 million in tax credits for life sciences companies that promise to create jobs in the Commonwealth and \$250 million in direct research grants to encourage the best and brightest in the industry to continue research in Massachusetts, and \$500 million in capital investments in the industry.

"The life sciences industry has the capacity to produce life-saving results. The investments we have made, to bolster the biotech sector and support the talented scientists and researchers of our state, are investments in the future of healthcare," said Campbell.

House Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi (D-Boston) said of the historic legislation, "The biotech industry has been a valuable economic engine for our state and the investments we voted for today will fuel that engine. This bill will

open the next chapter of economic prosperity in the Commonwealth and keep our state on the forefront of science and technology worldwide."

Other highlights of the bill include:

- \* Capital investments in the life sciences industry, including \$90 million for the RNAi Center at the University of Massachusetts to promote the work of Professor Craig Mello, the Nobel laureate, \$95 million to create a life sciences center at UMass-Amherst and \$120 million to establish the Massachusetts Life Sciences Opportunity Relocation and Expansion Jobs Capital Program Trust Fund.

- \* Direct grants and programs for the industry, such as \$40 million for seed money to address federal funding shortfalls for life science research, \$30 million to aid post-doctoral and graduate students studying life sciences and the establishment of new grant programs to boost the biotechnology workforce (\$25 million).

- \* Tax incentives for certified \$25 million companies per year, including a tax credit toward the purchase of property for life science companies, extending from five- to 15-years the tax exemption for life science companies and additional tax credits for companies located in Economic Opportunity Areas throughout the state.



PHOTO: PAULA PORTEN

The Valley Patriot's Ace Reporter Hanna Porten, (l) with Linday Soucy and Rachel Porten help celebrate last month's grand opening of the Arlington Neighborhood's new Lena Lahey Community center for after school/homework programs. This picture was taken in the new library because Hanna Porten held a book drive over the summer, donating over 100 books to Linda for the after school homework center.

## Methuen Board of Trade Offers Scholarships

The Methuen Board of Trade announces its annual scholarship program. Each year the Board awards several scholarships to Methuen residents who will be attending schools of higher education in the coming year. Any Methuen resident who plans to enter college in the fall may apply, regardless of the high school he/she is now attending. In addition, non-residents attending a Methuen School will also be considered.

Applications are available at the Guidance Departments of the local High

Schools, may be picked up at the Nevins Memorial Library, 305 Broadway, Methuen or can be printed from our website [www.methuenboardoftrade.org](http://www.methuenboardoftrade.org). Awards will be based on many factors, including academic achievement, extracurricular activities, leadership, financial need, and other demonstrated skills and talents. Applications are due by April 4, 2006.

For more information, call Colleen Carney, Chair of the Scholarship Committee at 978-807-5359 or email [cacarney@comcast.net](mailto:cacarney@comcast.net).

# Happy 4th Anniversary to The Valley Patriot

*In a very short period of time The Valley Patriot has far exceeded people's expectations to become one of the most relevant and reliable newspapers in the Merrimack Valley. Your no-nonsense news analysis and hard hitting coverage has not only captured the attention of a growing readership, but earned you a much deserved recognition from The New England Press Association. Your hard work and success are to be commended. Congratulations!*

**State Senator Steve Baddour**

Paid for by the committee to elect Steve Baddour





## The Exchange Club of Methuen Presents... 6th Annual "Original Taste of Methuen"

The Methuen Exchange Club is hosting its 6th Annual "Original Taste of Methuen". It will be held at the Wyndham Hotel (123 Old River Rd. in Andover) April 22nd from 6-9pm.

100% of the next proceeds raised at the "Original Taste of Methuen" will be dedicated to our local projects, including:

- \* Michael B. Christen Family Support Center
- \* Toys for Tots
- \* Saint Ann's Home
- \* Methuen Arlington Neighborhood
- \* 2 College Scholarships to Methuen Youth
- \* Dream Factory
- \* Town of Methuen's Forest Lake
- \* Methuen VFW
- \* Methuen American Legion
- \* Boy's State
- \* And many other projects

**For tickets please contact:**  
**Ken Willette at (978) 683-0606**  
**Linda Buell (978) 725-7545**  
**Mike Condon (978) 682-7012**



## TOM SAAB ASSOCIATES

Professionally serving the Merrimack Valley, Southern NH & Seacoast Communities for over 27 years  
**"There is a difference in Real Estate Agencies"**

**TOM SAAB** is pleased to welcome  
**Jim MacCord as our new Broker/Manager**  
At our Merrimack Valley/Southern NH office



**Tom Saab**  
Owner/Broker



**Jim MacCord**  
Broker/Manager

As a real estate professional for over 24 years, Jim is licensed in both Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Jim is experienced in all types of real estate. Throughout the years, he has provided outstanding service to his customers and clients. Jim's philosophy is to always keep it simple, stress free, with total honesty, clear communication, and unending dedication from the first meeting through the closing of your real estate transaction and beyond. When thinking about who you should call to get started in your search for a broker who can and will do the job for you, Jim is just a call away.

Jim looks forward to serving all of his past customers and clients as well as all new customers/clients that need and deserve the assistance of a veteran real estate professional

**Call Jim today at 978-683-6699 or cell #978-580-4021**  
**for all your real estate needs. Email**  
[Jim@TomSaabRealEstate.com](mailto:Jim@TomSaabRealEstate.com)

**Merrimack Valley/So NH Office**  
25 Jackson Street  
Methuen, MA 01844  
**978-683-6699**

**Seacoast Office**  
190 No End Blvd. (Rt 1A)  
Salisbury, MA 01952  
**978-465-5116**



[www.TomSaabRealEstate.com](http://www.TomSaabRealEstate.com)

Licensed  
MA/NH

## Community Service Project

**Co-sponsored by the Methuen-Salem Rotary and The Methuen Board of Trade**

GROW YOUR HAIR THOUGH-OUT THE SCHOOL YEAR AND SHARE YOUR LOCKS WITH PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM LONG-TERM MEDICAL HAIR LOSS AND CANCER PATIENTS.

HAIR DONATED WILL BE SENT TO :

LOCKS OF LOVE & PANTENE BEAUTIFUL LENGTHS


**HAIR CUTS WILL TAKE PLACE  
THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE 2008**

- 1.) The donated hair must be at least 10 inches (preferably 12") in length.
- 2.) Hair must be free of bleach. Colored and permed hair is acceptable.
- 3.) Layered hair is acceptable as long as the longest layer is 10 inches.
- 4.) Shorter hair will be accepted, but cannot be used for wigs. It is sold and the funds will go directly to the manufacturing cost of the wigs.

**If you would like to participate in the Community Service Project, please contact :**

**Patty Trudel at #978-807-5382**  
**or Stephanie Lane at #978-273-5156.**


TOO MUCH DEBT?  
**THREATENED BY FORECLOSURE?**

 *Simple bankruptcy may be the answer for you.*

Call for a consultation today

**Rob Thomas, Attorney at Law**  
**HARVEY, KLEGER & THOMAS**

184 Pleasant Valley St.  
Methuen, MA 01844  
**Tel. 978-686-9800**



## Jeanne Pappalardo

West District Councilor  
Methuen



**139 Forest St. - (978) 688 - 7102**  
God Bless America - God Bless Our Troops

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Jeanne Pappalardo - Treasurer, Barbara Churchill



Bob Rocklein  
Director of Sales  
[bob@firstinteg.com](mailto:bob@firstinteg.com)  
Cell: (978) 808-2918  
24-hr.

**FIRST INTEGRITY MORTGAGE LLC**

354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk  
Lawrence MA 01843  
Tel. 978.685.9700 \* Fax 978.685.9701  
MA Mortgage Broker #MB 4520  
Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.

[www.firstinteg.com](http://www.firstinteg.com)

"First in Rates, First in Service"



# Good health, rough budgets ... together we can?

Lonnie Brennan  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Georgetown Today: Good Health, Rough Budgets, Together We Can?

Valley Patriot of the Month (Oct. 2006), Georgetown’s Veterans Agent Terrance “Terry” Hart has made what appears to be a stellar recovery following triple bypass surgery this winter.

Mr. Hart, well known around town for his incredible energy and dedicated work with veterans, the Georgetown Historic Society (president) and the Georgetown Republican Town Committee (GRTC) was his ever vivacious self with his bride Barbara at a recent open house social event. The GRTC held a small reception/ open house to shake off the post-primary doldrums and winter worries as they look forward to a fun Spring.

The event featured Georgetown’s Republican Senator Bruce Tarr, as well as a who’s who of local notables passing in and out of the social event, including Georgetown Selectman Matt Vincent who engaged us in a pleasant conversation about upcoming town events before the evening got underway.

Held at the newly opened Georgetown Peabody Library, the gathering also featured Republican State Committeewoman Christina Bain who brightened up the event as always, with state and national insights, and State Republican Committeeman John Racho was on-hand to discuss recent happenings.

The first event of it’s kind, big thanks were given to chairperson Karen Myers, social chair Elisabeth Amodio (with two

cherubs in-toe—her young daughters), and other committee members for hosting such a nice event.

Speaking of Politics:

‘Yes we can. Together we can. Believe. Believe in you. Believe in me. I’m, for change. I’ll put a chicken in every pot. A job and a handout for everyone. Free healthcare for all. Free food, free clothes. Free candy. Free love. Big budgets, great promises. Vote for me and you will grow. You will prosper. I will make the world our friend. Everyone will love America. I am the one true guiding light.’ Yes, it’s a presidential election year and they’re laying it on pretty darn thick. Now just where did I put my hip waders?

Fortunately, we survived the primaries with little fanfare. No yelling, no screaming. Quietly on a rainy icy day, our former Governor Mitt Romney proudly won the Republican Primary in Georgetown. I just felt I had to say that.

Listen, I don’t need to preach, I don’t need to remind you. You’re bright readers. Heck you’re taking the time to struggle through my monthly update of events and issues approaching our ever-growing town.

But, I must ask: can you consider putting less ’feel-good’ and a little more ‘where’s the beef’ behind your vote? We have elections this Spring, and a wide slate of candidates have stepped forth. Some old-timers who might be best to just simply be thanked for time served, and some newbies who just might have the energy and lack of political baggage to help make a difference.

Where’s the balance between keeping some of the old and bringing in some of the new?

Well, you get to decide that now, don’t you. I for one am extremely pleased to see such a slate developing for the May elections.

Budgets? Budgets? Oh my?

So, March blows in hard and fierce with a bluster of budgets and pre-election preparations. When this column hits print, you will have had the opportunity to start sorting out your wants from your needs. What? Yup, that’s right. Trying to decide if you’ll accept the same or less services, or go for broke (and for some people, that’s an accurate term) and add to the ever-expanding, seemingly insatiable requests for budget expansions.

Will there ever be enough money?

In truth, we could double our taxes and some would still find wants and things to complain about. Keep in mind if you can, not everyone can afford what you and I can afford. And 6-11% raises for 60% of our teachers, while a nice thing given to them by the likes of our current school committee members, is now coming home to roost in the guise of ‘contractual obligations.’

Yes, the vocabulary of that which shall not be named (to loosely paraphrase the good author of the Harry Potter series). Here’s your guide: “contractual obligations” = raises we gave that were way in excess of demand and growth, most notably way above what most non-Govt. workers received last year, and now we have to pay for them, oh my.

“Options” or “revenue enhancement” or “level-services” or “needs-based” or “gosh we just have to do it or the sky will fall” = the “O” word.

The word that shall not be named. For some, there is and never will be any alternative. For them, no compromise is possible. Let’s hope we don’t have another Groundhog Day for the “O” word levels again this year.

Trouble on the Hill?

I spent some time this week in Lawrence Superior Court watching associate justice Carol Ball hearing the testimony and examination of one of many cases involving our local golf club. At some point, with so many cases being bantied about regarding The Georgetown Club, one has to step up and take notice. I mean, you hear about one case, you hear about another problem.

You remember reading about an argument, or the replacement of trees or something with a dispute. And you think, considering all the things that can occur in this world, it’s probably just a spat, no biggie. But, in a small town there comes a point when it’s important to separate fact from rumor, hence my visit to the courthouse.

So far, it appears as though there are more cases than one could imagine ... perhaps dozen or so recent and/or on-going cases being brought forth by members and neighbors regarding disagreements and allegations regarding finances and purchasing deals and issues with the club and most notably its owner/s. In some trades, they would simply say that

GEORGETOWN, page 34

## RONNIE’S RANTS

# Random thoughts to ponder

Ronnie Ford  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Bob LeBlanc pulled a Fred Sanford on the lovely Debbie Quinn.

LeBlanc, a former city manager of Methuen and a present defense attorney, caused City councilor Quinn to put up her own defense, by filing a complaint against the lawyer for calling her what amounts to be a Dummy!

He coupled the verbal attack by saying she was stupid. Well, we all know Debbie is neither stupid nor dumb. But, I am not so sure about being thin skinned. Debbie you know we love you, but chill out honey.

If I had a dollar for every person who verbally wounded my ego, I could take you and your family for a week at Disney world. Let me tell you something else. Bob LeBlanc could take you for a whole year. Be cool Deb it all goes with the territory.

Methuen Ombudspersons are coming out of the cocoon-like woodwork, to study the possibility of a charter study, commissioned with teeth! A collection of political powerhouses, including sixteen sitting or former councilors attended a meeting recently. The topic was to discuss changing parts of the present city charter.

There were a multitude of issues talked about. Amongst them were; term limits,

online production of expenditures and income of the city, changing the executive to a manager, instead of a mayor. There were other changes but their sights were clearly on Bill Manzi. When the cross hairs were leveled, there was the tall red haired affable prey for the day. The point of contention about the mayor is his desire to control everything he can.

That is about as unusual as a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. It is part of a mayor’s job! It’s also the council’s job to hold him in check as best they can.

I understand that Mayor Manzi inherited eighty percent of his problems from the prior administration. But, hear this folks. That group of twenty-five attending that meeting, well, just think of a crocodile den, and a Bengal tiger. In other words, that group can be plenty of trouble.

So, the Mayor better start turning on that Irish / Italian charm, and renew some old allies.

I was delighted to hear from Deval Patrick, inviting me to spend some time with him and Willy Lantigua. For a miniscule five hundred dollars I could rub elbows with the elite!

Quivering with excitement, I rushed to my bank to see if I could write a check.

Bad news! I only had eighty-eight dollars ready to spend on such a grand happening in my life! I wonder if the

eighty-eight dollars could get me a chicken wing or two. Oh well, I guess I will have to wait until I get my refund from Uncle Sam in May. I will owe you one Gov!

Have to give Bill Ryan a pat on the back. His idea of not having school on voting day makes a great deal of sense to me.

Certainly it’s safer to be someplace else rather than school. Security of almost everything will be a must in the near future.

And I do mean everything.

A new course is being introduced at Suffolk Law School. The City of Methuen and how to sue the city for the Golden Parachute! Only in America!

Lets face it folks. Methuen makes Lawrence look like a Trappist Monastery! It’s at the point now when my wife hands me the paper in the morning, I ask who is in trouble today. Well, as Will Roger’s said, “All I know is what I read in the newspapers”.



Happy to see my friend Bob Ansin has clear sailing again.

I’ll say it again, we need more Bob Ansins, and he is terrific for Lawrence. A kind and decent man we should stick with.

May the good Lord take a liking to you and do something nice for someone, and we wish you enough.

*Ronnie Ford is a Methuen resident and the former host of the “Hot Line” radio program. Ford is also a former methuen police officer and a former member of the Methuen school committee and city council. You can email Ronnie at Radiotalk@comcast.net*



# Evacuation Training Aid

## WHAT NOW™ ???

\* Sets up in seconds

- \* Sends a clear 360 visual message of danger during fire drills and emergency evacuation scenarios
- \* Can fit any standard to large sized openings: doorways, halls, and common areas
- \* Weighs less than 5lbs.
- \* *Is your child's school prepared for an emergency?*

**Why not ... What Now??**

**ETA Training Aide??**

**Can be set up in seconds in:**

- \* Hospitals
- \* Airports
- \* Subway Systems
- \* Schools
- \* Malls
- \* Businesses



*"Our goal is to save lives, that's what this trainingaide will do."*

**William Dolan - Ret. N. Andover Fire Chief**

**Lancer 1 Inc. - 12 Water St. North Andover, MA 01845**

**call us at 800-984-6488 or visit us online at: [www.lancer1inc.com](http://www.lancer1inc.com)**



Lawrence Fire Captain Lannon (I.), Norm Jones of Corporate Express and North Andover inventor George Peters with the WHAT NOW?? evacuation training aid.

Lancer 1 Inc., based in North Andover, MA, announces that Fidelity Investments is its newest client using the patented WHAT NOW ???™ Evacuation Training Aid (ETA) in all of its Canadian and US facilities.

The WHAT NOW???™ ETA, the only device of its kind on the market, sets up in seconds to block exits during emergency evacuation drills. Using the WHAT NOW???™ ETA helps educate building occupants of the critical need to know more than one escape route during an actual emergency.

Fidelity Investments joins the growing list of companies and school systems using the WHAT NOW??? Evacuation Training Aid. This device provides our client's employees and children with the latest tool in evacuation safety training.

For more information about the WHAT NOW???™ Evacuation Training Aid contact:

George A. Peters Jr., President  
Lancer 1 Inc.

Lancer 1 Inc. - 12 Water Street, North Andover, MA 01845 - (800) 984-6488

**Charles Daher's**

# COMMONWEALTH

**Shop Us Last... You'll Love Us!!!**

**NO  
PAYMENTS  
90  
DAYS**

**BUY A NEW OR PRE-OWNED VEHICLE TODAY AND GET A  
FREE VACATION\***  
TO FLORIDA, LAS VEGAS, SAN DIEGO, ST. THOMAS, ETC...

**2007 GMC ENVOY 4X4**  
**\$18,907**  
#306

**2003 HONDA ODYSSEY EX**  
**\$9903**  
#H9032A

**2002 CHEVY SILVERADO 4X4 EXT. CAB**  
**\$12,902**  
#C323BA

**Extra Special**  
**2001 CORVETTE Z06**  
18,000 Miles  
**\$21,801**

**WE'LL GIVE  
YOU AT LEAST  
\$2000**  
FOR YOUR TRADE TOWARD ANY USED CAR!  
PRICES INCLUDE TRADE... YOURS COULD BE WORTH MORE!  
NO MONEY DOWN! NO CREDIT NO PROBLEM!  
*Every Credit Application Accepted!*

**2007 SCION TC**  
**\$12,907**  
#H1510A

**2006 HONDA CIVIC EX**  
**\$14,903**  
#M5128A

**CHEVY MALIBU**  
**\$5988**  
K7041A

**2001 HONDA ACCORD**  
**\$6901**  
#H1358A

**2005 PONTIAC SUNFIRE**  
**\$8905**  
#K6346A

**2004 HONDA ACCORD CERTIFIED**  
**\$12,904**  
#H1185A

**Over 200  
On Sale!**  
**No Money Down**  
First Time Buyers

**(978) 687-3000**

\*Prior Sales Excluded

**[www.shopuslast.com](http://www.shopuslast.com)**



**RIGHT Off 495  
EXIT 45 · LAWRENCE**



INNOVATION VALLEY

Local & regional blueprints needed for survival in global economy

Seth Itzkan & John Michitson  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNISTS

Mayors and other city officials in the Merrimack Valley are lobbying for additional funding from the State, additional employee concessions and other cost reduction measures to address financial deficits.

We believe that each city needs an actionable and flexible long range plan to pitch to State and Federal officials, industry, foundations and other potential sources of revenue and services, in addition to the usual practice of plugging municipal budgetary gaps on a year-to-year basis.

Likewise, a regional long range plan should be collaboratively formulated by the cities and towns, based on their collective needs and resources.

The cities and towns in the region need each other to survive in a global economy. For example, the high cost of living is creating a major barrier for economic development across the region.

Please note that this is not a proposal for a new county government – that would be a big mistake.

Instead a loose coupling of collaborating cities and towns with all of their key stakeholders, such as state and federal governments, industry and academia, all focused on common goals and solutions, is recommended.

The local and regional long range plans should address the necessary foundational changes that are needed; some of which may not show a return on investment for several years. The plans must also address what each city and the region can bring to the table in return for the help that they are seeking. It will undoubtedly increase the probability of success of lobbying efforts.

The local and regional long range plans should address topics such as: 1. budgeting and financial planning; 2. community development; 3. environmental management; 4. education; 5. public safety; 6. capital improvements; 7. zoning and 8. economic development.

The nation’s gold standard for municipal long range planning and sound fiscal management is Sunnyvale, CA. Sunnyvale’s General Plan can be found at <http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/Community+Development/General+Plan/>.

A key element of Sunnyvale’s approach is performance budgeting based on outcome management.

Outcome management is the process of identifying the ultimate desired results,

planning for how to achieve them, establishing outcome measurements, and evaluating, reporting and improving performance. In contrast, cities such as Haverhill still practice traditional line-item budgeting, where the budget is formulated by adding salaries, capital outlays and expenses on a department basis.

City officials and citizens are left in the dark with regard to the extent and quality of services that are provided with tax dollars, whereas Sunnyvale knows the answers and provides them to city officials and citizens.

(Source: An Overview of the City of Sunnyvale’s Planning and Management System, 1999, City of Sunnyvale)

Sunnyvale also leverages regionalism through the “Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network” (reference: <http://www.jointventure.org/>.) The cities and towns in Silicon Valley engage in mutually beneficial activities. For example, the Climate Protection Task Force develops strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from city, county, and other agencies’ operations, while the Silicon Valley Economic Development Alliance works to create a healthy economic environment, share best practices with each other and build relationships with Silicon Valley’s economic engine.

(Source: jointventure.org)

	Traditional Line-Item Budgeting	Performance Budgeting
Budget Orientation	Money Control	Planning
Council Appropriation Control Level	Department	Program
Basic Budgeting Unit	Line Item (Object Account)	Activity
Efficiency Measurement	None	Product Cost; Products per work hour
Result Measurement (Effectiveness/Quality)	None	Outcome Measures
Budget Period	One Year	Multi-Year

Residential Services LLC is the Proud Sponsor of The Valley Patriot’s Innovation Valley Column



**AFFORDABLE, RENEWABLE  
HEATING FOR HOMES, COTTAGES  
& INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS**



Patent pending modular design for multiple panel configuration.

Easily installed with patent pending mounting system.

**CALL TODAY! for a free in-home evaluation**

Prices starting at \$1749.00  
Installation prices available

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- > Can the SolarSheat heat my house?  
The SolarSheat can heat a room, large room or whole house depending on the number of collectors installed.
- > Does the SolarSheat need electricity to work?  
The SolarSheat 1500G and 1500G 2 Pak uses 100% solar power and needs no additional power source. Other larger systems require AC power to run bigger fans.
- > Can I install it myself?  
Yes, the SolarSheat 1500G and 1500G 2 Pak is easy to install and can be done with minimal skills.
- > How big is the SolarSheat?  
The SolarSheat 1500G is 43" x 87" x 3.5" and weighs about 100 lbs (45 kg).
- > Does the SolarSheat help climate change?  
Yes, the SolarSheat can help reduce greenhouse gases. The system uses the sun's energy to provide heating.
- > Can I add more SolarSheats to heat more area?  
Yes, the SolarSheat is modular, so more collectors can be added later on to heat other rooms.
- > Is the SolarSheat affordable?  
Yes, the SolarSheat is one of the most affordable complete solar solutions on the market today.
- > Does the SolarSheat last a long time?  
Yes, the SolarSheat should last 20 years?
- > Does the SolarSheat have a warranty?  
Yes, the SolarSheat comes with a five year warranty on the collector and one year on electronics.
- > Can the SolarSheat save on our monthly energy bill?  
The SolarSheat can save you money every month in the winter heating season. This is dependent on how it is mounted, orientation to the sun and type of room or building you are heating.



**SOLARSHEAT 1500G**  
The Solar 1500G is a glazed recirculation solar air collector designed for space heating applications. Air is drawn from inside the room through the bottom of the collector and blown out through a duct in the top. The unit is self-powered. No electrical hook-up is required

**Residential Services LLC**  
(978) 884-1303

Forced Hot Air  
Forced Hot Water  
Steam Heat  
Baseboard Heat  
Oil & Gas Clean Outs  
Freeze Ups

Licensed & Insured  
MA.OIL 022458  
NH. GAS GFE0801510





GREEN BUSINESS

INNOVATION VALLEY: from previous page

Locally, Newburyport is well known for its Master Plan which can be found at <http://www.cityofnewburyport.com/Master%20Plan.pdf>.

The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission and the Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council develop regional strategies for economic development that should be leveraged by the cities and towns.

Let’s address one example of the benefits of individual and regional long range plans. The Merrimack Valley is well suited to capture its fair share of the emerging technologies manufacturing base.

Just this past October, a consortium of Merrimack Valley stakeholders, led by Haverhill, hosted a global conference on eco-friendly green chemistry at NECC’s technology center that brought together the scientific, business and workforce development communities for the first time to collaborate on how to develop and attract a green chemistry industry.

Scientists and business leaders from as far away as Russia and Sweden participated in the event. In a global economy, an endeavor of this magnitude requires a regional approach.

The stakeholders in the green chemistry conference are currently planning the next steps to help brand the region and Haverhill as eco-friendly and innovative with a focus on emerging technologies, such as nanotechnology, bio-tech and green technologies.

We are well suited to leverage the manufacturing segment of this industry, but we should also try to lure research and development.

Please visit <http://www.ivalley.org/blog/?p=83> to learn about the way ahead for this endeavor, which from the start has focused on a regional approach to be applied locally.

From the start, Haverhill’s Hildale and Ward Hill Industrial Parks and North Andover’s Lucent complex have been

target locations for eco-friendly, innovative companies.

As another example, the Merrimack Valley should already have a strategy in place to leverage a trend that is happening right now in bio-tech. According to a Boston Globe article on March 1, lab space in Cambridge has become increasingly scarce and expensive to the point where several biotech companies have recently taken flight to the suburbs, mostly around

Route 128 to places like Waltham and Lexington, because of the less expensive space.

Our region could lower the cost for space even further as well as provide the work force for the manufacturing end of the industry.

It is very likely that professional local and regional blueprints and associated marketing will increase our chances of providing the additional recursive revenues that our cities and towns need.





*John Michitson was a Haverhill city councilor for 10 years; the last 2 as president. He is a manager and electrical engineer at the MITRE Corporation in Bedford, Mass. John and his wife, Heidi, are enjoying the childhood of their 4-year-old daughter and 6 year-old son. email: [jmichitson@verizon.net](mailto:jmichitson@verizon.net)*



*Seth Itzkan is president of Planet-TECH Associates, a consulting agency identifying innovations in economic development. Recently, Mr. Itzkan helped The Boston Foundation to conceptualize and implement its Hub of Innovations tool. You can email him at [seth.itzkan@gmail.com](mailto:seth.itzkan@gmail.com)*

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

ORMSBY: from page 3

feel just as comfortable with me. Whether our rights come from a bolt of lightning or from the nature of man, we can fight side-by-side to protect those rights. The next day I can go fishing while my religious brethren can go to church and pray. We are both free from the steel boot of government; that is all that matters politically.

So what is the next test of Conservatism? It amounts to this: A Conservative’s belief in individual liberty must have substance.

You can’t claim to believe in individual liberty while supporting policies that let the government trample people’s rights. A necessary condition, if our rights are to be secure, is that we live in a society based on the rule of law.

Our Founding Fathers did a pretty good job of putting the necessary institutions in place to protect our liberties. They gave us a constitutional republic with limited powers having three branches of government. Each branch was assigned its own function (separation of powers), and checks and balances were put in place to ensure that one branch of government did not run roughshod over the others or the citizenry.

Unfortunately, our government routinely ignores the Constitution by assuming powers not granted and our Supreme Court not only ignores these transgressions, it becomes a partner in crime, literally, by legislating from the bench. Conservatives must insist that the rule of law start with obeying our highest law – the Constitution. Thus Conservatives insist that:

2. Judges appointed to the Supreme Court must be dedicated to upholding a strict interpretation of our Constitution as intended by our Founding Fathers.

While respect for previous decisions of the Supreme Court (stare decisis – to “stand by that which is decided”) is a good practice when previous decisions comport with the original intent of the Founders, decisions that directly contradict this intent should be overturned without any reservation.

Initially, our Constitution’s function was restricted to granting a set of limited powers to our new federal government. It was implicitly understood that any powers not specifically granted were retained by the states or the people.

The historically justified fear that government would exceed its legitimate authority led to the insistence that our most precious rights be explicitly spelled out. The Bill of Rights lists these critical rights (the first eight amendments), establishes the fact that this list is not exhaustive (the Ninth Amendment), and ensures that powers not specifically delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states and the people (the Tenth Amendment).

Maintaining these rights for ourselves and future generations is fundamental to the preservation of liberty. Therefore:

3. Conservatives must vigorously protect our rights with special attention to those outlined in the Bill of Rights and not let them be diminished or eroded at any cost.

Our First and Second Amendment rights deserve focused attention because they represent our two most important civil rights: the right to express ideas (alone and with the voluntary participation of others) and the right to defend ourselves. Only by guaranteeing open intellectual debate and the sharing of ideas through free speech can our rights be secured and the need for violent confrontation avoided.

These rights should be considered sacrosanct and never be abridged for any reason – certainly not for anything as silly as “campaign finance reform.”

The Second Amendment represents our right to defend our liberties when our government fails to protect them. Only by reserving to individuals the right to use force to defend themselves and their families can individuals be assured that those rights are truly protected. Having a right to life when the police find you murdered hardly constitutes a right.

Speaking of a right to life, your life cannot be secured without the right to property. Property rights are a logical consequence of any claim to a right to life. If you have no right to property, your means of sustaining your life can be taken from you. If you can’t gather and utilize the necessities of life, you can be deprived of the right to life.

Thus,

4. Conservatives must be ardent supporters of property rights.

A right to property is the right to determine how that property is to be used, the right to any proceeds derived from that property, and the right to trade that property or its proceeds with others, based on mutual consent without interference.

Individuals earn the right to property through trade with others, either trading labor or intellectual property, or by exchanging other property or rights. Having the right to property means that neither the government nor another individual can be permitted to take away your property by force or impose restrictions, with the exception of outlawing fraud, on your exchange of that property.

If strictly observed, individual property rights would prohibit all taxation and the taking of property by eminent domain. While I would welcome this conclusion, such a strict prohibition might leave me in a political movement of a few thousand people and not the millions needed to be successful. While the risks of philosophical compromise are substantial, under the present circumstances some relaxation of this principle is necessary.

The more practical test for Conservatives is to ensure that there is agreement on the direction of new policy initiatives. The common goal should be crystal clear: everything possible must be done to substantially reduce the infringement of our property rights by government.

First and foremost, this means a dramatic reduction in the taking of private property

through taxation. In the process of implementing such a policy, every effort should be made to minimize any infringement of individual liberties.


This goal cannot be accomplished by tweaking the current tax code. Proposed reforms must involve total elimination of the current tax system and its replacement with a revenue generating mechanism that is substantially simpler and less intrusive. Obvious candidates are the flat tax or the national sales tax that would replace the federal income tax – including abolishing the income tax amendment to the Constitution.

Note that current flat tax and sales tax proposals are designed to be revenue neutral. This constraint must be vehemently rejected. Not to do so is to ratify the destruction of liberty championed by liberal politicians over the last 100 years. Instead, the goal of Conservatives must be to substantially reduce the government’s taking of private property.

Unfortunately, this leaves room for both good ideas and bad ideas. But, if “substantially reduce” is taken seriously (e.g., cut in half or more), even bad ideas would be far better than the current state of affairs.

To sum up, these are the core beliefs that truly define Conservatives and the Conservative movement. They are as important and relevant today as they were 200 years ago when some brilliant individuals gathered together to form a new nation based on individual liberty and the rule of law.

Next month, in Part II, I will connect these basic Conservative principles to the day-to-day issues that currently dominate political debate.



*Dr. Ormsby is a member of the North Andover School Committee. He is a graduate of Cornell and has a doctorate from MIT. You can contact Dr. Ormsby via email: [ccormsby@comcast.net](mailto:ccormsby@comcast.net)*





## Team Zingales places Number One in Methuen Home Sales for 2007



Team Zingales of RE/MAX Prestige placed number one in both unit and dollar volume sales of single family homes in the city of Methuen in 2007, according to MLS data. Members of this award winning team include Andrea Delahunty, Stephen Bucu, Christina Silva, Christina Tarcy, Kathy Mamos, Erin Livingston Carroll, Jim Chretien, Teresa Zingales as well as Team Leader Joe Zingales.

This top performing real estate sales team closed the year with a record \$18 Million in sales volume within the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire. Joe Zingales, Team Leader for Team Zingales attributes the team's success to diligent pricing and effective marketing.

Team Zingales has been recognized regionally by RE/MAX of New England for the past three years for excellent sales performance.

"I truly believe that there is no better time to buy or sell a home. For buyers, today's market offers a plethora of choices as well as competitive prices. For sellers, there's no better time to upgrade. Sellers will feel that 10% dip in home value from last year, but the clever ones realize that the 10% dip in value is a huge opportunity to recognize a 10% gain by upgrading to a better home today."

Team Zingales exclusively located at RE/MAX Prestige 360 Merrimack St Bldg 5, Lawrence, MA 01843 Office 978-688-4277

**www.TeamZingales.com**



## Sullivan Insurance Agency

- Auto • Home • Health • Life • Business
  - Worker's Comp • Contractors
- Licensed in MA & NH • Se habla Español



*Serving the Merrimack Valley  
for more than 38 years!*

2 convenient locations:

369 Merrimack St. Methuen, MA 01844  
978-681-8200

344 South Union St. Lawrence, MA 01843  
978-683-4700

Contact us at [www.tasullivaninsurance.com](http://www.tasullivaninsurance.com)





354 Merrimack Street, Sal's Riverwalk, Lawrence MA 01843

*"First in Rates. First in Service."*



**Anne Marie Concemi**

Chief Mortgage Planner

*Helping borrowers since 1987*

aconcemi@firstinteg.com

(978) 852-9707 - cell



**Steve Sirmaian**

Chief Operations Manager

*Helping borrowers since 1988*

steve@firstinteg.com

(978) 771-2906 - cell

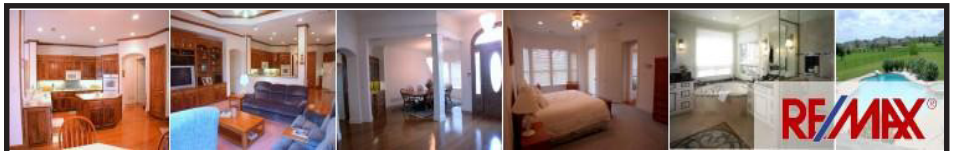
*Now, more than ever, our name speaks for itself.*



MA Mortgage Broker #4520.

Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.

978 685-9700 • www.firstinteg.com



[www.jilliansvillage.com](http://www.jilliansvillage.com)



Erin Livingston Carroll

RE/MAX Prestige

360 Merrimack St. • Lawrence, MA 01843

• Direct: 978-697-3521 • Fax: 866-626-9948

• Access Line: 978-984-3012



PRICE REDUCTION: Kingsport style home: 2 floors of living, with master on first... \$449K Kilpatrick style: one floor living, all the perks \$429,900 Lyndsay style: One floor living all the perks \$399,900 5 lots available, Very well done homes, 2 are up and ready for YOU. Homes include granite, hardwood flooring, gas fireplace, sprinkler system, stainless appliances, wainscoting in d.r., central air, front and back deck central vac, etc. Check out the website for times of our open houses or please call for an appt. to view. (certain style homes may not include the 2 decks)



**Team Zingales,**  
**#1 in Methuen for 2007.**

18 million in sales.....

Who says there's a housing slump?

Jillian's Village 55+ in Haverhill, MA  
check website for open house times...  
or call 978-697-3521



**HOMES FOR  
OUR TROOPS**

**1-866-7-TROOPS**

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

Building and remodeling specially adapted homes  
for our most severely wounded Veterans

# Welcome to St. Augusta Landing

Starting at  
\$189,900



Water Street, Lawrence MA

**3 Bedrooms/1 Full | 1 Partial Bathrooms**  
**1,390 Est. Sq. Ft.**

## Special incentives for Lawrence Fire Victims

No maintenance, just park your car in the garage and enjoy your beautiful townhouse with a large floor plan! Well here it is; three generous sized bedrooms, large living room, kitchen w/large dining area, your beautiful master bedroom w/cathedral ceilings, 1 1/2 baths, & 1 car garage!

**Hurry, come pick your colors, to  
customize your luxury living!**

**Call for your private showing!**

**John Tarshi at (978) 361 - 5537 or email at: [jtarshi@aol.com](mailto:jtarshi@aol.com)**

**Debra Tarshi at (978) 771 - 8079**



# Sal's PIZZA

HOME OF THE 19" 3LB. PIZZA

*Straight from Boston's North End*

*The Best Pizza*

**Amesbury, MA**  
84 Haverhill Street  
(Rte. 110)  
978-388-5400

**Belmont, NH**  
96 Daniel Webster Hwy.  
603-524-0097

**Billerica, MA**  
328 Boston Road  
(Rte. 3A)  
978-671-9393

**Campbell, CA**  
533 E. Campbell Ave  
408-376-0553

**Cape Coral, FL**  
910 East Cape Coral Parkway  
941-540-7373

**Chelmsford, MA**  
296 Chelmsford Street  
978-256-7997

**Concord, NH**  
80 Storrs Street  
603-226-0297

**Derry, NH**  
2 Lenox Road  
(Jct. Rte. 28)  
603-425-2626

**Everett, MA**  
366 Broadway  
617-381-7899

**Hampton Beach, NH**  
191 Ocean Boulevard  
603-926-1313

**Haverhill, MA**  
95 Winter Street  
(Rte. 97)  
978-521-7575

**Hooksett, NH**  
1328 Hooksett Road  
603-622-5151

**Lowell, MA**  
1201 Bridge Street  
(Rte. 38)  
978-441-1717

**Manchester, NH**  
296 South Willow Street  
603-623-6565

**Marlboro, MA**  
Post Road Plaza,  
222B East Main St.  
508-624-7257

**Merrimack, NH**  
501 Daniel Webster Highway  
603-424-3000

**Middleton, MA**  
210 A South  
Main Street  
978-774-7411

**Milford, NH**  
180 Elm Street  
603-672-5544

**Milford, MA**  
**COMING SOON!**  
206 E. Main Street

**Morgan Hill, CA**  
301 Vineyard  
Town Center  
408-778-2162

**Nashua, NH**  
24 East Hollis Street  
(Rte. 111)  
603-578-5858

**North Andover, MA**  
490 Main Street  
978-689-7374

**Salem, NH**  
29 North Broadway  
(Rte. 28)  
603-894-6767

**Salisbury Beach, MA**  
18 Broadway  
978-499-9757

**Seabrook, NH**  
380 Lafayette Road  
(Rte. 1)  
603-474-9999

**Tewksbury, MA**  
2500 Main Street  
(Rte. 38)  
978-694-7676

**Tyngsboro, MA**  
440 Middlesex Rd.  
TJ Maxx Plaza  
978-649-4600

## Salvatore's

### LAWRENCE

354 MERRIMACK STREET  
LAWRENCE, MA 01842  
TEL. 978-291-0220 FAX. 978-291-0204

### BOSTON

225 NORTHERN AVENUE  
BOSTON, MA 02210  
TEL. 617-737-5454 or 617-737-7257 (SALS)  
FAX. 617-737-7676

[www.salvatoresboston.com](http://www.salvatoresboston.com)

## The Finest Dining



LET SALVATORE'S BECOME THE PLACE YOU REMEMBER FOREVER.

A wedding at Salvatore's will be an experience unparalleled and unlike anything else you've ever known. At the moment you walk through the door and greet your guests... you'll realize a Salvatore's Wedding has transported you into a one-of-a-kind experience. Our staff will guide you through the rough waters and virtually every aspect of planning your once-in-a-lifetime dream wedding. Whether you decide that your wedding ceremony will take place on our one-of-a-kind deck over looking the Merrimack River or inside for a reception only a princess would dream about...we'll take care of it all for you.

*Please call our wedding dream coordinators for a free consultation today at 978 291 0220.*

## Salvatore's

354 MERRIMACK STREET, LAWRENCE, MA 01843

... Honoring the Heroes in Our Midst who served our Nation  
as the proud sponsor of The Valley Patriot of the Month

& The Paying Attention Radio Program on WCAP 980AM ... Everybody Gets it!



VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH, Steve Label: from page 1

truly appreciate and admire their decision to join the military, (especially in the current political climate). We believe that for a young person to forgo the freedoms of college life and the comforts of living here in the US to put their lives on the line for our nation makes them heroes too.

One such example is Methuen resident Stephen Label.

On March 4, 2008, Label left home to enter the United States Air Force as an Air Force Aircraft Armament Systems Apprentice. He will be continuing his family’s tradition of service to our great Nation by serving in the United States Air Force.

Both of his parents have served in the Air Force and his stepfather spent some years in the United States Army. His mother, Kristine Williams, served as an Aerospace Ground Equipment Technician and met Stephen’s father while serving in Germany. It was her influence and guidance that led Stephen to aspire to be an Airman.

Label’s younger brother Alex, attends Marsh Grammar School in Methuen and his Language Arts class is now learning how to properly address, place postage, and seal an envelope to be mailed.

Susan Ginchereau, Label’s Kindergarten teacher and now the Fifth

Grade Language Arts teacher at Marsh Grammar School in Methuen, saw an opportunity to provide her students with a heart-felt lesson in learning how to properly send a piece of mail.

This is something that is essential to learn as a youngster, but the quality of Mrs. Ginchereau’s teaching put a warm touch to this subject.

As Stephen’s recruiter, I was invited by both Stephen and Mrs. Ginchereau to speak to her class about what Stephen’s Air Force Specialty would entail and what his average day at Basic Military Training would be like to the Fifth Grade class.

On an aside, I have to say this is the part of my job that I love the most in the Air Force Recruiting Service, but this was not a recruiting venture.

As I introduced myself and made the youngsters feel comfortable, the Fifth Graders at Marsh Grammar proceeded to ask many well thought out questions, such as: “Why do you have to get your haircut?” “How long is boot camp?” (and) “What kind of airplane do you (I) fly?”... just to mention a few. I answered their questions to the best of my ability and even though I wished I had been a pilot, I eventually explained that he would have a complex mailing address that would have up to six lines. I let them know also that he wouldn’t be able to let

us all know what that address would be until his first Saturday there.

Now Label, 19, was once a student of Mrs. Ginchereau’s when he was in Kindergarten at Marsh Grammar School. Coincidentally, his sister Nicole was once a student of hers and now Stephen’s little brother, Alex, is a current pupil of Ginchereau’s.

Mrs. Ginchereau’s Fifth Grade Language Arts class and Stephen will be pen-pals while he’s at Basic Military Training.

“This is going to be great for Alex,” says Label’s mother, Kristine of her younger son Alex. As you could imagine, the thought of Stephen not being there for Alex now is something that Stephen and Alex have talked about a lot since Stephen’s commitment to join the United States Air Force’s Delayed Enlistment Program (DEP).

This is often the dynamic of an Airman leaving for boot camp. To Alex, his big brother as his class’ Pen Pal makes him even more proud than he already is. I’m sure that even after Basic Military Training and on in to Stephen’s Technical Training, Alex will be the best in his class



USAF Sgt. James Moore, Mrs. Ginchereau, Stephen Label, Alex, and Kristine (mom)

at sending the old-fashioned letter. Mrs. Ginchereau’s class is also going to be a pen pal with a Soldier that is stationed near Basra, Iraq. His name is Sergeant First Class Michael Kulikowski, of Philadelphia, PA.

The Valley Patriot is grateful to Stephen for your willingness as a young person to step up to the plate, and help your country at a time when there is so much uncertatinty around the world. We are happy this month to tell your stoy in hopes that it will inspire other young men and women to joined the armed forces and help protect America. Good luck at boot camp and we’ll see you in six and a half weeks.

You can email Sgt. Moore at: James.Moore@rs.af.mil

CARING FOR OUR VETERANS

Spring brings new opportunities

John Lenotte

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Well, at least the calendar says Spring is on the way. Part of my Spring ritual is the filing of applications for scholarships. Remember to pay attention to the different organizations you may belong to and see what scholarships they might offer.

In the American Legion, for example, the Department (state) of Massachusetts grants nine \$1,000 and ten \$500 scholarships.

The deadline is April 1 and applications may be found online at [www.masslegion.org](http://www.masslegion.org).

On a related note, the American Legion also has a Student Trooper program that is held each summer.

This program is a one-week program (2 programs are offered this July) for high school students interested in a career in Criminal Justice. Students are sponsored by an American Legion Post, many of which will pick up the fee. There are also programs for Boy Scouts and American Legion Baseball.

Often overlooked programs are the Oratorical Contest and Boys State. Boys State is conducted each year at Stonehill College for a week in June.

The Auxiliary also runs a Girls State Program. These are wonderful programs that promote Americanism and an understanding of state government. Additional information on all of these programs may be found on the web site noted above.

Are you missing opportunities for your children? Many have taken advantage of

these while others do not know they exist. Don’t miss your chance. Check out what you may be interested in and eligible to partake in.

Unfortunately, most of the recent news about the American Legion and other veteran’s organizations has been more about what is or is not happening with their liquor license. This is affecting posts in Gloucester as well as Haverhill. The community services that are provided get overshadowed by what gets perceived as negative publicity.

True, the posts may have a member’s lounge where liquor is served. And speaking for the Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4 American Legion in Haverhill, there is a function hall that does bring in money.

The money is used for such events as the annual senior citizens Thanksgiving Dinner, Children’s Halloween Party,

donations to the Little League, Legion baseball team, Homeless Vets, Make a Wish foundation, Troop Support and many others.

The VFW in Haverhill also coordinates the annual Santa Parade that does a lot for the City of Haverhill.

The list goes on. Both Haverhill organizations, The American Legion Post 4, and the VFW Post (as well as the Gloucester Legion Post) are working to reopen and continue their service to community, state and nation.

We are all ‘Veterans still serving America’



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

AT MEINEKE CAR CARE CENTER IN LAWRENCE, WE ARE PROUD TO JOIN THE VALLEY PATRIOT IN HONORING OUR MILITARY HEROES!



5% Discount for Military Veterans

203 South Broadway  
Lawrence MA  
Phone - (978) 794-1494  
FAX - (978) 794-9885



Life Doesn’t Always Give You Options. Meineke Does.™

[www.meineke.com](http://www.meineke.com)



Basic \$19.95 PLUS TAX\*  
Oil Change Service

- \* Oil & Filter
- \* Check Fluids
- \* 7-Point Courtesy Check



\* Includes up to 5 quarts of standard motor oil and a standard filter. Valid on most cars and light trucks. Additional disposal and shop supply fees may apply. Special oils and filters are available at additional costs. \* Offer Expires 2/4/08

TO OUR BRAVE VETERANS, THANK YOU!



BENEFITS FOR OUR VETERANS

Being a member of the DAV

Susan Piazza

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Chapter 2 holds its first meeting of the year Thursday 6 March at 4pm. As in the past, we will continue to meet the first Thursday of the month at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in Methuen, MA. We thank our comrades at the VFW for graciously allowing us to meet at their facility for another year.

Our first meeting will discuss items that have come up over the winter. Upcoming projects, and organizations we want to align ourselves with for the next year will be proposed, and discussed.

April's meeting brings us to nominations for officers for the upcoming fiscal year.

May is when we have elections, and our installation. We continue to meet throughout the summer, and into the fall. We suspend meetings in December.

Every meeting will continue to have a service officer on call to handle any issues or claim questions which members or friends may have. One does not have to be a member to attend our meetings, they are all open to the public.

We will again have guests with specialized knowledge of different subjects come and speak.

In the works are plans to have local veterans agents visit to discuss changes or additions to veterans benefits.

We are also considering inviting individuals to speak about estate planning and long-term insurance needs.

Let us know if you have any particular needs that you would like experts to speak on. We will entertain all proposals.

Our organization, like many others, finds itself needing people, people with

even a few hours to spare to help out. Our current slate of officers has carried this chapter despite having serious medical conditions.

They are justifiably tired. Many of the World War II and Korean Era men and women who were the backbone of this organization are unable to continue, either from age or illness, or both.

Unfortunately, many of the Vietnam Era veterans are just as ill. If we are to continue to support the men, women, and families in this area we need active members, people to join our auxiliary, and in general people to volunteer.

We can utilize people, even those with only a few hours a month, for such tasks as notifying the newspapers of our meeting day and time, calling the radio stations with those same meeting notices, helping to coordinate Nursing Home visits with veterans, helping with newsletters, etc.

There are numerous opportunities, chances for people of all backgrounds and time schedules. You do not have to be a veteran to volunteer either; you just need to have a willing spirit, and a few hours a month.

I promise, if you come to a meeting and chat with members you will find their continued dedication to this country so overwhelmingly heartfelt and their love for humanity so genuine that one cannot help but be compelled to assist these people.

They are all truly remarkable people, each and every one. We here at the DAV do not want to scale back any of our activities. We want to extend our reach to more families, not less.

There is so much to do, so many people, especially in these economic times, which need our help. We have to be there for those in need. If we do not

help, who will?

Normally our time for raising funds, we have suspended this year's fundraiser. Too many people are in need of money themselves. We will be dipping deep into our coffers to fund projects without seeking help from those already in need. We thank you for past financial help. We'll look to you for aid in the future - but not this year.

The chapter newsletter will be out soon. If you do not receive our newsletter, then you are not a member of this chapter.

Over the years I've met many people who believed they were a member of Chapter 2 because they either received the DAV National Magazine, or because they started out as a member of this chapter.

Unless you receive the Chapter's newsletter, you are not a member of this chapter. You may have been in the past, but if you do not receive our mailings, you are not a member of our chapter now. People have been transferred out of a chapter merely by reopening up their claim.

(Those that handle claims tend to put the person into their own chapter.) There is nothing wrong with being in another chapter other than you have no idea what is going on locally, what parades we are involved in, what our plans are for Memorial Day and/or Veterans Day, you have no idea who is speaking at our meetings or what organizations or people we are assisting.

Chapter 2s newsletter should be out within the next couple weeks. If you do not receive one by mid-March you are not on the rolls of Chapter 2, Queen City. If you do not receive a newsletter but want one you can either go to your local City Hall Information Rack, your local Veterans Agent, or local Senior Center. We try to at least keep Methuen and Lawrence well stocked with these newsletters.

If you are unable to locate a newsletter at one of those places and would like a newsletter mailed to you call our chapter telephone at: (978) 685-0046 and leave a message.

This is only an answering machine, you will never speak to a live person at that number. I pick up the messages weekly, and if it is an emergency there are directions on who to call.

We hope to see many of you at our meetings. If you cannot attend give us a call if we can be of assistance to you, or if you can be of assistance to us. Until then we hope you all remain well. God Bless you, and this great Country!



Susan Piazza is the past Commander, Chapter 2, Queen City, DAV and was the first female commander of the DAV in 75 years. She has been involved with the DAV for over twenty five years. You can email Susan at WithMara@aol.com

GEORGETOWN: from page 26

Mr. Peter Wojkun has become 'a person of interest.' Subsequent to perhaps eight hours of personal trial observation, we've taken up the task to review all current and past cases with the hope to more fully reflect all sides of the issues here, soon. Stay tuned.

Marjorie Rauseo, 2008

Marjorie Rauseo passed away in late February, leaving behind her loving husband and Valley Patriot Hero of the Month (Dec. 2007) Arthur, and son Jimmy, daughter Sharon, and so many

who care and love the family. This is a tough time for Mr. Rauseo and his family. Please extend to them your hearts and kindness.



Lonnie Brennan is a selectman in Georgetown and the owner of the Chocolate Cellar. He was the Republican candidate for state representative in 2006 and is active in the Republican party. You can email him at lonnie@thechocolatecellar.com.

Mass Inspection 5018



# SHEEHAN'S

## Towing Service

26 Lawrence St. Methuen MA

978-687-9378




24 Hour Service

## Fundraiser to benefit John Lenotte

### Department Vice Commander

### Candidate for Re-election

#### The American Legion, Department of Massachusetts




**Saturday, March 29, 2008**

**Post 122, 200 Broadway, Methuen, MA**

**6:00 pm Social Hour**

**7:00 pm Dinner**

**8:00 pm Entertainment – DJ. Bring your dancing shoes !!!!**



There will also be raffles for your enjoyment.


Join us for a night of food, entertainment and camaraderie.

Tickets = \$25 per person.

Please send check and name(s) of those attending.

Payable to: John Lenotte, 52 Columbus Ave, Haverhill, MA 01830

Deadline for tickets = March 18, 2008



James Soucie

Jeff Soucie

Kenpo Karate

MMA

Submission Grappling

www.kenpo-academy.com

Acadia Mills

55 Chase St. 3rd Floor

Methuen, MA 01844

Phone: 978-794-5400



## Classified

**Baldassari Painting**

Wall Papering  
Power Washing  
Gutter Cleaning  
Window Washing

**Fred Jr. Baldassari**  
978-688-0161

Serving the  
Merrimack Valley  
Since 1987

**Hi, I'm Steve Buco**  
**I'm a member of**  
**Team Zingales**

360 Merrimack Street, Bldg #5 Lawrence

*Please See our Ad Page 30*

**A&N Handyman Services**

Free Estimates  
No Job too small or large  
Attic & Cellar Cleanouts  
Demos & Dump Runs

Interior/Exterior Painting  
Roof Repairs  
Windows, Doors Repaired  
or Replaced  
All Minor Home Repairs

**Norm: 978-683-3523**

**Eagle Security Services**  
(A division of Eagle Investigation Services, Inc.)  
Mass Lic. # P-817  
**A. Michael Alaimo**  
President

236 Pleasant Street  
Methuen MA 01844-4145

**Tel 978-682-5559 Fax 682-5055**  
**Website: Eagleinvestigations.com**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
NORTHERN PROCESS SERVERS  
SERVING ALL CIVIL PROCESS

**RONALD BERTHEIM**  
BONDED CONSTABLE  
NOTARY

252B PLEASANT ST  
METHUEN, MA 01844

TEL. (978) 685-0093  
FAX (978) 689-3377  
PAGER (978) 444-3353

northernprocess@comcast.net

**ON YOUR SIDE**  
BY YOUR SIDE  
**ROBERT CROWLEY LeBLANC ESQ**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

2 GAYTHORNE ROAD  
METHUEN  
MASS 01844-0235  
978-685-9742  
978-327-5329

**Thomas Firth III**  
Sr. Mortgage Officer  
Unlimited Mortgage Corp.

211 Chelmsford Street  
Chelmsford, Ma 01824

978-314-6182 Cell 24/7  
www.unlimitedhomemortgage.com  
www.tfirth.com

Mass Mortgage Broker MB #1613 Licensed by NH Banking Dept.



**Unlimited Mortgage Corporation**

*Exceeding Expectations...*



## Drivers Needed!

Help us take Fun and Entertainment on the road!

### PART TIME POSITIONS

Great hours for Seniors, Students or Others

Fun, Entertaining, Compassionate People needed to transport our passengers to and from work. Must have a clean driving record and a great personality! No need to have a special license! Hours are approximately 6:00 am – 8:00 am and again in the afternoon from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Salary is \$9.72/hour

Candidates must have a High School Diploma/GED, a valid drivers license, submit to a drug screening and a criminal background check.

Apply to:  
American Training, Inc. – Att: Human Resources  
102 Glenn Street, Lawrence, MA 01843  
Fax: (978) 683-5124  
E-mail: [DebbieLynch@AmericanTrainingInc.com](mailto:DebbieLynch@AmericanTrainingInc.com)

**The Law Offices of**  
**FREDERICK**  
**"TED"**  
**FAIRBURN**

265 Broadway - Methuen, MA  
Phone: (978) 682-9707  
Fax: (978) 682-9460

**Specializing in Workers' Compensation, Divorce, Serious Personal Injuries, & Criminal Matters.**





# *Our experience will make your day easier*



The all new, state-of-the art Andover Surgery Center is now open as the most advanced facility for day surgeries in the community. But even with our major renovations, our greatest asset continues to be our surgical staff – each member of the team has over fifteen years average experience.

As the first free-standing surgicenter in Massachusetts, Andover Surgery Center prides itself by standing behind our mission of helping physicians deliver quality care to their patients in a timely manner – in a caring, comfortable setting. We've enhanced patient flow in a more patient-friendly environment, expanded our recovery room for more patient privacy and added a brand new, private pediatric recovery area so families can be with their child prior to and post surgery.

The next time you or your loved one needs a surgical procedure, consider Andover Surgery Center for the care they need and deserve. Ask your physician to schedule your surgery at our new Center.



*Operating close to home...*

**Andover Surgery Center, LP**

Doctors Park II • 138 Haverhill Street, Andover  
978-475-2880 • [www.andoversurgerycenter.com](http://www.andoversurgerycenter.com)

*Fully accredited by the AAAHC and certified by Medicare, the Andover Surgery Center has contracts with all major medical insurance providers.*