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Who will lead Lawrence?

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan is finishing his final term because the city charter limits the mayor's job to two, four year terms. Sullivan defeated Isabel Melendez in 2001 and Marcos Devers in 2005. Ironically Willie Lantigua endorsed and supported Isabel Melendez in '01 but flipped in '05 to support Republican Mike Sullivan against Democrat Marcos Devers.

With no incumbent running this year for mayor, the flood gates opened and ten candidates stepped forward to put their names on the ballot to be the next mayor. They included: City Council President Patrick Blanchehtte, Dan Cotnoir, City Councilor Nilka Alvarez-Rodriguez, former City Councilors Israel Reyes, Julia Silverio, and Nunzio DiMarca, former Mayor Marcos Devers, Pedro Payano, Councilor David Abdoo and State Representative Willie Lantigua.

In the September primary eight candidates were eliminated for a runoff election November 3rd with more than a 30% voter turnout.

When the primary votes were counted, it was State Representative Willie Lantigua in first place with 2,272 votes and District E City Councilor David Abdoo in second with 2,156. Only 116 votes separated the two.

Political pundits all agree that Lantigua is the front runner in this race, but his lead has slipped in the final days of the election as Abdoo's momentum is gaining steam. Make no mistake about it, nobody has a lock on this election and anyone who predicts a landslide for either candidate simply does not know what they are talking about.

Background; Dave Abdoo - Abdoo is the District E City Councilor representing

South Lawrence West on the council. He was elected two years ago and is in his first term.

Abdoo is a lifelong resident of Lawrence and a 1985 graduate of Central Catholic High School. He then earned a Bachelor's degree from Salem State College and is presently working on his Masters Degree in Public Administration from Suffolk University. Abdoo is the Governmental & Public Affairs Director for the US Department of Health & Human Services in Boston. He is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Salem State College.

Prior to working for the federal government, Abdoo worked in State government as the Chief Policy Analyst for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation. He is an Armored Cavalry Officer in the Army/Navy National Guard and a member of Saint Patrick's Finance Council.

As an aide to State Senator Bruce Tarr, Dave helped constituents resolve problems with State and Local agencies and receive services through government programs. Abdoo has been a member of the Mt. Vernon Neighborhood Association since 1999. He is married with two children. He is also the former Chairman of the Lawrence Planning Board and the Lawrence representative to the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission.

He has not been involved in any major controversies since being elected two years ago, but has taken criticism by fellow candidates for his acceptance of Police Chief John Romero's endorsement in this race. During the Oiste debate last month, Abdoo said he would be a hands-on mayor when it comes to public safety but broke with the police department when he said he wants to have an "outside

LAWRENCE MAYOR: PAGE 4



**METHUEN CANDIDATES FOR
MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, AND
SCHOOL COMMITTEE, PAGES 16-28**

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EDITORIAL

If you don't vote, you are part of the problem

Last month, the city of Methuen held a preliminary election for mayor and city council and only 9% of the registered voters bothered to participate.

In Lawrence, only 30% of the registered voters participated in their preliminary and that was considered unusually high.

Though many candidates would like to blame their opponents or the current office holders for the conditions of their city, it is clear that those most responsible are the people who live and work there, yet refuse to lift a finger to make it better.

By not voting, those who stayed home have abdicated their political power and civic responsibility to a handful of people who are activists, union heads, non-profits, candidates and campaign supporters.

Those who did not vote have ensured that those who do, will have a louder voice and a stronger influence over the the running of their city in the coming years.

This ensures that political insiders will continue their strangle hold on power, making it that much harder for outsiders to achieve elected office, and make changes in city government.

People who vote in a low turnout are hardcore voters (or super voters) who are mostly responsible for those currently in office, (having voted them in during previous elections.)

This allows the candidates and their campaigns to focus on the small percentage of people who eagerly participate, rather than finding ways to increase voter turnout and come up with creative solutions for the problems facing local governments.

You don't even have to go to the polls on election day, you can vote by mail (absentee). And yet, most people are just too lazy or apathetic to do that.

Lawrence and Methuen are facing some very tough challanges in the next few years.

You can either be part of the problem or part of the solution.

If you don't vote... you are clearly part of the problem!

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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 Tdugjr@aol.com

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Please Vote for our Dad For Lawrence School Committee, District E.

To the editor:

Hi everyone, I'm Cherish Wilson, Peter Larocque's oldest child. I just want to tell you why I believe you should vote for my dad for re-election for School Committee for District E.

I am a resident of Lawrence and live here with my husband David & daughter Sarah. As our daughter Sarah started kindergarten in September at the Wetherbee it gives me a sense of security that my dad Peter is on the school committee. In the past few years I have always seen him looking out for the best interest of the children here in our district and also being a support for their parents too. Helping them to take an active role in their children's education so that their children can grow and prosper and when the parents have an issue, taking the time to listen and try to find the best solution.

To take you back, when I was growing up, my dad was always there for me whenever I needed him. An ear to listen, advice for when it seemed like there was

no solution. And sometimes even if there was no solution, he would still support me and be my advocate. I feel he has brought these strengths and more to his role on the school committee in these past few years and this is why I hope you vote for him in November.

Well I could just keep going on and on about my dad, but what we need is for you to vote Peter Larocque in November for School Committee District E.

Thank you,

Cherish Wilson will continue to work to keep our schools safe for students, teachers and all LPS staff. Most of all, he will continue to stand with you by bringing your concerns to the administration and work tirelessly to get to the best solution.

As a voter in the District E, as a concerned aunt, as a daughter I truly believe on November 3rd you will be making the right choice if you vote for Peter Larocque. Thanks so much.

Marie Larocque, Lawrence

District E: To Flee or Not to Flee?

As a 5 year resident of the north side of Bowdoin Street and organizer for the newly established Sacred Heart / Brookfield Street Neighborhood Association (previously Saunders School Neighborhood Association) I am telling the entire city of Lawrence that District E is stereotyped and misunderstood!

District E and Mount Vernon are not synonymous! Those residents in the city of Lawrence who look down on District E and make decisions solely to spite District E are shortsighted individuals.

District E is a district that has problems similar to the rest of Lawrence. There is a lot of section 8, multi family homes, drugs, robbery, litter, loud music, unleashed pitbulls, fast cars and so on. What happens all over the city happens in District E too. I would like to respond to the hateful article written by Momayoun Maali, "Laboy, Peter Larocque continue poisonous effect on Lawrence Public Schools."

Mr. Maali's intent from the title of his article first appears to be about his platform to run for School Committee citing his disapproval for Laboy and Larocque. Let's examine Mr. Maali's true intent. First, in a democracy there are elections. In the primary, Mr. Maali had as fair of a chance as anyone to earn a spot on the November ballot. Mr. Maali did not earn this spot and instead of being a good loser, he has chosen to rant and rave and run a sticker campaign. If Maali wants Laboy and Larocque out he needs to support Gray who wants the same things, not pull votes from Mark Gray.

The second half of Maali's article was not about the school system. It was a racist tirade on white people in District E. Mr. Maali's true personality comes through in this article. As a parent of two "minority" white children in the Lawrence Public School system it frightens me to think that someone who is so racist would be guiding the education of my children. Mr. Maali's philosophy is dangerous to

every child in the school system.

On a personal note, and to our detriment in Mr. Maali's lopsided world, my family is white and christian. If those who look down on me because of this stereotype got to know me they would learn, I have an adopted sister who is half Columbian and half Puerto Rican. My children are trying to learn spanish and both my husband and I have taken over 5 years of spanish and try to practice whenever we have the chance. I have helped to revive the neighborhood association in this area with the help of David Abdoo. Dave does go outside of the Mt. Vernon borders and gets his hands dirty in the community because he has a passion for ALL the people of Lawrence. I want the best leadership for Lawrence, not the whitest.

Community balance and togetherness is topic Mr. Maali speaks to in his article just before he opens the door for whites to move to Andover and North Andover. Every other sentence in Mr. Maali's article contradicts the next sentence. The racist undertones throughout his article was very disturbing and are not the voice of community development or the future of educating our children on how to be united in every way to build a better future. Mr. Maali to you I say that I am a tax payer and a proud property owner and living in Lawrence is affordable for my family. Am I not welcome in your vision for a unified Lawrence?

As a representative from District E outside of Mount Vernon, I ask the citizens of Lawrence when making decisions to consider those of us who live in the less desirable neighborhoods of District E. Lets all work together to understand that we are not brown, black, or white, we are all Lawrencians who live under the same set of challenges and have the same dreams for a better city. I welcome anyone from the city, especially district E residents, to attend our neighborhood meetings the 3rd Monday evening of every month. Please email me for details.

Jennifer A. Cooper, Lawrence



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Polling Locations in Lawrence

- District “A” Prospect Hill
- » PRECINCT 1: Edward Parthum School
 - » PRECINCT 2: Edward Parthum School
 - » PRECINCT 3: Rollins School, 451 Howard St. (rear)
 - » PRECINCT 4: Storrow School, 40 Pleasant St.
- District “B” North Common
- » PRECINCT 1: Mary Immaculate 489 Maple St.
 - » PRECINCT 2: Lawlor School, 44 Lexington St. (Park St. Side)
 - » PRECINCT 3: Leahy School, 100 Erving Ave., (Bruce St. side)
 - » PRECINCT 4: Valebrook Apts., Union & Summer St.
- DISTRICT C ARLINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD
- » PRECINCT 1: Engine 8 Firehouse,329 Ames St.
 - » PRECINCT 2: Plains Community Cntr., 246 Hampshire St.
 - » PRECINCT 3: Brien Bldg., 355 Park St.
 - » PRECINCT 4: Arlington School, 150 Arlington St. (rear)
- DISTRICT D TOWER HILL
- » PRECINCT 1: Bruce School, 135 Butler St.,
 - » PRECINCT 2: Bruce School, 135 Butler St.,
 - » PRECINCT 3: Guilmette School, 80 Bodwell St.
 - » PRECINCT 4: Essex Towers, 18 Franklin St.
- DISTRICT E SOUTH LAWRENCE WEST
- » PRECINCT 1: Diamond Springs, 1 Beacon St.
 - » PRECINCT 2: Frost School, 33 Hamlet St.
 - » PRECINCT 3: S. Congregational Church, 198 S. Bway
 - » PRECINCT 4: Elderly Housing, 339a Salem St.
- DISTRICT F SOUTH LAWRENCE EAST
- » PRECINCT 1: 130 S. Lawrence East School, 165 Crawfor St.
 - » PRECINCT 2: 130 S. Lawrence East School, 165 Crawfor St.
 - » PRECINCT 3: Branch Library, 135 Parker St. (Baily St. Side)
 - » PRECINCT 4: Knights of Columbus Hall, 1 Market St.

Polling Locations in Methuen

- Precinct 1, 2, 6, 10
TIMONY SCHOOL,
45 Pleasant View Street

Precinct 3, 7, 9, 12
TENNEY GRAMMAR
SCHOOL,
75 Pleasant Street
- Precinct 4, 5
PARK GARDEN APTS.
(Community Room),
10 Burnham Road

Precinct 8, 11
MARSH GRAMMAR
SCHOOL,
311 Pelham Street

LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR METHUEN MUNICIPAL OFFICES
(candidates listed in ballot order; *denotes incumbent)

- MAYOR (one to be elected)**

AL DINUCCIO
403 Pelham Street

WILLIAM M. MANZI III*
66 Woodburn Drive

COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE (three to be elected)

JENNIFER KANNAN*
10 B Grandview Road

STEPHEN N. ZANNI *
70 Sevoian Drive

KATHLEEN COREY RAHME
73 East Street

JOYCE C. CAMPAGNONE
2 Currier Avenue

EAST DISTRICT COUNCILLOR (two to be elected)

LARRY F. GIORDANO*
76 Bonanno Court

PATRICIA ULIANO
22 Haymeadow Road

JOSEPH A. LEONE III*
28 Morgan Drive

CENTRAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR (two to be elected)

JOHN A. CRONIN, JR.*
33 Richard Avenue

DAVID A. LAVALLEE
65 Tower Street

FADI A. CHAHINE 95
Elmwood Road

PHILIP J. LAHEY, JR.*
159 Woodburn Drive

WEST DISTRICT COUNCILLOR (two to be elected)

EDWARD J. GUY, JR.
2 Jade Street

JEANNE PAPPALARDO*
139 Forest Street

DEBORAH R. QUINN*
26 Garfield Street

JAMES M. HAJJAR
52 Arrowwood Street
- SCHOOL COMMITTEE (six to be elected)**

GARY M. MARCOUX*
32 Hadley Road

EVAN J. CHAISSON *
106 Sevoian Drive

BARBARA PIEROG GRONDINE*
4 Moody Avenue

GEORGE J. KAZANJIAN*
55 Sevoian Drive

ROBERT F. VOGLER*
95 Currier Street

JERI-AN BATAL
8 Oakridge Street

KENNETH A. HENRICK*
22 Jewel Circle

KENNETH R. WILLETTE, JR.
2 Canobieola Road

GR. LAWRENCE TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE (two to be elected)

ERICA M. MAX
71 Milk Street

THOMAS L. GRONDINE*
4 Moody Avenue

RAYMOND E. BEGIN
4 Stone Castle Drive

HOUSING AUTHORITY (two to be elected)

ROBERT M. SHEEHAN*
92 Pleasant Street

KATHLEEN A. MULLIGAN*
224 Tyler Street

NEVINS LIBRARY TRUSTEE (two to be elected)

JOSEPHINE M. NAPOLITANO*
55 Ayer Street


ARTHUR NICHOLSON III*
18 Arrowwood Street

CHARTER QUESTION & CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONER

SEE LIST OF CANDIDATES AND PAULA PORTEN’S COLUMN ON PAGE 25

Elect

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Lawrence Mayors Race: FROM PAGE 1

body" investigating allegations of police abuses rather than an in house internal affairs department.

Contrary to claims by some of his opponents, Abdoo is not a Republican.

Background; Willie Lantigua - Lantigua started off his political career as a community activist just like President Barak Obama. He attended city council and school committee meetings frequently and became well known for dogging Mayor Patty Dowling everywhere she went. He campaigned hard against Dowling's bid for reelection to the Governor's Council after she promised voters she would not run again if she was elected mayor. Lantigua appeared at debates, public events and city meetings holding up a sign with his phone number on it urging residents to call him to defeat Dowling everywhere he went. With Lantigua's help, Mary Ellen Manning of Peabody defeated Dowling.

Lantigua was also the campaign manager for former State Representative Jose L. Santiago as the two of them were "good friends". Santiago pulled off a shocking victory in the Democratic primary over a very popular M. Paul Iannuccillo. Santiago and Lantigua were inseparable, recruiting candidates for city council and school committee, complimenting each other's agendas and working together to push legislation at the State House that would benefit Lawrence residents.

Lantigua remained on the Santiago team, managing his reelection campaign in 2000, but when Santiago appeared on the Paying Attention! Television Program on local cable access and promised that he would not run for mayor in 2001 (if he was reelected to The State House), Lantigua confronted him after questioning whether or not he was telling the truth.

"If you lie about this I am going to run against you and I am going to beat you," Lantigua told him. Lantigua already promised his support to Isabel Melendez for the mayor's race in 2001 and wanted to make sure Santiago didn't split the "Latino" vote in the primary.

Santiago won his reelection to the State House but, almost immediately after his win, declared that he would, in fact be running for mayor. This was the move that made Lantigua so angry that he immediately declared his friendship with Santiago over, and that he would be running against his former friend for State Rep. in 2002.

Knowing he would never be able to defeat Jose in a Democrat primary with the base of support the two of them built together, Lantigua left the Democrats

and ran as an un-enrolled candidate.

When the two faced off in the final, Lantigua reached into the political base the two of them built together and was able to siphon off enough donors and supporters to beat Santiago. When the election was over Lantigua went back to the Democrat Party and began to build a coalition of Latino candidates and community activists to recruit people for elected office in future campaigns.

Lantigua is now serving his fourth term as a State Rep. and in that time has crossed the aisle a few times supporting Republican Mike Sullivan over Democrat Marcos Devers in 2005 and supporting Republican Israel Reyes for city council in 2006.

A History of Controversy

Lantigua has been involved in several controversies throughout the years. He was involved in a lawsuit to change the way the Lawrence School Committee elections took place by bringing in the US Justice Department to sue the city. Lantigua called the election of 6 at-large committee members "racist" because city wide elections made it harder for "Latinos" to get elected. Eventually the city had to settle the lawsuit with the federal government and change the way school committee members were elected. Each of the six school committee members must now be elected by district.

Lantigua was also the driving force to stop Voter ID in the City of Lawrence. Claiming it would discourage "Latinos" from voting and would "disenfranchise Latinos" who would refuse to vote if they had to show an ID at the polls on Election Day. Lantigua and Secretary of State Bill Galvin worked together to kill the bill at the State House and to this day there is no uniform voter ID system.

Perhaps the two most controversial issues Lantigua was involved in was the attempted firing of (then) Licensing Commissioner Roger Twomey and his opposition to the Northern Essex Community College project to build a \$26 million health and technology center on Common Street at the In-Town Mall.

Lantigua's accusation against Licensing Commissioner Roger Twomey was that



Twomey was a racist and targeted Latino businesses. The accusation came after Twomey inspected Adams Cyber Café on Appleton Way (across from city hall) where Lantigua was running a political event for then city councilor Israel Reyes. When Twomey inspected the establishment he found that liquor was illegally being sold but before he could take any action against the bar owners (who had contributed to Lantigua's campaign), Lantigua used his political pull with Mayor Mike Sullivan to have Twomey fired.

A bitter media campaign against Twomey began as Lantigua, Sullivan and Reyes began telling Latinos in Lawrence that Twomey was out to get them because he hated Latinos. Because the city council had to approve Twomey's firing, a bitter and raucous meeting took place where racial epithets were hurled at Twomey and the "White" people of Lawrence. At the end of the day, the City Council, thanks in large part to Councilor Marcos Devers, refused to fire Twomey but with his term on the Licensing Board about to expire anyway, Sullivan simply refused to reappoint Twomey as a favor to his friend and political supporter Willie Lantigua.

Twomey went on to win a seat for Lawrence City Council the following year but has been targeted by Lantigua and his "Latino Coalition" for defeat this year.

Lantigua also whipped up racial tensions when Northern Essex Community College wanted to purchase the city owned In-Town Mall on Common Street. Lantigua favored his friend Benny Espailat who wanted to buy the building to open a shoe store. Because Espailat was Latino and a friend and supporter of Lantigua, again Lantigua played the race card and packed the city council meeting with supporters who called NECC President David Hartlieb a "racist", making allegations that the only "Latinos" who work at NECC were the janitors. Racial divisions

were so high during the controversy that even City Councilor Nilka Alvarez, who is not known for succumbing to racial pressures, caved in and opposed the college's attempt to purchase the property. Lantigua lost that fight and accused City Council President Patrick Blanchette of being a racist for not going along with the shoe store plan.

On the Issues - It would be hard to find two candidates who are more different than Lantigua and Abdoo. Lantigua is a lifetime politician while Abdoo is in his first term ever as an elected official. Lantigua is Dominican, Abdoo is "White". Lantigua refuses to be interviewed or attend debates, issue forums or neighborhood meetings. Abdoo is accessible and says he will speak or debate "anytime, anywhere". Lantigua is a Democrat and Abdoo is an Independent. Lantigua is being endorsed by political insiders and people who do business with the city, Abdoo is being endorsed by the police chief, neighborhood group presidents, and more importantly the Lawrence Teachers Union.

Overall, Lantigua and Abdoo are as different as night and day. But the biggest differences between the two candidates centers on the Lawrence Public Schools and Superintendent Wilfredo Laboy. Lantigua has been a friend and a supporter of Laboy since day one. He once called Laboy the "best superintendent, not in the city or the commonwealth, but I believe he is the best superintendent in the United States of America. Lawrence is lucky he decided to come here and stay here."

Laboy is under investigation for the misuse of education dollars, including the use of the school department print shop to produce campaign literature for school committee candidates and others. The State Office of Campaign Finance, an arm of the Secretary of State's office has referred their investigation to the Attorney General's office. Essex County District Attorney

Matty Brien knows that the people of District E pay the most in property taxes yet receive the least in city services. Brien is committed to making sure District E residents get their fair share of city services!



Matty BRIEN

City Council District E

Jon Blodgett is also investigating allegations of fraud and abuse by Laboy as well as Israel Reyes who was defeated in the mayor's race back in September.

Since the primary, Lantigua has surrounded himself with politicians who have defended and supported Laboy throughout the years. Lantigua himself has refused to call for Laboy to be fired, to resign or to address the issue at all, which his detractors say is the reason he refuses to answer questions in public or debate.

Supporting Lantigua are City Council President Patrick Blanchette, whose girlfriend Gloria got a job working for Laboy on the High School Construction project but has stayed on as a full time employee long after the high school was completed. Israel Reyes who ran with his wife for school committee and admittedly was a supporter and defender of Laboy until the scandal broke earlier this year. Isabel Melendez whose "non-profit" benefited from the Lawrence School Department print shop and who was housing her "non-profit" organization for free in the old Saunders School on South Broadway. Melendez was also actively supported Laboy when he was criminally charged with assaulting Amy McGovern and lead an organized protest outside the Lawrence courthouse with signs that read "Shame on you Amy McGovern".

Dave Abdoo on the other hand has made it very clear that he will "fire Wilfredo Laboy" no matter what happens in the criminal investigations against him. Abdoo says that "even if Laboy is innocent of any criminal wrongdoing, there is more than enough evidence to remove him as superintendent. He has lost the moral authority to lead our school system and when I am elected he will be removed. Lawrence needs to start the process of searching for a replacement for Wilfredo Laboy and as the President of the Board of Salem State College I have the experience and the know-how to get that job done here in Lawrence as chairman of the school committee."

Abdoo also addressed the Laboy factor referring to Laboy and Lantigua as "the two Willie's."

"When I am mayor, and I will be your next mayor, both Willies are getting fired. And another irony is the Willie I am competing against is surrounding himself with people who have supported and embraced (Wilfredo) Laboy. When I am mayor, the only thing that you should be reading about your schools in the newspaper is the honor roll."

That Pesky House Bill

Not much has been made about the bills filed by Lantigua each year that would allow School Superintendent Wilfredo Laboy to carry over his retirement time from New York (where he worked prior to being hired in Lawrence) to Massachusetts.

The initial bill passed by the Legislature allowed Laboy to carry over ten years



from New York and add it to his retirement time in Lawrence. But in January of this year Lantigua filed another bill which, if passed, would allow Laboy to transfer an additional five years of his retirement from New York to Massachusetts. Currently Laboy cannot retire with a full pension until October of 2010. But if Lantigua's bill passes, Laboy would be eligible for retirement immediately.

"I don't know much about the bill," said Lawrence Teachers Union President Frank McLaughlin. "But it does seem shocking if that is the case." McLaughlin, who has called for Laboy to be fired, announced last week that the Lawrence Teachers Union voted unanimously to endorse Dave Abdoo.

"Fire him," McLaughlin said at an Abdoo rally last week referring to Laboy.

"David is for the kids", he continued. "For too long, the children of Lawrence have gotten the short end. For too long in this city, you have gotten the short end. David Abdoo is going to bring accountable leadership to the City of Lawrence. David Abdoo is going to bring leadership that the city of Lawrence hasn't seen in many, many years. David Abdoo ... is going to do for the kids instead of doing for himself. You know I've already had about 8 years of a Willie and I don't want another Willie. The teachers of Lawrence have made the right choice, they have made the smart choice ... and that is David Abdoo for Mayor."

Public Safety - When it comes to public safety, David Abdoo may have Police Chief John Romero on his side but a great number of Lawrence police officers are siding with Willie Lantigua.

In fact, Lantigua has Lawrence Police Officer Melix Bonilla officially running his campaign and Methuen Police Officer Allicon as his campaign treasurer.

(EDITORS NOTE: Despite being a law enforcement officer, Allicon has yet to file Lantigua's campaign finances since before the September primary in violation of State Law. Also according to campaign finance laws public employees are not allowed to serve as campaign treasurers.)

Several Lawrence police officers have attended Lantigua's events and donated money to Lantigua's campaign. Word in the police department is that if Lantigua wins, Romero is going to be the very first casualty which has motivated enemies of Romero within the force to work harder for Lantigua.

In his defense, Lantigua has been strong on public safety at the State House use, filing and supporting bills that would increase penalties for gun possession. He also sponsored a gun buy-back bill in the Legislature and has brought in millions to the city's YWCA's rape crisis center to help victims of sexual and physical abuse.

But Chief Romero says that when it comes to fighting crime, he endorses Abdoo because he believes Abdoo will do more to give police officers the support they need. Abdoo has pledged to increase response time, increase spending on specialized units like the gang and auto theft task force and is committed to keeping politics out of the police department.

The Issue of Race - Clearly this has been the most racially divisive campaign for mayor in the last 15 years. Rep. Lantigua and his supporters have purposely shunned and ignored white voters and his surrogates have attacked Abdoo and his supporters because of their race.

A full-blown campaign to discredit and disparage the white people of Mt. Vernon and David Abdoo has been in full force since before the primary. Abdoo, by virtue of being white, has been called every racial epithet known to man as Lantigua's campaign team has taken to the airwaves on Spanish language radio to label Abdoo a "white, racist Republican."

Council President Patrick Blanchette went so far as to call him "Dick Cheney" and told a crowd of people at a Lantigua rally that if elected, Abdoo will only represent one district in the City of Lawrence, the white district of the city of Lawrence, the Mount Vernon District of the City of Lawrence.

For his part, Lantigua himself has campaigned on what he calls the "Latino Coalition" and makes no excuses for his Latino only campaign or his support for Latino only candidates. This is a new form of the old "Latino Agenda" started by him and Modesto Maldonado several years ago which was resoundingly rejected by the voters of Lawrence. The goal is to only support Latino candidates for office

(with one exception, Mike Fielding) and to push out as many "white" candidates from public office as possible.

David Abdoo has been mostly silent on the racial attacks against him and has said that he refuses to "get down in the mud" with those who want to "spread racism throughout the city" but, recently took the issue head on in a radio interview.

Abdoo said that when he is elected he will serve all of Lawrence not just Whites, Latinos, or any particular neighborhood. "You know I am angry with the division and the wedges that Lantigua and his surrogates have been spreading but I am not going to talk personally about my opponent, I am not going to attack him that is not my style. I am going to continue to talk about the issues that are important to all voters of Lawrence and I am going to be accessible because Willie Lantigua is nowhere to be found in this campaign. I don't know where he is hiding but I am here to answer the tough questions and I will continue to answer the tough questions because the people of Lawrence deserve that. They do not deserve the racial division and the racism that is pitting people against each other."

LCW and Housing

Lantigua has sought and secured State funding for Lawrence Community Works, whose members are his biggest supporters. Community Works is run mostly by people who do not live in Lawrence but seek city, state and federal money to build more and more low income housing in the city, which they can now own and rent out to those who are dependent on the government.

He has said in the past that he believes increasing low income and affordable housing in Lawrence is important to the city's poverty stricken residents, especially Latinos. Abdoo on the other hand talks about smart growth and mixed use zoning.

Lantigua brags on his website: "Earlier this year, Rep. Lantigua introduced legislation that would impose a six-month moratorium on foreclosures in Massachusetts, allowing borrowers to work with lenders to readjust the terms of unfair loans. He also sought to strengthen the State's gun control laws by proposing increased penalties for unlawful possession of a firearm and failure to report the loss or theft of a weapon."

Lantigua has brought in millions of dollars to the city of Lawrence for welfare and social programs, but also brought in money to convert Essex Street to two-way traffic, renovate Lawrence City Hall, and the construction of the new Lawrence High School which cost more than \$110 million.

Marie Gosselin



City Council At Large

MARIE GOSSELIN Gets RESULTS!

I NEED YOUR VOTE ON ELECTION DAY!

Paid for by the Committee to elect Marie Gosselin - 4 East Gilbert Street, Lawrence, MA 01843



Frank Moran (I)
Primary Votes: 4,288



Roger Twomey (I)
Primary Votes: 3,241



Dan Rivera
Primary Votes: 2,629



Marie Gosselin
Primary Votes: 2,626



Nestor DeJesus
Primary Votes: 2,350

NO
PIC
AVAILABLE

Gary Ryan
Primary Votes: 1,419

At-Large (city-wide) Council Race

FRANK MORAN - Not much was known about City Councilor Frank Moran two years ago when he put his name on the ballot for the first time ever. Despite being a first time candidate in 2007, Moran surprised the political pundits (not us) when he placed third in the September primary, defeating two incumbent city councilors and then topping the ticket in the final election.

Moran lives on Tower Hill and is a member of the Greater Lawrence Technical School Grant Committee, the Lawrence Democrat City Committee, is a former Tower Hill Little League coach, and is a real estate manager with Prudential First Choice Realty.

Moran has been relentless on the campaign trail going door to door, putting up political signs throughout the city and running a grassroots campaign. He also enjoys the endorsement of State Representative Willie Lantigua (da chief) who is a candidate for Mayor. Lantigua sent out endorsement letters ten days before the election to support his slate of “Latino Coalition” candidates. Moran says he makes no excuses for his friendship with Lantigua saying that it was Lantigua who urged him to run two years ago and helped him get elected to the council.

Despite his connection with Lantigua, Moran has been his “own man” on the council and has been seen going toe to toe with Lantigua after meetings when Moran refused to go along with his wishes. He has not been influenced by the city council president and has (for the most part, or, at least up until election time) refrained from demagoguery against Mayor Sullivan and the Sullivan administration.

As a candidate two years ago, Moran said his top priority was to increase public safety and said that because he is a homeowner and in the real estate business he understands the hardships property owners face. Moran points to the high number of property foreclosures in Lawrence as one of the biggest problems facing the city and added that his experience in real estate would make him more capable of dealing with that problem than his opponents. Since being elected Moran has made good on those priorities, focusing on housing and fiscal issues facing homeowners. Moran has been seen as one of the few fiscal watchdogs in city hall.

If reelected he says he would like to pay attention to quality of life issues that effect property values throughout the city. Moran also touts his budget experience in running a company with an \$80 million budget and was one of the few voices of reason on financial issues at the council table. Moran was endorsed by Valley Patriot editor Tom Duggan two years ago and again this year. Moran is expected to top the ticket on November 3rd.

Moran said he wants the voters to judge him based on his ability to do the job and his performance as a City Councilor over the last two years. His one questionable

vote was to reject Economic Development Director Tommy Schiavone’s permanent appointment.

“I am my own person,” Moran told the Valley Patriot. “I don’t answer to anyone but the voters and I am not going to be unduly influenced by Mr. Lantigua, Mayor Sullivan or anyone else. I want to make one thing clear, I am the one running for City Council and I will owe no favors to anyone if I am elected. I have proven that in my first term and I am looking forward to another term of serving the voters and no one else.”

ROGER TWOMEY - Roger Twomey is the former Licensing Commissioner for the City of Lawrence and placed third out of six candidates in 2007 edging out a popular incumbent Joe Parolisi. He placed second (out of seven) in the primary this September and is expected to do as well on November 3rd.

Twomey is widely popular with both White and Latino voters throughout the city and is known to be a man of impeccable integrity even among his detractors. His second place showing in the primary is a strong indication of his diverse support throughout the city.

As Licensing Chairman, Twomey was the first chairman of an appointed city board to have meetings video taped and televised on cable access. Twomey said two years ago that if he was elected he would move to make it mandatory for all city boards to broadcast their meetings. “These boards are doing the public’s business and there are many, many people who cannot get to city hall to watch their government in action,” Twomey said.

“I think it is so important for people who are shut in or can’t physically get to a meeting to have access to such public information, after all,” he added, “we are doing the people’s work and it should be broadcast for all the people to see. I know my predecessor on the licensing commission has been resistant to that but I would respectfully say it is not about what we as officials want it’s really what he public wants.”

Before retiring from the Licensing board, Twomey was involved in a controversy when he inspected a bar called Adam’s Cyber Café. Twomey received an anonymous tip claiming that the bar was purchasing alcohol in violation of State licensing laws. When Twomey arrived at the establishment, there was a political event being set up by State Representative Willie Lantigua who tried to interfere with Twomey’s inspection. When the bar owner could not produce receipts to prove he purchased his alcohol legally, Twomey brought the bar before the commission for additional investigation and possible disciplinary action.

But Lantigua immediately took the airwaves of Spanish language radio, telling the Latino community that Twomey was a racist and was purposely targeting Latino business owners. Lantigua also lobbied

Mayor Michael Sullivan to fire Twomey and after creating a public firestorm among Spanish speaking residents, the Mayor sent Twomey’s name down to the city council to have him removed from the board.

City councilors held a lengthy hearing on the incident and after hearing all the evidence, voted 5-3 not to fire Twomey as the Licensing Chairman. Months later, when Twomey’s term expired he was replaced as commissioner on the Licensing board when Councilor Nunzio DiMarca went back on his pledge to support keeping Twomey on the board and voted to replace him with Republican Rick Fielding.

Twomey’s record on the Licensing Commission showed that, not only had he been fair and impartial in his dealings with Latino business owners but that his handling of the Adam’s Cyber Café was actually quite lenient for the infractions that occurred.

Twomey has been relentless on the campaign trail, walking every district in the city, knocking on doors, holding signs and showing very high visibility at public events. He has refused to accept campaign donations from city workers saying he believes it creates too much of an appearance of impropriety, as he has to vote on city jobs and city budgets. Twomey has also put the Lantigua controversy behind him and has recently said he holds no ill will from Mayor Sullivan’s efforts to have him removed.

As a councilor, Twomey has been mostly independent but seems to have a difficult time grasping the concept of the fluidity of municipal budgets. Twomey has voted twice against the mayor’s budgets saying he would not vote for any budget if the numbers were not correct and the budget balanced. But municipal budgets are a series of projected revenues and expenses based on what the city expects to receive in the coming year. For example, the city receives millions in State and Federal grants but those anticipated revenues are almost never what are expected. Property taxes, lottery funding, revenue from the sale of city owned land can be thousands if not millions of dollars more or less than projected when the budget is ESTIMATED prior to July 1st of every year. Because the State budget is always approved after cities and towns approve their municipal budgets, no city budget is ever in balance the day it is passed. If fellow councilors followed Mr. Twomey’s lead on budgetary concerns this past year, the city would have to resort to temporary budgets which would have wasted more than a million and a half dollars in excessive short term spending.

But if budgets are his deficiency, Roger Twomey’s positives on the council are countless. He is considered one of the most honest politicians in the city, and is diligent in doing research before voting on any measure that comes before the council. He is respectful of those who sit

at the table with him and has always acted professionally when dealing with the public.

Twomey’s only political weakness is that he is extremely gullible and has been influenced by Council President Pat Blanchette, Andrea Traficanti, and DPW Director Frank McCann who has been using his wife to get him to do their dirty work. Because he is so honest, Twomey has a very naïve view of the political landscape and with people close to him constantly undermining him, he has lost a great deal of support from political insiders who worked hard two years ago to get him elected. Twomey may not need that support however as the drop off in support behind the scenes seems to have had no effect at the ballot box during the primary.

Despite his naivete when it comes to being used by others, Twomey has mostly been an independent and proactive voice supporting police and firefighters. He has been fair with everyone who has come before the council and he has brought a more civil tone to the city council. He is certainly a conflict avoidant type of official who refuses to stand up for others who are being taken advantage of or are abused at the city council table, leaving some to wonder what “integrity” is worth in an official if they are not willing to take a stand while others with less power are under attack.

Twomey has been active in helping to clean up Broadway, as well as working with State and Federal officials to try and gain grants for infrastructures such as old water and sewer pipes. He prides himself on answering constituent concerns and following up on every phone call. Twomey is a retired industrial engineer and served in the U.S. Air Force. He lives in the Mount Vernon section of Lawrence and if he wins will be serving his second term starting in January.

MARIE GOSSELIN - Voters in the South Lawrence East section of the city tossed out incumbent City Councilor Marie Gosselin in favor of Michael Fielding six years ago, elected her to replace him two years later and then elected Fielding over Gosselin again in 2007.

This year Gosselin is running for at-large city council and has worked harder than any other candidate in this race. Despite her bulldog approach and tireless campaigning she placed fourth (out of seven, three get elected) on primary day.

Gosselin served six years on the council prior to being defeated by Michael Fielding in 2003. In 2005, Fielding decided to run for one of the three at-large seats on the council leaving his District F seat open for Gosselin to reclaim, which she did.

It would take a book to detail the number of controversies, ethics complaints, campaign finance violations, conflicts of interest and political shenanigans Gosselin has been involved in over the years.

Gosselin has been involved in Lawrence



Laborers' Union (LOCAL 175)

Proudly Endorses

Willie Lantigua



Willie Lantigua stood with the union workers on the Lawrence High School Project and protected union Jobs."



Mayor/Alcalde Lawrence



"State Representative Willie Lantigua has been the one man to stand up for the rights of all Lawrencians to work in this fine city! That's why this year we proudly endorse Willie Lantigua for Mayor of Lawrence."

-Mike Gagliardi,
Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America



Two Newcomers Seek Prospect Hill Seat

If 27 Years Old Joe Armano has his way the fire station on Prospect Hill will be reopened and the people of District A will feel safer with better response time if there is a fire on hill.

Armano is the grandson of former Lawrence City Councilor Dom Armano who served the city honorably as a police officer and ran for Alderman of Public Safety under the old form of city government.

Born and raised in Lawrence, Armano is an Independent with a Bachelor of Science and Mechanical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. He earned a Master of Science Degree, and a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and currently works as a Design and

Documentation Manager, (L-3 Communications.

Armano is a licensed Real Estate Agent with Credentials Realty and a member of OHPC (St. Basil's Youth Group). He has been a home owner on Prospect Hill since 2007 and



Sandy Almonte
Votes: 488



Joe Armano
Votes: 457

is married.

Armano placed second in the September primary election by 31 votes to Sandy Almonte, an employee of the Lawrence School Department. He told a group of supporters last week that

if elected and believes that the city needs to live within its' means but must also prioritize spending so that situations like closing fire houses and making police officers take work furloughs are do not have to be considered.

Armano also said that the city council does not scrutinize the school department budget diligently enough even though the council is legally responsible for passing it as part of the overall city budget. He also said he believes that he can bring more professionalism to the city council.

His opponent Sandy Almonte is getting a lot of political help on the campaign trail. She has been endorsed by former city councilor Julio Silverio who placed fifth in the ten way mayoral primary in September. She is also the hand picked candidate of City Council President Patrick Blanchette and enjoys the support of Lawrence School Committeeman Sammy Reyes.

Almonte works for the Lawrence School Department under Superintendent Wilfredo Laboy in parent and support services. She is married with three children and placed first out of three candidates in the primary election.

Both candidates are hoping to replace City Council President Patrick Blanchette who failed in his lifelong dream to become the mayor of Lawrence.

he was shocked to read in a local newspaper that his opponent Sandy Almonte does not feel the reopening of the fire station on Prospect Hill is a priority and stressed the importance of minutes, if not seconds when a family is faced with fleeing their home in the event of a fire.

"Seconds mean lives" Armano said. "My opponent may not think reopening the fire station up on the hill is important but I do. I understand what public safety means and if I am elected I will do everything humanly possible to find the money within the city budget to restore public safety to the hill and reopen that fire station.


Armano says he would not raise taxes



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3rd Rematch in District "B" Silva v. Rojas

N. COMMON NEIGHBORHOOD - District B City Councilor Grisel Silva faces Ruth Rojas for the third time in as many elections. Rojas was State Rep. Willie Lantigua's hand picked candidate in 2005 and 2007.

Councilor Silva was elected for the first time in 2005, she ran unopposed in the 2007 primary after Ruth Rojas's name was thrown off the ballot. Rojas then launched a write-in campaign edging out newcomer Gary Mannion by a vote of 90 to 73. Mannion was eliminated this year in the primary leaving Rojas and Silva to face off again.

In 2007 Rojas violated campaign laws by turning in nomination papers without the required candidate information filled in before voters were asked to sign them.

Councilor Silva has been on the forefront of controversy since being elected four years ago. She has been a harsh critic of Mayor Sullivan and his administration, which has made her popular in her district, but very unpopular in city hall, especially with her colleagues.

Silva's lack of civility has caused sparks at the council table, often times resulting in screaming matches between her and whomever she has randomly set her sights on in any given meeting. At one meeting she stood on her chair and screamed into the cameras at officials who might be watching on TV.

Silva refused to support Mayor Sullivan's 2008 budget, which called for a tax increase. She advocated cutting \$3 million in city services, including voting to layoff police and firefighters, DPW and Inspectional Services workers. Last year she said it was a "shame" that police and firefighters weren't being considered for layoffs during the budget crunch and attacked Police Chief John Romero saying

he was faking crime numbers to bolster his budget.

But as the election dew nearer, Silva's rhetoric changed significantly. Now Silva says she opposes layoffs in public safety and in the last six months has voted not to layoff any public safety personnel.

Silva has also been in a several public battles with the Mayor, Budget Director Mark Andrews, Planning Director Mike Sweeney, and most of the other department heads in city hall, calling them names and insulting them.

Silva was accused of using her influence as a councilor to get special treatment by the police when one of her daughters found a gun in her older daughter's bedroom. Despite months of misinformation and personal attacks in the Eagle-Tribune, Siglo21 and Spanish language radio, Silva was eventually cleared of any wrongdoing by the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission.

Because of the multiple controversies involving Silva and her public behavior, she is going to have a tougher time beating Ruth Rojas this year than she did two and four years ago. Silva has turned on nearly every person who has tried to help her or work with her, and in doing so has lost a great deal of financial support as well as strategic support behind the scenes.

With the help of City Council President Patrick Blanchette, Silva topped the ticket in the primary last month but a split in the Latino community has Silva now running without the support of Julia Silverio, Willie Lantigua and her estranged family.

Silva is still well liked among her base of supporters in the North Common Neighborhood. Her personal animosity for Mayor Sullivan and Chief Romero plays well in her district and her ability to take positions at election time that are the exact opposite of what she advocated even a



Grisel Silva
Primary Votes: 566



Ruth Rojas
Primary Votes: 264

few months earlier seems not to matter to the people of the District B. Silva is also backed by Andrea Traficanti and DPW Director Frank McCann.

Meanwhile, Ruth Rojas has been active in the community and sits on the board of directors of Lawrence Community Works, a non profit organization that lobbies the city council for public tax dollars and whose members support candidates in city elections. This year they are supporting Willie Lantigua for mayor and word is, though Lantigua started off supporting Rojas in this election, he is now telling both candidates that they have his support.

Rojas sits on the Community Works' Finance Committee and Human Resources Committees. She is also a member of the North Common Neighborhood Association and could take advantage of the fact that Silva has completely ignored the needs and concerns of business owners on Essex Street.. Rojas also may be able to take advantage of the fact that Councilor Silva represents Essex Street downtown, but was completely uninvolved in the mayor's efforts to open Essex Street to two-way traffic.

Insiders are calling this race too close to call as Silva defeated Rojas by little more than 30 votes in 2007.

Ruth Rojas campaigned in '05 and '07 on a campaign to clean up her neighbor-

hood but The Valley Patriot took pictures of the outside of her home both of those years showing garbage strewn all over her property. This year, pictures of the Rojas home again shows garbage in her yard and on her property that seems to have been there since the last pictures were taken.

Silva opposed to the location of a 28 unit housing complex on Holly Street for homeless families, and opposed a housing project on Myrtle St. for "recovering" drug addicts located across the street from her home. Rojas supported both projects. Silva said at the time that the halfway homes would bring more undesirable people into her neighborhood to commit crimes and would lead to deteriorating the quality of life in the Arlington area. None of this happened when the projects were completed and now, Silva says she was wrong about both projects and has "changed her mind" when it comes to housing in her district.

Silva is separated from her husband Nelson Silva and has three children (15, 17, and 20 years old), one of whom attends Lawrence Public Schools.

Rojas came to Lawrence eight years ago and is the mother of three. She has been endorsed by former candidates Gary Manion and Edwin Rodriguez.



District “C” Arlington Neighborhood - Gonzalez v. Maldonado

ARLINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD - District C has been represented by former School Committeeman Jorge Gonzalez for the last four years. Gonzalez twice defeated former city councilor Barbara Beals-Gonzalez in 2005 and 2007. This year Gonzalez faces an even tougher challenge with former Greater Lawrence Voke Administrator Modesto Maldonado.

Two years ago, Jorge Gonzalez said he was in city hall on election night when he looked up at the second floor banister to see friends and members of his wife’s family holding signs for his opponent Barbara Gonzalez (who was not using her married name at the time). He said he couldn’t believe so many of his friends and family members were supporting his opposition.

In the last two elections Councilor Jorge Gonzalez said there was a lot of confusion because he was running against Barbara Gonzalez and his wife’s name is also Barbara. “A lot of people thought I was running against my wife and it caused a lot of problems for me because she is much more popular than I am,” he said laughing.

Gonzalez will not have that problem this year. Councilor Gonzalez has prided himself as one of the few city councilors who has never voted to raise taxes since being elected. He is also one of the few councilors who does not get involved in the personal attacks and bickering at public meetings, preferring, he says “to go in and do my job, vote on the important issues and go home. I don’t need to talk on

every issue like some councilors. What I think is most important is doing the work of the people and not getting involved in the craziness.”

Gonzalez’s refusal to get down in the mud with his fellow councilors has earned him quite a bit of criticism by his detractors but he says he doesn’t care. “I would rather be criticized for not saying enough and just voting on the important business we have to work on than be criticized for screaming at people and being disrespectful to the people,” he added.

Councilor Gonzalez stood firm through months of budget talks each year and never once wavered from his position that he would not support a budget if it included an increase in property taxes. Besides voting against the permanent appointment of Economic Development Director Tommy Schiavone, Gonzalez has not been controversial

“I made a commitment and I kept my commitment. I think people can disagree on issues, but at the end of the day they want to know you are going to keep your word and I have done that” he concluded.

Modesto Maldonado is considered the front runner by most of the pundits fol-



Jorge Gonzalez
Primary: 637



Modesto Maldonado
Primary: 627

lowing this race. Maldonado left the Greater Lawrence Vocational School under questionable circumstances and filed a lawsuit against the school. He (along with Willie Lantigua) was one of the chief architects of the racist group called “Latino Agenda” that was formed 6 years ago to try and defeat white candidates in favor of getting “Latino” candidates elected. Though “Latino Agenda” was officially disbanded as a group, Maldonado, Lantigua and others have carried on the mission of only supporting or opposing candidates based on their race.

Maldonado has been campaigning hard in the Arlington District, relentlessly attacking Councilor Gonzalez for missing meetings and calling him a “race traitor” whenever he agrees with Mayor Sullivan on any issue.

As Lawrence politics goes, the Gonzalez v. Gonzalez race two years ago was one of the more respectful and least controversial races as there was no personal animosity between the two candidates. This year, however, that seems to have reversed as the people in the Arlington

Neighborhood are now faced with a choice between a quiet, polite incumbent who refuses to play the race card and a race baiting divisive candidate who not only gets involved in the hatred of racism but organizes like minded individuals to spew their venom and poison at political debates at election time.

“I have no doubt I am going to win,” Maldonado said. “The people of this district are tired of a councilor who never does anything, never says anything and doesn’t represent the people.” Maldonado is being endorsed by former mayoral candidate Julia Silverio.

Neither candidate has spent very much on their campaign. Nor has either candidate had a very high profile during this election season, though Maldonado can be frequently heard on Spanish Language radio taking pot shots at his opponent. “It’s hard to campaign when you have three jobs and you are taking care of your family,” Gonzalez said, adding that he has been working much harder since the primary.

Experts say Maldonado is primed to defeat Gonzalez on Election Day but do not count out the two term incumbent. He is most dangerous when he is underestimated and has been involved in the community for 30+ years. He knows what it takes to get elected and even though Maldonado is much better at the basic mechanics of campaigning and garnering coalition support for other candidates, Gonzalez’s liability factor remains extremely high.

Tower Hill District “D” Kolofoles v. Aquino

Lawrence City Councilor Nick Kolofoles is seeking a fourth term as the District “D” representative on the council. He is the former president of the Tower Hill Neighborhood association and is considered an expert on the city charter.

Since the last election, Kolofoles has continued to be proactive in the neighborhood and his presence is widely felt on the hill. He is widely popular and has earned the endorsements of the Lawrence Superior Officers Union. Kolofoles is has been tireless on the campaign trail and though he has always out-hustled his opponents on the campaign trail, Kolofoles found himself in second place in the September primary for the first time in his political career.

Kolofoles has put together a campaign team of neighborhood activists, and the primary numbers showed their effectiveness in getting Kolofoles’ voters to the polls on Election Day. Kolofoles also has a very skilled and dedicated campaign manager in Keith Wlodyka, former owner of Tower Hill Variety Store.

Though the incumbent councilor has detractors on the hill and on the council, he has a clear and documented record of keeping the streets of Tower Hill clean. Tow years ago Kolofoles called the police when he saw what he thought were “prostitutes” working his neighborhood. But when Kolofoles reached the Lawrence police to have the hookers removed it turned out that the police were conducting a sting operation. Kolofoles was praised by police and neighbors for his vigilance in keeping his district safe. He also thwarted a robbery attempt at a local bodega last month by jumping a man who claimed he had a gun. The robber pushed Kolofoles to the ground and fled but the incident led police to capturing the criminal who, it turns out, had been wanted by police in several

other robberies in Lawrence and neighboring communities.

Three years ago, Kolofoles took one of his bravest and riskiest votes when he refused to fire (then) Licensing Commissioner Roger Twomey. While State Representative Willie Lantigua was lobbying the “Latino” community to convince them that Twomey hated them because of their ethnicity, Kolofoles refused to be bullied into throwing Twomey under the bus. He refused, despite the fact that doing so risked losing the support of Latino activists on the hill who vowed to take down the licensing commissioner and any councilor who supported him.

With Twomey on the ballot in the city council at-large race (after running a strong second out of seven in the primary), Kolofoles will benefit from crossover voters who are eager to see Twomey reelected. But Kolofoles has other problems in this race. He is a strong supporter of Patrick Blanchette who has led Kolofoles to near political suicide by convincing him not to support mayoral candidate David Abdoo.

With State Representative Willie Lantigua supporting his opponent (Aneida Aquino), and former city councilor Julia Silverio putting the organization of her former mayoral campaign behind Aquino as well, Kolofoles’ vow not to support Abdoo has angered Abdoo supporters. With both mayoral campaigns refusing to help Kolofoles, Aquino is the clear front



Nick Kolofoles
Primary: 670



Oneida Aquino
Primary: 711

runner in this race.

Kolofoles has been an ardent supporter of Voter ID, enforcing the teen curfew, supporting community policing on Tower Hill and opposing the placement of the Daybreak Homeless Shelter on lower Tower Hill. He voted against Mayor Sullivan’s budget proposal to raise property taxes to the levy limit, and supported several motions to cut the city services budget.

His opponent, Oneida Aquino is formerly part owner of unto Final nightclub on Broadway and is dating Brien DePena of Brien Harware and has two children. She is studying business administration at Cambridge college and is a former member of the Hispanic Week board of directors.

Experts are saying Kolofoles simply cannot win this race with so many factors working against him but that is not deterring the veteran councilor who served as the city’s Tax Collector until he retired in the late 80’s. Kolofoles is still campaigning hard and trying to do damage control but his affiliation with DPW director Frank McCann and his wife Andrea Traficanti have done so much damage to his political reputation that most of the political insiders who were willing to help Kolofoles in previous

years have abandoned Kolofoles and are concentrating on other candidates in other races.

Oneida Aquino could not be reached by the Valley Patriot.





On the Campaign Trail in Lawrence



**RE-ELECT
PETER
LAROCCQUE**

Paid for by the committee to elect Peter Larocque

RE-ELECT ROGER TWOMEY

- ★ HONESTY
- ★ INTEGRITY
- ★ COMPETENCE

*On Tuesday
September 22nd
I humbly ask for
your vote*

-Roger

COUNCILOR AT LARGE

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Roger Twomey

Lawrence School Committee elections

Six Lawrence School Committee members are elected by districts in the city instead of running city-wide as the original city charter called for. Whoever is elected mayor in November will sit as the member of the seven-member committee.



Only one person is running in each of three districts.

In District B (The North Common Area) Martina Cruz is running

unopposed. In District C (The Arlington District) former Personnel Director Frank Bonet is running unopposed, and in District D (Tower Hill and the Hancock & Essex Projects) Sammy Reyes has no opposition.

The only school committee races that are contested are; District A (Prospect Hill, North Lawrence East), where Jim Vittorioso is facing XXXX, District E, (South Lawrence West), where Peter Larocque faces Mark Gray, and District F, (South Lawrence East) where Greg Morris faces Jim Stokes.

The real hotly contested races in Lawrence this election season are District "E" (South Lawrence West), and District F (South Lawrence East).

In the west, School Committeeman Peter Larocque, challenger Mark Gray and write-in candidate Hamayoun Maali are in a bitter race that has been more divisive than any other race including the mayor's race.

Mr. Maali has gone from a mild mannered parent of children in the Frost School, to an off the wall bomb thrower who always seems to hurl his epithets with a polite manner and a smile. In an exclusive column in the Valley Patriot he called the people of South Lawrence a bunch of racists. He attacked "Christians" and "White Anglo-Saxons" as well as taunted supporters of Dave Abdoo (candidate for mayor) and encouraged the white people who support Abdoo to move out of Lawrence when Lantigua wins.

Challenger Mark Gray has not been as overt in his attacks on the people of District E. But, his rhetoric against incumbent Peter Larocque and his disdain for the voters of Mt. Vernon are just as controversial.

Mr. Gray posits the theory that, because the people of District E voted for Larocque in larger numbers than those who voted for him, they must support Wilfredo Laboy. Gray has linked Larocque and Laboy as one in the same and says that because most of those same voters are now supporting Dave Abdoo for mayor, Abdoo must be pro-Laboy as well.

As convoluted as this all sounds, Gray's political strategy is to attack Abdoo to retaliate against the voters of his district, whom he blames for Larocque beating him in the primary.

Prior to the primary election in September, Gray and Maali were inseparable. They sat together at debates and public meetings. They echoed each other's positions on Laboy and Larocque, often times making it obvious that Gray was coaching Maali and the two were sharing campaign strategies. Today, Gray and Maali are publicly trying to distance themselves from each other.

Mark Gray does have a firm grasp of critical issues facing the Lawrence Public Schools. He has read and understands much of the \$120+ million school department budget and is familiar with school committee policy. He has a strong base of support (though smaller than Larocque's) in District E because of his involvement in the schools and his tireless public advocacy for Superintendent

Wilfredo Laboy to be fired.

Because of that base of support Mark Gray edged out Maali and Yoed Cameron in the primary.



Instead of gaining the support of his sidekick Hamayoun Maali after primary, Maali turned Gray and announced he was running a write-in campaign against both Gray and Larocque.

What that means politically is this: instead of Maali and Gray teaming up and pooling their resources to defeat Peter Larocque, they are now dividing the anti-Larocque vote and almost assuring him a win in November.

But this race is not a done deal. Gray has shown no sign of running an issue oriented campaign and continues to rest his laurels on attacking Larocque and linking him to Laboy as a puppet for the superintendent. But, Gray actually has the ability to turn around his campaign by trying to convince voters to focus on his wealth of intelligence and dogged determination on his core issues; curriculum, firing Laboy, and getting rid of administrators who are not responsive to the concerns of average parents. If he does this, he has a very short time to turn things around but it can be done.

For his part, Peter Larocque was initially chosen by the Lawrence City Council when former committee member Amy McGovern resigned to accompany her new husband in another state. McGovern's husband is in the military.

Since then, Larocque has won over many of the McGovern supporters by being an independent vote on the committee, siding with Superintendent Wilfredo

Laboy on some issues but vocally opposing the superintendent's initiatives when he felt it was warranted. Nonetheless, Larocque gets no credit from Gray and Maali for voting independently of Laboy on any key issues.

Larocque has been a strong advocate for parent involvement. He is a member of the high school parent advisory council, formed a public safety committee to address violence in the schools and has taken a controversial stand opposing the use of school department money to pay for school uniforms and free bus tickets for students. He supported putting Laboy on administrative leave when the committee took up the matter after the District Attorney raided the superintendent's office.

Larocque topped the ticket in the 2007 primary over his opponent James Blatchford, and was victorious in the final election. But, soon after the election his detractors raised suspicions over where Larocque's campaign material was designed and printed. He was accused by Mark Gray and others of being a "puppet for Laboy". The accusation is that Larocque sold his votes on the committee to Laboy in exchange for \$55 worth of campaign material in 2007. Even a cursory glance at Larocque's voting record, however, does not validate this claim.

In Gray and Maali's defense, Larocque did admit in an exclusive Valley Patriot column this year that he did, in fact, receive campaign material from Mark Rivera in 2007. Rivera was Superintendent Laboy's special assistant but resigned when it was learned that he was misusing school department computers with Harry Maldonado. The two were conducting illegal background checks on politicians and elected officials.

Larocque repaid the \$55 in campaign

materials he received from the school department in '07 and even overpaid with a check for \$100. He has been under investigation by the Office of Campaign Finance (OCPF) for his role in accepting the materials. But, unlike everyone else involved in the print shop scandal, Larocque has fully cooperated with law enforcement authorities, confessed to his misdeeds and apologized to the voters.

Gray is clearly the underdog in this race. He is highly intelligent, disciplined, understands curriculum issues and is able to grasp the meaning of complicated educational and budgetary systems. He is a former member of the military and has been active in his children's schools.

Gray has two children in the Lawrence Public Schools, is separated and can usually be found at Lawrence School Committee and City Council meetings attacking Wilfredo Laboy, Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan and Peter Larocque during public participation.

Gray has made a name for himself in the district as the "anti-Larocque, anti Laboy" candidate. He is one of those who accused Larocque of making deals with Laboy in exchange for \$55 in campaign materials and has been relentless in his personal and political criticism of the incumbent. He is often seen campaigning with Hamayoun Maali, who was eliminated in the primary. Gray and Maali both claim that Larocque accepted campaign materials from the Lawrence Public Schools in this current election but have offered no proof that this is the case.

In the East, it is Greg Morris v. Jim Stokes

In a bizarre turn of events, District F, (South Lawrence East) School Committeeman Greg Morris is facing Jim Stokes for the second time in as many years.

Two years ago the mail order "Reverend" James Stokes took first place by 8 votes in the primary and defeated (then) incumbent Greg Morris by a very small margin in the November final election. Stokes was active in the community for years, volunteering with veteran's organizations and often bragging about being honored with a Purple Heart for his service as a Marine in Vietnam.

Shortly after the election, however, it was learned that Stokes was never a Marine, never been to Vietnam and was never given a Purple Heart for bravery or anything else. The legal problem Stokes ran into was because he petitioned and was granted permission to use "veteran" on the ballot next to his name. Stokes was arrested and prosecuted for doctoring a family member's discharge papers and committing fraud. He eventually confessed to the court that he lied about his

veteran status and was convicted.

Stokes was sworn in as a School Committee member prior to his conviction but resigned the day after being sworn in, putting Greg Morris back on the School Committee to fill out the term Stokes was elected to serve.

Now Stokes wants another shot at Morris and thanks to the voters of District F, he will get that chance in the November election. Stokes and Morris both won in the primary election, Morris placing and Stokes trailing in second with Larocque being eliminated in third place.

For his part Greg Morris had his own problems in the last two years. His name has been connected with the school department print shop scandal where it has been alleged Morris received campaign

material that was printed at the Lawrence Public Schools Central office on Essex Street using taxpayer funded campaign material. Morris is under investigation by the District Attorney and the State's Office of Campaign

Finances (an arm of the Secretary of States office).

Morris has been active over the last two years with youth programs, little league and several children's sports teams. Morris was elected four years ago in an uncontested race. Morris has been accused of being a puppet for Wilfredo Laboy, a charge he denies. He also denies knowing that the campaign material he received came from the school department. He did almost no campaigning two years ago and this year followed the same pattern with very different results.

On the other hand, Stokes has been a tireless campaigner, knocking on doors, putting up signs and showing up at political events since early summer. He has proven he can out-campaign and

out debate Morris but his conviction for lying about his status as a veteran may be enough to finish him off. That is, if

Morris' problems with the print shop scandal doesn't resurface prior to Election Day.

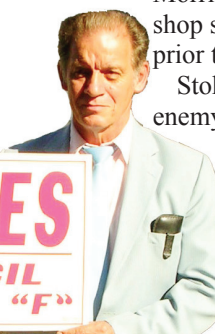
Stokes has been a staunch enemy of Superintendent Wilfredo Laboy. He was the very first to call for his firing way back in 2007 before any of the current scandals came to light. Stokes was the subject of illegal back-

ground checks by the Superintendent's Assistant Mark Rivera and former police officer Harry Maldonado. He was excluded from playing Santa two Christmases ago when the Superintendent's Assistant learned he had failed a CORI criminal background check.

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S. Lawrence East, District “F” - LaPlante v. Fielding

Voters in the South Lawrence East section of the city have a chance to elect either their incumbent City Councilor Mike Fielding or former Tower Hill City Councilor Marc LaPlante.

Twice the voters of this district have elected Michael Fielding over former City Councilor Marie Gosselin. Fielding was elected to non-consecutive terms and is hoping to be reelected for two straight terms for the first time ever.

Councilor Fielding is no stranger to controversy. Admittedly, he is a political ally of State Representative Willie Lantigua and has twice tried to run a slate of candidates favorable to the agenda of the State Representative. Many believe that these efforts contributed to his defeat in the 2005 at-large city council race. As a district city councilor, Fielding was not proactive and did not advocate for district issues in the neighborhoods. To his

credit however, Fielding has avoided the personal conflicts and verbal spats at the council table, preferring instead to vote on the issues at hand rather than get down in the mud with his out of control colleagues.

While on the city council, Fielding voted to fire (then) Licensing Commission Chairman Roger Twomey. Consistent with the responsibilities of Licensing Commissioner, Twomey inspected a bar on Appleton Way called Adam's Cyber Café during a political event that was being run by Willie Lantigua to raise money for Israel Reyes.

Twomey found that the establishment was in violation of State liquor laws and he sought to implement disciplinary measures against the owners of the establishment (contributors to Lantigua's campaign). Twomey's actions lead to a hearing before the city council where he accused of “targeting Latino businesses”

but was exonerated when the council voted against Mayor Sullivan's recommendation to fire him. Though Lantigua and Sullivan's efforts failed to remove Twomey as Chairman of the Licensing Commission, Fielding sided with Lantigua and voted to affirm Lantigua's allegations of ethnic bias by supporting the firing of Twomey. The two now serve on the city council as colleagues, as Twomey was elected



MARC LAPLANTE
Primary Votes: 853

to the council the following year.

Fielding is being endorsed again this year by Willie Lantigua as the only white candidate getting the support of the sitting State Representative.

Marc LaPlante is the challenger in this race. He is the former Lawrence City Councilor from the Tower Hill district. He moved to the South Lawrence East area of the city six years ago and has remained active in the community since leaving the council.

LaPlante is married with three children and is a member of the Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association. He also serves as a member of the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority and works for the state Department of Environmental Protection.

As a city councilor Marc was slow to respond to controversy and crisis, often times criticized for not being able to make a decision on critical issues.

In his defense, LaPlante said at the time that he didn't like to make hasty discussions and preferred to delay issues in lieu of seeking more advice and more opinions



MICHAEL FIELDING
Primary Votes: 547

from others rather than “jumping in with both feet.”

“There's a reason government moves slow, it's a deliberative process and those who hurry to get things done often do more harm than good.”

In the primary Laplante stunned Michael Fielding supporters and topped the ticket garnering 853 votes to incumbent Michael Fielding's 547 votes. Pundits are calling this an easy win for LaPlante based on his primary numbers and his low key professional style of campaigning but this race is far from over. But with Willie Lantigua now in the final for the mayor's race, Fielding may be able to ride his coat tails and level the playing field for a much closer election on November 3rd.

If Lantigua does well in District F, Fielding may find himself back on the council for the next two years.

If mayoral candidate Dave Abdo wins a decisive victory Fielding is finished.



The once majestic water fountain, now filled with weeds and dirt at the intersections of Winthrop Avenue, Exeter Street and South Union Street in South Lawrence's District “F”. The fountain has not been in steady operation for years.

At-Large City Council Candidates; From Page 4

politics since 1993 when she campaigned for former Mayor Larry Lefebvre.

She served on several sub-committees, including both budget and finance and personnel. She was one of the deciding votes to put the new Lawrence High School on Rt. 114 (in her District) over the vocal opposition of the Colonial Heights neighborhood. Yet when she ran again two years later, Gosselin was soundly reelected by that very same neighborhood.

Gosselin is most known, however, for casting the deciding vote to kill the Residency Law in Lawrence. In a deal Gosselin admits she made with then Mayor Patricia Dowling, Gosselin betrayed the one issue she campaigned on for years, forever killing the city's residency requirement for city workers resulting in her son getting a job at Lawrence Municipal Airport.

A year later, Gosselin was cited by the Office of Political Campaign Finance for listing her son as her campaign treasurer. Public employees are not allowed to handle campaign finances of any kind under State law. Gosselin was also fined seven years ago for illegally ordering Lawrence DPW workers to remove construction material from one of her investment properties. City workers do not pick up such material and property owners are mandated by law to pay private contractors to remove the debris.

Gosselin was also called to task by the Office of Campaign and Political Finance for illegally accepting campaign contributions from private businesses, accepting corporate checks, accepting campaign donations in excess of \$500, and failing to properly list where donations came from.

Again in 2007, it was revealed in an exclusive Valley Patriot story that Gosselin used DPW workers for private work on her property, only to advocate for DPW Director Frank McCann when he was suspended by Mayor Sullivan over the High Street paving incident. Gosselin has been a supporter of McCann and his wife Andrea Traficanti and in her time on the council was a puppet vote for City Council President Patrick Blanchette.

To her credit Gosselin was one of the most active city councilors in the last 20 years when it came to constituent services, returning phone calls, and inspecting businesses that are in violation of building and inspection codes.

Despite her proactive, overly aggressive style, Gosselin allowed her District to deteriorate into the worst District in the city. Gang violence, a broken water fountain, garbage strewn streets, deterioration of quality of life issues like loud parties and slow police response have all plagued Gosselin's former District since she was elected to represent South Lawrence East and then thrown off the council.

She is a widow and is retired and has lots of time to devote to the council if she is elected. This year Gosselin has employed a very different style of campaigning than any other campaign she has run. In previous years Gosselin was obnoxious, took credit for the accomplishments of other councilors and bullied her way into situations that she thought would benefit her campaign. But this year the voters have seen a new and improved Marie Gosselin who has been very low key, respectful and accommodating, and sharing credit with others. The Valley Patriot staff has no

idea who this Marie Gosselin is or what she did with the real Marie Gosselin but if she keeps it up she very well could either: unseat Roger Twomey or be elected with Twomey (edging out Rivera).

Gosselin has extremely high negatives but voter's memories are very short and most people are willing to give her another shot on the council if she continues to knock on doors and behaves respectfully for the rest of the campaign.

A win for Gosselin will almost definitely depend on the success or failure of David Abdo for Mayor. If Abdo wins by a significant margin, it will most likely buoy Gosselin into the third open spot in this at-large race. If Lantigua wins, even by a small margin Gosselin is finished as Lantigua has endorsed Moran, DeJesus and Rivera.

DAN RIVERA - This is Dan Rivera's first run for public office and his third place showing in the September primary is more of a testament to his political activism in the last ten to fifteen years than anything else.

Dan is a Lawrence native, attended Lawrence Public Schools and is a Veteran of the first Iraqi war serving our country in Iraq and Kuwait during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

Dan went to college on the GI Bill and attended night school gaining his Masters Degree in Business.

Rivera attended Suffolk University '02 where he obtained a Master of Business Administration Degree, the University of Massachusetts Amherst '96 where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree and lives in the Mount Vernon section of the city. He was the Chief of Staff for former

Mayor Patty Dowling and has campaigned for dozens of Democratic candidates for State and Local office including working on Niki Tsongas' successful campaign for U.S. Congress. Rivera is also the former Economic Development Director for Congressman Marty Meehan and past co-chair of the Lawrence Democratic City Committee.

He currently works for Aspentech Inc in marketing operations. Rivera was endorsed by State Representative Willie Lantigua who is a candidate for Mayor. Lantigua has selected a “Latino Coalition” slate of candidates to try and stack the city council and defeat white candidates.

Rivera however, is not one of the Latino candidates who plays the race card. He has wide support from “Latino” and “White” voters in the city and has the political smarts (and connections) to get things done if he is elected. Rivera is getting strategy and financial help from State Rep. David Torrisi and his family.

Although he placed third on primary day, Lantigua's endorsement and his wide popularity in the “White” sections of Lawrence have the pundits (including Valley Patriot editor Tom Duggan) predicting Rivera to place a strong second, leaving Roger Twomey and Marie Gosselin fighting for the final third place spot.

NESTOR DEJESUS - Nestor DeJesus is a private business owner in Lawrence running his own tax and insurance business on Broadway. He ran twice for city council in the District D (Tower Hill) section of the city and was eliminated both times in the primary. DeJesus is being

NEXT PAGE

Mt. Vernon, District “E” Bernal v. Brien

Because District “E” Councilor Dave Abdoo is running for mayor this year he is vacating his seat on the city council. North Andover Attorney Eileen Bernal and local icon Matty Brien are facing off in November to replace him. District E encompasses the Mount Vernon Neighborhood and the Carltonville area on the south side of the Merrimack River.

Eileen Bernal came in first place in the September primary with 1,251 votes to Matty Brien’s 431 votes. Dan Rooney was eliminated with 254 votes.

Only 30% of the registered voters turned out in the September primary which means that the disparity between Bernal and Brien may shift a bit as District E is expected to have an unusually high turnout.

Eileen Bernal is an attorney at the Law Office of Smolak and Vaughan in North Andover. She grew up in Lawrence on Mt. Vernon Street, attended St. Patrick’s Grammar School, St. Mary’s High School, St. Anslum’s College and received her law degree from Suffolk University School of Law where she graduated in 1996.

Bernal volunteers on the Lawrence Public Library Board of Trustees, is a board member of the White Fund, is a Eucharistic minister at Saint Patrick’s Parish and volunteers to give communion to the homebound several times a month.

Bernal says she does not see herself as running on any one issue, but added “I do feel strongly that the number one issue facing the city is our budget crisis. Without the appropriate funding every aspect of the city is impacted. As a councilor, I would first look to eliminate the duplication of services and waste as a means to cut costs and reduce our budget. I would look to increase the enforcement of current ordinances and regulations, as well as the collection of fines for violations of those ordinances. We should be able to increase revenue without raising taxes. I would also strongly support bringing in an independent auditor.”

Bernal said if elected she would be committed to working with the fire department and the new administration to find ways to re-open the closed stations. “All city budgets,” Bernal said, “including the fire department’s - have been and will continue to be impacted by the reduction in state aid that Lawrence receives. In this time of economic crisis, we need to make sure that every alternative avenue is exhausted in seeking the necessary funds - be it federal stimulus money, state resources or private sector grants.”

Her detractors say she has taken her front runner status for granted and her lack of depth and specifics on real issues will be a detriment to the new council.

When asked about her position on a long-term contract for the management of the city’s water treatment plant she said she didn’t have any comments on it, as she is still studying the issue.



“I only started watching the city council meetings towards the end of the summer,” she says. “I don’t think I should comment on something unless I know.”

Bernal is non-confrontational and is quite timid when it comes to criticizing anyone or anything including some of the critical controversies facing the city and the behavior of some current city councilors. She said she wanted to bring “professionalism” to the council but then added that she didn’t want anyone to think she was saying any of the current councilors were unprofessional.

Clearly, Eileen Bernal is the front runner in this race.

She is the wife of Les Bernal, State-Senator Sue Tucker’s former legislative aide who is an activist opposing all casino gambling in Massachusetts.

Eileen has a long family history in District “E” (her maiden name is O’Connor). Bernal is involved in the Greater Lawrence Community Boating Program, a for-

	
Eileen Bernal Primary Votes: 1,251	Matt Brien Primary Votes: 431

Company, a well-respected staple of South Lawrence for generations. Brien is a 1979 graduate of Winnacunnett High School, Hampton Beach, NH, and is currently a member of the Lawrence Boxing Club. Brien is one of the founding members of the Mill City Maulers Football Team. He volunteers with dozens of sports and social organizations in the city.

Brien says that if elected he will address

ration between the two on the campaign trail making this one of the cleanest races in the city so far.

Whether Bernal wins as easily in the final election or Matty Brien somehow defies the odds with a larger voter turnout in November, the people of District E will be well represented on the city council for the next two years.

Politically speaking the real difference between these two candidates is personality and status. Eileen Bernal is timid and is afraid of making anyone upset with her on any issue which means she will not be very proactive on the council. She says she wants to bring more professionalism to the council but backtracks when by adding that she doesn’t want to disparage any of the current councilors.

Matty Brien on the other hand, says he “will absolutely not put up with any of that foolishness.” Brien says he is unhappy with the personal and political wrangling that happens at city council meetings. “I am not going to sit by while someone is being disrespected at a public meeting,” he said. Brien pledged that the only way to bring “real professionalism” to the city council is to correct the record immediately and stand up to those who use their office to bully others.

“I think people who know me, know that if the next council has the same problems that this current council has with personality issues and personal insults, I will be right there to call them on it and demand that they apologize to the public. I will be very vocal about those who are not treating others with respect and I will demand it if the next council president tolerates it like we have now. The real problem on that council,” he continued “is that one or two councilors are off the wall every single week and the other 7 or 8 councilors sit there with nothing to say. If I get elected, believe me, I will have something to say.”



mer Rotary Club member, former member of the Lawrence Airport Commission, and is a life long member of Saint Patrick’s Church.

Bernal says she is willing to give as much time as it takes to being a city councilor and wants to use her “expertise” as an attorney to help the city council. One thing she said she would do if elected was to “refuse to take what others say at public meetings at face value. I won’t just listen to what we are told and then make my decision. I will do the follow up research and I will know what I am voting on before I vote,” Bernal said.

Matty Brien has lived in Lawrence for more than 20 years and is married with two children. He is the owner of Brien Oil

what he considers a poor police response in the District E neighborhoods and ads that, because he both lives and works in the district he can pay more attention to what is happening in the neighborhood. Brien says he believes it is patently unfair that District E pays more in property taxes than the rest of the city but has to fight for city services. Brien says he will work hard to make sure that the people of his district are not overlooked when it comes to police response, road repairs and sidewalk construction. Both he and Eileen Bernal are supporting Dave Abdoo for mayor.

And, unlike most political races in the city, there has been no animosity between the two candidates in this race. Thus far, there has been a level of respect and admi-

At-Large City Council Candidates; From Prevoius Page

endorsed by State Rep. Willie Lantigua and though he was shunned by the racist “Latino Agenda” group in previous elections he now seems to have curried favor with a significant number of people from that organization.

Nestor has been active in the community for more than 20 years, serving on the Hispanic Week Board of Directors and volunteering in several civic organizations. He placed 6th in the primary but with Lantigua’s endorsement and the “Vote Latino” crowd coming out in full force it is not beyond the realm of possibility that DeJesus takes the third spot to win on November 3rd.

GARY RYAN - Gary Ryan is a newcomer to politics and has been nearly invisible on the campaign trail. But Ryan has been going door to door as evidenced

by the hundreds of lawn signs on both sides of the river. Ryan placed sixth out of the seven candidates in the primary edging out former mayoral candidate Howard Tejeda. Pundits say Ryan has no chance of winning on Election Day but if Ryan stays involved after the election he could build a political base of support for a future run.

He is a Lawrence High graduate and has a Business Degree from Lowell Tech. He works at Northeast Family Institute. He says he opposes raising property taxes even if it means saving jobs of city employees and also opposes a restaurant meals tax on local businesses.

He favors reviewing the city charter and possibly changing the form of city government.

ELECT

MARK GRAY

Lawrence School Committee, District “E”



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TOM DUGGAN'S ELECTION NOTEBOOK

Lantigua endorses candidates for his "Latino Coalition"

Lawrence mayoral candidate, State Representative Willie Lantigua (da chief) sent out an endorsement letter which reached the homes of Latino voters yesterday. As part of Lantigua's "LATINO COALITION" he has endorsed City Council At-Large Candidates Dan Rivera, Frank Moran and Nestor DeJesus. Lawrence voters will choose three candidates out of six on November 3rd. NOT endorsed by Lantigua were: Roger Twomey, Marie Gosselin and Gary Ryan, all of whom are "WHITE".



Lantigua

DeJesus

Rivera

Moran

Chief Romero says Abdoo the best choice

Lawrence Police Chief John Romero (who is a "Latino") has endorsed David Abdoo for mayor saying that he believes Abdoo is more qualified and experienced to lead the police department and the rest of the city than State Representative Willie Lantigua (da chief).

Romero spoke at a rally for Abdoo at the British Club and revealed that he was going to run for mayor himself until he realized that Abdoo was going to run.

"He is far more qualified and would do a better job, so I decided right away to endorse David Abdoo" the chief said. Romero has been far more behind the

scenes than ever before during this campaign.

According to Abdoo insiders Romero is well liked and thought of as a good chief but the consensus is that he spends way too much time chasing reporters and cameramen to get his name in the paper and his face on TV.

"When Dave Abdoo wins," one campaign staffer said, "I don't think you are going to see John Romero on television every time someone is cited for

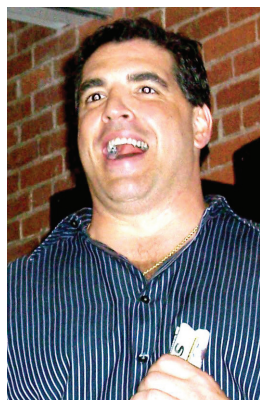


Police Chief John Romero

jay walking. He's a good chief and a good man but he should be doing his job and backing his guys, not mugging for the camera and stealing the credit away from his own men. Believe me this will be a very different John Romero come January."

For his part, Romero has been unwavering in his support for Dave Abdoo for mayor and has been seen at most of Abdoo's political events.

Sal Lupoli Endorses Abdoo for mayor



Multimillionaire developer Sal Lupoli is endorsing David Abdoo this year for mayor saying that Abdoo is "by far" the most qualified person to lead Lawrence's economic development for the next four years. Lupoli

is the owner of Sal's Pizza, Sal's Riverwalk Properties and Salvatore's Restaurants. He has spent millions of dollars of his own money to revitalize the Merrimack Street area of South Lawrence and is building a brand new community center as well as a new retail mall on the banks of the Merrimack River as part of his Riverwalk development.

By city charter, the mayor of Lawrence is responsible for the planning and economic development of the city. The mayor appoints members of the planning board,

the zoning board, the zoning board of appeals and the historical commission, as well as several other boards like the Workforce Investment Board and the Lawrence Redevelopment Authority. The mayor is also responsible for signing business contracts and steering Community Development block grants to upcoming projects. "It is so important for the people of Lawrence to have someone like Dave Abdoo in the mayor's office to continue the revitalization of downtown and right here in the Merrimack Street area," Lupoli says.

Murray, Boston Dems endorse Willie Lantigua

While Lawrence municipal elections are non-partisan races, the State Democratic Party has taken a serious interest in the campaign of Willie Lantigua. More than a dozen State Representatives, officials of the Deval Patrick Administration and leaders of the State Democratic Party have given money and made phone calls in support of Lantigua who won his State Rep seat five years ago as an un-enrolled candidate, switching his party affiliation only after he defeated a Democrat (Jose L. Santiago). Lt. Governor Tim Murray was only the

latest to throw his public endorsement to Lantigua which also includes: Speaker Bob DeLeo, Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi, State Representative David Torrisi and the heads of several Democrat committees.

The Democratic State party tried this once before when Isabel Melendez ran against Mike Sullivan in

2001 and the voters of Lawrence were so offended that outsiders were interfering with the local race that the backfire propelled Sullivan into the mayor's office. This year, Lantigua himself has

made party affiliation an issue by putting "DEMOCRAT" on all of his campaign signs and sending out his surrogates to mislead the Latino electorate into thinking his opponent Dave Abdoo is one of those evil Republicans. For the record Dave Abdoo was a Democrat, changed to Republican and then changed again to become an Independent several years ago.

Correction - Last month in the Notebook I mistakenly wrote that Sandy Almonte and Joe Armano were running for the District A school committee. Both Armano and Almonte are running to replace failed mayoral candidate Patrick Blanchette on the city council.

Silverio Building Her Own Coalition - After losing her bid to be the next mayor of Lawrence, Julia Silverio has decided not to endorse Willie Lantigua for mayor as the rest of the "Latino" candidates have. Silverio ran a very respectable campaign and our sources say she is encouraging her supporters to leave the mayor's race blank rather than support Lantigua.

Silverio has also established her own coalition to try and help candidates for Lawrence City Council. She has kept her campaign headquarters open on Essex St. for use by the candidates she is endorsing. Silverio is helping: Sandy Almonte in District A, Ruth Rojas in District B, Modesto Maldonado in District C, and Oneida Aquino on Tower Hill (District D). With Silverio's involvement, each of those candidates is immediately propelled to front runner status.

DiNuccio's No Show - If ever there was a candidate who snatched defeat from the jaws of a likely victory it is Methuen mayoral challenger Al DiNuccio. DiNuccio made such an impressive showing at the Mann Orchards debate that many voters who wrote him off were starting to take a second look at the guy trying to unseat Billy Manzi. But, instead of building on his momentum (as Dave Abdoo has in Lawrence) by doing a follow up debate on the Paying Attention! Radio Program (which he committed to), DiNuccio walked away from the one chance he had of possibly finishing off Manzi who was starting to slip in the polls for the first time.

It's very disappointing because I really thought this was going to be a horse race and was committed to trying to level the playing field for DiNuccio to try and make it more of a nail biter on Election Day no mater who wins.

Now, it seems pretty clear that DiNuccio's advisers (whom he blamed for the 11th hour cancellation) screwed the pooch on this one and when it's over many will be saying "he could have been a contender."

Manzi's non-endorsement endorsement

Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi raised eyebrows last month when he held a fundraiser at a local eatery and called Willie Lantigua, (candidate for mayor of

re-elect

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Debbie

Quinn

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Elect

Kathleen Corey Rahme

Methuen Councilor at Large

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A proven leader, public servant and your voice at city hall!

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT KATHLEEN COREY RAHME - JANE SHAWCROSS, TREASURER

LAWRENCE) up the podium, calling him "the next mayor of the city of Lawrence."

Lantigua, who was there with Lenny Degnan of North Andover, took the microphone and told the crowd of Manzi backers that he supports Manzi 100%. But when we reported the dual endorsement on the Valley Patriot website Manzi was incredulous in denying it was actually an endorsement "because, look, I never used the word endorsement." Sure they attended each other's fundraisers. Sure they told supporters in each other's campaigns that they "supported" the other. But PLEASE! By no means call THAT an endorsement. How stupid do these guys think we are?

Alabama Al

The Eagle Tribune has become completely irrelevant in the Lawrence elections, but Alabama Al (White) one of the Trib's editors didn't let that stop him from groveling at Lantigua headquarters last month in a lame attempt to get Lantigua to participate in a debate ... or even "just pick up the phone once in a while." Of course, Lantigua wants nothing to do with the Tribune and Alabama Al left with an empty hat in his hand ... as well as huge L on his forehead, (for LOSER). At least Willie isn't dumb enough to get lured into the spider web, not that the Tribune has really done all that much for his opponent Dave Abdoo.

An explanation - Every year people ask us why we write so much about some candidness for office, while others barely get mentioned. There are at least two possible reasons for this none of which has anything to do with our personal likes or dislikes for a candidate.

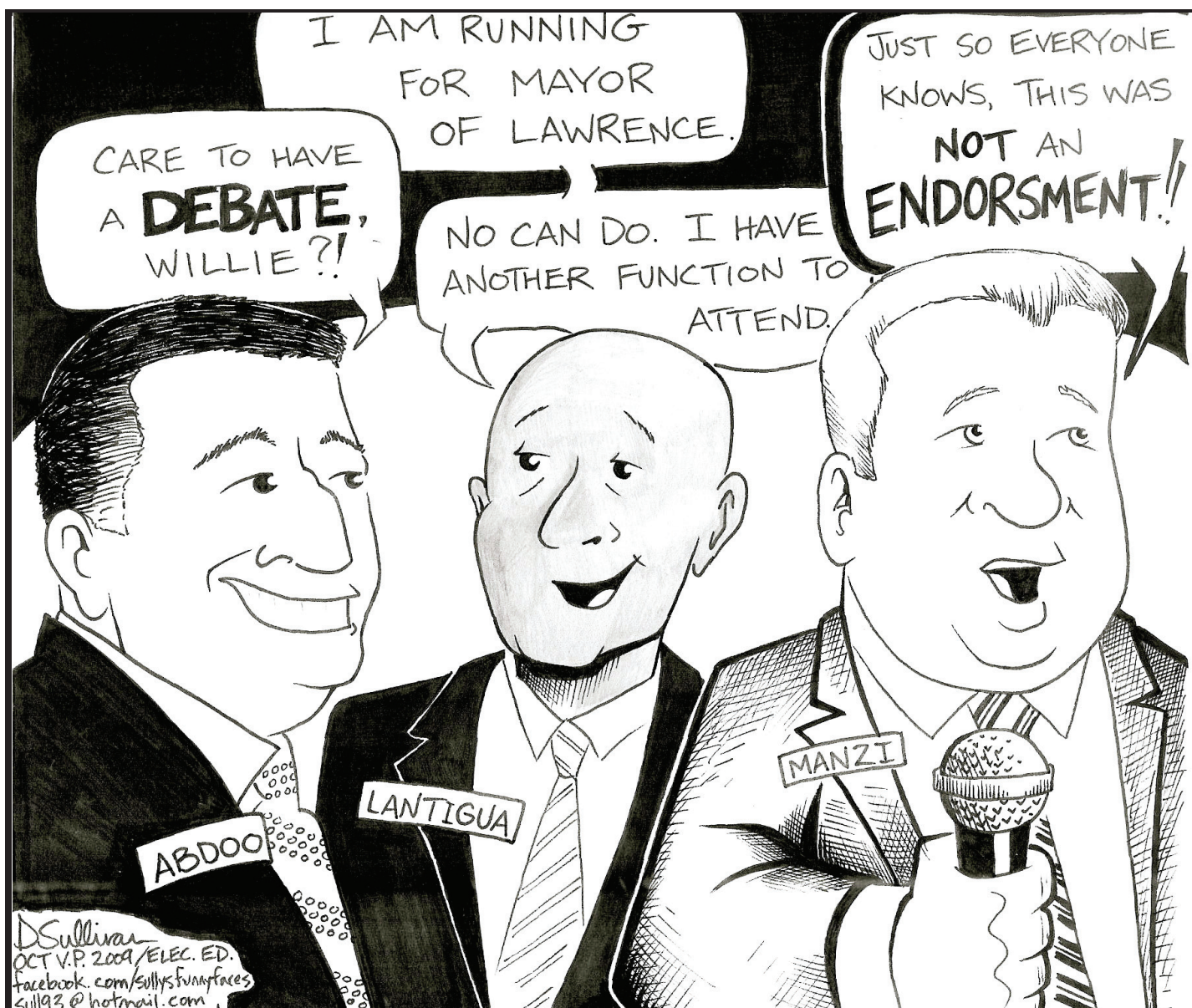
1) Sometimes, a candidate for office will have an extensive history in politics, (having been elected several times or having served on multiple boards).

Obviously those candidates have much more history that we can write about than others who may be newcomers or have far less experience in local government to write about.

2) Sometimes there are candidates for public office who simply refuse to answer questions or are so vague about where they stand on the issues that it is almost impossible to find 500 words to say about them in their evaluation.

3) although this doesn't happen often, sometimes we just cannot find enough credible information about a candidate for office.

We assure you that all of our evaluations in this Voter's guide are fair and if it seems that we have been overly negative towards one candidate over another please keep in mind that this is what the facts and the candidates themselves have said or done and we are just passing that information along to you.



NEWS ITEM: Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi says Lawrence Mayoral Candidate Willie Lantigua's endorsement of him wasn't really an endorsement because they never used the word "endorsement".

Is it time to Vote Latino?

During the primary election mayoral candidate Marcos Devers made a commitment to District E City Councilor Dave Abdoo that if he (Devers) did not win the primary he would do everything he could to defeat Willie Lantigua. Devers gave his "word" that he would support Abdoo in the final but the former Lawrence mayor went back on his promise for what says was for the sake of "Latino unity".

Devers spent the last 15 years of his life trying to defeat Lantigua calling him a liar and a thief but now stands with his nemesis along with City Council President Patrick Blanchette, Israel Reyes, Nilka Alvarez Rodriguez, and Isabel Melendez.

Lantigua secured the endorsement of these former mayoral candidates, each of whom spoke at Malaya's Night club on Newbury Street a week after their primary loss.

Council President Patrick Blanchette told the crowd of supporters that Lantigua represents "real change" in the city as opposed to Lantigua's opponent Dave Abdoo



The Lantigua team: Marcos Devers, Isabel Melendez, Nilka Alvarez, Willie Lantigua (da chief) Pat Blanchette and Israel Reyes!

who has served on the city council for less than two years. Blanchette also said that Abdoo represents the last 30 years of failed politicians in the city.

For the record, Blanchette has been a councilor for ten years. Marcos Devers has been a city councilor, the council president and vice president, and was the acting mayor as well as a failed candidate for State Rep. Lenny Degnan was a councilor in Lawrence and failed in his runs for: mayor of Lawrence, Selectman in N. Andover and even failed to win a seat on

the Vocational School Board in N. Andover. Israel Reyes was a city councilor, a member of the planning board and a failed candidate for State Rep. Nilka Alvarez-Rodriguez also served on the city council for ten years and, Isabel Melendez was a finalist in the 2001 mayoral race against Mike Sullivan.

Each of the candidates endorsing Lantigua have taken to the media in one form or another to promote Lantigua's "Latino Coalition".

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1. Work to get Methuen's new, badly needed High School renovation-addition "out of the ground".
2. Work to further cut waste and inefficiency, and continue to represent the taxpayer.
3. Work to help the East District's business and commercial base to continue expanding and flourishing.
4. Work to ensure that the East District continues to get its "fair share" of road improvement projects.

On November 3rd, please vote to re-elect Joe Leone as your East District City Councilor. He's doing the job right!

Contact Joe at 978-687-7105 or jaleone.methuen@comcast.net
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Joseph A. Leone, Theresa B. Leone, Treasurer

Your city is counting on you! Please Vote! Election Day is November 3rd



Are Incumbents Safe in Central District?

JOHN CRONIN (I) - Methuen City Councilor John Cronin has been on and off the council for more than twenty-two years. Despite being targeted by Mayor Manzi and the political insiders for defeat in the 2005, he topped the ticket beating out six other candidates.



Since returning to the council four years ago, Cronin has been one of the most outspoken critics of Mayor Manzi and his handling of the police department, in particular Police Chief Joe Solomon and his management style. Cronin was the first councilor to call for a shakeup in the police department almost immediately after being elected in 2005 and has not wavered in his position on the running of the department. Cronin began calling for special council meetings three years ago to deal with disciplining Chief Solomon, but received almost no support by fellow councilors. Ironically, Solomon and Manzi then had a falling out and Manzi fired Solomon as Chief of Police, leaving Cronin and Manzi on the same side.

Cronin had been criticized for his position on Chief Solomon and the police department because his son, a former Methuen cop was in a legal battle with Solomon over losing his job. But, his critics' assertions that Cronin has abused his authority on the council (to settle a personal score for his son) just never resonated with the voters. In fact, Cronin winning first place two years ago shows that the people of the central district either approve of Cronin's handling of the Solomon issue or just do not care.

Cronin is married with two adult children and three grandchildren and is a graduate of Lawrence High School. Cronin says he wants to continue doing public service for the city taxpayers as a city councilor for the Central District and recently received the endorsement of at-large candidate Joyce Campagnone.

Cronin is a member of the Knights of Columbus and serves on the high school building committee. He opposes a wage

freeze for city workers. Cronin has tuned back his city council paycheck since mid summer and says he will continue to do so until next year. Cronin owns his own electrical business and is a member of Citizens for a Better Government.

PHIL LAHEY (I) - Second term incumbent Philip Lahey is 62 years old, married and the father of four grown children. He also has four grandchildren whom he says are the loves of his life. He is a former member of the Health Insurance Advisory Committee, Citizens for Accountability and the Trash Study Committee. Lahey ran for mayor ten years ago and also ran for City Council unsuccessfully six years ago.



Lahey placed second out of seven candidates in the preliminary election in September of '07, garnering 167 votes more than the third place finisher Donna Talbot. He won a seat on the council placing second to John Cronin in the final election. While some councilors have a reputation as being either pro-Manzi or anti-Manzi, Lahey is known as an independent voice on the council. He was elected council president and served for a year. He enjoys the support of Valley Patriot Hero and former Veteran's Services Director, Ed "Hoppy" Curran, as well as former councilor Mike Hennessy, State Senator Steve Baddour and a cross section of both pro and anti-Manzi activists.

Lahey was the superintendent of the Elmwood Cemetery in Methuen. He retired from the city seven years ago and says he most enjoyed providing services for the community. As a candidate two years ago, Lahey promised to be vigilant in making sure the Arlington Neighborhood Center was funded and completed within his first term. Lahey kept that promise as the new center was formally opened under the direction of Lind Soucy.

Lahey also promised not to let personali-

ties and political agendas interfere with is work on the council and by nearly all accounts Lahey has kept that promise as well. Lahey says he still has more work to do on the council and says his main priorities are to stop residential developers and encourage more business growth within city limits, and opposes the anti-growth demolition delay ordinance.

FADI CHAHINE - Fadi ran unsuccessfully for Central District Council two years ago and giving it another try this year. He has been a fiery opponent for the two incumbents, John Cronin and Phil Lahey and took them to task on the radio during a debate hosted by Valley Patriot President Tom Duggan.

Chahine says that his most important issues are transparency in government and integrity of elected officials. The 46 year old Challenger is married and has four children and one grandchild. He is a general contractor and an assistant manager for Wal-Mart in Methuen. Fadi says that he is most concerned with the increase in the water and



sewer rates, the handling of the police and school department issues and the nepotism he says is rampant in the hiring practices of the Mayor,

Chahine says that 2 years ago Methuen residents were being told that the state was going to cover 90% of the cost of a new high school and "yet our Mayor and city officials did not work hard enough" to make those reimbursements happen. Two years later, Chahine says it is a shame that Methuen cannot build a new high school and must accept "a simple renovation that is going to cost the residents well over 30 million dollars."

Chahine says the tax money in Methuen does not come from a "money tree" and is advocating a Proposition 2 1/2 override to cover the cost. "I truly hope that the cost of 30 million dollars is final and will cover the whole complete high school from A to Z. I would leave the decision to the citizen of

Methuen and I would support paying for it by an override if this is what the majority of the citizens want.

Chahine says he opposes a meal or hotel tax increase as it will hurt small businesses in the city and drive them to neighboring towns or to New Hampshire.

DAVID LAVALLEE - Dave Lavallee has run unsuccessfully for Central District Council once before and says that he is ready to take on the task of unseating one of the two popular incumbents. He says his top priority if elected is the handling of the city's massive municipal budget.

"One of the things I believe is that I have yet to hear anyone tell me the charter commission is a priority. When I am campaigning and talking to the people of Methuen nobody said 'work out master plan' or 'you need to change the city charter'. Everyone I talk to says the real issue is money."

Lavallee says that Methuen Mayor Billy Manzi said pensions and health insurance is \$15M a year and will financially bankrupt us if we don't do something about it. But, hey wait Mr. Manzi, you are the one who set the contracts and pensions, so obviously if it's a problem he made the mistake. I love everyone I agree with al I'm not for laying off people but the reality is you can't have a raise every year and your pension can't go up every year."

"Number one is money I want to make sure the budget doesn't go up. Yes, there may be some increase and I don't have all the answers about where the money is going to come from."

Lavallee also says he believes in fair hiring. "I don't come with any relatives who need jobs so, I can be much more open minded when it comes to hiring people. Nobody in my family, none of my friends are looking for a job out of this. I'm not looking for a job out of this. I will look for the best candidates no matter what. I'm stressing [that] I am not taking a dime from anyone in this campaign I am spending my own money so if I am elected I don't owe anything to anyone. If I get elected it will be because I got elected on my own with me and my wife and kids."

Lavallee says he opposes the returning of Police Chief Joe Solomon.

East End Incumbents face fiery opponent

JOE LEONE - Joseph Leone is running for his third and final term on the Methuen City Council representing the East End.

Leone owned a successful homebuilding business in Methuen for over 24 years. He is married with three daughters and has five grandchildren. Leone sat on the high school renovation study committee and is a former Zoning Board member of five years and a Planning Board member for six years.

Leone said he initially ran for public office because he "finally had the time to take advantage of the opportunity to do public service."

"Methuen has a municipal budget of over \$140 million and employs nearly 2,000 people," he told The Valley Patriot. He says he is running again because he wants to continue using his proven success in the private sector to successfully manage the finances of the city.

"You cannot run such an operation like a corner store," he said. "We need to provide good customer service to the residents of Methuen."

His priorities are to continue to bring businesses and a commercial base to the East End, further cut waste and continue to represent the wishes of the taxpayers. He also wants to make sure that the East End receives its' fair share of road improvement and construction projects.

As a businessman he says he knows what businesses are looking for when deciding whether or not to relocate to a city or town. Leone says he wants to bring in "clean businesses" to provide quality jobs for the city.

Joe Leone's campaign signs carry the



**JOE
LEONE**



**Larry
Giordano**



**PAT
ULIANO**

slogan "He Means Business." Leone has donated more than 50 acres of land to Methuen's Conservation Commission for open space.

Asked about the controversy over term limits in the city, Leone says, "I am not going to touch it. The original term limits were put on the ballot 12 years ago by an elected charter commission and they were passed by the voters overwhelmingly. It is not my job, nor is it the job of any elected official to tamper with that. If the voters want to do away with term limits, it is up to them to do so."

LARRY GIORDANO is seeking his third and final term on the Methuen City Council representing the East End. He has been an active leader in Methuen for more than 29 years. His public service started early in his career when he served four years in the United States Air Force as an Airman First Class. He is a former K9 police officer and also served as a member of the Tactical Division for Methuen.

Giordano is currently a Deputy Sheriff for Essex County, a position he has held since January 2000. In addition to his law enforcement experience, Giordano served two years (1997-1999) as an East District councilor. He spent three years (1992-1995) as the Massachusetts Commissioner for the Department of Public Safety, and

six years (1986-1992) as a State Representative for Methuen.

Giordano is the founder of the Giordano Family Methuen Karate Association (MKA), and holds the title of Shihan, which represents the rank of Haichidan 8th Dan (8th degree). He is one of the highest-ranking black belts in Massachusetts and has received International recognition for his work, including being inducted into the Hawaiian International Karate Hall of Fame in 2003. Giordano teaches self-defense programs for students and professional women, and is writing a book for women on self-defense. He says he is most proud of championing the Quinn Bill for police personnel, Drug-Free School Zones and the Foster Kids Caucus - the latter designed to actively improve the Massachusetts foster care system and strengthen laws protecting children from abuse and neglect.

Giordano volunteers and advises several community organizations, including: Sons of Italy 902, Merrimack Valley Christopher Columbus Committee, Adalante Youth Center, Nevins Nursing Home, Lawrence Exchange Club, Lawrence Board of Social Services, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, St. Alfio Society, Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, and many more.

PAT ULIANO is seeking to unseat one of the two very popular incumbent East End Councilors this year.

She represented the East District for six years (2000-2005) before being term limited out of office. She was a very popular but outspoken and fiery councilor who served as the vice-chair. She is married with two children and is a licensed real estate broker.

She is active in the "Citizens for Better Government" and serves as President of the group. She is the host of two television programs on MCTV and presently sits on the zoning board of appeals and the water and sewer task force. Uliano helped reestablish community policing in Methuen and provided North Street residents with "drinkable water".

Uliano has been very active in the community for years including: President Methuen Youth Football 1994-98, Treasurer Methuen Youth Football 1992-93, First female elected as president in the Merrimack Valley League, Board of Directors Haverhill Y Swim Team, Methuen Public Safety Commission, Methuen High School Business Co-op Program, Methuen on the Move Cleanup Team Leader, Member of Trash & Recycling Committee, Participant & donator to Festival of Trees, and an Adopt an Island participant.



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City Councilor At-Large



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*From the Desk of**Methuen Mayor William Manzi*

Why I ask for your vote on Nov. 3rd

As I prepare to announce my candidacy for re-election as Mayor of Methuen it seems fitting to examine the issues that I campaigned upon in the last election and see what results have been achieved. It has been a very busy and productive two terms as Mayor. I hope a look at the record will help to convince you that I have earned your support for another term of office. And just what is that record? Let's take a look.

Economic Development, always important, has never been more critical for communities in this era of declining state aid. Coming from the private sector I recognized the need to streamline our regulatory processes to make good economic development easier to achieve in Methuen. I inherited a system that actually had two department heads in this area, and where that diffusion of responsibility made it just a little bit harder to navigate the bureaucracy.

I submitted a re-organization to Methuen's City Council, with the elimination of one department head position. After all was said and done my re-organization plan has placed all regulatory authority in land use under the umbrella of Methuen's Economic Development Director. I was fortunate to be able to hire a consummate professional in Karen Sawyer for this new position. When business comes to Methuen they get fast service and a definitive idea of what the regulatory burden will entail. What are the results?

The Target Corporation building a brand new multimillion-dollar facility to Methuen that was permitted in less than sixty days. FW Webb, a major plumbing supply company, building a fourteen million dollar facility here in Methuen. General Mills (Yoplay), in a highly competitive internal market, picking Methuen to expand over sister plants in Tennessee and Michigan and investing millions of dollars in Methuen.

The Fitzgerald Family re-building a newer and larger Mann Orchards while completing a residential subdivision at the same time, with our permitting process creating a smooth transition.

Other critical development includes an Enterprise Bank coming to Downtown Methuen, Bank of New England developing a site at Cross and Pelham that had been vacant for years, and the Circle K retail outlet coming to the same neighborhood, the Jean D'Arc Credit Union coming to East Methuen at Joseph Pappalardo's brand new building on Merrimack Street, a brand new building housing an Olive Garden at the Loop, and the Methuen Village Assisted Living Facility opening in our downtown area. We will continue to promote responsible economic development that not only provides needed financial resources for Methuen, but jobs for our residents. In the area of economic development Methuen is really on the move.

When I was elected Mayor a top priority was to correct the problems with our High School infrastructure. We have put together a program for improvement at our High School that enabled Methuen to be selected for State funding in the very first year the Commonwealth of Massachusetts lifted its moratorium on school building assistance. Methuen is moving quickly on this project, with the hiring of KBA/Trident as the Owners Project Manager, as well as the recent hiring of

Finegold Alexander & Associates as the project architect. On Thursday September 3rd at 3:00 p.m. Methuen's Building Committee will host the project kickoff at Methuen High School, with the Massachusetts School Building Authority in attendance. This project is vital to Methuen and our High School students, and we all owe thanks to our legislative delegation, as well as our building committee chaired by Suzanne Lamoureux for the amazing progress on this vital project.

When I was elected Mayor Methuen had a poor website with little to offer its citizens. We have produced a brand new website with no outside help from consultants. Methuen's web site is accessible, much easier to navigate, and has up to date information across a wide spectrum of subjects. Methuen has been recognized by the Common Cause Massachusetts Campaign for Open Government for having critical data available on its website, winning the 2009 Common Cause e-government award with distinction. We have unveiled a brand new on-line permitting system, allowing residents and business to apply for permits on-line from their homes or offices. We have also begun to live webcast all city meetings, including City Council, as well as creating a video archive of those meetings. We will continue to refine and improve our website to help Methuen's citizens interact with our government.

Methuen's Arlington Neighborhood has needed a facility for its after school program as well as its other programs for many years. While it had been talked about for many years my administration, with the help of our State delegation, made a brand new building a reality. Today, at the site of the Tenney Street Park, stands a brand new building that houses the many programs designed to help the kids of Methuen's Arlington Neighborhood.

As I took office in January of 2006 I realized that our Emergency Management System needed attention. With the unpaid assistance of former Senator James Jajuga we totally overhauled our emergency management system. This new system was in place when the floods of 2006 hit, and proved to be up to the task. When disaster struck again with last year's ice storm that left so many without power our system and people performed flawlessly. Under those challenging weather conditions we evacuated the elderly residents of the Methuen Housing Authority and brought them to the safety of warmth and shelter. Professional management and hard work are vital when disaster strikes. We have both today in Methuen.

Methuen has not had a Master Plan done for over twenty years. As I entered office there was political consensus that we produce a new Master Plan for the community that would modernize land use planning in Methuen. We not only produced Methuen's first Master Plan in over twenty years but we also won approval for the implementation plan that successfully modernized our zoning regulations.

Our negotiations with Verizon to bring cable competition to Methuen were successful, and as a result Methuen has true competition in this area, leading to real choice for Methuen consumers of cable television.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has endured the most difficult economic downturn since the Great Depression, and

DiNuccio poses biggest challenge to Manzi in last three elections

Al DiNuccio won 38.37% of the primary race in September to make it to the final election on November 3rd.

He resoundingly defeated the other challenger Kevin Thompson who spent almost no money, had no real organization and spent most of his time campaigning on the Tribune blogs instead of knocking on doors and making phone calls or holding fundraisers.

DiNuccio is 50 years old, married with three children, is co-owner of East Coast Cabinet in Lawrence along with his brother. Previously, he owned Adden Furniture in Lowell, a multi-million dollar company with more than 250 employees. DiNuccio says that as a private business man he has the experience to run the city of Methuen as its' chief executive officer.

DiNuccio is a fiscally conservative republican who grew up in Revere but served as an Auxiliary Police officer in Methuen.

In the past he ran unsuccessfully for the West End City Council seat, and has never held elected office but did gain a great deal of political experience working on the mayoral campaigns of Sharon Pollard and Dennis Dizoglio. Ironically, Dizoglio defeated Billy Manzi for Mayor that year but DiZoglio is endorsing Manzi in this race.

He is also a member of Methuen Citizens for Better Government Group and supports term limits for all elected offices in Methuen. He has yet to say if he will term limit himself to one term if he is elected mayor.

DiNuccio says that Methuen needs a leader who brings honesty, trust, and integrity to city hall. He promises transparency in city government if elected. DiNuccio made a commitment to appear in a radio debate with Mayor Manzi on the Paying Attention! Radio Program and then reneged on that commitment saying that his staff advised him to not to attend.

DiNuccio says he does not believe the superintendent of Schools Jean Whidden is doing a good job running the Methuen Public Schools and thinks that many city departments are mismanaged under Manzi's leadership.

He has referred to the Mayor as being "unethical" when referring to the hiring of police officers. Manzi was cited by the State's Civil Service Commission for appointing reserve police officers in viola-

tion of Civil Service procedures.

When asked about former Chief Joe Solomon who has appealed his firing before the Civil Service Commission, DiNuccio told a local newspaper that he had three deals to offer Solomon to settle the case once and for all, but has refused to elaborate or explain what they are. DiNuccio says he believes that transparency is missing in the current

administration.

DiNuccio took Manzi to task at the Mann Orchard debate last month saying that rumors being spread by the Manzi camp linking him to Joe Solomon was "a lie" and that he does not want Solomon to come back as the chief of police for Methuen.

As a member of Citizens for Better Government, DiNuccio has been active in trying to change the Methuen Charter and putting the ballot measure before the voters of Methuen.

DiNuccio served on the Methuen Community Development and says that as a professional businessman who has met payroll, managed large corporations and made the tough decisions that are necessary to balance budgets. He says that he understands the financial challenges facing Methuen and what needs to be done to overcome those challenges.

DiNuccio opposes an across the board wage freeze in the city but says that he has no problem implementing a halt to all raises for municipal employees. He says he understands the importance of working with the business community to revitalize the downtown area and will work to recruit new businesses to relocate to Methuen as well as helping existing businesses stay and expand.

DiNuccio has been critical of Mayor Manzi's handling of the budget saying Manzi has not balanced the budget and says that his professional management style will mean that he will be able to more effectively run the mayor's office without the current staffing.

By all accounts DiNuccio is Manzi's most formidable opponent in the last three mayoral elections and is expected to give Manzi a run for his money.

He strongly believes that city government should be run by professionals, not politicians and will work with the business community to come up solutions to the problems facing he city.



that has led to tremendous cuts in local aid for cities and towns throughout our state. In Methuen we suffered cuts totaling around three million dollars, and faced difficult choices. On the City side our goal was to protect the services we provide to our citizens, and to do so by making tough but necessary cuts. We slashed municipal side spending while holding our Senior Center harmless and protecting the Nevins Library, and reached agreement with all nine city side unions to take cuts equal to ten percent of wages. These cuts, including to all top staff and the Mayor, allowed us to get through this fiscal cycle without layoffs and with our services intact. That result required strong mayoral leadership and experience to achieve what was best for Methuen.

We have made great progress in the past four years, but there is some real work left to be done, including managing the

multimillion dollar renovation of Methuen High School and dealing with additional fiscal pressure from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I believe I have shown the leadership necessary to keep moving Methuen forward in difficult times. Hard work brings real results! Please consider allowing me the privilege of serving as your Mayor for another term. It has been an honor to do so, and I hope you consider me on primary day, September 15th. Please check my blog for news on local, state and national issues at www.billmanzi.com



William Manzi is the Mayor of Methuen and is serving his second two-year term. He is seeking a third term in November. You can email Manzi at billmanzi1@comcast.net. Visit his blog at billmanzi.com

POLITICS 201: THE INSIDE SCOOP ON ELECTIONS AND POLITICS

OUR SPECIAL EDITION

Our special election edition is an objective evaluation of the candidates running for public office in Lawrence and Methuen. Our research team has compiled information on the records, positions and political viability of each candidate. The Valley Patriot does not endorse candidates and we took great pains to be fair to all the candidates regardless of how much we like or dislike them. This voters guide was put together to give the people of Methuen and Lawrence a clear understanding of the political landscape and who is most likely to win or lose based on: primary numbers, behind the scenes support, amount of money raised and the overwhelming amount of feedback we have received from voters in both communities. The Valley Patriot is proud of our record of fairness in pointing out the good and bad of each candidate and calling it like it is. So, please take the time to read about all the candidates so that you can make a more informed decision as to who you will choose to vote for on Election Day.

WHAT IS A BULLET VOTE?

I am often asked by voters to explain what it means to cast a "bullet vote" for a particular candidate running for office. It's a good question and one worth explaining here in our voters guide. In the Lawrence at-large city council race, for example, voters can choose to vote for THREE candidates as there are three open positions. But, contrary to public belief you do not have to vote for three candidates. In fact, if you have a favorite candidate that you absolutely want to make sure has the best advantage to win on Election Day, voting only for that one candidate, rather than three, will help your candidate. By only voting for your candidate, it denies a vote for your candidate's competitors and is tantamount to giving your candidate three votes. When the votes are counted in an election where you can vote for two or three candidates, you can always tell how many "bullet votes" are cast by looking at the number of blanks. Because when you bullet one candidate in a "vote for three" race, it is counted as one vote for your candidate and two blanks. Casting a bullet vote is neither a dirty trick nor is it negative campaigning. It is a strategy that allows voters to give additional support to the candidate they like the most.

VOTE WHENEVER YOU WANT

Most people do not realize that they do

not have wait until Election Day to vote. They can go to the Methuen or Lawrence election departments any time before the election and vote by absentee ballot right on the spot. So, if you don't think you are going to be able to vote on Election Day, you can cast your ballot at City Hall anytime before November 3rd. Your ballot will be counted after the polls close on Election Day just like any other ballot.



NO, YOU CAN'T VOTE ... AND WE WILL BE WATCHING

If you are one of those people who think you can vote on Election Day and you are an illegal alien, you do not live in the city you are trying to vote in, or you try to vote in place of someone else, The Valley Patriot is going to be ready for you on Election Day. We will have spotters at many of the polling locations to challenge those who try to corrupt the election process. We have spoken to immigration officials about campaign fraud in Lawrence and Methuen and will be on the lookout for anyone trying to cheat. So, be forewarned. If you live in Methuen and you try to vote in Lawrence (or vice versa), if you try to vote using someone else's name, or you try to cheat in some other way we will be watching and we will be challenging your ballot as well as turning you in to the Secretary of State's office for election fraud.

WHAT DOES AN ENDORSEMENT REALLY MEAN?

There are four types of endorsements most common in local elections:

#1) The "name only" endorsement. This is when someone declares their support for a candidate in a public forum saying, in effect, "I know this candidate, he's a good guy, he'll do a god job, and I hope he wins, or, please vote for him." A candidate who makes a "name only" endorsement will most likely walk off the stage and do no work at all for the candidate he just seemed to support. These people are often seen in photo ops with the candidate and glom all the media time they can get. The person who does a "name only" endorsement may want to make sure the public record loudly reflects their support for a candidate to line up a nice cushy position for themselves down the line. Or it may be someone who simply likes the candidate but doesn't want to be involved with the campaign. Unless the person doing a "name only" endorsement has extremely high favorability with

voters, this kind of endorsement usually means absolutely nothing.

#2) The "pansy endorsement", or the "I didn't endorse him," endorsement. This is when someone donates money, publicly praises a candidate, or brags about the candidate's positions and accomplishments but never uses the word "endorsement" thinking that the rest of us are just too stupid to figure out what they're doing.

Most public officials do this because they need wiggle room to deny their connection to a candidate later on. "I never used the word endorsement!" is the typical response from someone who plays this game.

As one example, City Councilor Joe Parolisi endorsed Patrick Blanchette two years ago saying he hoped he "can work with Patrick again for the next two years" (which cannot happen if Blanchette loses). Parolisi said afterwards that he had not endorsed Blanchette, even though everyone in the room knew that he did. This endorsement is said to have cost Parolisi the election when he was defeated by Roger Twomey by less than two dozen votes.

Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi also played that game this year when he gave a wishy-washy endorsement of Lawrence State Rep. Willie Lantigua in this year's mayoral race. First, he spoke at a Lantigua fundraising event praising him and whipping up the crowd with a lot of praises for their candidate. After the event he said he never used the word "endorsement" and gave the impression he had been ambushed by Lantigua supporters into speaking that night with no advances warning.

Then Manzi held a fundraiser of his own where he personally called Lantigua up to the microphone saying he wanted to welcome "the next Mayor of the City of Lawrence". Lantigua got up and said he "supports" Manzi in his reelection for Mayor of Methuen.

But, when Manzi was questioned about the mutual "endorsements" he continued to try to dance around the issue saying it wasn't an "official endorsement" because he didn't ever say "I endorse William Lantigua". He even called into WCAP's Paying Attention! Radio Program protesting the characterization of what happened as "an endorsement".

Only a fool would truly believe that one would attend a public event designed to make money and promote a candidate for public office, get up at the podium at said event and publicly praise the candidate being honored, encourage others to support that candidate, and then argue that it wasn't an "endorsement". Sadly, there are always some people who fall for it.

#3) The "power endorsement". This is when a candidate is endorsed by someone who, not only makes it clear to the voters that they support a candidate, but also works behind the scenes. They call friends and family, sign friend to friend cards, share donation lists, make donations, and/or sponsor a public event where they get all of their friends together to raise money, donate campaign materials and give strategic help to the candidate being endorsed.

One example of the "power endorsement" was former Lawrence Mayor Marcos Devers' endorsement of Willie Lantigua. While some of the former mayoral candidates stood with Lantigua and publicly endorsed him after the September primary, Devers (who placed

third) has been working very hard, manning the Lantigua campaign headquarters, making calls and reaching out to all his former supporters to get them on board with Lantigua's mayoral campaign.

#4) The "backfired endorsement".

Some politicians are savvy enough to realize that their favorability with certain voters is so low that if they attach their name to a particular candidate, they can actually cost the candidate votes. For the most part a "backfired endorsement" is planned by a cunning politician; there are incidents when a candidate will try to put the stink of his own unpopularity onto someone he really doesn't like.

One example of the "backfired endorsement" was when State Rep. Willie Lantigua sent out letters in the Mount Vernon section of Lawrence endorsing David Abdoo for City Council before the primary election in September, 2007.

Lantigua, being one of the most brilliant campaign strategists in the Valley, was helping Matty Brien (Abdoo's rival) at the time and was trying to cause confusion among his detractors without the knowledge of his candidate Matty Brien. In 2007 the voters were too smart to fall for it but, that is not always the case.

(EDITORS NOTE: We find it very ironic that Abdoo and Lantigua are now facing each other for mayor.)

SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE SIGNS!

Every year The Valley Patriot newsroom is flooded with calls and complaints by candidates for office (and their supporters) outraged that their lawn signs are vandalized or stolen. As a former elected official myself, I can tell you that at least half of all campaign signs are damaged by weather, knocked down by kids on their way to and from school, or taken down by the homeowners themselves after getting grief from family and friends who may support the opposing candidate. The other half are usually stolen by supporters of opposing campaigns, but the number of people caught and prosecuted for stealing or damaging campaign signs in the Merrimack Valley since 1985 (by our count) is exactly ZERO. What's more, candidates who complain publicly about "dirty tricks" in regard to stolen or damaged signs are seen by the voters as petty or desperate for publicity. Our advice; order at least 50% more than the number of lawn signs you think you need, so that you are well prepared to replace damaged, removed or stolen signs when you need it the most, the week before the election. And don't whine about stolen signs!

HOTTIE-WATCH - With Lawrence School Committeeman Patricia Sanchez gone, Priscilla Baez gone, and Grisel Silva in danger of losing her seat, I am very depressed at the prospect of having no eye candy at all to get me through those long tedious Lawrence City Council and School Committee meetings. On the other hand, Sandy Almonte looks like she has better than a 50/50 chance of replacing Patrick Blanchette in the District A city council race and Oneida Aquino is certain to defeat the wishy-washy Blanchette puppet Nick Kolofoles on Tower Hill who is doing Andrea Traficanti's bidding for her. In Methuen we are hoping that Jen Kannan will return to the city council and Jeri An Batal gets enough votes to grace the Methuen School Committee.



Awards: Medals to Top 3 in each category

FREE FOOD FUN REFRESHMENTS

TIP

3rd Annual TIP Family
5K Walk & 4 Mile Run in Memory of
TIP Volunteer Brenda Waller

Sunday, November 1, 2009

PLACE: Claddagh Restaurant & Pub
339 Canal Street
Lawrence, MA

TIME: WALK 10:45 AM RUN 11:00 AM
COST: Pre-entry \$20 Post Entry \$ 22
Or \$25 in Sponsorship Pledges

Pre-Entry: October 23, 2009
Make Checks Payable: TIP of Merrimack Valley
Mail Entries To: TIP 5K Family
167 EAST STREET 2nd FLOOR
METHUEN, MA 01844
978-975-8471

More Info Call:
Trauma Intervention Program of Merrimack Valley
167 East Street
Methuen, MA 01844



RE-ELECT

MANZI —MAYOR—



Proven Leadership for Methuen

PLEASE VOTE ON NOVEMBER 3, 2009

A proven record of leadership

- Led Methuen through the worst Ice Storm in Decades
- Improved City efficiency by combining Departments and reducing personnel
- Delivered and implemented the City's first Master Plan in twenty years
- Revamped emergency management system
- Brought in several new businesses, including an Olive Garden, to our City
- Made the tough decisions required to move Methuen through the worst financial downturn of our lifetime, including taking an \$8,000 pay cut
- Has started the process of renovating Methuen High School
- Established an Artist of the Month program to promote local artists and beautify City Hall

Experienced, Proven Leadership for Methuen

Two will be eliminated in School Committee race

Paula Porten
VALLEY PATRIOT OPINION COLUMNIST

There are eight candidates running for the six school committee seats, but only one new face, Jeri-An Batal. The other candidates are the six incumbents and former school committee member and present At-Large Councilor Ken Willette.

The six incumbents are: Evan Chaisson, Ken Henrick, George Kazanjian, Gary Marcoux, Barbara Grondine and Bob Vogler.

Age and wisdom seem to influence the voters as five of the six incumbents are 60 and over. And renovating the high school seems to be each candidate's top priority and dominates the issues. And even though newcomer Jeri-An Batal has not run for office, her mother Dotty Kalil is no stranger to politics.

She is a former city councilor and a regular at public participation and is running for the Charter Study Commission and endorsed by the Citizens for Better Government group.

Grondine worked as a teacher for Lawrence and Haverhill before becoming aschool psychologist at the Franklin School in North Andover. She retired from



Education in 1991. She says she is most proud of her record on the school committee, specifically citing her vote in favor of a new math curriculum that she believes will help improve test scores.

Robert Vogler has been a member of the Methuen School Committee for over 34 years. He is a retired teacher of 35 years at Beverly High School. Vogler is currently a realtor with Coco, Early and Associates. Vogler says he is very proud of his record on the school committee, including the building of four new schools with almost 90 percent reimbursement from the state, increases in test scores, and savings of almost \$175,000 per year to the taxpayers with the elimination of three assistant

superintendents.

Willette works for State Representative John Fernandes and is the former Chairman of the Disabilities Commission and has been President of the Methuen Exchange Club. Willette says he is most proud of the Exchange Club's work on the issue of child abuse. Willette says he is also proud of his school committee record of placing police officers in every school and video cameras on school busses.

Kenneth Henrick a former guidance director at the Greater Lawrence Vocational School where he retired after 22 years of service. He has served six years on the Methuen School Committee, six years on the City Council and two years on the

Greater Lawrence Technical School board.

Henrick is a veteran who served in the Marines from 1956-1958. He is a lifetime member of the Third Marine Division. He also is a member of several community organizations such as the BPOE Elks, The Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Marine Corps League.

Kazanjian presently works as an accountant for CMS, the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services and has also worked as an accountant for 17 years for the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department. "My background in finance stands out in this race. I understand the numbers. I understand the finances. When it comes to understanding the school department budget I am able to contribute to the School Committee in a unique way."

Kazanjian says he is concerned about the financial situation of the State and how it will affect funding for the Methuen schools.

He says his top priorities are the health and safety of the children of Methuen. "Methuen has a wonderful school system," Kazanjian said, "and I want to continue that excellence. We have very good teachers, a good superintendent and a good curriculum and I want to keep Methuen's schools moving forward."

Evan Chaisson works for The Eagle Tribune. He says he will continue to fight for the taxpayers of Methuen.

"I have the experience and knowledge to lead Methuen into the new high school project and beyond." Chaisson has been in the press last year for proposing to put the pictures of level 3 sex offenders on the school walls for grades 5 and up.

School Committeeman Gary Marcoux had such an extensive political background that it had to be done on a separate page. (See p. 26).

BOB SHEEHAN
Methuen Housing Authority

Vote Election Day
November 3rd
Polls Open from 7am to 7pm



Bob is a graduate of Plymouth State College, a Methuen Business Owner, husband, father of three, and is already involved in the Methuen Community. Some past and current affiliations are:

- Methuen School Committee
- Methuen Zoning Board
- Nevins Nursing Home
- Central Catholic High School
- Lawrence Boys Club
- Greater Lawrence Boat Program

PLEASE HELP BOB BE YOUR VOICE ON THE METHUEN HOUSING AUTHORITY.

THIS AD PAID FOR BY BOB SHEEHAN 92 PLEASANT STREET. METHUEN, MA

Kenneth R. Willette, Jr.

Methuen schools for Methuen students ONLY!

Methuen School Committee

Paid for by the Committee to elect Ken Willette

Incumbents fight to maintain council seats in West End

JEANNE PAPPALARDO

Primary Votes: 686 - First term city councilor Jeanne Pappalardo topped the ticket in the West End city council race two years ago, beating two incumbent councilors; Debbie Quinn who was reelected in second place and Bob Andrew who was barely defeated.



This year, Pappalardo was ahead of the second place finisher Jim Hajjar by a whopping 220 votes. She also beat out fellow councilor Debbie Quinn who placed third. Ed Guy was also nominated, placing fourth and edging out Ed Burke who was eliminated. Two of the top four will be elected on November 3rd.

Pappalardo lists as her main priorities; accountability of elected officials, increased police presence in the neighborhoods, traffic and noise control, controlling over-development in the city and continuing to provide constituent services on a personal level.

On the issue of Chief Joe Solomon and the Methuen Police Department, Pappalardo has taken a position on the campaign trail saying that there needs to be more accountability in the department and says she supported the firing of Joe Solomon. She also says she will not support his return no matter what civil service says but will abide by the law if it does not go the city's way.

Pappalardo opposed the construction of a boat ramp at the old site of Bea's Sandwich shop on Rt. 110 in West Methuen. She opposes increasing property taxes and also opposes increasing meals and sales taxes in the city to balance the budget. She says she supports a hiring freeze (but

not a wage freeze) and would stop all promotions that would result in an increase in the budget.

Pappalardo supports lifetime term limits which would prohibit a Methuen resident from ever serving on a city board once they have served a maximum number of terms. She is a founding member of Citizens for Better Government, the grassroots citizens group that organized a ballot question seeking a charter commission. If the ballot question passes a charter commission consisting of nine members will be established to review and recommend changes to the Methuen City Charter. All changes would have to be approved by the voters in a subsequent election.

Jeanne Pappalardo's husband, Joe is a former city councilor and as a team the two are familiar with the politics of Methuen and how it influences city hall culture as well as council business.

Jeanne Pappalardo is a small business owner and is retired.

DEBBIE QUINN (I) - Primary Votes: 443

Deborah Quinn is a dental assistant and a mother of three children, ages 19, 21 and 23. She also takes care of her 89-year-old mother who lives with her. She is running for reelection to the council after serving her second term in elected office. Quinn placed third by only 23 votes in the September primary race to Jim Hajjar and beat out newcomer Ed Guy by 25 votes making the race for the second spot very tight!

Two years ago Quinn was endorsed by Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi. That year Manzi spent a great deal of political capital encouraging his supporters to cast a vote for Quinn and even publicly praised the councilor during radio interviews and debates. He and his campaign team, including State Rep. Linda Dean Campbell

made phone calls and did some behind the scenes work for Quinn, but this year Quinn is not getting any of that help from any of her former supporters.

In fact, Jim Hajjar, who placed 2nd over Quinn on Primary Day is the husband of State Rep. Linda Dean Campbell's legislative aide and word is that Campbell is supporting Hajjar and making phone calls for Jim instead of Quinn. Mayor Manzi has also held back support for city councilor as he has a much tougher race this year in his own reelection bid.

Since Quinn has never really run a grassroots campaign and has no clue how to professionally run a "Get Out the Vote" campaign (without the help of political machines like the Manzi crew) she is at a severe disadvantage this year and it was reflected in her 3rd place finish.

Quinn supports a wage freeze for city workers which would include herself and her fellow members of the Methuen City Council.

She is the current city council president and touts the city's balanced budget even though the city budget was cut by \$2.8 million "and that's without any major disruption in city services to anyone," Quinn brags.

She says her top priorities if reelected are: to bring more business into Methuen and to help shift the tax burden from residential to commercial. In the last four years Quinn has fought for a boat ramp on the former Bea's site and started the student driver awareness program with a local car dealer in Lawrence.

Quinn has been a staunch advocate for the rotary change and says that the increase in residential and commercial development in the city is starting to create a drain on the roadways and school system, as more people move into Methuen. Quinn has been involved as a volunteer in her children's school and is also well known for her tireless volunteer work with various Methuen youth sporting programs. She is active in her children's PTO and their CCD program. She says she now wants to continue to serve the community on the city council.

On the issue of Police Chief Joe Solomon, Quinn did not favor the "no confidence" vote saying it is the mayor's job to manage the Police department and that council involvement was only interfering with the legal process set up by the Methuen Charter. Quinn did support Mayor Manzi's action to put the Police Chief on paid administrative leave and also supported his firing.

Quinn could be in serious danger of losing her seat but, with only a 9% turnout in the primary and with a much higher turnout expected November 3rd, anything can happen.

The insiders say Quinn has no shot. We say she does but that will depend on how many phone calls she and her campaign supporters have made in the few short weeks between the primary and the final election.

JAMES HAJJAR - Primary votes: 466

Jim Hajjar works at Lucent/Alcatel in management and is the husband of Laura Hajjar, State Representative Linda Dean Campbell's legislative aide. Hajjar placed second by only 23 votes in the primary despite this being his first run for public office in Methuen.

Hajjar has a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering, attended the University of Massachusetts at Lowell where he earned a Master's Degree in electrical engineering, attended Clemson University in their Executive Development program, the University of New Hampshire in the Advanced Management program, and Duke University.

Hajjar says he wants to bring more professionalism to the council and opposes a wage freeze for city employees. He says the city should be doing more to deal with the city's employee retirement system, employee health care system and set a foundation for the city's long term financial strategies.

Hajjar believes the police chief's position should be taken out of civil service and opposes bringing back fired Police Chief Joe Solomon. He also opposes the construction of a boat ramp at the old Bea's site on Rt. 110. Hajjar says he lead the opposition to extended learning time in the Methuen Public Schools.

The political newcomer believes in term limits and opposes an increase in property taxes, meals and hotel taxes in the city.

Hajjar has a really good chance to win this election if he and his campaign do as much work to get him elected as they did in helping incumbent Debbie Quinn two years ago. He is personable, professional and has a great depth of professional experience in management which would make him a great asset to the city council if he wins.

ED GUY - Primary Votes 418

Ed Guy is a retired police captain and has seven grandchildren.

He supports a wage freeze for city employees and says he is willing to turn his city council pay back to the city of Methuen if he is elected and the finances of the city do not improve.

Guy may be a political newcomer in Methuen but campaign finance reports show that he donated money to Lawrence City Council President Patrick Blanchette who failed in his bid to win the mayoral nomination in September's Lawrence primaries.

Guy placed in fourth in the September primary but with such a low turnout the final numbers had him 25 votes out of third place and only 48 votes out of second place. With the experts predicting at least a 25-30% turnout on November 3rd Guy has a real chance to take one of the two open spots. His problem (as is the problem for all of the bottom three candidates) is that Jeanne Pappalardo has a lock on the top slot leaving Hajjar, Quinn and Guy fighting for the second open seat.

Guy says the city can consolidate services to save money.



ELECT

Joyce Silva Campagnone



Councilor-At-Large

4 Reasons to
Vote for #4

- **HONESTY**
- **INTEGRITY**
- **ACCESSIBILITY**
- **DEDICATION**

*I will continue to work with the elderly.
I will continue to work with the veterans.
A strong voice for the people.
Bring back a leader, not a follower.*

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JUST MY OPINION

Know where the charter candidates stand on term limits

Paula Porten
VALLEY PATRIOT OPINION COLUMNIST

Besides voting for Mayor, City Council and School Committee on November 3rd, the citizens of Methuen have an opportunity to decide whether or not they want to change the City Charter. The charter is the defining document which governs how Methuen city government will work, from separating the powers of the Mayor and city council to restrictions on issues like term limits and how contracts will be handled.

This year the voters of Methuen will be asked if they want to set up a Charter Study Commission to review the city charter and make recommended changes.

If they want a Charter Study Committee and vote yes, then they can elect nine members from a field of 34 candidates to be Charter Study Commissioners. If the Ballot question is passed the Commission will be formed. The Commission will meet and make recommendations to the public. Those recommendations will be voted on in the 2011 local elections to change the City Charter.

A big issue being discussed on the campaign trail centers around indefinite term limits.

Presently, an elected official can only hold the office they were elected to for three consecutively terms. Then, after skipping a term, they can run for that same office again. That's why this election season you see City Councilor Ken Willette running for School Committee because he cannot run for a fourth term on the City Council.

But in two years, Kenny may run for City Council again. He is not alone in this adventure. Names like Tom and Barbara Grondine, Ken Henrick and Joyce Campagnone run out their terms and then run for a different office when they are "term-limited out". They will then run for the Greater Lawrence Vocational Technical School Committee, City Council or the Methuen School Committee.

In the 2005 elections for example, many "term-limited-out" candidates ran for and lost the different offices they sought. Joyce Campagnone, Bob Vogler and Barbara Grondine, were all members of the School Committee and lost their bids for City Council. Barbara's husband, Tom Grondine, who sat on the Tech School Board, lost his bid for School Committee. Then in 2007, Barbara Grondine and Bob Vogler came back and won their School Committee races and are both running for re-election this year. If they win this year, let's guess what seats they will run for in 2011.

Eenie, meenie, miney, moe!
Frankly, I am getting dizzy every two years wondering which office elected officials will run for to maintain politi-

cal power in the community. I think it is ridiculous that an elected official cannot continue to run for an office they really want to be elected to and have to wait out a term before running again. I also think it is a disservice to the voters of Methuen to take away their right to vote for someone they believe is doing a good job because of these term limits.

The voters continually vote in Vogler and Grondine as School Committee members, so they obviously like the jobs they are doing in those positions, but the voters are not so willing to elect them to other positions. They both sat as School Committee members for many years and I believe they enjoy being on that committee and should be able to continue to run as many times as they want. It also seems that this is what the voters also want. Shouldn't the voters have that choice?

Unfortunately, I believe democracy will continue to dwindle for Methuen voters and the erosion of the election process will continue as the move is on to have indefinite term limits in Methuen. Indefinite term limits are now on the table for the people of Methuen and by that I mean changing the City Charter to only allow an official to run for that office for a specific term, period. There will be no term hiatus and then have an official come back in another year. This is lifetime term limits excludes the few people who participate in local government.

There is a large group of well meaning citizens called "Citizens for Better Government" that supports indefinite term limits and they are endorsing a slate of candidates running for the Charter Study Commission.

Ironically, many of these endorsed candidates presently sit or have sat as School Committee members and/or City Councilors for many, many years, never imposing term limits on themselves.

Before voting on the Ballot question to set up a Charter Study Commission, ask yourself if you are happy with the present form of government, what sort of changes would you like to see to the present government to make it run more efficiently, and if you support term limits. And if so, how far do you want to go with term limits. Two terms? One term? One term for LIFE?

Maybe you believe running every two years is too short and an elected official needs more time to accomplish his or her goals. Maybe a three or four year term is better.

Ask those candidates running for the Charter Commission if they support three or four year terms rather than two years. Ask what their views are on term limits or changing the Mayoral form of government to a City Manager form. Ask the candidates what their views are and what changes they are



Ken Henrick



City Councilor Jack Cronin



Councilor Ken Willette cannot run for another term whether the voters like it or not. He is seeking a spot on the school committee.

Here is a list of candidates running for Charter Study Commissioner. They are listed in alphabetical order. To view the slate endorsed by the "Citizens for Better Government Group" see ad p.14

LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR CHARTER COMMISSION
ELECT 9 (candidates listed in ballot order)

- | | |
|---|---|
| SHEILA A. ALARTOSKY
9 Gaywood Circle
MARY LOU BOES
14 Argilla Road
KENNETH F. BOURASSA
30 Westwind Drive
RUSSELL P. BOURASSA
20 Arnold Street
JOSEPH M. COSGROVE
5 Brookside Court
JOHN A. CRONIN, JR.
33 Richard Avenue
STEPHEN F. DEFEQ, JR.
21 Richard Avenue
STEPHEN J. DEVAN
7 Green Street
DENNIS DIZOGLIO
8 Thomas Road
LUCILLE S. DONEGAN
19 Somerset Street
MAUREEN DONOVAN
30 Hobson Street
PAULA J. DRELICK
7 Vista Circle
IAN P. GOSSELIN
39 Sycamore Road
BARBARA PIEROG GRONDINE
4 Moody Avenue
MICHAEL W. HENNESSY
9 Stevens Street
PAUL HIGGINBOTTOM
9 Village Lane
CHRISTOPHER M. JORDAN
2 Avalon Court | DOROTHY A. KALIL
8 Oakridge Street
EVELYN LACROIX
130 Haverhill Street
PHILIP J. LAHEY, JR.
159 Woodburn Drive
JOAN M. MANNKE
22 Mystic Street #10
RONALD MARSAN
10 Hawkes Brook Lane
ERIC A. MCADAM
21 School Street
GERALD W. MCCALL
165 Hampshire Road
CHRISTINE L. METZEMAEKERS
16 Lincoln Street
JOSEPH J. PAPPALARDO
139 Forest Street
SHARON PLOYER
2 Wilson Street
RALPH L. PROLMAN
69 Pinehurst Avenue
LARRY F. RETELLE, JR.
29 Oneida Street
JAMES ROBERTSON
2 Wilson Street
PATRICIA ULIANO
22 Haymeadow Road
ROBERT F. VOGLER
95 Currier Street
LYLE BRUCE WILSON
29 Sandra Lane |
|---|---|

interested in implementing. Ask questions before voting.

Maybe they do not want to make any changes and that is why they are running, to keep the City Charter as it is. Maybe you are also happy with the way the government functions in Methuen and you also do not want changes. Then you can vote for those candidates. But, please before voting for the nine commissioners, educated yourself on where those thirty-something candidates' stand on the City Charter.

Personally, I would be voting for Commissioners opposed to all term limits, including the office of Mayor. If the Mayor is doing a good job for Methuen, why not continue to support him or her and give the people the choice to vote for that person as many times as they want.

Ken Willette should be able to run again for City Council and I would vote for him because I think he does his job very well. But really, shouldn't it be up to the voters to decide whether or not to keep someone in office? Shouldn't the ballot box be the term limit, not something imposed by the City Charter?

Candidate for Commission and City Councilor Jack Cronin wrote on the Citizens for Better Government blog "The

truth is that our Founding Fathers did not intend elected officials to stay in office as a career." True, but they also didn't impose any term limits for the offices of

Senate, State Representative or even President when they created the U.S Constitution. They decided to leave it up to the people, not making government mandates excluding people from participating in government.

I believe the 22nd Amendment, ratified in 1951 imposes term limits for U.S. President. And

how many years did Senator Ted Kennedy serve the citizens of Massachusetts? Would Massachusetts be better off if Kennedy had served one term and then was prohibited from ever running again?

Term limits endorsed by our Founding Fathers? I don't think so Jack! So, let's allow the citizens of Methuen to endorse the values of our Founding Fathers and vote no to term limits.

Remember, any changes to the City Charter need to be voted on by the citizens of Methuen in 2011. These changes will be recommended by the Charter Study Commission. I would vote to end all term limits, but that's just me, and that's just my opinion!



Barbara & Tom Grondine



AT LARGE - Four Fight for Three Spots

JOYCE CAMPAGNONE - Joyce Campagnone is a former City Councilor and former member of the Methuen School Committee. She was originally elected to the school committee in 1987 and served one two-year term. She was then elected as the East End Councilor for eight years (1990-1998). She served on the School Committee from 1999 to 2003 and was term limited from running for another term. Campagnone says she was redistricted out of the East End and is now in the Central District, prompting her to run for an at-large seat in 2003, but was defeated by Steve Zanni, losing by five votes.

Campagnone says she is proud of her record on both the School Committee and the City Council with the expansion of the elementary schools and the library renovation. Campagnone is an elected member of the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District Retirement Board. She also says that one of her proudest accomplishments was to be a councilor and participating in the buy-back of the Searls Building. Campagnone says her goals, if elected to an at-large seat, are to answer the requests of the citizens of Methuen and to support the renovation of the high school.

Public safety is also a priority to Campagnone. She says she wants the Methuen police to be more visible throughout the neighborhoods, and believes the department needs to be restructured. She says she agrees with Mayor Manzi's decision to put the Police Chief on leave and would have supported the vote of no confidence in Chief Solomon had she defeated Zanni in 2003.

Campagnone says she wants to either build a new police station or renovate the existing building to better service the public safety needs of the police officials and the public whom they deal with every day. Campagnone says that elderly housing is a desperate need in Methuen and will focus her efforts on expanding housing available to senior citizens. She also said that she opposed the extended day school program.

While Campagnone lost a very close race two years ago, insiders are saying she is almost assured to reverse her defeat and return to the council in January. She's been highly visible on the campaign trail and recently endorsed West End candidate Jeanne Pappalardo for the West End and Jack Cronin in the Central District during a coffee hour at the Methuen Senior Center.

With both Pappalardo and Cronin topping the ticket in their respective races, the overlapping campaign help is monumental in a race where four people are seeking three open seats. With no primary election in the at-large, race voters have no gage at all as to which of these at-large candidates is the weakest. But, if all the conventional indicators are correct, the fact that there is no contested race in the East End and a larger turnout is expected in the West and Central Districts, it would not be beyond the realm of possibility for voters to wake up the day after the election to find that Joyce placed first or second.

STEVE ZANNI (I) - Stephen Zanni is presently an at-large City Councilor and is the former President of the council. He is running for re-election and if he wins will be serving his third and final term on the council.

Zanni is a former member of the Methuen School Committee and had been out of Methuen politics for seven years when he was elected to the City Council at-large in 2003.

**Jennifer Kannan (I)****Joyce Campagnone****Steve Zanni (I)****Kathleen Corey Rahme**

Zanni unsuccessfully ran for Mayor against former Mayor Dennis Dizoglio. He is also a former West End District Councilor. He is married with two adult children and one granddaughter. He has a Master's Degree in Administration and is retired as a teacher and administrator from the Hudson, New Hampshire school system after teaching for 37 years.

Zanni was the President of the Forest Lake Association and says he is most proud of his record of being on the school committee when the schools were renovated and as a member of the Forest Lake Association during the sewer renovation project. He is a member of the Sons of Italy, St. Alfio's Society and very active in his neighborhood.

Zanni was elected as the President of the City Council in 2004 and presided over a number of controversial meetings. At one meeting, Zanni angered his colleagues and some voters when he allowed members of the Methuen Police Department to stand behind councilors during deliberations. At the time, fellow councilors said they felt intimidated by the presence of the police and criticized him for not taking more control of the meeting.

Zanni also raised some eyebrows when he voted "present" during the vote of no confidence in Police Chief Joe Solomon leaving many to question at the time whether or not Zanni had a firm grasp of the political situation with the Chief. Those questions were set aside however when Solomon filed a lawsuit against Zanni for voting to cut the Chief's pay when his contract ran out later that year.

Zanni says he supported the Mayor's decision to place the Chief on paid administrative leave and believes that the Chief of Police job should be removed from civil service.

Zanni is relentless on the campaign trail and his years of political experience would normally make him a favorite to win one of the three at large seats but this is no ordinary year.

When pushed to choose which one of the four at-large candidates will be eliminated on November 3rd, most insiders say they just cannot call this race. It is hard to find anyone who doesn't respect Steve Zanni and if he loses on Election Day it is almost a guarantee that he will continue to work in the community as a public servant for the people of Methuen.

There was only a 9% turnout in the Methuen Primary in September and if the voter turnout (low turnouts almost always favor the incumbents) remains relatively low on November 3rd, it spells good news for the former the former Council President.

With a hotly contested race in the East End between Leone, Uliano and Giordano, Zanni will benefit from a high turnout in his home precinct.

Some races this election season are easy to call and others are a toss up. But, this one is nearly impossible to predict

because of the continually evolving issue with the budget, the police chief and the public's reaction to how city official have handled change every single day.

JENNIFER AZIZ KANNAN - Jennifer Aziz Kannan is a lifelong resident of Methuen and is married to Billy Kannan, owner of Kannan & Pricone Plumbing. They have three children and live in the East End of Methuen.

Jennifer is real estate agent for Coco Early and Associates and formerly a cosmetologist. She was elected handily two years ago as an at-large councilor and has been seen as an ally of Mayor Manzi since taking office in 2007. She is often seen at the Methuen Senior Center working with seniors and is well liked among her colleagues. Kannan does not have a reputation for getting involved in controversy or the wrangling that sometimes occurs between councilors at the table.

Jennifer is a school volunteer in the Methuen Public Schools and is now a grandmother. She says she believes that her new vision for Methuen is underway and wants at least another term to continue some of the work she has done to increase business in the city and bring in more State funding for construction projects. Kannan is concerned about the new water rates and making sure that the environment in Methuen will continue to attract smaller businesses to come to Methuen.

Kannan says she wants to make sure Methuen streets are safe and supported Mayor Manzi's decision to put the Chief on temporary leave and remove him. She says she does not think that the Police Chief position should be taken out of civil service. Jennifer is running to make sure that Methuen has the constituent service it deserves and has fought to increase response time to constituent calls and complaints.

KATHLEEN COREY RAHME - Kathleen Corey Rahme is the former President and Vice President of the City Council after being elected to one term as the Central District Councilor, and serving one term at-large.

She topped the ticket four years ago and was considered the obvious replacement for Manzi when he is term limited out of office or decides not to run for reelection. Rahme has been the host of a local cable access television program dedicated to honoring veterans named, "A Call to Serve", writes a monthly column in The Valley Patriot honoring veterans and is active in the Trauma Intervention Program, Saint Monica's School and is co-founder of the Methuen Youth Corps. She is also active in her Lebanese church and volunteers her time to help various charities and non profits in the Valley.

Rahme has authored legislation to protect local cable access, formed neighborhood associations, and was critical of the

Greater Lawrence Technical School Committee, whose members went on what she called "junkets" consuming alcohol and billing taxpayers. Rahme also took exception to a former board member going on a trip after leaving the board. Rahme was the catalyst of several news stories questioning the appropriateness and legality of the Tech Board's actions.

Greater Lawrence Technical School Committee Chairman, Ken Henrick announced two years ago that an investigation of the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission has cleared board members for their actions on the out of state trips exposed by Rahme, but as a result of Rahme's activism on the issue, the policy at the school was changed to prevent it from happening in the future.

As a City Councilor, Rahme introduced and fought for legislation at the State House to increase the penalties for those caught selling drugs within so many feet of a park. But, Rahme says the legislature opposed the measure "because our legislators are all defense attorneys" and they do not support mandatory minimum sentences for criminals.

Instead of doing the safe and predictable thing by waiting until the Mayor's position was vacant, Rahme took offense at the notion in the community that she was expected to wait her turn "like I'm at the deli counter waiting for my number to be called." Rahme ran unsuccessfully for Mayor against Billy Manzi and donated all of her leftover campaign money to charity.

Toward the beginning of the mayoral campaign Rahme said that the more people who told her "it was not her time" or that she should wait until Mayor Manzi vacates the office, the more she was convinced that she should break tradition and run against Mayor Manzi this year.

As someone who refuses to go along to get along, or follow traditional political protocols, Rahme is seen as the consummate outsider even when she was holding elected office. She doesn't care about polls, doesn't pay attention to what her colleagues want from her and takes pride in bucking the good old boy networks, which control the various factions in Methuen politics.

The pundits say Rahme is the long shot in this race but her very strong base of support puts her in the running for one of the three at-large seats. With Kenny Willette running for School Committee creating an open seat, Rahme has better than a 50/50 chance of capturing that seat. She does, however need to spend some money on mailings and do some phone banking if she wants to make sure se gets back on the council.

Rahme topped the ticket in the at-large race four years ago and says if she is elected she will continue to listen to the people of Methuen and not the political insiders.

Gary Marcoux is up to his old tricks

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

Methuen School Committeeman Gary Marcoux is the former head of the Lawrence teachers union back in the late 90's.

Marcoux, was also the head of the Science Department at Lawrence High School while serving as the teacher's union President. He held both titles when Lawrence High School lost its accreditation.

During his tenure as President of the teachers union, Marcoux was famous for defending bad teachers and went above and beyond the call of duty to put them back in the classroom. Word is, since being elected to the Methuen School Committee Gary has continued his favor trading ways, getting jobs for friends and relatives and defending bad employees.

As head of the Lawrence High School Science department, Marcoux was accused of purposely hiding science equipment when the accreditation team from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) evaluated the school.

That accusation was made by then Superintendent James Scully and was eventually confirmed by two members of the School Committee who found the science equipment packed up in boxes in a storage closet long after the NEASC team left Lawrence. Superintendent Scully, along with at least two school committee members at the time, toured the high school after the NEASC visiting team issued their report, claiming inadequate science equipment at the high school as one of the main reasons for losing accreditation.

The Lawrence School Committee purchased over a million dollars in science equipment before that school year began.



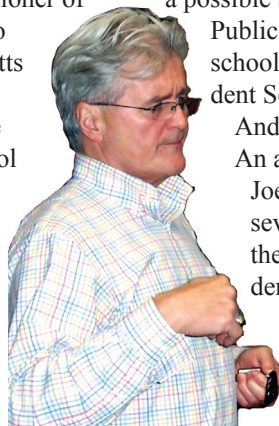
The accreditation team from NEASC visited the school in January and issued a report to pull the school's accreditation, prompting then Commissioner of Education Robert Antonucci to announce that the Massachusetts Department of Education was proceeding with efforts to take over the entire Lawrence school system.

It also prompted a politically motivated audit of all expenditures by Scully and the Lawrence Public Schools.

It was Marcoux who worked against the Lawrence Public Schools at every turn, actively and openly seeking to help Commissioner Antonucci and John Silber (the head of the Massachusetts Board of Education) to seize control of the Lawrence school system. Marcoux met with state officials trying to put the LPS into receivership, always meeting with them behind the backs of the school committee and the school superintendent and without a vote from the teachers union.

Marcoux told members of the teachers union at the time that their own interests would be served if teachers in the school system worked behind the scenes to advocate for a system-wide takeover by the State. His hope was that the State would defer to him and his cronies in the system to run the schools once a State takeover was implemented.

Marcoux was open about his motives, too. He and Superintendent James Scully



had been locking horns for years and it was Marcoux's hope that the controversy surrounding the loss of accreditation and a possible State takeover of the Lawrence Public Schools would prompt the school committee to fire Superintendent Scully.

And that is exactly what happened. An audit conducted by State Auditor Joe DeNucci was conducted and several expenditures by Scully and the school committee were suddenly called questionable.

And even though every one of those disputed expenses had been approved and signed off on by a majority of the school board, those members who signed the bills and voted to approve the expenses suddenly turned on Scully to save their own political careers.

Within days, Scully was accused of misappropriating money by the same school board members who defended and approved his spending for more than ten years.

Scully was eventually fired, but not before Marcoux lobbied members of the union to call school committee members advocating for Scully's removal.

Scully sued the school system and the City of Lawrence, receiving the bulk of what was owed to him in his contract.

Upon the firing of Scully, Gary Marcoux immediately began meeting with State officials and school committee members to lobby for a Superintendent who would be more to his (and the union's) liking when

contract negotiations resumed later that year.

Once Scully was gone, Marcoux's antics became more frequent and bolder. He fought to have political supporters appointed to lifetime positions in the schools, actively defended a teacher who hit a student and forced out several employees who refused to do business with him.

Since he was an Administrator (head of the Science Department) at the same time he was President of the teachers union, Marcoux was able to bully teachers who were loyal to Lawrence High Principal Bill Carey and Superintendent Scully.

Any teacher abused by Marcoux at the high school ran into a brick wall when they tried to file a grievance because Marcoux was the one disciplining them (as the department head), yet their grievances would end up going nowhere because Marcoux would refuse to let the union represent them in their beef against him.

Marcoux is seeking a third term on the Methuen School Committee. His antics of late almost seem to rival his shenanigans when he worked in Lawrence and in future editions of the Valley Patriot we will be prominently highlighting all of them.

For now, the voters of Methuen have a choice to make about whom will represent them on the School Committee over the next two years.

There are six open seats and eight candidates running on the November 3rd ballot. Choose wisely!



Tom Duggan is the president of Valley Patriot, Inc., a former Lawrence School Committeeman, and hosts the Paying Attention! Radio Program on WCAP, 980AM, every Saturday from 10am-noon. You can email your comments to Tdugjr@aol.com.

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