

# State fines Lawrence nearly \$50K, DPW failed to test water for E.Coli

**Tom Duggan**  
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

Documents obtained by The Valley Patriot last month revealed that operators at the City of Lawrence’s brand new \$26 million water treatment facility failed to test the city’s drinking water for a bacteria called E.coli from July 2008 to February 2009. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) requires monthly testing for E.coli which can cause sickness if consumed.

This is the second time in less than a year that the MassDEP fined Lawrence for failing to do mandatory testing. In October of last year the state fined Lawrence \$5,000 for failing to test for chlorite in the drinking water and ordered the city to fix a host of mechanical, maintenance and procedural problems at the facility. In February 2009, MassDEP warned Lawrence officials that the list of violations at the water plant from that October fine had not been addressed. As the result of operators at the plant failing to address those issues the state hit Lawrence with \$47,750 in penalties.

The 13 page Consent Order obtained by the Valley Patriot and signed by Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan lists a

host of safety hazards at the plant that city officials have refused to resolve such as: failing to test for Cryptosporidium, failing to follow proper safety procedures, corrosion in the chemical feed room, failing to comply with previous warnings and consent orders, failure to have adequate maintenance schedules, failing to notify DEP of testing and operational inspections, and failing to comply with the requirements of a February 2008 notice of non-compliance.

Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan says that the fine and the conditions leading up to it are “distressing.”






**Outrage**


Sullivan also said that the city council’s refusal to take action on a contract for the private firm Woodward and Curran (to run the plant) has created “a very dangerous situation with Lawrence’s drinking water.”

Tennis Lilly who serves as the chairman of the city’s conservation commission said that he was outraged by the lack of competence at the water plant and added that, as an environmental activist and private citizen he demands accountability from the city.

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## VALLEY PATRIOTS OF THE MONTH

# The Boys of Iwo Jima

(FROM THE BOOK: HEART TOUCHERS “LIFE-CHANGING STORIES OF FAITH”)

**Michael T. Powers**

Each year my video production company is hired to go to Washington, D.C. with the eighth grade class from Clinton, Wisconsin where I grew up, to videotape their trip. I greatly enjoy visiting our nation’s capitol, and each year I take some special memories back with me. This fall’s trip was especially memorable.

On the last night of our trip, we stopped at the Iwo Jima memorial. This memorial is the largest bronze statue in the world and depicts one of the most famous photographs in history -- that of the six

brave men raising the American flag at the top of Mount Surabachi on the Island of Iwo Jima, Japan during WW II. Over one hundred students and chaperones piled off the buses and headed towards the memorial. I noticed a solitary figure at the base of the statue, and as I got closer he asked, “What’s your name and where are you guys from?”

I told him that my name was Michael Powers and that we were from Clinton, Wisconsin.

“Hey, I’m a Cheesehead, too! Come gather around Cheeseheads, and I will tell

you a story.”

James Bradley just happened to be in Washington, D.C. to speak at the memorial the following day. He was there that night to say good-night to his dad, who had previously passed away, but whose image is part of the statue. He was just about to leave when he saw the buses pull up. I videotaped him as he spoke to us, and received his permission to share what he said from my videotape. It is one thing to tour the incredible monuments filled with history in Washington, D.C. but it

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# EDITORIAL

## Moon Walking While the World Burns

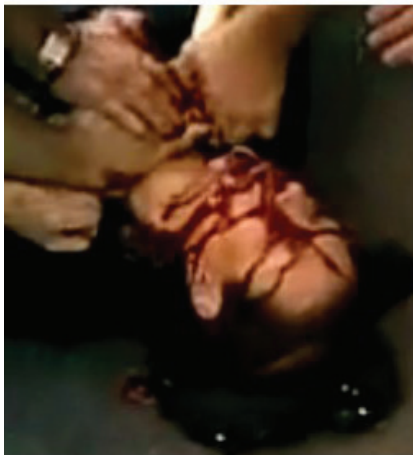


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Less than a week ago, the world's news outlets were filled with the sights and sounds of heroic Iranian citizens risking, and in many cases losing, their lives for freedom.

Their government, intent upon perpetuating a seventh century philosophy that denies basic human liberties, had hijacked an election and then proceeded to brutally suppress the resulting protest demonstrations.

When press reports and video clips of the resulting repression and killings were aired worldwide, the clerics clamped down on press freedom. The most poignant video was of a young protestor named Neda Agha-Soltan, 26 years old, who was shot in the chest, bled out, and died within seconds ... all for the world to see.

Simultaneously the airwaves were a-buzz about North Korean nuclear developments, long-range missile tests, and risks of nuclear proliferation. A planned North Korean missile firing toward Hawaii was leaked, along with reports of North Korean ships destined for the Middle East laden with nuclear cargo. Topping this off were threats by North Korea of war on the Korean peninsula if anyone dared to interfere with their ships or imposed additional sanctions.

What could knock these news stories off the front page? A worldwide outbreak of the plague? Russia declaring war on China?

No, it was something much bigger: the death of pop idol Michael Jackson ... the emaciated, drug infested, attention deficit disorder weirdo who paid one too many doctors to drown him in narcotics and sleeping medication ... that distracted the world from the impending catastrophe of a nuclear-armed Iranian/Syrian/North Korean alliance.

We had become accustomed to having an administration staffed with serious adults who understood that our adversaries might (probably do) have evil intentions. We could be distracted and they would "attend to business."

But no longer. Our current administration is convinced that all we have to do is be contrite, empathetic, friendly and pliable, and our adversaries will melt away.

The world tried this just over seventy years ago when Neville Chamberlain tried to play kissey-face with Adolf Hitler. When he returned he said, "My good friends, for the second time in our history, a British Prime Minister has returned from Germany bringing peace with honour. I believe it is peace for our time. Go home and get a nice quiet sleep." That was September, 1938.

It didn't work then. It won't work now. Don't plan on a nice quiet sleep.

Neda Agha-Soltan and the threat posed by Iran and North Korea deserve more of our attention and than Michael Jackson. If we don't pay attention now, we will have no choice later ... when it is too late.

### News tips

Phone in news tips to (978) 557-5413, or you may email tips to us at valleypatriot@aol.com.

We respect the anonymity of our sources if requested.

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## A Conversation on Alzheimer's: Methuen Village Presents a Groundbreaking HBO Documentary

Over 5 million people in the United States are living with Alzheimer's Disease, and as the "baby boomers" reach their senior years, this number will grow exponentially. By 2010, there will be nearly half a million new cases of Alzheimer's each year; and by 2050, there will be nearly a million new cases per year. This much-feared disease is bound to affect all of us, whether personally or with a loved one, as we grow older. What research is being done towards finding a cure? What can we do to prevent the disease, and how can we effectively treat it? These are questions that interest Senior Living Residences (SLR), an assisted living management company, and a leader in Alzheimer's care in Massachusetts. SLR has partnered with HBO in an ambitious public education campaign to open up the conversation on Alzheimer's, and here in the Merrimack Valley the conversation begins at Methuen Village Assisted Living.

On July 22nd, Methuen Village will host a screening of "Caregivers," part of HBO's groundbreaking series entitled The Alzheimer's Project. This documentary is a collection of five family portraits that illustrate the struggles and successes of caring for a loved one with dementia. For those who are impacted by this disease on any level, this is a must-see documentary.

Methuen Village offers a special-

ized Memory Support Neighborhood for residents with Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. As an SLR community, Methuen Village is partnered with the BU Alzheimer's Disease Center, which brings a new-age, research-based approach to the care and treatment provided. Heather Carroll, a trained dementia practitioner and licensed social worker, manages the neighborhood. Heather explained, "In our Memory Support Neighborhood we can individualize each resident's plan of care. We are fortunate to be partnered with Boston University, and our relationship with them influences our treatment model on all fronts- from the ingredients we use in our meals, to our evaluation of residents' medications, and the types of activity programming we provide to keep our residents engaged."

Heather Carroll leads a Caregiver Support Group the third Thursday of each month, for families dealing with Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia.

On July 22nd, at 6PM, anyone with an interest is invited to attend the private screening of "Caregivers." Please call Methuen Village to RSVP at 978-685-2220, or stop in and tour the community and specialized Memory Support Neighborhood, located at 4 Gleason Street, in Methuen.

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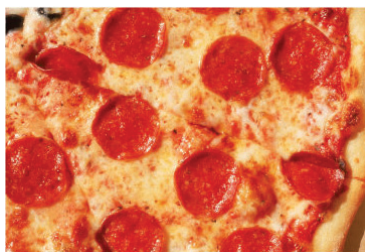
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## THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

## Welcome to the latest government SNAFU part III

How to get out of this mess and restore prosperity and justice

Dr. Charles Ormsby

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST AND EX-MEMBER  
OF THE N. ANDOVER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

In Part I of this series we learned how the government caused the latest economic collapse by fostering a market for high-risk real estate loans and then compounding that error by repeating the easy money policy that led to the Great Depression. Trillions of dollars were directed to bad investments and, eventually, our economy froze.

In Part II we compared and contrasted the inherent characteristics of government and free markets.

Free markets always seek efficiency by rewarding those that make sensible decisions and penalizing those who make poor decisions. The market is ruthless in determining which decisions are sensible because customers, sales, and profits flow to the better and more efficient providers. Poor decisions and those who make them can't be sustained in the long run because sales and revenues dry up while losses mount. If the causes are not remedied, bankruptcy follows.

Government is not subject to such discipline. Instead, government is driven by special interests. Unions and some businesses prefer to cheat. They use government force to ensure that they and their members/stockholders benefit regardless of the merits of their efforts. They want guaranteed jobs and sales, excess salaries and higher prices and above-market benefits and profits - all while working less and with little or no competition.

The free market cannot give them this, but government can and does. Here are the tools of the trade: hefty campaign contributions, lots of schmoozing, well-paying jobs for government officials or their family members, padded speaking fees, expensive travel junkets, sexual favors, or just plain, old-fashioned bribes.

Powerful special interests will gain economic advantages in the short term, but they do so by eroding the health of the overall economy in the process. When the parasites kill the host, everything dies.

Our nation's economy is not well. It is weak and its defenses are degraded. Thousands of laws, millions of regulations,

hoards of lawyers, the grip of compulsory bargaining, and the ever-present burden of taxes and accounting rules are bringing our once-mighty and efficient economy to its knees. It is struggling to get up, but its life blood is being drained by environmentalists, healthcare do-gooders, tax-raisers, and union bosses.

The choice America faces is simple: government coercion ... or ... individual men and women interacting in a free and open, market-based economy that is not distorted by government interference.

All that remains is your decision. The economy and the productive members of society await your answer. So do the parasites and the purveyors of political pull.

voters and developing competent, thoughtful leaders must be a primary objective. That education must start with ourselves, our family, our relatives and our close associates. The literature on free-markets and individual liberty is vast and easily available (e.g., Ayn Rand, Henry Hazlitt, Milton Friedman, Ludwig von Mises, Thomas Sowell). Read, study and understand. Then pass it on.

Writing articles or letters to the editor and speaking out publicly should follow once your grasp of principles is sound. Frederic Bastiat noted, "The worst thing that can happen to a good cause is not to be skillfully attacked, but to be ineptly defended." This should not discourage you

sector to the corrupt public sector. A simple flat tax with a fixed deduction per person and a single low rate of not more than 10% should be the plan we support as a first step. Those responsible for the tax should also be responsible for paying it directly. Employers should not be required to act as tax collectors.

**Reducing the Threat of Special Interests**

One of the biggest threats to our freedoms and to our objective of reducing the damaging effects of government is the power of the special interests - especially unions and big business.

The simple flat tax, while not a panacea, will reduce the ability of congress to create tax-loopholes for business and to threaten businesses with targeted tax penalties designed to induce contributions. Reducing the revenue from the income tax will also reduce the financial capacity of government to hand out favors to its friends and supporters.

Reducing the coercive power of unions can only be accomplished by eliminating compulsory bargaining and recognizing the right of ALL employers and ALL employees to negotiate terms of employment individually and independent of any union interference. This should be true for both private and public employment. The savings that result will, in many cases, turn failing industries that are laying off employees into growing industries that are hiring new workers. Government will also realize substantial savings in both labor and pension costs; savings that should immediately be returned to the taxpayers.

**Stopping and Reversing the Socialization of America**

The above steps will dramatically improve the strength of our free-market system and put us back on a path to greater freedom and prosperity. Unfortunately, the current trend is in exactly the opposite direction.

We must stop the onslaught of socialist takeovers of private businesses, the cancer of environmental fascism in the guise of "cap and trade," the continuing government take-over and destruction of health-care, and the further strengthening of the

**ORMSBY, page 30**

"Everyone wants to live at the expense of the State. They forget that the State wants to live at the expense of everyone."

Frederic Bastiat

What kind of world do you want to live in? Who do you want to rely on for your future?

If you want a world ruled by government bureaucrats, political intimidation and special interests, then you can stop reading. If some day your daughter needs heart bypass surgery or chemotherapy, don't call her doctor. Just make sure your campaign contributions are up to date and then call your congressman. That is, assuming there are any competent doctors left and drug companies are selling anything other than pain killers.

For those who prefer freedom, honesty, justice, and persuasion over coercion, and who, therefore, choose free markets, congratulations!

To get us back to a thriving economy, we must define near-term objectives, we must educate the voting public and we must get on with change that we can all believe in.

**Educating the Voting Public**

We can't institute change unless we have widespread voter support and articulate leaders that are well-grounded in free-market principles. Whatever we do, educating

from engaging the fight, it is merely a note of caution that we should all restrict our claims to the facts and to the principles that we understand and can defend.

**Reducing the Size of Government - Reducing Taxes**

The threat that government poses to the economy and our freedoms is at least proportional to its size, maybe more. And its size is directly proportional to its budget. Therefore, our number one objective to be pursued in concert with the education process is to reduce the size and scope of government. The best means to accomplish this is by tax reduction.

Ultimately, we must eliminate the income tax altogether by repealing the Sixteenth Amendment. In the meantime, a flat tax is better than our current abomination of an income tax. I support the flat tax, BUT it must not be revenue neutral. The size of government must be reduced, not maintained at its present level.

We must seek a dramatic reduction in both the complexity of the tax code AND the revenue it transfers from the private

## A COUCH WITH A VIEW

Ray Shackett

VALLEY PATRIOT ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

Strange day indeed June 25 2009 was. Celebrities tend to die in threes or so the legend goes. First, Kung Fu star David Carridine was found dead in a Bangkok hotel room closet at the beginning of the month. Found in the most unfortunate of positions after suffering a fatality due to auto-erotic asphyxiation.

Next we lost one of our own. Ed McMahon not only had a long and distinguished entertainment career but was raised in Lowell where his first job in entertainment was on a local radio station in his home town. May you finally find those stars you have been searching for Ed. The Toymaker to the King left us on June 23rd.

Then on June 25, the third death struck us early. Farrah Fawcett succumbed to a long battle with cancer. She was 62.

Before the day was through, the so-called "legend of the threes" threw us a curve ball. A forth celebrity passes - the second in a day. The King of Pop, Michael Jackson suffers (as of this writing) cardiac arrest and dies.

Sadly enough Jackson was only 50

years old. Ironically he was planning to resurrect his career with a comeback tour starting in Europe later this year.

Watching the headlines and the special memorial reels that flood the networks as the night goes on, I find myself saddened on many different levels. I never knew either one. I can't say I have ever watched a full episode of Charlie's Angels. I don't own any Michael Jackson albums. (Yes, even "Thriller"... I don't own it, I'm the one.) Yet something comes over me in the form of sentimental memories of yesteryear. I begin to wax nostalgic in my own thoughts. These two individuals somehow found a place in my pop culture heart of hearts without demanding much of a presence while they were alive. Now gone, I begin to reminisce.

I have vivid memories of my prepubescent years, admiring what would someday soon turn to a deeper appreciation of the female form. I recall the inside of my closet peppered with tiny 2x3 replica cutouts of posters that you could buy in the back of magazines. I had my share back there. But the one that stands out most when I think back is a tiny version of the infamous Farrah poster that found its

way onto every teenager's bedroom wall. Farrah was one of my first... let's call it, confused thoughts. Then there were the sleepovers at my Pepe's house.

All the great 70's classics were always present and accounted for; Love Boat, Fantasy Island, CHiPs and Charlie's Angels. Still too young to know what the hell was going on, but there was something about Farrah man! Even for a snot-nosed, GI Joe-loving kid like myself I realized I was looking into a future fantasy. The fact that she was married to Lee Majors was the coolest thing in the world to me during my Fall Guy days. When Lee croons the line "I've been seen with Farrah" I always felt like I was the only one in on the inside joke.

Farrah, thanks for the memories.

Now as I don't share similar "guy type" memories for Michael Jackson I can attribute some great musical memories to The King of Pop. The first time I saw the video for "Thriller" I was at my next door neighbor's house. His father had a copy of it on Beta and his was a very special viewing as we couldn't stay up late enough to watch it on TV. I was about 11 years old and I was fascinated by the mini movie.

This was an amazing concept even for a pre-teen to comprehend. The whole experience left me in shock and awe. I was the happiest kid on the block to be able to experience this soon-to-be greatest video of all time... until I had to walk home in the pitch black dark. I tried, I did.

But in my mind, Michael Jackson was transforming into a creature of the night only steps behind me. So I hightailed it back through the front door and spent the night at my friend's house. I waited until the safety of the morning sun to head home.

Despite his flaws and eccentricities Michael Jackson gave us a lifetime of some of the best music ever recorded. He will be missed. From "Thriller" to "Dangerous" his music is the soundtrack to my youth. Well, side B perhaps.



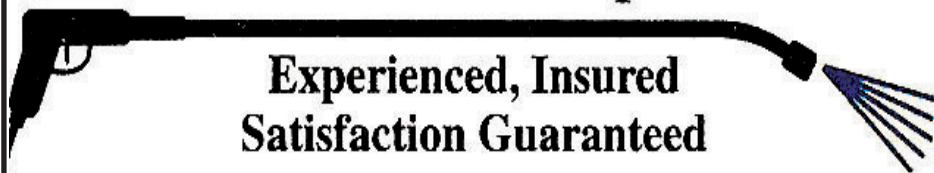
Ray Shackett is the co-host of Merrimack Magazine Afternoon Edition and host of Living For The Weekend on 980 WCAP. For questions, comments or suggestions, email Ray

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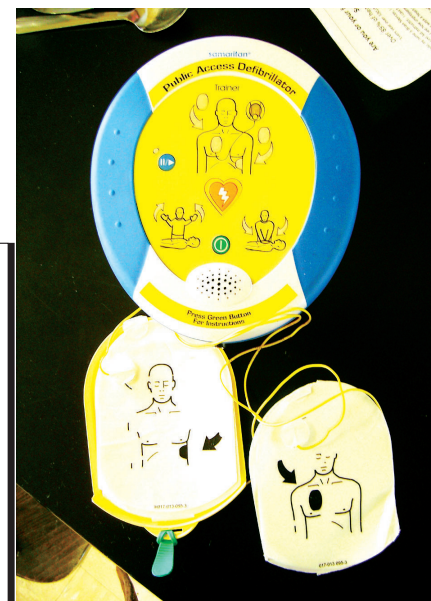
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# It's a matter of trust

**Peter Larocque**  
LAWRENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The last few weeks and months have been a time of reflection and learning about trust and I would like to share some of what I have learned with you.

Also I would like to share with you my involvement in the investigation around the Lawrence Public Schools printing of campaign materials.

The report from the Office of Campaign and Political Finance should be made known soon and I want you to hear the truth about my involvement from me before others can try to turn my involvement into something that it is not.

For the record, I never was part of or behind some kind of plan or strategy or conspiracy to fix the outcome of any election in the city of Lawrence.

First of all, I want to apologize to my wife and children for the embarrassment that this has brought to our family name.

Next, I would like to apologize to Mr. James Blatchford who was my opponent in 2007. I also apologize to you, the good people of District E for trusting the advice I got from people in the early stage of my political life. I should have done my own homework when it came to following political campaign and finance laws.

I used to go by an old concept which has proven to be faulty over the last few years.

I used to trust an individual or individuals until they proved to me that I could not trust them any longer. Well, I live differ-

ently now especially in political circles.

Because of my lack of knowledge of campaign laws, my inexperience and my getting caught up in the excitement of running a political campaign in the early stages of my political career I made some stupid mistakes which violated your trust.

Back in early 2007 I failed to report on my campaign financial report how I paid for stamps for a letter that I sent out to a number of voters of District E.

Next, I did accept campaign flyers made for me at the print shop in the Central Office of the Lawrence Public Schools. I passed these fliers out as I went campaigning door to door. Then again early in 2009 the flyer was updated and by that time, I knew this was wrong and tried to stop the production of them, had them removed from the print shop by having them placed on my flash drive so it would not be printed. But, the flyer was produced, which should not have taken place in the first place. I took the flyer and had copies made elsewhere but I decided that even this was wrong so I chose not to use these fliers in my 2009 re-election campaign while going door to door.

Getting back to trust, I trusted what I was being told over and over again which was that, as long as I didn't have an official campaign committee I would be fine, and not to worry. But I now know this was wrong advice and not true. I also want to state that I am not without blame. To just blame it on bad advice from others would also be wrong. I accepted the flyers

knowing that they came from the LPS print shop. This was a mistake in my judgment and I will comply with whatever the Office of Campaign and Political Finance tells me to do.

Another reason that I am telling you all this now is that I want to move forward. I want to put all of this behind us so that the healing of the Lawrence Public Schools can begin. I realize going forward that this can't begin without you knowing the truth. I have always tried to work hard and be honest and upfront in everything that I have done as your School Committee member. I would like to continue this by going forward with my 2009 re-election campaign. I now have a real Committee to Re-elect Peter Larocque for School Committee in District E. We held our first campaign fundraiser on Wednesday June 3, 2009 and I am looking forward to reporting all campaign activities on all my future campaign finance reports.

But, before any campaigning can take place this summer I feel that I must first tell all of you that I am sorry for my dumb, stupid mistakes and I humbly ask that you can find it in your hearts to forgive me for this violation of your trust. I promise these mistakes will never happen again!

There are probably going to be some of you who will not believe a word of what I am saying and believe the conspiracy stories. Others will ask, 'why say all of this now and not wait for the report to be made public by the Office of Campaign and Political Finance?'

The reason is simple; I want all of you to know the full extent of my involvement in this issue so that going forward we can have open and honest conversations concerning education and the future of LPS.

I believe I have a good record of doing the right thing that should outweigh my mistakes. I never claimed to be a professional politician and I don't plan on becoming one. I started this as a father wanting to help children get a good education. I believe I can still do this.

Now that my involvement in this issue is out in the open, I look forward to sharing what I would like to accomplish in the next term. One thing for sure, I want to be part of the team that selects the new Superintendent for the Lawrence Public Schools. I also would like to help put a contract together that serves the people of Lawrence as opposed to just serving the Superintendent.

The good people of District E are known for their political knowledge and involvement and I am counting on the fact that I have been very truthful in this letter and because of that you will forgive me for my mistakes.

Allow me to return for another term so that I can make the wrongs right! My new outlook on trust comes from, Psalms 118:8, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." Also Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding, in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

God Bless you all!



*Peter Larocque is a member of the Lawrence School Committee. He was elected by the City Council to fill the unexpired term of Amy McGovern in 2006 and then elected in his own right in 2007. You can call him at 978-682-0900, email him at [peterlarocque@hotmail.com](mailto:peterlarocque@hotmail.com)*



PHOTO CREDIT: EILEEN MARGARET

The Lawrence High School Chess Club is pleased to recognize Alicia Rodriguez at the Most Improved Player for the 2008 – 2009 school year. David Muchene earned Most Outstanding Player honors and Steven Duarte was recognized with the Blue & White Award for exemplary attitude and effort. From Left to Right: White Fund Trustee Attorney Eileen Bernal, Most Improved Player Alicia Rodriguez, Chess Club President Estephannie Estevez, Principal of the Humanities and Leadership Development High School Michael Fiato. The White Fund provides funding for the LHS Chess program.

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# WATER NOT TESTED FOR E.COLI: From Page 1

"In my interactions with water department employees I've always found them to be hard working and competent. I'm shocked," Lilly said. "As one of the people who fought to prevent privatization, it's infuriating to see this gross failure of leadership and competence. It's almost as if someone is intentionally sabotaging the water department to set the stage for privatization."

Lilly added, "If our water isn't being tested regularly, how can we, as citizens, have confidence that our water is safe to drink? We did this for decades. We used to set the standard for water quality and now we look like a bunch of idiots. What happened? We need to take our water back and demand accountability from the city and get this resolved as soon as possible. What really bothers me now is that I can't trust the water that is coming out of the tap. That's not a position any resident of any community should be in."

## Council Inaction Jeopardizes Public Health

"Once again we have a DEP fine that was based on the lack of testing for an environmental hazard," Sullivan said. "This time it was their failure to test for E. coli. Now that's very serious. When I saw the minutes [written record] of the DEP meeting where Mr. Mark Griffen (the plant operator for the city) and Frank McCann (the DPW Director) admitted to every single item in the DEP fine ... I was stunned," he said in frustration.

"This wasn't a situation where the city missed one or two tests, they missed 18 tests. That's 18 months where drinking water went out to the people of Lawrence without any testing at all for E. coli. I'm extremely alarmed because that could have led to a drinking water hazard for the residents of this City and, quite frankly, it could have led to thousands of people getting very sick. Talk about sick, I'm sick just thinking about it. This is completely unacceptable."

Lawrence City Attorney Charlie Boddy said that the issue of non-testing and the other safety violations found by MassDEP need to be addressed immediately, "especially given that it's the second fine in less than a year." Boddy explained that despite the presence of the private contracting firm Woodward and Curran operating the plant, it is the city's responsibility to do testing and report those mandatory tests to the MassDEP.

"We're in a difficult situation because there are issues with regard to supervisory oversight at the water treatment plant," Boddy said. "Those issues will be resolved once we get a long-term contract in place. But absent a long-term contract, those issues will remain because Woodward and Curran is unwilling to take responsibility for these testing issues that they are not obligated to do. They are working on a temporary contract and as long as they are, they are not obligated to do water testing or provide oversight. That responsibility falls on the city."

Woodward is not being compensated for these responsibilities and they won't be. Not until they have a contract that clearly spells out those testing responsibilities at the plant."

In the mean time, the Lawrence City Council has refused to ratify a long-term contract with Woodward and Curran despite several attempts by the mayor to move the management of the water treatment facility from the city to the private firm.

"Because of their inaction we have really been in limbo on this," Sullivan said. "Every day that Woodward is working without a contract these safety issues and violations are going to continue."

Sullivan said that he had tried several times to get the council to approve a contract for Woodward and Curran to ensure that the plant was being run properly and that drinking water was safe. "But they simply refused to do that. In fact, they have been sitting on this issue for a very long time and they won't even bring it up for discussion. So, while they sit on their hands and play politics, we don't get a resolution to these very serious issues."

## Failing to Correct Ongoing Safety hazards

In October 2008, MassDEP fined the City of Lawrence \$5,750 after finding that operators at the water treatment facility failed to test the drinking water for a chemical called chlorite. The (DEP) requires that the city test for the chemical each month under the Clean Water Act.

Within two days of being notified of the fine, Lawrence City Attorney Charles Boddy called for an "investigation into who is responsible for these continuing violations." Boddy also called for disciplinary action against any city employee responsible for the failure to comply with State mandated water testing, demanding "action must be taken to prevent any further violations."

No disciplinary action has ever been taken against any of the city employees responsible for failing to do the mandatory testing and to date, no employee has been held accountable for "continuing



Lawrence's new \$26 million water treatment facility as it looked prior to completion in 2006. Workers at the water plant have ignored dozens of safety violations and failed to test the drinking water for E.coli.

violations" at the plant. Under Lawrence's City Charter, the water department falls under the responsibility of the Department of Public Works (DPW). Frank McCann is the DPW Director.

## Phantom Workers, Real Pay

Mayor Sullivan had to layoff eight workers from the water treatment plant last year but was forced to bring them back because of union contract issues. The workers were initially replaced by the private firm of Woodward and Curran whose workers are now performing the duties that city workers used to be tasked with. But after the city was ordered to bring them back to work, Sullivan said they returned to the facility but have no job duties.

"Yeah, I hired Woodward and Curran to run the plant and I did lay off the eight people who used to do that work. There were serious issues with the way things were being run, some of the city workers were not properly certified, plus we had a million dollar deficit in the water department's budget," Sullivan explained. "I am not going to lay off police or teachers to

make up for the mismanagement of the water treatment plant. I'm gong to lay off the people who were not doing their jobs, or not doing them right."

"But, by union contract we had to bring them back, even though Woodward had already replaced them. So now you tell me how crazy this is: we have eight city employees that are now showing up for work everyday and they have no job duties because the workers at Woodward and Curran are doing those jobs. I don't know what they are doing when they come to work but one of the things they are not doing is testing the drinking water to ensure the safety of the people of Lawrence. They are solely responsible for doing that and they failed to do it. Now we have to pay fines at a time when we are financially strapped."

## Untouchable

Asked who was directly responsible for making sure the testing was done on time and reported to the DEP, Sullivan said it was the plant supervisor and DPW Director, Frank McCann.

"The responsibility falls directly on the plant operator, Mr. Griffen and his supervisor Frank McCann," the Mayor said angrily.

"They are the ones that were at the meeting with DEP. They are the ones who admitted there was an error made for 18 months and that all these violations are being ignored. They are legally responsible for making sure that testing gets done and the violations be addressed. But, DPW Director Frank McCann is protected by the city council, so it doesn't really matter whether or not he fulfills his responsibility to supervise Mr. Griffen at the facility; he knows he is untouchable because of his friends on the city council."

Sullivan said that in any other city both McCann and Griffen would be out of a job but added "here in Lawrence the only

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

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WATER NOT TESTED FOR E.COLI: From previous page

thing that matters is how many fund raisers you show up for when city councilors come up for election. Apparently the safety of our drinking water is not quite at the top of their priority list.”

A Longer History of Water Problems

In October 2007 the state fined the city \$39,500 for inadequate security procedures, noncompliance with the plant’s disinfecting process, violating sampling protocols and inadequate turbidity requirements.

An investigation by state officials revealed that “from April 4, 2007 through April 17, 2007 the new plant was operated without any chlorine dioxide or chlorite testing equipment and the required daily samples for chlorine dioxide and chlorite were not taken.”

In February 2008 the city and MassDEP entered into a consent decree whereby MassDEP would reduce the \$39,500 fine to \$19,500. In return, the city agreed to beef up security at the plant, provide an updated operations plan and make sure all chlorine dioxide systems were working properly. To date, most of those issues have not been resolved.

Latest Fine

The DEP originally fined the city \$100,000 for failure to test for E. coli but reduced the fine to \$47,750. According to the MassDEP Order of Non-Compliance, the city was only ordered to pay \$25,000 of the fine. MassDEP waived \$22,750 on the condition that the plant be brought up to compliance and city officials correct all present and previous violations, something Mayor Sullivan says is going to be very difficult to do unless the council passes a contract for Woodward and Curran.

“I’m not holding my breath that the city council is just going to wake up tomorrow and say, ‘ok, let’s start doing our job now, let’s get moving on this water issue.’

I just don’t see that happening so, in order to fix the situation I have come up with a creative way to fix this situation.

Sullivan’s Creative Solution

Mayor Sullivan said he expects that the city workers in charge of rectifying safety hazards will continue to ignore the latest fines by the MassDEP.

“If I don’t take some kind of action on this, someone is going to get sick or worse. I need to make sure there is someone there to supervise the testing and make sure safety issues at the plant are no longer ignored. The only way the city can climb out of the mounting violations and continued lack of accountability is to bring in someone from the outside who can be the point person between Mass-DEP and the city.”

Sullivan said he is hiring former Lawrence resident Geoff Fulgione to oversee the city’s deficiencies in the management of the water treatment facility.

“Mr. Fulgione is very well respected in the community. He is a former Highway Department person, a former environmentalist who has his own business and his responsibilities would be three-fold:

First: To hold people accountable within the management of the water treatment plant.

Second: To work together with EPA and with DEP to satisfy any requests they might have going forward.

And third: To coordinate with the budget and finance director on figuring out: what the financial shortfall in the water department is and how much is real. Also, what the revenue projections are and what the new water rates need to be in order to fix the problems created by the council’s inaction.”

Increased Water Rates

“I know some people think that this is just a small fine and the impact is not really significant, but it is. If anyone

“This wasn’t a situation where the city missed one or two tests, they missed 18 tests. That’s 18 months where drinking water went out to the people of Lawrence without any testing at all for E.coli. I’m extremely alarmed because that could have led to drinking water hazards for the residents of this city and, quite frankly, it could have led to thousands of people getting very sick. Talk about sick, I’m sick just thinking about it. This is completely unacceptable.”

Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan



thinks there isn’t going to be a price to pay for all this mismanagement, besides the public’s health being put at risk, they are dead wrong. Before the end of the year the council is going to be faced with a water rate increase for every business and homeowner in the city to make up for the shortfalls in the water department. And the longer they wait to secure the long term management of that facility, the harder it is going to be to catch up on all the fines and maintenance issues building up to being Lawrence into compliance.”

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website, “some kinds of E. coli can cause diarrhea, while others cause urinary tract infections, respiratory illness and pneumonia, and other illnesses. Still other kinds of E. coli are used as markers for water contamination—so you might hear about E. coli being found in drinking water, which are not themselves harmful, but indicate the water is contaminated. It does get a bit confusing—even to microbiologists.”

Mayor Sullivan said that there is no evidence anyone has been sick from Lawrence’s drinking water and stressed that “at this time we do believe the water is safe to drink, what is most alarming is the question of what else isn’t being done over there and what future problems are going to arise from this.”

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 morning from 10am-noon. You can email your comments to Tdugjr@aol.com .



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## TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK!

### Finegold Benefitted from Campaign material printed at the Lawrence Public School.

An investigation by the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance may not have issued their report yet on which elected officials benefited from campaign material printed in the Lawrence Public Schools I'm going to tell you who they right now. At least three members of the Lawrence School Committee benefited from literature printed at the taxpayers' expense. Also benefiting from material printed at LPS were former School Committeeman Omayra Mejia, and State Representative Barry Finegold in his campaign for congress against Niki Tsongas. Mayoral Candidate Marcos Devers says he received campaign material printed at LPS but showed the Valley Patriot his canceled check made out to, get this, Simard Printing. Devers says he was approached by another politician who promised he could get Devers campaign material at cost for Devers' campaign against Willie Lantigua for State Representative last year. Devers said he gave the check to the other politician believing he was going to receive literature for his State Rep. Race from Simard. Unbeknownst to him, he says, the check went to an employee of the Lawrence Public Schools who cashed the check at a local store. While candidates who benefited from material printed illegally at the Lawrence Public Schools MAY not be facing criminal charges (and yet some may) it is an election year in the city of Lawrence and anyone connected to the scandal may face more wrath from voters than they do from the impotent Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

### Fiorentini's plan to help the Library

The mayor is instituting a check off box on the quarterly tax bill for residents who want to voluntarily contribute to the library's budget. "With the city in the financial difficulties that it is in, this is a positive solution for those of us who support the Haverhill Public Library. Taxpayers will have the opportunity to make a separate contribution earmarked solely for the Library's budget through a new 'check-off' contribution box on the City's quarterly tax bill. We need to be creative to solve some of our fiscal crises. This is a simple solution at no cost to the City. I encourage all residents to donate to this wonderful institution." The library 'check off' box will appear on the next tax bill.

### CORRECTION

Last month The Valley Patriot published a story on the incredible work done by Riverbank helping people shred their confidential documents. The story we ran said that the three shred days in Derry, NH, Methuen and North Andover yielded 4.2 tons of shredded documents. The real number was 6.7 tons. Riverbank will be holding more shred days in the future, so keep your eye on The Valley Patriot for more details in the future.

### Larocque's mea culpa

Lawrence School Committeeman Peter Larocque has done something nobody else in the political arena has done with regard to the print shop scandal in the Lawrence Public Schools: confess. Say what you want about Larocque, but while other politicians in The Valley are issuing denials and feigning shock that their name could possibly be attached to the Laboy scandal, you have to give Peter credit. He came forward and admitted his minor role in the scandal and apologized to the voters



right here in the pages of The Valley Patriot. I have yet to see anyone else in this community take ANY responsibility or issue ANY apologies for their role in benefiting from campaign material printed at the Lawrence Public Schools on our taxpayers dime. Remember that as this scandal unfolds and certain politicians who have been issuing denial after denial all along are exposed and punished (eh-hem mayoral candidate). Long before the state's Office of Campaign and Political Finance issues its report on which politicians got campaign material printed by the taxpayers and which did not, Larocque did the right thing and came clean. Those who do so after the fact are going to find out that issuing an apology will do them little good.

### And then there's Mr. Maali

Mr. Maali is an Armenian born immigrant who is running for school committee in the Mount Vernon section of Lawrence. While pundits and opinion makers such as myself gave him about a 10% chance of even making the September primary prior to the Laboy scandal, it now appears as though some voters in South Lawrence are taking a second look at him. Those who are not happy with Peter Larocque over the print shop scandal seem to be gravitating towards Maali who in his first race for elected office. Several hardcore voters have been overheard looking to Maali as an alternative to Peter Larocque instead of Amrk Gray, the third candidate in the race. "I am so grateful to be in this country," Maali told the Valley Patriot. People have no idea what an honor and a privilege it is to be able to express your opinion and run for office without fear of being jailed or harmed." Given the volatility of the criminal investigation against Wilfredo Laboy and the state investigation against

local candidates and office holders, Maali just may have a chance after all. We'll just have to wait and see.

### McCann on Leave

Lawrence's DPW director Frank McCann is out on medical leave for six to eight weeks. McCann, who was seen at Frank Moran's fundraiser for reelection to the city council just days before making the announcement will be having surgery and taking time off to recover.

### Governor Patrick in Trouble with voters

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick is in trouble with the voters but you don't have to believe me, you can believe a new poll showing continued public relations problem for the first term governor. The Rasmussen poll shows Patrick trailing political gadfly Christy Mihos in a one on

contest. Patrick had only a 5% advantage over republican Charlie Baker. Patrick's disapproval rating with the Massachusetts voters is at a whopping 57%. 32% of Mass. Voters said they "strongly disapprove of Patrick's job performance. State Treasurer Tim Cahill is looking better and better every day if you ask me ... and I'm a REPUBLICAN!

### Gary Manion

Gary Manion may not have received enough write-in votes to face off against City Councilor Grisel Silva two years ago, but the 22 year old Merrimack College Student says that he is ready to try again. Manion originally took out nomination papers for city council at-large (city wide) but says that after his district councilor Grisel Silva flipped out three

or four meetings in a row, voted to stop undercover police offices from taking their unmarked vehicles home, and engaged in several confrontations at the council table he believes at 22 he can bring more maturity to the council than Silva. He will have to defeat Willie Lantigua's candidate, Ruth Rojas of Lawrence Community Work if he is going to face Silva in a final election but Manion says this time he is up for the task.

### Speaking of LCW

You have to hand it to the poverty pimps at Lawrence Community Works, they really know how to pull a fast one. Last month LCW started their sham campaign called "Yes We Will" where they invited every candidate for office to attend an event so they could size up the competition for their pre-selected candidate for mayor, Willie Lantigua

That's right, Bill Traynor and his LCW cronies can pretend all they want that their motives are pure. They can pretend that all they care about is educating the "ignorant Latinos" in the city of Lawrence, (which seems pretty racist to me), but they aren't fooling me. Bill Traynor and several members of the LCW board of directors sent out a fundraising letter (see pic.) just days after the "Yes We Will" rally asking their friends and supporters to donate money to Willie Lantigua's mayoral campaign. Here's the best part, the invitation says "printed in house" at the bottom. Really? In-house? Would that be the "in-house printer at the Lawrence School Department? Or maybe it is the "in-house" printer at LCW (who knew they even had one)? Or maybe it was a special secret "in-house" printing press in Willie's basement? (I have a bridge to sell you if you believe that one). Either way, the board members of LCW can try to divorce their secret political activism and shenanigans from the supposedly "politically neutral" Lawrence Community Works (NON PROFIT) organization but, we all see what's going on here. LCW board members are looking for more of your tax money and what better way to get it than to ingratiate themselves with every candidate for every office so that no matter who gets

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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### Sal Lupoli Donates \$5K to Hospice House



Lawrence, MA – Lupoli companies is proud to announce that Sal Lupoli, President/CEO of Sal’s Pizza Retail and Wholesale Divisions, Salvatore’s Restaurants and Riverwalk Properties, made a five thousand dollar donation to the new Merrimack Valley Hospice located in Haverhill, MA. Mr. Lupoli presented the check to Joan Hull president/CEO of Home Health VNA and Merrimack Valley Hospice.

Sal’s Pizza has corporate-owned properties in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The business, with over 35 locations, has become a large retail franchise and wholesale operation serving all of New England with additional locations in California, Florida, Arizona and opening soon in Virginia. Today Sal’s Pizza and Salvatore’s Restaurants make thousands of pizzas a week! Riverwalk Properties is one of the largest contiguous properties offering retail and office space in all of Massachusetts.

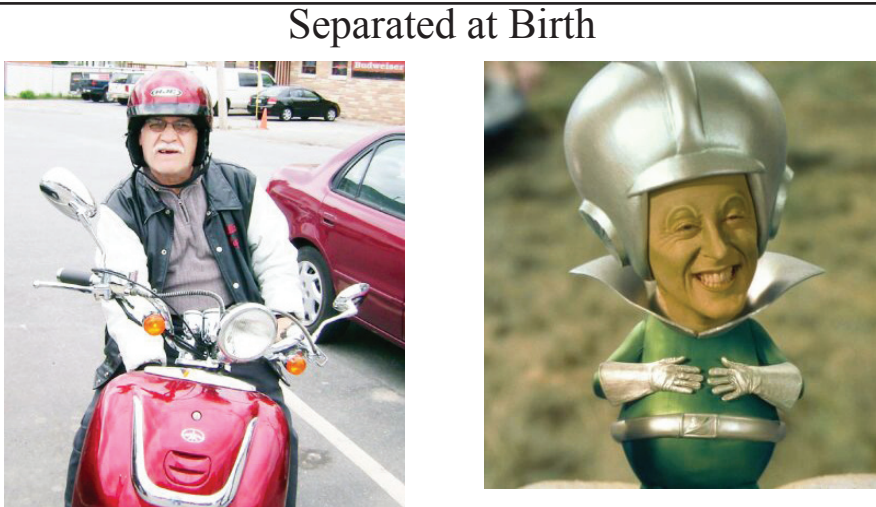


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### In Memory of



### Atty. Michael J. Tarshi

Sadly missed by family and friends, colleagues and clients.

### THE BEST OF MAYOR MANZI’S BLOG

#### Health Care Deal in Methuen

I am very pleased to announce a health care deal in Methuen between the City and the Coalition representing the municipal unions on health care. This health care agreement will save Methuen taxpayers \$1.2 million dollars in FY 2010. The insurance coalition, chaired by Teachers Union President Donna Gogas, has representatives from all municipal unions, including Police, Fire, and the Laborers Union. The potential for an increase of that magnitude shows how far out of whack our national health care system is, but I digress. The Coalition agreed to a new menu of co-pays and a new plan for prescription drugs. The new menu includes co-pays that did not exist in the prior plan, and increases to existing co-pays. It required a huge change in the plan, and I am grateful to the coalition for all of their hard work to produce a plan that not only saved the City money, but holds premium increases in the Tufts plan to 33 cents per week for an individual, and 88 cents per week for a family plan. We have incorporated several innovations to our plan, and a key to our success has been the willingness of Donna Gogas, the Coalition President, to work on health care all year round, not just at budget time. Read the Tribune story on this announcement here. Donna Gogas joined me for yesterdays announcement.



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# Laboy, Larocque and one big mess

Mark Gray

CANDIDATE FOR LAWRENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

I guess the good news is that the State and Federal Government hasn't pulled all the money away from Lawrence, YET. This would cause the tax payers of Lawrence to cough up 150 million dollars in taxes to support the politics that people call the Lawrence Public Schools. I have always said that Lawrence should have a higher standard of fiscal responsibility because it is drawing its school funding from other tax payers.

Anyone aware of what is going on in the schools knows the relationship between the Superintendent and his handpicked School Committee member Peter Larocque. One of the many things people ask me is how does a voter strong district like District E end up with someone like Peter Larocque who supports the Superintendent and vice versa? Besides the ethical, moral, and legal issues of the schools picking their own people to

be on the School Committee there are other disturbing issues involving Peter Larocque.

1. Peter Larocque is accused of getting free support by using our tax dollars for his campaign, and was specifically talked to about MARK RIVERA helping him with his campaigning.

2. Peter Larocque tells a parent of two kids in the school system that he is unwanted and unwelcome, when in fact the parent was invited by the PTA.

3. Peter Larocque puts, in print, a 9 point conditional mandate for parents / taxpayers to speak out at PUBLIC participation, a right of redress guaranteed by the Constitution.

4. Peter Larocque, when running against Amy McGovern, continually campaigned at the podium during School Committee meetings, stating there was a huge chasm between parents and the administration. Now Peter Larocque accuses anyone with

an opinion, other than his, to be campaigning on the tax payer's dime, despite his own past of doing so himself.

I could continue on, however getting rid of Laboy/Larocque is only a step in the process.

The next committee will have to clean up the mess left behind and right all the wrongs that have been allowed by current rubber-stamp committee members. Some of the ways to do this will be:

Implementing an internal complaint system that leads to disciplinary action for principles and administration who bar parent/taxpayer participation and problem resolution;

Posting the budget on the web in comprehensive fashion;

By terminating leasing, not renewing contracts that were put together to support political allies, and by putting those funds into the schools for books and full time

teachers.

Hiring staff that support parental involvement, after school activities, and changing the social behavior patterns. Reinforce that swearing, violence, drinking, and drugs are not acceptable and will not be tolerated. It is not enough to speak of change we have to demand it, and enforce it.

By the way if I become the next School Committee member I will replace the 9 point criteria Mr. Larocque has for speaking to the committee and welcome how you can help us make the school system better and thank you for your efforts.



Mark Gray is a school committee candidate from District E with 3 son's in the Lawrence Public School system. He served in the Marine Corps, the Army reserves, and has been active with the issues and problems facing the community. Mark can be reached by e-mail at [ghostapollo@yahoo.com](mailto:ghostapollo@yahoo.com)

## Strive to Survive, We Change Lives!

Sara Matar

HIGH SCHOOL REPORTER

I finally survived my junior year in high school and now summer has arrived!

A month before school ended, I applied for the position of team leader for one of the greatest camps, Camp Champagnat. Camp Champ, as it is called, is an annual camp facilitated by Central Catholic High School counselor, Mr. Merrill. It is put together by Central students who applied to lead at Camp Champ. Although it is only for three days and two nights, it is an awesome way to start off the summer!

All the leaders worked hard to put the camp together. We all woke up bright and early for fun, productive morning meetings which lasted for more than six hours. These meetings were for putting the camp together and learning about important leadership qualities. Without these meetings there would not be an organized camp or even worse, no camp at all.

The most important step of putting the camp together was figuring out what we wanted the theme to be. Each leader brainstormed ideas for a unique theme. After taking a vote, we finally decided on a survivor theme for this year's camp.

Picking the theme went smoothly, but choosing other parts of the camp was



somewhat a struggle. For instance, imagine twenty teenage students in a room debating on what color T-shirts the campers and leaders would wear. Each person has a different taste or way of thinking which makes every individual unique. Even though it was a challenge at times, I really enjoyed contributing to making Camp

Champ's survival theme come alive.

Three friends and I formed a group and put together a night at Camp Champ. This part was called Inspiration because we wanted the campers to feel inspired or to help them remember those who inspired them. I gave a moving speech and so did my other friends. We showed clips from the movies 'Oscar Schindler' and 'Pay It Forward'. The main characters are really

inspiring to many people and that is why they were appropriate to show to the campers.

Once the campers arrived, so much energy was brought by the leaders to pump up the campers. All the leaders worked hard to make the camp a great experience for the campers. The main goals were of course to have fun but to also encourage the campers to make a difference in the world. Our chant was "strive to survive, we change lives!" Making a difference does not necessarily mean to stop world hunger, it could be by doing random acts of kindness. Saying simply "hello" to someone could brighten up their day and mean the world to them.

It has been a couple of weeks since Camp Champ ended and I have to say that I learned so much from the experience even though I was a leader rather than a camper. When I look back on those three days at Camp Champ, all I can do is smile.

I laughed and cried which has made me a stronger person. I am motivated and



I am inspired to do great things because of Camp Champ. Sara Matar is going to be a leader at Camp Champ. Sara Matar is a student at Central Catholic High School and is the Valley Patriot's new High School reporter. You can send story ideas or comments to Sara at: [sara06matar@yahoo.com](mailto:sara06matar@yahoo.com)

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Athletes at Lawrence's Special Olympics were not deterred by the nasty weather last month. Organizers moved the event from the Veterans Memorial Stadium to the Lawrence High School auditorium.



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## INNOVATION VALLEY (ivalley.org)

# Brainstorming for a green chemistry demonstration center for Haverhill and The Valley

## Join Our LinkedIn Group to Participate

### John Michitson

INNOVATION VALLEY/PATRIOT COLUMNIST  
ON BEHALF OF THE HYMN TEAM

I recently held a Business Networking Breakfast in Haverhill, MA. Dr. John Warner of the Warner-Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry challenged the community to develop the nation's first "Green Chemistry Demonstration Center." As the hub of the wheel it would make Haverhill a leader in this new and exciting approach to industry and the future of manufacturing.

As a prime mover, the Center would perform four roles 1) validate new products derived from Green Chemistry, 2) test existing products for toxicity, 3) provide a forum for companies and academia to share ideas and 4) perform community and regional outreach.

Since Green Chemistry can be applied to so many industries (e.g. Pharmaceutical, Biotech, Specialty Chemicals, Building Materials, Printing & Ink, Textiles, Cosmetics, and Consumer Products), it could also be a catalyst for attracting other emerging and traditional industries to the

area. Perhaps the existing businesses in Haverhill could be the first to pilot new green products validated at the demonstration center, to give them an edge.

Dr. Warner has already pitched this idea to the Governors in Michigan and California, respectively, so there is little time to waste. At least two colleges in the Merrimack Valley have expressed interest in playing a role in the Green Chemistry Demonstration Center.

We have already visited the University of New Hampshire's InterOperability Lab to learn about their successful business model in validating networking products against industry standards. UNH had the foresight to develop this non-profit enterprise that employs 150 graduate and undergraduate students and more than 30 full-time staff members. They are fully funded by their member companies, such as Cisco. The students provide participating companies with a pool of experienced job candidates.

Likewise, industry standards will need to be developed for green chemistry. The Green Chemistry Demonstration Center

will then validate new products against industry standards. It will also need a technician training program. It is envisioned that The Warner-Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry and its associated Beyond Benign Foundation will play key roles in developing industry standards and training, respectively. The trained technicians will provide a pool of experienced job candidates for green chemistry companies, as well as for overlapping industries, such as the Pharmaceutical industry. A tour of Warner-Babcock is currently being planned.

A LinkedIn Group called "Haverhill's Green Chemistry Demonstration Center" has been formed to brainstorm its formulation. It already has 28 participants from Haverhill, the region, nation and world. If you have an interest in participating in the brainstorming activity, please request to join the LinkedIn Group either directly through the LinkedIn network, or by sending me an email at [john@michitson.com](mailto:john@michitson.com).



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



John Michitson was a Haverhill city councilor for 10 years; the last 2 as president. He is a manager and electrical engineer at the MITRE Corporation in Bedford, Mass. John and his wife, Heidi, are enjoying the childhood of their 7-year-old daughter and 9 year-old son. email: [john@michitson.com](mailto:john@michitson.com)

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

## Green jobs a cost, not benefit, to the national economy

Academic study finds critical economic flaws and assumptions in previous reports

### Beacon Hill Institute

Recent studies forecasting the potential economic benefits of government green job programs are critically flawed and erroneously promote these jobs as a benefit, according to a report released today by The Beacon Hill Institute (BHI) at Suffolk University.

The economic analysis reviewed the primary claims of three of the most influential green jobs studies and found serious economic flaws in each.

"Contrary to the claims made in these studies, we found that the green job initiatives reviewed in each actually causes greater harm than good to the American economy and will cause growth to slow," reported Paul Bachman, Director of Research at the Beacon Hill Institute, one of the report's authors.

The studies reviewed by BHI include:

The United Nations Environment Programme, International Labor Organization, International Trade Union Confederation's Green Jobs Initiative, "Green Jobs: Towards Sustainable Work in a Low-Carbon World."

The Center for American Progress, "Green Recovery: A Program to Create Good Jobs and Start Building a Low-Carbon Economy."

The U.S. Conference of Mayors, "U.S. Metro Economics: Current and Potential Green Jobs in the U.S. Economy" prepared by Global Insight.

The authors of the BHI critique identified a fundamental error in each of

these studies, specifically "counting the creation of a green job as a benefit and rationale for its proposed program in and of itself."

BHI/ June 25, 2009/ Green Jobs a Cost, Not Benefit to National Economy 2 Beacon Hill Institute at Suffolk University • 8 Ashburton Place • Boston, MA 02108 • 617-573-8750 • (fax) 617-994-4279 • [www.beaconhill.org](http://www.beaconhill.org) • email: [bhi@beaconhill.org](mailto:bhi@beaconhill.org)

The BHI study also stresses that "Jobs — green or otherwise — are not benefits but are

instead costs.

If the green job is a net benefit it has to be because the value the job produces for consumers is greater than the cost of performing the job. This argument is never made in any of these three green jobs studies."

The executive director of the Beacon Hill Institute and co-author, David G. Tuerck, went further, noting that "these studies are based on arbitrary assumptions and use faulty methodologies to create an unreliable forecast for the future of green jobs.

"It appears these numbers are based more on wishful thinking than the appropriate economic models, and that must be taken into consideration when the government is trying to turn the economy around based on political studies and the wrong numbers," Tuerck said.

According to BHI, the results of the study also show estimates on how a state-based cap and trade policy will negatively impact both job growth and wages. One specific critique involves job creation in the state of Indiana, where previous reports did not take increased energy costs from a "cap and trade" system into consideration when looking at job creation. In that case, BHI developed a computable general equilibrium (CGE) model and found that contrary to previous studies, Indiana would lose more than 18,000 jobs in 2009, up to nearly 29,000 job losses in 2011, and that real disposable income would be cut by nearly \$1 billion in 2009 and close to \$1.5 billion in 2011.

The authors concluded by noting that further economic analysis is needed before governments move forward on green job initiatives. "All three green jobs studies we reviewed are riddled with economic errors, incorrect methods, and dubious assumptions. Economic policy should not be based on such faulty analysis. Serious economic studies of costs and benefits are desperately needed before the adoption of any green jobs proposal."

For more information and the full study,



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# Mind, Body & Soul: Health in The Valley

## Grilling tips to make outdoor food prep safer

**Dr. Rallie McAllister**  
SYNDICATED MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Now that summer is here, it's time to don your favorite apron, grab your tongs and fire up the grill. Before you toss the steaks and burgers on the barbie, you might want to turn down the heat.

If you're a seasoned backyard chef, you're probably well aware of the danger of undercooking meat. It may come as a surprise, but eating meat that has been overcooked on the grill can be just as hazardous to your health.

Researchers from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health recently reported that consumption of well-done meat prepared by frying, grilling and barbecuing can create carcinogens that are not formed when the same types of meat are baked or stewed. The findings were presented at the American Association for Cancer Research 100th Annual Meeting 2009.

In a study of more than 60,000 par-

ticipants, the University of Minnesota scientists analyzed data concerning meat intake and cooking methods. Participants were asked how they preferred their meat prepared, with choices ranging from rare to well-done.

Over a period of nine years, 208 new cases of pancreatic cancer were diagnosed among study participants. Researchers found that participants who typically consumed steak prepared well-done were nearly 60 percent more likely to develop pancreatic cancer than those who preferred steak prepared rare or medium-rare.

Earlier research has shown that consuming any type of meat that is overcooked, burnt or charred can increase the risk of developing cancer of the breast, colon, stomach and prostate. High-temperature cooking can transform amino acids and other natural substances in meat into heterocyclic amines (HCAs) — compounds that are known to cause cancer in laboratory animals.

You can reduce HCA formation in the meat you prepare by lowering the cooking

temperature. Whether you grill, pan-fry or oven-roast meats, it's best to cook at temperatures below 325 degrees, the surface temperature at which HCAs begin to form.

If you're interested in reducing HCA formation in grilled foods, you can start by microwaving meat for a few minutes at a medium setting and patting the meat dry ahead of time. Although microwaving meat and removing excess fat prior to grilling can help reduce HCA formation, this practice tends to make some cuts a little less tender.

Flipping burgers and meat often — at least once a minute — is another way to reduce HCA formation.

It's also important to avoid cooking meat directly over flames.

When excess fat in meat drips onto charcoal briquettes or gas burners, it creates flare-ups that contribute to HCA formation. To avoid setting your food aflame, push briquettes to the sides of a charcoal grill or turn off one burner of a gas grill.

Since char and ash contain HCAs and

other carcinogens, it's a good idea to trim away any meat that is blackened or burnt before you dig in.

One of the tastiest ways to reduce HCA formation in grilled and cooked meat is to marinate it ahead of time. Marinades that include cider vinegar, olive oil, lemon juice and a sprinkling of spices can reduce HCA formation by as much as 99 percent in meat grilled for 10 to 40 minutes.

One popular spice, rosemary, has proven benefits as a cancer-preventing agent. Researchers at Kansas State University discovered that when small amounts of rosemary were applied to hamburger patties prior to grilling, the formation of HCA was reduced by 30 percent to 100 percent.

Natural antioxidant compounds in rosemary were found to block HCA formation during heating. Basil, mint, sage, savory, marjoram, oregano, garlic and thyme can also reduce the production of cancer-causing compounds during cooking.

Honey is an excellent marinade ingredi-

**McAllister, page 27**

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## Welcome to the Merrimack Valley Hospice House

HAVERHILL – The dream has become a reality. After years of planning the beautiful Merrimack Valley Hospice House is opening its doors to the community that supported it during a Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Celebration on Tuesday, June 2nd.

“We’re thrilled to share this wonderful home with the community that supported it. Support has come from individuals and corporations as well as local and national foundations,” said Joan Stygles Hull, RN, MBA, President / CEO, of Home Health Foundation, which includes Merrimack Valley Hospice, Home Health VNA and HomeCare, Inc. “This Hospice House represents years of planning and effort. It is a reality because of the dedication and commitment of this community. I am proud to announce that we will be welcoming our first patients in early June.”

Hospice House has 14 private suites and is located on 39 acres of beautiful woodlands at 360 North Avenue in Haverhill. It will be a place of comfort and care for terminally ill patients and their families, who for a variety of reasons are unable to receive hospice services in their homes. The residence is the first of its kind to be built in the Valley, and the first Hospice House in Massachusetts licensed to offer pediatric hospice services. Some highlights include private patient rooms with space to accommodate family members overnight, community areas with fireplaces and gar-

dens and many other areas that replicate a home-like setting. A Remembrance Walkway has also been incorporated into the property where supporters can inscribe a brick in tribute to their loved one.

The Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Celebration was attended by more than 600 supporters – including donors and employees of the agency. When the beautiful sage green ribbon was ceremoniously cut, it marked a historic moments in the agency’s history.

“This is the first time our organization has taken on a project of this magnitude,” said Hull. “The Merrimack Valley Hospice House will provided comfort and support to countless patients and families.”

During the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Celebration guests had an opportunity to view a history and timeline of the Merrimack Valley Hospice House and contribute a message of what this opening means to the community to its time capsule. The time capsule will be opened on the 10th Anniversary of the Merrimack Valley Hospice House opening, and the messages will be read at that time. Following the ceremony, guests toured the residence, grounds and learned about the special features this home will provide to terminally ill patients.

Merrimack Valley Hospice is a not-for-profit agency dedicated to serving the medical, spiritual and supportive needs of terminally ill patients and their families.

## Family Health Center names Joseph Gravel, M.D. as new Chief Medical Officer, Residency Director

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center is proud to announce Joseph W. Gravel, Jr. M.D., FGAAP as the new Chief Medical Officer as well as the Director of the Lawrence Family Medicine Residency program based at GLFHC, effective September 21, 2009.

GLFHC Chief Executive Officer Robert Ingala in his announcement praised Gravel for his dedication to community-based medicine and the work he has accomplished in the area of a family medicine based residency program. “We’re very proud to have Dr. Gravel join our organization. His commitment to community healthcare makes him a valued asset to GLFHC and the Lawrence Family Medicine Residency in our mission to improve and maintain the health of individuals and families in the Merrimack Valley.”

Dr. Gravel expressed similar sentiments once the announcement was made official by Ingala. “I am thrilled to be joining the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center and its family medicine residency program. GLFHC has a national reputation for innovative, state-of-the-art, culturally competent primary care that is truly community-oriented. The Lawrence Family Medicine Residency is nationally known for producing some of the finest family physicians in the country. I look forward to working with such a talented, committed team to provide a model personal medical home for the Greater Lawrence community.”

Gravel brings a long, dedicated and varied work history to the Lawrence, MA based health center in both community medicine and family residency programs. Since 1995, Gravel has served as Director of the Tufts University Family Medicine Residency Program based in Malden, MA.

He also currently serves as Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health & Family Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, Massachusetts. Prior to that assignment, Gravel also served as Chief, Department of Family Medicine as well as the Medical Director for Hallmark Health System/



Malden Medical Center in Malden, MA.

From the residency perspective, Gravel was recently elected President of the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors’ Board of Directors. GLFHC is also the home to the nation’s first accredited community health center-sponsored Family Medicine Residency training

program which has been ACGME accredited since 1993. Ingala points out “Joe presented us with a unique proposal; he offered to also function as our Residency Director. We had much discussion with him about that and overall think it will be an innovative approach for GLFHC.” Ingala concludes, “We are committed to providing culturally sensitive patient care, superb medical education and an environment that is compassionate, understanding and open to continuous improvement. With the addition of Dr. Gravel to our management team, I expect we will continue that commitment well into the future.”

In his expanded role as CMO and Residency Director, Gravel will oversee a provider staff of 70 full and part time physicians, 11 nurse practitioners, 26 medical residents, and 3 fellows.

ABOUT GLFHC: For nearly 30 years, GLFHC’s presence in the city of Lawrence has ensured that the indigent, minorities, and working poor have access to quality primary health care. Since its creation in 1980, GLFHC has grown from a staff of ten serving 3,000 patients at a single site to more than 514 employees serving over 43,000 patients at four clinics in Lawrence and 18 sites throughout the Merrimack Valley that offer support services. ABOUT THE LAWRENCE FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY: The LFMR is an innovative training program which attracts exceptional physicians who are committed to caring for underserved populations. The mission of the Lawrence Family Medicine Residency is to create and nurture learning environments where physicians are inspired to develop expertise in family medicine and to dedicate themselves to the care of individuals, families and communities especially those who are underserved.

For more information contact: Marc Lemay – PR/Media Coordinator -- GLFHC. 978-722-2869 or mlemay@glfhc.org

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**Thomas Connors**  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

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Today is a great time to take a new and fresh look at The Pledge of Allegiance. This is the Oath people from all over the world have risked lives and futures for in order to seek opportunity and secure freedom. It is the Oath men and women of every nation have fought and died to protect so you and I can live fully and take advantage of all that is right on our doorstep.

**THINK what it means to Pledge Allegiance to the Good Ole’ USA ...**

**“I PLEDGE ...**

This is all about YOU. Not a group you belong to or an association you joined. This is PERSONAL. It is all about YOU and where you stand. It’s about whether

you are going to keep your end of the bargain here in America or turn your back when it is not convenient. It is about what is best for the country not just your self-interests.

It’s about taking an OATH. Making a commitment. Freely and without coercion. With your hand over your heart. Not just for today. But, for a lifetime.

**ALLEGIANCE ...**

This is not some whim. It is not something you do because you have nothing better to do. It is a commitment. A sworn declaration you make to the greatest Country on the face of the earth that you will stand by her side whenever she needs you. It is being loyal through thick and thin.

**TO THE FLAG ...**

You are not paying homage to just a piece of cloth. You are recognizing all and everything for which that flag stands. It represents the greatest country, with the greatest freedoms. Fought and died for by millions throughout her history. The red, white and blue. Colors that have never and will never run.

**OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ...**

50 separate, but equal states, UNITED for one purpose; to guarantee freedom and independence all cross this land. Too often we forget our oneness. We need to be reminded from time to time that we are not Irish who are Americans, not Italians or Puerto Ricans or Dominicans or Africans

or Chinese or French, but AMERICANS first and foremost. That is who we are. We proudly identify ourselves as Americans FIRST and our nationalities second. We are NOT some nationality of men and women who happen to live in America. No, we are AMERICANS first, who happen to also bring a rich culture of our homelands here. Not to separate us but to enhance this great country. We are a melting pot not a tossed salad.

**AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS ...**

THIS Republic is indeed special. A form of government that is governed by the People, for the People. It is not lead from above but by the People who are the back bone of this Great Country. Our elected are here to represent our ideals not their personal agenda.

**ONE NATION ...**

A country singular in its existence and purpose and recognized as such the world over.

**UNDER GOD ...**

Founded and thrived in a Belief in GOD. Not a godless nation but one whose beliefs and values have made her what she is.

**INDIVISIBLE ...**

We may operate as separate states but we STAND AS ONE. Together we stand ... divided we fall.

**WITH LIBERTY ...**

FREEDOM! The very foundation of our great Country. Freedom to succeed and to

fail. Freedom to love and hate. Freedom to become a millionaire and freedom to remain a pauper. Freedom from the shackles of debilitating over-taxation.

**AND JUSTICE ...**

The right to be treated fairly and justly in all you do. Justice which is blind to race, religion or status in life. Justice based on law not some incidental whim.

**FOR ALL.”**

For Everyone! Black, brown, yellow, white, young, old and in-between. Every nationality, every religion and every creed. Without exception.

Take the Pledge of Allegiance to heart. Instill American Pride in your children. Force yourself to hold your elected officials to even the very basic tenets of the Pledge. Then, hold your head high knowing that all the blood that has been shed and all the wars for freedom that have been fought were never conducted in vain.

**Now, that’s a WOW!**



Tom Connors is President/ CEO of American Training, a diverse collection of companies committed to “Bringing Out the Best in Everyone They Touch”. He believes in living life to the fullest by making the WOW! a regular part of your personal, spiritual and working life. You can reach Tom at Tom@AmericanTrainingInc.com or by writing to him at Tom Connors, American Training, 102 Glenn Street, Lawrence, MA 01843 © 2009

## Special needs planning: why we need to act today

This article is the first in a series of pieces that New York Life has created to help foster awareness of the vital need for financial and estate planning for families with special needs.

If something were to happen to you today, who would be there to protect your loved ones – particularly those with special needs? Think of all your current and future special needs-related expenses, such as special residential homes, employment assistance and other costs. While it may be difficult to meet these obligations now, imagine the implications after you’re gone.

As you probably know, the government provides several programs offering financial assistance, primarily Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid, but not without conditions. SSI provides monthly cash benefits used for food, shelter and clothing; Medicaid provides comprehensive coverage, including medical care and equipment as well as rehabilitative and custodial services. However, if a disabled individual receives funding for any of these purposes from an alternate source, the government cuts back support. For example, eligibility for SSI payments can be jeopardized if a disabled individual has more than \$2,000 in his or her name. Moreover, if you are a caregiver who needs to ensure government funding for a loved one whom you are not legally obligated to support (e.g., an adult child), you may be limited in what you can spend on that person, and more importantly, what you can leave to that individual as part of your estate.

Funds used to place a loved one in the residence of your choice, for example, can be deemed income and jeopardize eligibility for government benefits. Even gifted funds, inherited assets and unstructured beneficiary designations on such assets as

life insurance, IRAs and pension plans can affect eligibility as well.

A Special Needs Trust is a planning tool that offers an affordable way to meet the ongoing needs of a loved one, while at the same time helping to financially secure their continued care should something happen to you – without affecting eligibility for government funding. Specifically designed to provide funds to supplement the basic expenses, a Special Needs Trust may also help pay for additional items not covered by SSI or Medicaid, including education, recreation, travel, travel guardians, transportation, vacations, cable television, computers and more.

Imagine that something happens to you today. Are you certain that your disabled loved ones will receive the care that you want for them? Do you have a plan in place that will ensure continued support without jeopardizing government benefits? Are you concerned that your other children may miss out on opportunities due to special needs-related expenses? Many individuals delay planning, often creating disastrous consequences for their families and disabled loved ones.

As a cousin of a special needs adult, I have some personal experience with the sensitive issues and worries unique to families with disabled loved ones. I am dedicated to helping families design, fund and implement comprehensive financial and estate plans to ensure that the care they give now will last a lifetime, not only for their loved ones with special needs, but other family members as well.

For additional information on the topics discussed, please contact Agent Gregory J. Loosigian, New York Life. 10 New England Business Center Dr. Andover, Ma. 01810. Telephone Number 978-681-4312.

### SIMPLE WISDOM WITH GAIL VAN KLEEK

## Making Stroganoff

**Gail Van Kleek**  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

While I have grown to understand that being a mother-in-law is often a difficult and challenging role, being a daughter-in-law is often equally as hard.

My mother in law was a proper Bostonian woman whose reply to the letters I wrote her often included a slip of paper listing the words I’d misspelled. When she came to visit, she frequently took back the things she’d given us and while I’m far from slovenly, she was clearly disdainful of the way I kept house. While I did everything I could think of to earn her acceptance, she seemed to respond with judgment and disapproval.

One day, feeling especially hurt by something she had said, the anger I’d been swallowing for years rose up inside me. Having been raised to value peacefulness, I was frightened by my sudden sense of rage. Hoping to distract myself, I began making stroganoff for dinner.

As the meat was browning, I discovered I was out of onions. Reaching for the phone, I called my neighbor, hoping to borrow some from her. Unfortunately she didn’t have any to give me. As I drove to the grocery store, I realized that while I was disappointed when my neighbor didn’t have the onions I needed, I wasn’t angry at her for not giving me something she didn’t have to give.

Then I thought of my mother-in-law, whose values and outlook were so different than my own. What if she simply

couldn’t give me something she didn’t have to give? What if her behavior towards me had very little to do with me and much more to do with the lens through which she looked at life?

Looking back on that troubled time, it’s easy to see that while my focus seemed to have been on pleasing my mother-in-law, I’d really been focusing on how much I needed her to like me. Sadly, the more I needed that liking from her, the more of myself I’d been willing to give away in order to earn it.

It took a long time. Honoring our own feelings without blaming someone else for the way we let them make us feel can be challenging at first, but it ultimately sets us free. The kind of love we are able to earn seldom truly nurtures us and we are much less likely to need others to give us our sense of personal value when we are acting respectfully and compassionately towards ourselves.

In the end my mother-in-law and I learned to genuinely love one another, although our relationship was nothing at all like the one I’d once imagined....Perhaps the best way to change something in our life is to look for the changes we can make in ourselves

**WHAT WE FOCUS ON IS TRULY WHAT WE SEE**



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PHOTOS: TOM DUGGAN

Audrey Hagar, the infamouse Chili Bandit and Matty Brein



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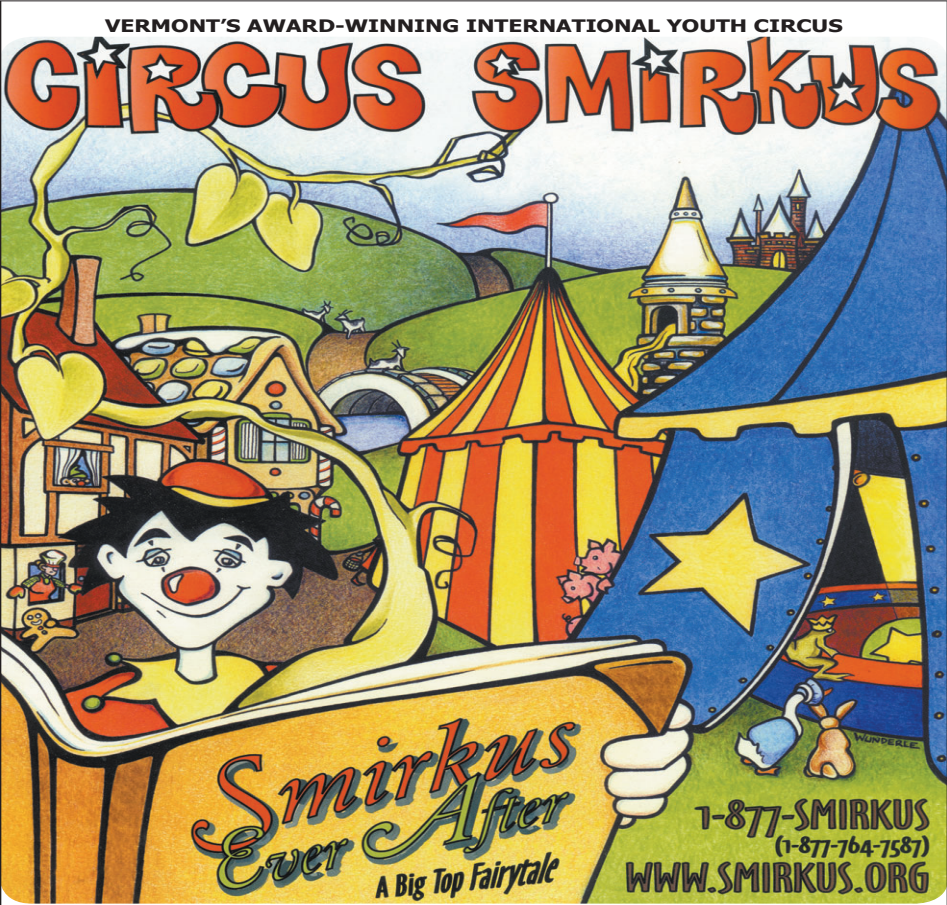
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PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Olympic Gold Medal Softball Pitcher Jennie Finch displays her copy of last month's Valley Patriot at the Greater Boston Sports Collectors Show at the Shriners Auditorium in Wilmington.



Lawrence mayoral candidate Pedro Payano (right) with his campaign team on the Campagnone Common during this year's Semana Hispana celebrations. Bet you can't guess his campaign slogan!



PHOTO: COURTESY

Newton's new Interim Superintendent Dr. Fran Marini (formerly the acting North Andover Superintendent) with North Andover's Business Administrator Steve Fortado. Send your photo caption suggestions to [valleypatriot@aol.com](mailto:valleypatriot@aol.com)



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North Andover Middle Shcool graduating 8th grader Jeffrey Ryan won the Michael Latta Public Service Award on graduation day. Michael Latta was a Patriot Ambulance EMT who was killed in the line of duty 2 years ago.



Lawrence mayoral candidate Israel Reyes (r) on Capital Hill in Washington D.C. for 5th District Congressional Day. Reyes is chatting with Congressman John Tierney



Haverhill Mayor James J. Fiorentini named Jaclyn Solimine as Artist of the Month for June. Jaclyn is finishing the 8th Grade at Consentino Middle School and has five art pieces hanging in the Mayor's office this month..

She has been studying art for two years with Susan Kneeland and enjoys pastels, pencils and watercolors, creating beautiful landscapes and still life pictures. Mayor Fiorentini stated:

The Haverhill Artist of Month was created by Mayor Fiorentini to foster and profile Haverhill's thriving art community. Haverhill artists interested in being considered for Artist of the Month can submit copies of their work and artist's statement to the Mayor's Office.



Members of TEAM ABDOO (the campaign team of David Abdoo, candidate for Mayor in Lawrence, was on hand for last month's Cancer Walk.

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## PUPPY LOVE! with Kate Whitney

# Massage therapy for your puppy can make ALL the difference!

Kate Whitney

VALLEY PATRIOT PUPPY COLUMNIST

By the time you are reading this, I hope that we have had no rain for at least a day! What is with the weather? The first day of summer washed in with a wet, cold day. I don't know about you, but I especially hate rainy days when it comes to my dogs. When I look out the window and sigh, "ugh, another rainy day" Dash and Honey can't wait to get outside. They absolutely love the rain. Therefore, the area by the door is covered with towels for when they come in out of the rain: Towels for them to stand on, towels to wipe their feet, towels to wipe their coats, towels to wipe the floor. Then the house smells like wet dog for the next few hours.

But hey, what am I supposed to do? Not let them out? Not let them have fun in the rain? Nah, I just deal with it and remember how happy it makes them.

To be honest, the topic of this month's column came to me because I always get coupons in the mail for massages. I love massages and I wish I could get more of them. When I thought about how great massages make me feel, I thought to myself, "I want to find out more about canine massage." I know how soothing and therapeutic massages are for humans, I wanted to find out if they were equally as great for our four legged friends. The more I investigated the topic, the more I realized just how important canine massage is.

Not only does the massage make the dog feel relaxed, but it also allows you to monitor your dog's health and well being, two things that every dog owner should be eager to stay on top of.

Giving your dog a massage simply means rubbing them gently all over their

body. When you rub, you are helping the dog's circulation and working out any muscle aches. Have your dog lay down on the floor or the bed. Start with the head, and move down the body. Don't forget the legs, feet, and tail. Make sure to talk quietly and reassure them that they are doing a great job laying still for their massage. There are many different levels of massage that you can apply to your dog. You can take your dog to a certified canine massage therapist or you can practice massage on your dog yourself, at home.

I'm going to be discussing the "do-it-yourself-at-home" massage. What's great about canine massage is that it can benefit all breeds and ages of dogs.

There are many positive things that can come out of massaging your dog.

Massage therapy can help with behavior problems and can also help your dog feel better. A few things that massage can do for your furry friend: increase circulation and oxygenation to the cells of the body, stimulate the immune system, decrease pain and stiffness, improve muscle function. Massaging is one of the best things you can do to bond with your best friend. Whether you just brought home a new puppy (hopefully from a shelter) or have had your pet for a while, they will thank you -probably with a tail wag and a sloppy kiss.

Aside from feeling good, massage allows you to keep a close eye on their health. While you rub, look for things such as ticks, cuts, scabs, mats in the fur, bumps, etc. Anything that is not supposed to be there should be removed (like a tick) or seen by a vet immediately (like a bump).

Massage can be especially therapeutic

PUPPYGIRL, page 27



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Valley Patriot's Puppy Girl Kate Whitney with Meg, the latest of Kate's foster puppies to get adopted. She is a 7 month old pointer mix who was picked up as a stray in Virginia. She now resides with her new mommy in North Reading., Dash and Honey all want you to know how important it is to adopt a shelter dog. For more information you can email One Tail at a Time at [onetail@comcast.net](mailto:onetail@comcast.net)

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## ONE TAIL AT A TIME Saturn of Haverhill

The Valley Patriot's Puppy Girl Kate Whitney plays with one of the puppies that were up for adoption at the Saturn Car Dealership in Haverhill as part of One Tail at a Time's adoption days.



Kate says the total number of puppies adopted in one day was 13!

One Tail at a Time is a rescue shelter in Amesbury and is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization. To help Puppy Girl find homes for puppies and kittens rescued by the shelter you can email her at [kwsingrite@aol.com](mailto:kwsingrite@aol.com)

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PLUM GROVE NEWSLETTER

Hello to All,  
 I have been very busy this spring with advertising campaigns, getting the gardens started, training Caleigh and developing our horse property.  
 If you live in the area, visit Jimmy K’s restaurant in Georgetown and order a cup of coffee. They have mugs advertising local businesses and yes! Plum Grove is well represented. I hope that all of you have had the chance to visit [www.plumgrovemassage.com](http://www.plumgrovemassage.com) to look through the website. If you would like, you can submit a testimonial for the site. I am working with the designers to develop a blog, too. The people at The Natural Dog in Newburyport are working with me to bring canine massage to the area. Be on the watch for those developments.

The gardens are blooming in succession. The purple hues of Ground Phlox, Iris and Rhodedendrons have faded, but the yellows are making their presence known as Evening Primrose, Ground Sedum, Yarrow and Black-Eyed Susans begin to open. The creeping Thyme is the last hurrah of purple in the landscape. Roses are blooming in shades of peach, pink, red and yellow. All this is accented with splashes of color from several varieties of annuals. It is very exciting to see the fruits of labor.

Land has been cleared to expand the paddocks and we now own and board nine horses. Alex is looking for a new home to continue his development and Rosie would like to go to a home that allows her to just go out on the trails. If you know of anyone looking for a new adventure with horses or to add to their current herd, let me know! You can visit [www.plumgrovewquestrian.com](http://www.plumgrovewquestrian.com) to learn more about Alex and Rosie.

I am looking forward to the days growing warmer and longer as summer gets underway. While I have no set vacation plans, I will spend some time horseback riding, hiking with my dogs and playing some music. These are the things that keep me energized and feeling my best physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. With all this work I have been doing, I found it necessary to increase my appointments with my own massage therapist. It is important to keep myself in good balance so that I can better serve all

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<<<Merle is a 10 year old cat looking for a place to call home. He is sweet and cuddly and loves everyone; other cats, dogs and people! Can you give him a sunny window to nap in?



<<<Wiggles is an adorable hamster looking for a home. He would do best in a home with hamster experience.

Contact Chris for details at (978) 452-7781 or [chris@lowellhumanesociety.org](mailto:chris@lowellhumanesociety.org)

6 inches off the ground

Feline Fourth Felicitations

It’s that time again, skies light up with bursts of brilliance and Keith Lockhart resurrects his patriotic duds for another spectacular performance at the old Hatch Shell. I’ll bet Paul Revere put aside his bowl making, hot-pawed it over the Chuck River, or whatever they called it back then, and pitched in with the locals to construct that shell.

And I love fireworks. I harbor a secret (well, not anymore) desire to be in an airplane watching them from above and seeing the different towns simultaneously. I’m sure the perspective is unique. Mom’s thinking hmmm...five more days and it’s another one; her birthday is the 9th.

And how can you live near Boston and not feel the history? Why Redcoats could have camped in your backyard. Now aren’t you sorry you tossed out that tarnished button? Maybe we should go back to 1776 and start over. Sweep the laws on the books clean and start anew, I meow.

Last year I dined early and encouraged mom to hustle so we could get going to watch the fireworks. While getting ready, yes, felines have routines before leaving for a night out just like you, okay, maybe not exactly but we visit “the box”, clean up, fluff up and make sure nothing from dinner is dangling from our whiskers. Please, some of the young cats of today take no

pride in their feline appearance.

While waiting I was thinking about the Fourth and its meaning. Do you really understand how much we have here? Regarding consumer goods I believe it’s TOO much; but freedom-wise well, look at what we lost after September 11th. People look at those from a different culture with a wary eye. Big Cat watches your every move; cameras protrude from city light poles and computers can zero in on where you live. Can

they even zero in on “the box”?

I love our patriotic songs—“My Country Tis of Thee”, “America the Beautiful”, our national anthem, but that “Yankee Doodle Dandy”....

Think about it. This bozo treks all the way to England just to “ride a pony”? Couldn’t the colonies afford even one? I thought that was how they traveled—on horseback. And he mistakes a feather for pasta? He certainly wasn’t making any friends with the Italians! Hmmm...ziti or fettuccini? Then he was “handy”?

Can you imagine what he would have done if Home Depot existed back then? Probably built cookie cutter tract homes across the colonies and made a fortune.

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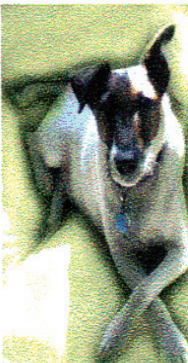
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# Spinners split six

**Shawn Hansen**  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

In the first home stand of the season, the Lowell Spinners split wood. In series one against the Vermont Lake Monsters, Lowell took two of three. Following a Sunday afternoon loss, the Oneonta Tigers took two of three to the Spinners.

Opening night was a doozie as the Spinners spun up a 10-6 victory. Nothing offensively went on until the third inning when Vermont scored on a single by Francisco Soriano. In the home half of the third, Ryan Westmoreland was hit by a pitch as he then scored on a single to left by Derrik Gibson, and a bobbled ball by leftfielder J.P. Ramirez. Two batters later, Roberto Feliz hit a two run home run to give Lowell a 3-1 advantage.

With the bases juiced in the fourth, the Lake Monsters regained the lead on a double off the bat of Jack Walker. Justin Bloxom's ground out scored J.R. Higley. Next batter Ronnie LaBrie then croaked a two run homer to put the Monsters up 6-3.

Bats were quite at LeLacheur Park for the next two innings as the Spinners answered with a pair of ribbies in the bottom of the sixth. Monsters relief pitcher Federico Tanco threw away a ball allowing Drew Hedman to score from third base. Joantoni Garcia was the next Spinner to cross the plate scoring on Wilfred Pichardo's sacrifice fly. "Lucky 7" struck Lowell superstitiously as they blanked Vermont in the top of the inning, scoring five in the home stretch (10-6).



PICTURE TAKING BY SHAWN HANSEN

**"SP Yeiper Castillo and the rest of the Spinners pitching staff strikeout 59 over the first six games."**

The next night Baseball Hall of Famer Wade Boggs delivered ice cold Miller High Life to fans as a celebrity bartender. The game ended in dramatic fashion as Chia-Chu Chen won the game with a walk-off single in the bottom of the ninth to slay the Lake Monsters 4-3.

Ready for a sweep, the Spinners forgot their brooms in the final game of the series as Vermont hung on with a 5-2 win. After playing errorless baseball, the hometown team committed three errors on three hits. Pichardo started off the evening with a

bunt single with a theft of second base. He then scored moments later from an error by Vermont's third baseman. Dani Arias tied the game in the second with a single, and gave Vermont the lead in the third.

Visiting on Politically Correct/Going Green Night, the Oneonta Tigers took down the Spinners in the 12th inning of game one surviving a thriller winning 2-1. The affiliates of the Detroit Tigers, Oneonta jumped out first in the second inning on a single delivered by Christopher Sedon. Ruffled play, while third baseman

Michael Almanzar mishandled a line drive that popped off his glove, Sedon scored the Tigers first run.

The Spinners then tied the game in the fifth. Hedman opened the gate (led off) with a walk, moved to second on a wild pitch advancing to third on a groundout. Chen then singled up the middle knotting the game up at one.

Everything stayed quiet from there on until the top of the 12th inning. Oneonta scored the go-ahead run on an error by Hedman. Michael Rockett (Not "The Rocket" Clemens), and Jimmy Gulliver drove in two combined runs each on base hits. In the final two games of the series, the Spinners split wood taming the Tigers 2-1 in game two, and losing the rubber match game 3-0.

Over the first six games, Spinners pitching has been sensational striking out 59 batters. Jeremy Kehrt 9, Tommy Hotovy 8, Yeiper Castillo 7, Dennis Neuman 7, Jose Alvarez 7, Ryan Pressly 5, Anataer Batista 3, Will Latimer 3, Michael Bugary 3, Jeremiah Bayer 2, Wang-Yi Lin 2, Chad Povich 1, Pedro Perez 1, Cesar Cabral 1.



Shawn Hansen currently attends UMass Lowell. He has written for "The Campus Report" at Middlesex Community College in Bedford and was also sports editor. Hansen has also written for "The UMass Lowell Connector" and is now a sports columnist for "The Valley Patriot"

## Merrimack Pain Associates



**Dr. Rami R. Rustum, M.D. is the Director of Merrimack Pain Associates at 50 Prospect St. in Lawrence. You can contact him at: ramirustum@comcast.net**

## FREE FOR ALL

**Chris Papoulas**

VALLEY PATRIOT LOCAL SPORTS COLUMNIST

This year's free agent pool is swimming with more flounders than sharks. With many of the marquee players in the league becoming free agents in 2010, many teams are salivating and preparing their team financially to make a run at some of these names. This year's draft was evidence of that, with many players being traded for expiring contracts and draft picks.

The three biggest trades were Shaq to Cleveland, Vince Carter to Orlando, and Richard Jefferson to the Spurs. Most of these trades were desperate moves from teams who were close to winning a championship but lost it yet again. Many

can make the argument that teams like the Bucks, Nets, and Suns made out better by collecting the expiring contracts and pushing them into a better position than most to make a play for 2010.

The free agent pool is far from enticing for teams that already have a good core and for the teams who are waiting to get that one star player to build the team around. There are some very good role players in free agency such as Grant Hill, Anthony Parker, Chris Andersen, and Antonio McDyess.

The best possible starters available are Hedo Turkoglu and Rasheed Wallace. Turkoglu likely won't be resigning with Orlando following the Vince Carter deal and Wallace has a lot to offer any team looking for a veteran with championship experience.

The draft proved to be very disappointing this year. Except for Blake Griffin and Hasheem Thabeet being drafted in the first round with the first and second pick, the players weren't very appealing. Many teams called this year's draft one of the worst since 2000 where Kenyon Martin, Stromile Swift, Darius Miles, Marcus Fizer, and Mike Miller were the first 5 taken draft picks. Between the draft, free agency, and trades it doesn't appear many teams will improve from last year.

Expect to see the Celtics, Cavs, Magic, Lakers, Spurs, and Nuggets all dominate in the regular season as they head into the playoffs. As far as the 2010 class of free agents, expect to see teams free up a lot of cap room. Many teams will look to these free agents and put a new face on their franchise.



\*Chris Papoulas is a Dracut resident, avid New England sports fan and former co-host of *Front Row*, a sports talk show on Dracut and Lowell Cable Access with George Papoulas.

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GEORGETOWN

## Democrats deliver the taxes

Lonnie Brennan  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Democratic politicians in Massachusetts are not-surprisingly predictable. When the chips are down, you can always count on these pillars of society to throw their communities and constituents under the bus. Sure enough, it happened again. Andover, Methuen, Haverhill... are you listening? It's time to grab onto your ankles. You're about to go for a ride.

How does it feel to be a border town or near-border town, and have the now notorious 'Barbara and Clyde' of the Merrimack Valley (Democrat State Representatives Barbara "Taxes" L'Italien and Barry "Clyde Feel-Good" Fiengold) stick it to you yet again?

This time, it's a mere 25% sales tax increase. And, after all, they HAD to vote for it. It's for the children of course. The children of the MBTA workers I might add whose parents will now have to suffer it out, working until they are at least 55 years of age, with a minimum of 2 more years on the job (going from 23 years to 25 years) before they can collect a taxpayer funded retirement, for the rest of their lives. Two more years...that's what Massachusetts Democrats are calling 'pension reform.'

So, if you're reading this paper in one of the best donut shops around (Heavenly Donuts in Methuen), or one of the best bacon and egg omelet shops (Theo's in Georgetown), or perhaps enjoying a phenomenal Sal's Pizza (Haverhill), or anyplace else in the Merrimack Valley, thanks to Barbara & Clyde, you're also paying a 25% tax increase on your meal! That's right; the cost of coffee just went up, along with burgers, fries, ice-cream... and all just in time for summer! Barbara & Clyde, you've done it again.

It's the Merrimack Valley Democratic way: stick it to Methuen. Cripple Haverhill. Push the sales out of panoramic downtown Andover. Way to go Democrats!

The New Republican Party? The Future for Disgruntled Democrats?

The Republican Party in Massachusetts has been in shambles. With less than a couple of dozen Republicans in the gold-dome State House, the Democratic ma-

chine has crushed any real reform as they continue to excuse-away corruption and tax increases. Ignoring for the moment the limitations of the BostonGOP (more commonly known as the MassGOP), the real hope for change is coming from an unlikely place: Methuen, Haverhill, and Andover Democrats!

It's beginning. Cracks are showing. Some people are realizing they've been had! Raises for government workers on all levels, fueled by more dollars squeezed out of every consumer purchase. I've got two resources for you: the Massachusetts Republican Assembly (MRA: [www.mass-republican-assembly.com](http://www.mass-republican-assembly.com)) and The New Media Summit (brainchild of local political activist Vincent Errichetti). Never heard of either? You shall.

The MRA is making an incredible resurgence after years of invisibility. They're the 'right wing' of the Republican Party. This group believes in reasonable fiscal constraint (conservatism, not endless tax increases). And they have members (and new members such as myself) who support our local pregnancy care center (do what we can to help support mothers-to-be as they prepare to care for their newborns in Haverhill). Quite simply, they're a stark contrast to the go-along-get-along whatever-goes tax/spending Barbara & Clyde's ('Taxes' L'Italien and 'Clyde Feel-Good' Fiengold) of Massachusetts. More on the MRA later. Check out their web site.

The New Media Summit unfolded with an explosion of enthusiasm that continues to reverberate through the internet blogs and channels of all things Republican in Massachusetts. The event, the brainchild of local political consultant Vincent Errichetti strapped a rocket onto the stale, predictable, and previously sinking Republican media efforts, providing a series of training and information sharing seminars. His first-of-its kind event featured appearances by WTTK talk show host Michael Graham, State Representatives Jeff Perry, Karyn Polito, and many more. Not surprisingly, you wouldn't see any Representatives from the Merrimack Valley at the event...they're too busy raising taxes and urging us to shop in New

BRENNAN, page26

HAVERHILL

## A half a million dollars spent on the river and not a drop to drink.

Jim Donahue  
HAVERHILL

A half a million dollars spent on the river and not a drop to drink. I was right on the Merrimack river issue and pointed out the wasteful spending by the Fiorentini administration in regards to tapping the river for drinking water. Cities such as Lawrence, Methuen, and Lowell do use the river as a drinking water source, but Haverhill is downstream from these cities, and their waste-water plants. We are the last city (clarify --not considering towns) on the Merrimack river before the ocean. Haverhill must be concerned with unregulated contaminants such as endocrine disruptors (EDCs), pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) Haverhill is more prone to these harmful pollutants considering our place on the map.

We now know that the administration spent at least a half-million dollars just to study the proposal to use the river for drinking water and the tests came back

less than desirable. The administration's spending habits on studying the Merrimack River was a mistake. The rate-payers are the one's who will suffer unless this administration officailly suspends all further test activity pertaining to the river.

I stood up for what I beleived in got censured for blogging about the river but feel at the end of the day speaking up was the right thing to do for the citizens of Haverhill. The editorial writers from both the Haverhill Gazette and Tribune can call me a lame duck, lone wolf or grandstander like they did in last weeks paper but they can never call me a political hack.



Jim Donahue is a Haverhill City Councilor who is not seeking re-election. He is a 36 year-old history teacher at the Whittier Regional Technical High School and is a conservative, Pro-life Democrat who is for traditional marriage. E-mail him at [jdonahue2020@yahoo.com](mailto:jdonahue2020@yahoo.com).

BOXFORD

## Where are the Playing Fields?

John McCormack  
VALLEY PATRIOT BOXFORDCOLUMNIST

The Town of Boxford has reportedly issued a Request for Proposal for a 20-unit "affordable" housing development on the Haynes land. "Affordable" is a term of art for a price-controlled political camel created by the Massachusetts Legislature and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

You have to prove you're poor enough to buy these units, but at a targeted income range of \$80,000 to \$108,000, it would be a pretty plush neighborhood. The Haynes land was purchased with Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds and an allowed use of the land is so-called community housing for low and moderate income families. Low and moderate income are defined as 80% and 100%, respectively, of area-wide median income as defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Boxford is in HUD's Lawrence Metro FMR Area where median family income is \$84,800, making the income range \$67,840 to \$84,800. Perhaps the Orwellian Housing Partnership Committee can resolve this at its upcoming public forum.

That \$108,000 income finds a \$440,000 home affordable at principal, interest, and taxes (PIT) of 30% of income and 10% down; an \$80,000 income swings a \$330,000 home. The Lawrence Metro FMR Area median asking price of 1369 MLS listings is \$329,900; 65% are below \$440,000. Nothing here suggests shortages or any need for taxpayer subsidies.

The Town of Boxford purchased the Haynes land nearly two years ago for \$3.3 million for conservation, recreational fields, and community housing. I vigorously opposed this purchase, believing that the land was the less desirable portion of a larger parcel and contained extensive hills, wetlands and their buffers, a pond, a seasonal stream and possibly endangered species. Two hours with a magic marker revealed the small fraction of usable land., In what felt like a land rush atmosphere, the purchase went ahead anyway.

The purchase price could only be justified by assuming the entire larger parcel would be extensively developed and that the Town, in its sovereign power, was seizing the portion of land it wanted and the land owner would receive damages equal to the value of the larger parcel minus the value of the owner's remainder. This is called "friendly eminent domain" and the damages are much larger than the value by itself of the land taken. The logic of the "friendly" taking was undercut by the Town's agreement with the owner restricting future land use.

The Town formed the Haynes Land Committee which produced a plan greatly

resembling my two hour drawing after a year of kibitzing. Most of the land would be conserved, the State would have to decide which additional areas would be preserved as potential habitat of the endangered Blanding's turtle (which may have been resolved now), the few playing fields planned encroached on wetland buffers and might require variances from an unwilling Conservation Commission, and 13 of the presumably best acres could be given away for subsidized housing.

The Haynes project is a 40B. If 10% of a town's housing units are not "affordable" a developer can apply under Chapter 40B for a comprehensive permit which overrides many local zoning regulations, most notably density, as long as 25% of the units are "affordable" loss leaders. Profits may come from land purchased for the legally permitted use. Profits were high during a real estate asset bubble that grew for ten years from 1997, when unit sale prices could greatly exceed construction cost. Market rate buyers must pay \$475,000 for a \$400,000 unit so that 25% of the buyers can pay \$175,000. The market rate buyer may not realize that he has given \$75,000 to another purchaser even when the bubble pops and he is under water.

That gift comes from taxpayers when towns build "affordable" housing especially if mortgage rates rise. Boxford's bureaucrats want to make every unit "affordable" but this would cost millions for the 268 units needed. Only 5 of 20 Haynes units are "affordable." At what cost? Meeting Boxford's quota this way takes 402 "affordable" units plus 1,206 market rate units, totaling 1,608 units or a 62% housing stock growth!

None of this is necessary. When 40B passed in 1969 the median house cost twice median family income, it rose to three times by 1997, still reasonable, and to five times by 2007, fueled by absurd mortgage products and a deranged "affordable housing" federal bureaucracy. It is now rapidly returning to three times income. This statistic accounts neither for retirees nor for the large number of homes bought with large down payments by people with high current home equity. Many people live in homes unaffordable on their current income and it doesn't signal a housing crisis.

The Haynes project sounds like a developer 40B with the taxpayer on the hook. There should be a good fight over it.



John is a Boxford resident and was vice president of Lattice Trading and Batterymarch Financial Management. You can email him at [jmacprime@yahoo.com](mailto:jmacprime@yahoo.com)

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The Merrimack Valley Irish Connectio

Jack’s Irish Craic  
Famine vs. Holocaust

Jack Doyle, County Sligo  
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

Through-out my research of the Irish famine, the majority of writers conclude that “England played a part in the exodus of million of Irishman from their land because of the Famine.” (If the political elite in Ireland remained tolerant of British political parties and the monarchy, emigrants were not so.)\* Many Irish emigrants to the United States quickly associated with separatist republican groups and organizations like the IRB. The political liberties and freedom of opportunity they encountered in the States confirmed for them the potential of an independent Ireland and often made them more passionate and optimistic than their brethren at home.

The Famine and its causes became a major platform for emigrant anger, as it was the main cause for most of them being emigrants in the first place. John Mitchell a journalist by trade (who had written for Thomas Davis’s newspaper, “The Nation” before leaving to set up his own paper, only to be arrested, tried for sedition and transported to the penal colony of Van Diemens land) proved to be a superb campaigner against British rule in Ireland. Analyzing the Famine, he wrote: “The Almighty indeed sent the potato plight but the English created the famine... a million and half men, women and children were carefully, prudently and peacefully slain by the English government. They died of hunger in the midst of abundance which their own hands created. (John Mitchel)\*

Mitchel’s commentary expressed the anger felt by many emigrants, who saw themselves as the dispossessed, forced from Ireland by a famine they blamed on Britain’s slow and ham-fisted reaction. The famine became a constant issue with Irish Americans, who to an extent unrivalled among other emigrant communities in the United States remained emotionally attached to their native land. Leaders such as in later decades came to play a major role in supporting Irish nationalism. It was John Devoy no accident that the President of Fail Eireann, Eamon DeValera in 1920 chose to travel to the United States, not elsewhere, in his efforts to get the Irish Republic recognized and accepted, or that when Michael Collins launched special bonds to fund the new Republic, many were sold to Irish Americans.

Tons of literature has been written about the Potato Famine, most of the authors blame the results of the famine on England, namely, Queen Victoria. For that matter, the children today, in the schools of Ireland dubbed the Queen.....the bitch. I have found my resources about

the famine, (holocaust,) at this website: \*(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris\_potato\_famine.) Time and column space does not allow me to tell the “whole” story of the great potato famine, and the results of it. I believe it to be to ones advantage to consult the resources and study Irish history for your own conclusions.

\*\*\*The Fields of Athenry” is an Irish folk ballad set during the Great Irish Famine (1845-1850) about a fictional man from near Athenry in County Galway who has been sentenced to transportation to Botany Bay, Australia, for stealing food for his starving family, The Fields of Athenry” was written in the 1970s by Pete St John.

The convict says his crime is that he “stole Trevelyan’s corn”; this is a reference to Charles Edward Trevelen, a senior British civil servant in the administration of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in Dublin Castle. Some suggest that corn refers to “Indian corn” (maize) imported from America by the government for famine relief, but European use of the word “corn” in this context refers to any widely grown grain - barley, oats, wheat, etc. \* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\_Fields\_of\_Athenry.

By a lonely prison wall,  
I heard a young girl calling:  
“Michael, they have taken you away,  
For you stole Trevelyn’s corn,  
So the young might see the morn.  
Now a prison ship lies waiting in the bay.”  
Low lie the fields of Athenry  
Where once we watched the small free birds fly  
Our love was on the wing  
We had dreams and songs to sing  
It’s so lonely round the fields of Athenry.  
By a lonely prison wall,  
I heard a young man calling  
“Nothing matters, Mary, when you’re free  
Against the famine and the crown,  
I rebelled, they cut me down.  
Now you must raise our child with dignity.”  
Low lie the fields of Athenry  
Where once we watched the small free birds fly. Our love was on the wing  
We had dreams and songs to sing  
It’s so lonely round the fields of Athenry.



Jack Doyle is an author and has published two books: Echoes of My Past, and Medjugorge, Heaven on Earth. To sponsor Jack’s Irish Craic” in The Valley Patriot contact: Jack5772@comcast.net

Salem/Methuen Rotary inducts new officers

The Rotary Club of Methuen and Salem, NH, celebrated the induction of its new President and officers for the 2009 – 2010 term, and this year will be lead by President Ray Mello, of Newburyport.

Officers included President-elect Veronica Calixto of Haverhill, Vice President Frank Rondinelli of Methuen, Treasurer Erica Hadley of Methuen, and Secretary Stephanie Lane of Methuen.

The event was held at the Chateau Restaurant in Andover, and during the ceremony many other awards were presented by the outgoing President Charles Perrault, from Perrault & Associates in Methuen.

Veronica Calixto, VP and Branch Manager for Riverbank in Methuen, received the Paul Harris Fellow Award. This notable award is the highest honor received by any Rotarian and it was named after Rotary initiator Paul Harris. It is granted to someone who personifies Rotary with their outstanding service in the community, while promoting high ethical standards in business.

Outgoing President, Charlie Perrault then spoke of the highlights of his term. Such events as the Youth Exchange Program, new members, the grant that Ve-

ronica was able to obtain, a new software for their website, increasing fellowship functions were mentioned. Charlie also thanked his board and new members for “stepping up” to help on our projects.

The Rotary Club of Methuen – Salem, NH service projects include providing holiday food baskets to over 100 local needy families, awarding scholarships to local high school seniors, Teacher of the Year and Student of the Month awards and cooking and serving food for the athletes and their families at the Special Olympics in Salem, NH.

Rotary International is the world's first service club organization, with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs worldwide. Rotary club members are volunteers who work locally, regionally, and internationally to combat hunger, improve health and sanitation, provide education and job training, promote peace, and eradicate polio under the motto Service Above Self.

The Rotary Club of Methuen – Salem, NH meets every day Friday at the Sweetheart Inn in Methuen at 12:15PM. For more information about the club, visit www.methuensalemrotary.org.

All About Wine

Mark Palermo  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

It’s been said that the people of the world are divided by water but brought together by wine. But in America, it is the wine that divides people. Here, wine is a marketing triumph of image over substance. Here, ignorance and pretentiousness find their greatest expression in wine.

They say you get what you pay for in this life, but that’s not exactly true for wine, which is hyped like soft drinks and cosmetics. Many years ago, I lived in a working class neighborhood in Madrid above a bodega, where people would bring empty wine bottles to be refilled from a huge oaken barrel. The price for refills was about one-fifth the price of a packaged, bottled wine of similar quality- which demonstrated to me the added value of packaging and advertising.

There probably isn’t a bottle of wine in the world that costs more than \$10 to produce. But in restaurants nowadays, a wine list can include selections that cost \$500 a bottle or more. So just what does one pay for beyond the cost of production? Is it flattering imagery, status enhancement, product driven identity reinforcement? Whatever its psychological dynamics, it is the same ephemeral essence that is infused into Pepsi and Coke; without which, these beverages are mere sugared water with some coloring and flavoring. This is not to say that all wines are the same. But I would say that in a blindfolded taste test, most people, including some self-styled wine aficio-

nados, could not pick out a \$2000 bottle of Screaming Eagle Cabernet Sauvignon from a half dozen decent wines in the \$15-\$25 range.

But even at \$15 or \$25, wine is too costly for a growing number of people. Europeans drink decent table wines at affordable prices because they have discriminating taste and recognize value. They certainly don’t pay 25 Euros every time they want a bottle of wine. We Americans, however, are too easily taken in by packaging and advertising, and marketers know this. My neighborhood liquor store, for example, offers hundreds of exotic looking wines in the \$4 to \$8 range. The presentation of these wines is brilliant-with labeling that suggests the heights of the vintner’s craft. But when you get these wines home, they invariably taste like vinegar and are practically undrinkable. Years ago, these would have been sold in supermarkets as cooking wines.

Fortunately there are angles to obtaining drinkable wine on a beer budget. One of these is to buy wine by the gallon in a supermarket for around twelve dollars, which comes to less than three dollars per bottle. More importantly, these wines are noticeably better than the \$4 to \$8 wines at the package store. True, the uninspired labeling holds no esthetic appeal, but do you want to pay for packaging and advertising or for contents?

If serving supermarket wine by the gallon bothers you, transfer the wine into a cut glass decanter. Not only does decan-

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# Mayor Manzi: Trib story wrong on police hires, we hired 3 veterans

Valley Patriot Staff

Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi called in to the Paying Attention! Radio Program on WCAP last month to dispute a story written in the Eagle Tribune. The Tribune story claimed that Manzi's Police Chief and personnel director were passing over Veterans on the police reserve list in favor of relatives and political friends of the administration.

Manzi said that some Veterans were passed over for Methuen residents but it was not done that way on purpose.

"We picked eight police reserves,"

Manzi said, expressing his displeasure about the Eagle Tribune story.

"Now, these are not working reserves, these are just people that would go on the reserve list but of the eight we picked, three were Veterans. We picked two Hispanics and we picked one female. We did, I believe, pass a couple of Veterans but there were three Veterans selected and we do take Veterans' preference into account

even above and beyond the score."

According to Civil Service regulations, Veterans receive preference on police and fire appointments by being put at the top of the appointment list. Manzi was asked by radio host Tom Duggan why Veterans were passed over for non-Veterans who were politically connected.

"I'm not, obviously, at liberty to say anything about the people that weren't selected but we stand by the process," Manzi said. "The process was fair and open. I can tell you this; that at no point in time am I going to stand up and say that we made bad choices when we put Methuen people on a Police Reserve list. So, if you live in Methuen it doesn't mean you're disqualified from being on the list. And that's really what people are saying. They're saying: 'well gee we don't want you to pick anybody from Methuen' - and you know what, that's nonsense. The process was fair and we're not backing down on that even a little bit."

When asked about the process that lead

to several Vets being overlooked, Manzi said he believed the best candidates for the job must be chosen and sometimes that means not hiring a Veteran.

"You know one of the things that came out of the story was, there were a couple of folks that weren't selected who had good resumes and that's true. One of them may have been a Veteran or maybe more than one, I can't quite remember, but in any case we did pick three Veterans. We went through the process, there were interviews involved, see it wasn't like we just picked from a piece of paper with test scores and resumes, we did interviews. The interview process leads you to pick people you think would be a good fit for Methuen and that's what we did."

Asked about hiring people related to the Police Chief or politically connected to members of his administration, Manzi did not back down from what he said was the best way to choose police officers. He added that while some Vets were passed over for Methuen residents who were

also connected politically, it was done by design.

"You know, I think the crux of the story was there were people who had last names that were politically connected. Be that as it may, we still think we picked the best people for the job. I mean, out of eight [open positions] we picked three Veterans. I mean, I think that the feeling that people got was that they didn't know how many were selected and that we just passed by Veterans, we don't do that. We value and try to give preference to people that have given that type of service and that's absolutely true. They get a little bit of a boost, as they should, on Civil Service testing but we also take into account and I believe that one of the people might have been a Methuen resident who's an Iraqi War Veteran."

"Obviously you know there's no local preference but if you asked me if I'm happy that the process leads to Methuen residents going on that list the answer is yes."

## House passes legislation to honor Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)

WASHINGTON, DC - June 16, 2009 - The House of Representatives today voted to award the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor given in the United States, in recognition of their service during World War II. Approximately one thousand women served as Women Airforce Service Pilots and performed a variety of missions in support of the war effort including flying aircraft from factories to military bases, towing targets for air-to-air combat practice, and transporting cargo. They were the first women in history trained to fly American military aircraft. The legislation was approved in the Senate last month and will now go to the President for his signature.

Methuen resident Sara Payne Hayden, now 89, was one of the Airforce Service Pilots. Hayden test flew previously damaged aircraft to ensure repairs were successful prior to their reintroduction into combat service, a dangerous, but critical assignment in the war effort.

Hayden also attended Congressional hearings seeking long-delayed recognition for the work of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, who were finally awarded military service status in 1977.

"I was one of the group of women who were trained and then flew military airplanes in World War II, where we were volunteers just doing our job," said Sara Payne Hayden. "Now that we are known for our service, I find it amazing that we are recognized with this high honor. It is quite a privilege to say thank you to those honoring us."

"This highly appropriate honor recognizes the contributions of everyday citizens like Sara Payne Hayden whose sacrifices in support of the war effort helped to ensure the preservation of freedom in our time," said Congresswoman Niki Tsongas, a cosponsor of the House bill. "Simultaneously, the Women Airforce Service Pilots paved the way for future generations of women to serve their country."

As the American war effort in World War II expanded, the need for male combat pilots overseas increased. Thousands of women volunteered for the newly created Women Airforce Service Pilots. By the middle of 1942 women pilots began flying U.S. Army Air Forces aircraft within the United States.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor given in the United States. The medal is an "expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions." Each medal is authorized by an Act of Congress, and past recipients include Winston Churchill, Rosa Parks, and Thomas Edison.



PHOTO: ELIE RAHME

Sara Payne Hayden in the cockpit of a 1944 AT-6 at the Lawrence Municipal Airport in North Andover.

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## CONGRESS IN YOUR CORNER!

## Pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) budgeting is a responsible way to spend the taxpayers mon-

A recent report by the Congressional Budget Office concluded that our national deficit—the difference between what we take in and what we spend every year—will rise by almost \$10 trillion over the next decade, and our national debt—the accumulation of yearly deficits—will reach a staggering \$23 trillion during that same time period.

While some of this dramatic increase can be attributed to declining revenues as a result of the recent economic downturn, it exposes the need to implement real reform in the way the Congress spends money.

No one was more passionate about the dangers of an exploding national debt than my late husband, Senator Paul Tsongas, who made it a central focus of his 1992 campaign for president.

Seventeen years ago, he called for fiscally responsible leadership in Washington. During the Clinton administration, sound fiscal policy prevailed and the debt clock started to roll back.

Since then, we have seen a stark reversal of that success with spending on two wars, tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, and a massive new entitlement program for prescription drugs—none of which was paid for.

The result was that between 2001 and 2009, we spent our surplus and kept on spending until we were deep into debt.

Our projected budget surpluses of \$5.6 trillion over 10 years reversed to projected budget deficits of \$5.8 trillion.

As a member of the Budget Committee, I was proud to co-sponsor legislation from President Obama this week that would reinstate as law the requirement that any tax cut or increase in mandatory spending (such as for new government entitlement programs like health care reform) be offset elsewhere in the budget, either by cuts in spending or increases in revenue. This is known as the pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rule. PAYGO is not an untested theory. During the 1990s, PAYGO was the law of the land and it paved the way for balanced budgets and responsible government.

In 2002, the Republican-led Congress allowed the PAYGO rule to lapse. They had discovered that it was far easier to cut taxes, increase spending, and hope that the day of reckoning never comes. But that day has come. After years of explo-



sive budget deficits, the interest alone that we paid in fiscal year 2008 was \$249 billion.

That is \$249 billion that could have gone to improving our nation's schools, infrastructure,

or transportation, or spurring clean energy and economic development. Instead it went to our creditors, many of them foreign countries unfriendly to the United States.

Because of our refusal to pay-as-we-went even during periods of growth in the last eight years, each American's share of the debt is now \$37,248 and rising.

This acts as a "birth" tax on every newborn American, a terrible burden that we have bequeathed to future generations. The consensus among economists is that while some deficit spending in the form of the stimulus we passed this spring is necessary to pull us out of the current recession, continued deficit spending is unsustainable over the long run. As we tackle two of the most important issues of

our time, energy and healthcare reform, it is critical that we enact PAYGO rules to signal to our creditors that we are finally serious about paying for what we do.

The President's proposal isn't perfect. Assessing political realities, it exempts from the rules an extension of four current policies: the alternative minimum tax will not be allowed to hit millions of American families that it was never intended to hit, the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts will be extended for middle class families, the estate and gift taxes will be maintained at their 2009 levels, and adjustments to the Medicare reimbursement to physicians will not be reduced.

Through the Budget Committee I will work to improve this legislation, but I recognize that an imperfect PAYGO rule is far better than no rule at all.

PAYGO will not be a panacea, but it will be a necessary first step. Paying-as-you-go requires Congress to make tough choices, but these types of choices are ones that families and households must make every day.

It's past time that Congress be held to the same standard. Rhetoric should be mirrored by laws that mandate its execution. I have co-sponsored PAYGO legislation to do just that and will be urging my colleagues to support its adoption.

## Lowell's FY2010 Budget Drama Continues

Joseph Mendonca

VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL CONTRIBUTOR

On June 16th the City Council began deliberations on the FY 2010 Budget presented by the city manager. The city manager's proposal included a reduction of 118 City jobs. There were only 48 involuntary lay-offs. The other job reductions were achieved by the City Manager's implementation of a hiring freeze early in the current fiscal year. The number jobs reduced through attrition was 51 – including 16 police officers and 6 firefighters. Although there were no layoffs in Public Safety, there were reductions through attrition. An additional 9 vacancies were created by employees that accepted a \$5,000 incentive to retire or voluntarily terminate their service to the city in FY2009. There were also 8 employees that volunteered to be laid off.

After 6 long hours of reviewing the budget department by department, the Council made only ONE cut – the Assistant to the City Manager's salary of \$85,072 – effectively firing the Assistant. This was done on a 6-3 vote on a motion by Councilor Alan Kazanjian and supported by Councilors Rodney Elliott, Michael Lenzi, Armand Mercier, Rita Mercier, and

Mayor Bud Caulfield. The motion was opposed by Councilors Kevin Broderick, William Martin, and James Milinazzo. Councilor Milinazzo changed his vote to support the cut in order to request reconsideration at the next council meeting.

Many in the community feel that this move is intended to undermine the city manager's ability to succeed and violates the Managers authority. This has the potential to be a major issue in the upcoming city elections. Time will tell.

The motion to reconsider was brought forward at the June 23rd Council meeting. In making the motion, Councilor Milinazzo stated that the Council was "dangerously close to violating" Mass General Laws Chapter 43, Section 107. Section 107 states in part that "Neither the city council nor any of its committees or members shall direct or request the appointment of any person to, or his removal from, office by the city manager or any of his subordinates, or in any manner take part in the appointment or removal of officers and employees in that portion of the service of said city for whose administration the city manager is responsible." The motion to reconsider was defeated by the same 3-6 split. The question that remains and

will likely linger for some time is: will someone file a complaint requesting the enforcement of MGL Chapter 43, Section 107 and will an investigation ensue?

The FY2010 Budget was then approved with a bottom line of \$282,570,009 (includes enterprise funds for the coming year and the snow & ice removal deficit from this past winter). Jobs on the City's side of the budget were reduced by 119.

There are still a couple potential problems in the budget that will have to be resolved before the end of this calendar year. First, the budget relies on the Council adopting the local option 0.75% meals tax. This must be done before September 1st in order to take affect on October 1st. The local meals tax is budgeted to produce \$448,452 revenue in FY2010. If the meals tax is not adopted, approximately 12 additional jobs may have to be cut from the budget. Each month that goes by, beginning in July, could require and additional job to be cut to bring the budget back into balance.

Secondly, the budget funds 26 police officer positions for only half the year. This is a result of the reduction in funding previously provided by the Quinn bill. The hope is that replacement funding can be found to fund these 26 positions for the other half of the fiscal year. If funding is not found, then these 26 positions will also be cut.

In a worst case scenario, the FY2010 budget could result the loss of as many as 160 City jobs (by my analysis). This count (and the 119 above) does not include the School Department's personnel cuts.

The bulk of the pain being felt by cities and town is the result of the State's reliance on local aid cuts to balance the State's budget. The State budget was reduced by 3% from the FY09 Budget. Yet Lowell's FY2010 local aid was reduced by approximately 9% according to the City's FY2010 Budget Proposal.

The State Legislature has placed the municipalities in a position of virtually having to adopt the local 0.75% meals tax to avoid more lay-offs. Once adopted, it will likely become yet another permanent tax for a temporary shortfall. At the moment it is unclear if there is enough support on the Council to adopt the local meals tax. The Council is left with the equally unpalatable alternatives of adding another tax or laying-off more workers.

Which will it be?



Joe is a former Lowell School Committeeman (1999 - 2006) and former Lowell City Councillor (2007) who is familiar with Lowell's City and School Department Budgets.

## BRENNAN: From page 23

Hampshire this summer!

Turning to Georgetown

A few quick tidbits: When I served on the Board of Selectmen, I was honored to join my colleagues in unanimously voting to appoint firefighter Chris Dubois to serve a term on the Georgetown Board of Fire Engineers. A long-time volunteer firefighter with incredible dedication and professionalism, the young Mr. Dubois worked tirelessly. Recently, I'm told he dedicated his own time and money to complete an intensive firefighting program with the State, reportedly finishing in the top of his class at the Academy. As we learn more about this dedicated individual,

I'll be sure to get it posted here.

On a final note, it's good to see Georgetown will finally see a change in administration in the Selectman's office with the recent departure of the Town Administrator Things are looking up. Enjoy the summer!



Lawrence "Lonnie" Brennan is a former Georgetown Selectman and is currently Vice-Chair of the Georgetown Republican Town Committee. He can be reached at [Lonnie.Brennan@verizon.net](mailto:Lonnie.Brennan@verizon.net).



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NOTEBOOK: From page 10

elected in November, every official has a warm and fuzzy feeling about the “objective” work they do. Well, I’m sorry to rain on their parade by exposing their personal efforts to get Lantigua elected but, this fund raising invitation raises lots of questions. Where was it printed? How much of the taxpayers money does Lantigua secure for them at the state house? Why are they supporting anyone at all when they are telling people they

are neutral and my favorite question... are they taking all those volunteer cards and sign in sheets at all their events and giving them to Lantigua for fund raising letters? Are these letters going to LCW workers? Donors? Volunteers? Ah... So many questions... STAY TUNED!

Manzi to tell the truth

Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi has a new feature on his website called “To Tell the

Truth”. This new feature is to expose what the mayor believes are untruths being told the media or those interviewed by the media. Last month Manzi took Jack Burke and the Eagle Tribune to task. To see Manzi’s TRUTH WATCH blog feature visit [www.billmanzi.com](http://www.billmanzi.com)

Cartoonist on vacation

Before you start sending me emails asking what happened to our local political cartoon this month, let me save you all the trouble. Dracut cartoonist David Sullivan (no relation to the mayor) is on vacation this month. Had he NOT been on vacation our political cartoon would have been a spoof of David and Goliath using caricatures of Lawrence School Committeeman Sammy Reyes and Superintendent Wilfredo Laboy. Well, there’s always next month.

Lawrence Firefighters’ Union Should be Ashamed

Yes, they are heroes, and 99% of the time I side with police officers and firefighters on any issue for that very reason. In fact, last month our editorial in The Valley Patriot took a strong public stand in support of the Haverhill firefighters in their quest to stop the closing of the Bradford fire station. But the situation in Lawrence is a little different, and as painful as it is for me to oppose the fire union it just has to be done. While the Lawrence City Council and members of the union spent weeks trying to blame Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan for the impending closure of two fire stations (one on Tower Hill and one on Prospect Hill) the facts turned out to be

very different. The truth came out when the head of the firefighter’s union admitted to the city council that they refused to even negotiate with the city to save the two stations. In fact, not only did the firefighters union distinguish themselves as the only city workers to refuse a work furlough, refused a pay cut, refused to give up perks, refused to negotiate for higher contributions to health care, etc, these guys actually got a 1% pay raise on July first. AND in January I am told by city hall that they are slated to receive another raise, this one in the neighborhood of 3 ½%.

In the words of Councilor Nick Kolofoles who flipped his vote on the budget when he learned this; “Mayor Sullivan isn’t responsible for trying to close two fire stations, the firefighters union is!” I couldn’t agree more. The fire union has spoken loud and clear with their own arrogance in cutting off all negotiations. And what they said with their actions (or inaction as it were) was this: they would much rather lay off members of their own ranks and close two stations (putting the safety of Lawrence residents at risk) than give up a pay raise, pay a little more for insurance, take a work furlough or give up some of their perks. It is sad that public safety officials have to even consider such draconian proposals but come on! Everyone else is taking a hit and these guys are getting a raise?? Hell I’ll stand with the cops and firefighters on almost anything but this time they have gone too far! If two stations close the only people responsible are the firefighters themselves.

Dr. Rallie McAlister: From Page 15

ent. Not only does it provide great taste and promote proper browning and glaze formation, it also blocks the production of HCAs and other carcinogens during grilling.

While you definitely want to avoid charring your chicken and blackening your burgers, it's important to cook meat sufficiently to kill any disease-causing bacteria. It's always wise to use a meat thermometer to make sure your grilled foods reach the appropriate temperature.

The same spices that inhibit the formation of cancer-causing HCAs also kill many types of bacteria responsible for food-borne illnesses. Biologists at Cornell University found that garlic, allspice,

oregano, thyme, tarragon and cinnamon are capable of destroying more than 80 percent of bacterial invaders.

If you're a chef in charge of outdoor cooking, remember that grilled foods can be safer and tastier when you turn down the heat and pour on the spices.

Dr. Rallie McAllister is a board-certified family physician, speaker and the author of several books, including "Healthy Lunchbox: The Working Mom's Guide to Keeping You and Your Kids Trim." Her Website is [www.ralliconhealth.com](http://www.ralliconhealth.com). To find out more about Rallie McAllister, M.D., and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). COPYRIGHT 2009 CREATORS SYNDICATE INC.

Palermo: From page 24

tering improve the taste, it also conceals the humble origin of the wine. Trust me, you will receive compliments on your wine selection- provided nobody spots the empty gallon bottle. If this seems draconian, another low budget alternative is vermouth; wine infused with herbs. I like Martini and Rossi red vermouth, which costs under ten dollars.

For Americans, much of what we “know” about wine is wrong. A good example is the old saw that white wine must be taken with fish and red wine with meat- as if the colors should match. I never met a Spaniard who didn’t think this “rule” was totally weird and evidence of our ignorance of wine.

I stumbled across another “rule” while taking a writing course in Boston a few years ago. The class was critiquing a story I had written where one of my characters orders a chilled burgundy in a restaurant. A woman pointed out that burgundy is never to be taken chilled. Didn’t my character know that? The others agreed, with a mixture of pity and thinly veiled contempt for my Philistine tastes. Another student added, as if to rescue me from

my offense to haute cuisine, “Maybe he means white burgundy; it’s acceptable to chill white burgundy...” No... I meant red burgundy... The stuff my grandfather made in oak barrels in the basement of his triple decker in Lawrence. ... and drank chilled on his front porch. I meant the full bodied chilled red wines I saw my neighbors in Madrid drinking in summer. All of which makes me wonder: Who dictates the rules?

My humble advice is this: Don’t fixate on labels. Forget vintages. Ignore packaging. Choose the wine that tastes the best for you, even if your selection is unacceptable to the cognoscenti. Embrace honest ignorance. And if a \$2000 bottle of Screaming Eagle falls into your hands, open it... because wine is not for bragging or hoarding; wine is for drinking.



Mark Palermo is a professor at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill. You can email him at [markpalermo@gmail.com](mailto:markpalermo@gmail.com). Visit his website at <http://markpalermo.tripod.com>



PHOTO: COURTESY NAMI

NAMI Greater Lowell Walk for Mental Illness

Over 6,000 concerned citizens gathered together on Sunday for the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts (NAMI Mass) 6th Annual WALK for the Mind of America -- to raise funds and awareness of mental illness and eliminate the stigma and negative stereotypes surrounding mental health disorders. Pictured above are some of the walkers from this year’s NAMI Greater Lowell walk teams. Towns served by NAMI Greater Lowell include: Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro and Westford. To contact NAMI Greater Lowell - [www.nami.org/sites/great-erlowell](http://www.nami.org/sites/great-erlowell) - [namigreaterlowell@yahoo.com](mailto:namigreaterlowell@yahoo.com) - (978)-677-0618

PUPPY GIRL: FROM PAGE 20

for certain personality types. If you have a shy or scared dog, a massage can teach her to become more trusting and learn that human touch is good. Anything to build confidence is great, and massage is one of those things. A recently adopted dog might be experiencing a plethora of emotions, a massage can reduce this stress and anxiety. Those with arthritis can really benefit from massage; it increases and maintains flexibility and range of motion. Massaging older pets can reduce pain and stiffness, and increase circulation. All these benefits of the massage will allow them to feel better.

Dogs vary and so will the length of time that you will be able to keep them in the zone. So don’t get frustrated if your canine will only sit still for a few seconds or minutes. Start off slow, and only do very short sessions. The more comfort-

able your dog gets with it, the more they will look forward to receiving a massage. Some pets don’t like having their paws touched and they try to pull their feet away when you go near them. They aren’t used to having their paws touched like they are with other parts of



their body. Try to desensitize your dog and let them know that nothing bad or painful is going to happen. If your dog shows that it is painful when their paws are touched, then a vet should be seen.

Online I found information about a

technique called TTouch. This type of massage is designed to reduce stress and tension. With TTouch you make small circles with your fingertips in a clockwise motion. No matter what type of massage you do, something is better than nothing. Remember how important and powerful the human touch is.

So the next time you are watching TV and your “best friend” is laying next to you, try a little massage. You will also benefit from massaging your dog. Not only will it make you happy to know how

great your little friend is feeling, but a massaged dog is a happy, healthy, well balanced, and more functional dog, and who wouldn’t want a dog like that?

On another note, thank you to all the people who came out to the adoption day for One Tail at a Time Rescue at the Saturn Dealership in Haverhill. We had lots of great dogs and puppies up for adoption. A total of 13 dogs ended up going home with their new “forever” family. So exciting!



Kate Whitney is a Boxford resident and owner of the Swingrite Corporation. If you are interested in adopting a puppy or becoming a foster parent to a puppy waiting for a home you can email Kate at [Kwswingrite@aol.com](mailto:Kwswingrite@aol.com)



# The speech President Obama won't dare give in Egypt

Dennis Prager  
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

Last month, President Barack Obama gave a major address in Cairo to the Muslim world. He reiterated what he has stated previously to Muslim audiences, that America has no battle with Islam, deeply respects Islam and the Muslim world, and apologizes for any anti-Muslim sentiment that any Americans may express.

Here is what an honest address would sound like:

"Thank you for the honor of addressing the Egyptian people and the wider Muslim world.

"I am here primarily to dispel some of the erroneous beliefs many Muslims have about America and to thereby reassure you that America has no desire to be at war with the Muslim world.

"To my great disappointment, many Muslims have come to believe that my country has declared war on Muslims and Islam.

"Because of this widespread belief, I said in an interview with al-Arabiya a few months ago, that we need to restore "the same respect and partnership that America had with the Muslim world as recently as 20 or 30 years ago."

"Let's look a little deeper at that relationship. For the truth is, as noted by the Pulitzer-Prize winning columnist for the American newspaper the Washington Post, Charles Krauthammer, in the last 20-30 years America did not just respect Muslims, it bled for Muslims. We Americans engaged in five military campaigns on behalf of Muslims, each one resulting in the liberation of a Muslim people: Bosnia, Kosovo, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Bosnia and Kosovo, as well as the failed 1992-93 Somalia intervention to feed starving African Muslims — in which 43 Americans were killed — were all humanitarian exercises. In none of them was there a significant U.S. strategic interest at stake. So, in fact, in these 20 years, my country, the

United States of America has done more for suffering and oppressed Muslims than any other nation, Muslim or non-Muslim.

"While I recognize that gratitude is the rarest positive human quality, I need to say — because candor is the highest form respect — that America has not only not received little gratitude from the Muslim world, it has been the object of hatred, mass murder, and economic attack from Muslim individuals, groups, and countries.

"Just to cite a few of many examples from the last 40 years:

"In 1973, Muslim terrorists attacked the American embassy in Sudan and murdered our country's ambassador, Cleo Noel, and the chief deputy of the mission, George C. Moore. Later in 1973, the Arab oil embargo against America sent my country into a long and painful recession. In 1977, Muslim militants murdered the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Frances E. Meloy, and Robert O. Waring, the U.S. economic counselor. In 1979 radical Muslims violently attacked my country's embassy in Teheran, and for 14 months held American diplomats hostage, often in appalling conditions. In 1998, Muslim militants bombed the American embassy in Nairobi, killing 12 Americans and 280 Kenyans, and bombed our embassy in Tanzania, killing another 11 Americans. Then, on Sept. 11, 2001, 19 Muslims who had been living in America slit the throats of American pilots and flight attendants and then flew airplanes into civilian buildings in New York City, burning 3,000 innocent Americans to death.

"So, my friends here in Egypt, between America and the Muslim world, who exactly has been making war on whom?

"I have enormous differences with my predecessor, President George W. Bush. But please remember that less than a week after thousands of Americans were slaughtered in the name of your religion, President Bush went to the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C., and announced that Islam was a religion of peace. Moreover, in a country of 300

million people, of whom only a few million are Muslim, there is virtually no recorded incident of anti-mosque or other anti-Muslim violence despite the butchery of 9/11 and the popular support for Osama Bin Laden that we saw in the Muslim world after 9/11.

"I ask you to please ask yourselves what Egypt's reaction would have been had 19 Christians, in the name of Christianity, slaughtered 3,000 Egyptians. How would the Christians of Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East have fared?

"As it is, because of persecution by Muslim majorities, Christians have been leaving the Middle East in such great numbers that for the first time since Christ, there are large parts of the Middle East that have become empty of both Jews and Christians.

"Yet, at the same time, millions of Muslims have moved to Western countries and to America. It is fair to say that the freest, and often the safest, place in the world for a practicing Muslim is the United States of America.

"Muslim-Americans are treated exactly as other Americans are treated. It is exceedingly rare to hear any anti-Muslim bigotry in my 20 country. And while there is some criticism of the Muslim world, but there is far more criticism of Christianity in America than of Islam.

"Unfortunately, in much of the Muslim world today anti-Jewish speeches and writing are frequently identical to the genocidal anti-Semitism one heard and read in Nazi Germany. This is a blight on your civilization. How can you seriously charge that America is at war with Islam when in fact it is much of the Islamic world that is at war with Jews and Christians?

"I know that you would like me to announce that America is abandoning its support for Israel. But every president since Harry Truman, Democrat and Republican, has been passionate about enabling Israel to defend itself from those who wish to destroy it. And that, dear Muslims, is the issue.

America will continue to support a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute, but the issue has never really been about two states. It has always been about Palestinians and other Arabs and Muslims recognizing Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state.

"As a friend of Egypt and of the Muslim world, I want to say something from the bottom of my heart: The day the Arab world ceases obsessing over the existence of a Jewish state the size of Belize will be a great day for the Arab and Muslim worlds. Your obsession with Israel has cost you dearly in every area of social development. This is easily demonstrated. If Israel were destroyed — and the so-called "right of return" of millions of third-generation Palestinian refugees would ensure that outcome as effectively as would a nuclear device from Iran — what difference would that make to the Egyptian economy, to Egyptian lack of freedoms, or anything else that matters to Egyptians? In my opinion, none whatsoever. Preoccupation with Israel has simply enabled the Arab world to not look within for 60 years.

"Finally, my fellow Americans would feel more confident in American-Muslim relations if they had ever seen a large demonstration of Muslims anywhere against all the terror committed by Muslims in the name of Islam — whether in London, Madrid, New York, Bali, Cairo, or Mumbai. The mark of a great civilization — and Arab civilization was indeed once great — is a willingness to criticize itself.

"Thank you again for this opportunity to address you. I could have patronized you by exaggerating American misdeeds and ignoring yours. But I have too much respect for you.

"Shukran jiddan."



(c) 2009 Creators.com. Dennis Prager hosts a national daily radio show based in Los Angeles. He the author of, most recently, "Happiness is a Serious Problem"

## Is the Obama-nation stuck between Barak and a hard place?

Paul Murano  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Being a punny guy, not only am I excited to fit both of these puns into my title, but they actually fit. There is one obstacle to Obama remaking America into his own image. One obstacle keeps him from making this into a socialist state, from mandating the practice of killing fellow human beings in their embryonic and fetal stages of life (abortion and embryonic stem cell research) into the nation's health care system and laboratories, and from normalizing same-sex sodomy by calling it marriage and making it a human rights issue. This obstacle, and he is well aware of it, is the Catholic Church ([http://www.4marks.com/videos/details.html?video\\_id=1371](http://www.4marks.com/videos/details.html?video_id=1371)).

Obama's apparent strategy for battle? Divide and conquer. Attempt to name "Catholics" with anti-Catholic positions to the lofty posts of vice-president (Joe Biden), ambassador to the Vatican (Caroline Kennedy), and the supreme court (Sonia Sotomayor), and infiltrate Catholic universities such as Notre Dame with commencement speeches in order to revive a

false brand of "liberal Catholicism" that would neutralize the Church's influence.

Obama's agenda is not new, and neither is his strategy. Throughout history the Church has been the world's obstacle to secular socialist movements, such as Nazism and Communism, but today there is more of a challenge in combating its newest version because of its four-decades long laying of its foundation. To understand this point one has to recognize the relationship between social mores and social policy.

Although many are still oblivious to it, "the pill" changed the social and moral landscape that led to the Obama-nation that is called the culture of death. It is the catalyst for the family breakdown that opens the door to socialism. The popularization of contraception in the 1970's gave unprecedented rise to the premarital sex culture, the divorce culture and the abortion culture; cheapening sex, marriage, and human life respectively. By separating the unitive from the procreative meanings of sexual love inherent in it by nature, by de-linking sex from procreation, the contraception mentality has also laid the rationale for homosexual acts and a pornography industry

that is second in earnings only to the oil companies. What many of the family values people don't understand or won't admit is that contraception is what created the mess they decry and continues to uphold it, and that there will be no rectification or real change until this is recognized.

Humanae Vitae, the authoritative document by Pope Paul VI written in 1968 that reiterated the Church's constant 2000 year-old teaching that acts of contraception are intrinsically evil, celebrates its 41st anniversary this month.

This short document could have been the dam that saved us from much of the onslaught of chaos that has taken place since the pill's invention, but instead it became a sign of contradiction, as was the original forbidden fruit in the garden. It is certainly worth reading from people of good will of all faiths. ([http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/paul\\_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_p-vi\\_enc\\_25071968\\_humanae-vitae\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae_en.html)). Even sincere agnostics will appreciate its prophetic wisdom.

This kind of "change" that is not what the current administration seeks, but is what the Church must be clear on.

After four decades of non-clarity resulting in too many following to the loud voice of the world, there will be little resistance unless the Church speaks once again in a unified voice with courage and conviction in rejecting the root and foundation of this newest brand of man-centered relativism. A tall order for a society that has become so conditioned and dependent upon contraception to uphold its hedonist desires, materialist goals, and relativist philosophy.

America is a great country but movements that violate natural law are built on sand and will inevitably collapse. The goal now is to minimize the damage, elevate the culture, and in the process defend the dignity of the human person.

This is the historical role the Church plays, but this time she has a unique challenge.



Paul Murano teaches theology and philosophy at Assumption College and Northshore Com. College. He is also a co-host of The Paying Attention! radio program on WCAP. You can E-mail Paul at [PJDM@aol.com](mailto:PJDM@aol.com)



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## VETERANS BENEFITS

## Susan Piazza

VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

Alert! Health care, whether in the government or private sector, is not infallible.

We are only now hearing about problems certain Veterans Hospitals/Clinics have encountered. The Veterans Administration has informed certain individuals that had particular procedures (colonoscopy's) performed through the VA of potential troubles. It appears the devices utilized in said procedures were not sterile.

Some veterans in Tennessee were exposed to potentially life threatening illnesses (hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and/or AIDS) from instruments used in colonoscopy procedures. Patients in Georgia were also exposed to potential life threatening illnesses with, at last count, six being exposed to "unspecified viral infections."

The issue with this current two state problem is that, as with many problems, the list of affected areas continues to grow. Now the government has uncovered potential trouble with colonoscopy procedures administered in the Miami VA system.

There is no indication that this predicament will spread beyond the current three states but one must be vigilant. If you have had a colonoscopy performed through the VA system you may want to contact your primary doctor and discuss this issue with him/her. It may be in your best interest to have blood work taken just to show that you have, at present, no detectable problems. If problems occur they can be resolved quicker the sooner they are detected. (Material found in the VFW Magazine June/July 2009)

Alert! Military and/or veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune on or before 1987 need to contact: [www.marines.mil/clsurvey](http://www.marines.mil/clsurvey) or call: Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water Call Center at: (877) 261-9782. It appears a problem may exist with their drinking water.

In the early 1980 two unregulated (at that time) solvents, trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE), were found in two of the water systems on this base. The well water at issue was removed from usage in 1984 and 1985. But, the Department of the Navy is still funding two programs to investigate potential problems.

One program, through the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry is investigating to determine whether there is any association between exposure to these chemicals and any adverse health effects. The second program, through the National Academy of Sciences, will evaluate specific health concerns associated with exposure to any of these chemicals. It is important to record ones name with this registry because those enrolled will be notified of results when research into this investigation is completed. If you are not on the list, you may not be notified in a timely manner.

## ORMSBY: from page 5

labor union's headlock on both industry and government.

But stopping these is not enough.

We must begin the process of weaning ourselves off the Ponzi scheme known as Social Security that short-changes everyone (especially minorities) and which will bankrupt our children's future.

We must return healthcare to the incentives and competition of the private sector. The price of medical procedures must be

restored as a factor in healthcare decisions made by individuals. Until that happens, we will waste precious resources, talented people will shun the practice of medicine, and our healthcare outcomes will suffer. Socialized medicine kills. We will likely be one of its victims.

We have a long road ahead. We know who and what caused our current meltdown. We know that government is the cause and not the cure. We know that only

Magazine Jan/Feb 2009)

One must be vigilant about ones health. Check with your primary doctor if any of these items could affect you. Massachusetts is one of the best states for veterans aid; the states web site [www.mass.gov/veterans](http://www.mass.gov/veterans) is an excellent resource. There is another website that is worth enrolling in - Michael Burke, Director of veterans' services in Andover supplies an excellent "update" if you supply your e-mail address. His update is very informative, and covers a multitude of subjects. Check him out at: <http://andoverma.gov/veterans/>

We pray for the health of all our military, and all it's veterans. God bless and keep them all. And, God bless this great democracy, the United States of America. Until next time I remain.



*Susan Piazza is the past Commander, Chapter 2, Queen City, DAV and was the first female commander of the DAV in 75 years. She has been involved with the DAV for over twenty five years. You can email Susan at [WithMara@aol.com](mailto:WithMara@aol.com)*

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

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## The Boys of Iwo Jima; From Page 1

is quite another to get the kind of insight we received that night. When all had gathered around, he reverently began to speak. Here are his words from that night:

"My name is James Bradley and I'm from Antigo, Wisconsin. My dad is on that statue, and I just wrote a book called *Flags of Our Fathers* which is #5 on the New York Times Best Seller list right now. It is the story of the six boys you see behind me. Six boys raised the flag. The first guy putting the pole in the ground is Harlon Block. Harlon was an all-state football player. He enlisted in the Marine Corps with all the senior members of his football team. They were off to play another type of game, a game called "War." But it didn't turn out to be a game. Harlon, at the age of twenty-one, died with his intestines in his hands. I don't say that to gross you out; I say that because there are generals who stand in front of this statue and talk about the glory of war. You guys need to know that most of the boys in Iwo Jima were seventeen, eighteen, and nineteen years old.

(He pointed to the statue)

You see this next guy? That's Rene Gagnon from New Hampshire. If you took Rene's helmet off at the moment this photo was taken, and looked in the webbing of that helmet, you would find a photograph. A photograph of his girlfriend. Rene put that in there for protection, because he was scared. He was eighteen years old. Boys won the battle of Iwo Jima. Boys. Not old men.

The next guy here, the third guy in this

tableau, was Sergeant Mike Strank. Mike is my hero. He was the hero of all these guys. They called him the "old man" because he was so old. He was already twenty-four. When Mike would motivate his boys in training camp, he didn't say, "Let's go kill the enemy" or "Let's die for our country." He knew he was talking to little boys. Instead he would say, "You do what I say, and I'll get you home to your mothers."

The last guy on this side of the statue is Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian from Arizona. Ira Hayes walked off Iwo Jima. He went into the White House with my dad. President Truman told him, "You're a hero." He told reporters, "How can I feel like a hero when 250 of my buddies hit the island with me and only twenty-seven of us walked off alive?"

So you take your class at school. 250 of you spending a year together having fun, doing everything together. Then all 250 of you hit the beach, but only twenty-seven of your classmates walk off alive. That was Ira Hayes. He had images of horror in his mind. Ira Hayes died dead drunk, face down at the age of thirty-two, ten years after this picture was taken.

The next guy, going around the statue, is Franklin Sousley from Hilltop, Kentucky, a fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. His best friend, who is now 70, told me, "Yeah, you know, we took two cows up on the porch of the Hilltop General Store. Then we strung wire across the stairs so the cows couldn't get down. Then we fed them Epson salts. Those cows crapped all

night."

Yes, he was a fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. Franklin died on Iwo Jima at the age of nineteen. When the telegram came to tell his mother that he was dead, it went to the Hilltop General Store. A barefoot boy ran that telegram up to his mother's farm. The neighbors could hear her scream all night and into the morning. The neighbors lived a quarter of a mile away.

The next guy, as we continue to go around the statue, is my dad, John Bradley from Antigo, Wisconsin, where I was raised. My dad lived until 1994, but he would never give interviews. When Walter Kronkite's producers, or the New York Times would call, we were trained as little kids to say, "No, I'm sorry sir, my dad's not here. He is in Canada fishing. No, there is no phone there, sir. No, we don't know when he is coming back."

My dad never fished or even went to Canada. Usually he was sitting right there at the table eating his Campbell's soup, but we had to tell the press that he was out fishing. He didn't want to talk to the press. You see, my dad didn't see himself as a hero. Everyone thinks these guys are heroes, 'cause they are in a photo and a monument. My dad knew better. He was a medic. John Bradley from Wisconsin was a caregiver. In Iwo Jima he probably held over 200 boys as they died, and when boys died in Iwo Jima, they writhed and screamed in pain.

When I was a little boy, my third grade teacher told me that my dad was a hero. When I went home and told my dad that,

he looked at me and said, "I want you always to remember that the heroes of Iwo Jima are the guys who did not come back. DID NOT come back."

So that's the story about six nice young boys. Three died on Iwo Jima, and three came back as national heroes. Overall, 7000 boys died on Iwo Jima in the worst battle in the history of the Marine Corps. My voice is giving out, so I will end here. Thank you for your time."

Suddenly the monument wasn't just a big old piece of metal with a flag sticking out of the top. It came to life before our eyes with the heartfelt words of a son who did indeed have a father who was a hero. Maybe not a hero in his own eyes, but a hero nonetheless.

Michael T. Powers - HeartTouchers@aol.com. Copyright © 2000 by Michael T. Powers. Write Michael and let him know your thoughts on this story! Michael T. Powers, the founder of HeartTouchers.com and Heart4Teens.com, is the youth minister at Faith Community Church in Janesville, Wisconsin. He is happily married to his high school sweetheart Kristi and proud father of three young rambunctious boys. He is also an author with stories in 29 inspirational books including many in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series and his own entitled: *Heart Touchers "Life-Changing Stories of Faith, Love, and Laughter."* To preview his book or to join the thousands of world wide readers on his inspirational e-mail list, visit: <http://www.HeartTouchers.com>

Most importantly, Michael believes that life is not about religion, but about a relationship -- a relationship with Jesus Christ. Michael Powers stories appear in fourteen inspirational books, including many from the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. The story above is from his book: *Straight From the Heart "A Celebration of Life"*. To read more send an e-mail to: [Hearttouchers-subscribe@myinjesus.com](mailto:Hearttouchers-subscribe@myinjesus.com) or visit: <http://www.HeartTouchers.com>

## Happy Independence Day America!

John Lenotte

VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

Here we are with the 4th of July and what most of us feel is a wonderful time of year. A day we celebrate our Independence. Do you remember from whom we became independent? Ask your neighbor, your children, your grandchildren. You might be surprised by the answers. Or lack of an answer. Which is disappointing if they don't have the right answer as Massachusetts is where it all began. Home of the Boston Tea Party, the "shot heard around the world" at Lexington and Concord. The battle at Bunker Hill. These were all fought by local militia. Including men from Andover, Methuen, Haverhill and the surrounding towns. Many whose graves are now forgotten by most and overgrown with plants and weeds.

And the efforts of many whose names are prominent in the history books and in recent years brought back to light by books, movies and mini-series. Names like Paul Revere, John Hancock, Sam

Adams and John Adams. Often overlooked are the sacrifices their families also made as they left their homes. And their business and possessions were all at risk of being taken over by those loyal to the British King and even the British troops.

The history books tell us of the great joy and fear as the Declaration of Independence was distributed around the colonies.

It was not without much debate that it even came to be written. If you read David McCullough's book or watch the HBO mini-series on John Adams, you will get a flavor of the times in which this happened.

Our battle for Independence did not end with the American Revolution. We had to stand up to the British again in the War of 1812. Survive our own deep



PHOTO: COURTESY

internal struggles in the costly Civil War. We started to gain prominence on the world arena with the Spanish-American War. Then came World War I, the war to end all wars. Yet we later became embroiled in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf War. Today, we are in a bitter struggle, along with our allies, against global terrorism.

This year, I know I'll take a few moments to pause and thank those many men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we continue to enjoy our independence. Without them, who knows what type of society and lifestyle we might have. And let us not forget the sacrifices of the families of those who served and are still serving the nation today in over 140 countries across the Globe.

As we watch our beloved Red Sox and other teams play, let us remember that many players rose up to defend our country in prior conflicts. Baseball greats like: Phil Rizzuto, Joe Garragiola, Johnny Pesky, Warren Spahn, Pee Wee Reese, Mickey Cochran and Yogi Berra. Many of whom played American Legion Baseball.

So, let us enjoy the fireworks, the burgers, chicken, sausage and hot dogs. Let us enjoy the time with our family and friends. Please, do take a moment to think and pray for our service men and women, and their families for their sacrifices all year long.

May God Bless America and the troops who defend us.



John Lenotte is the American Legion, Comman-der, Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4 Haverhill and Vice Commander, Dept. of Massachusetts. You can Email him at [JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net](mailto:JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net)

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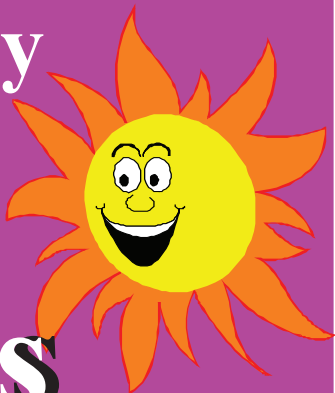








Superintendent Wilfredo T. Laboy  
presents



# Lawrence Public Schools Summer Meals Program

Lawrence Public Schools is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children without charge. Acceptance and participation requirements for the program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of meal service. Meals will be provided at the sites and times as follows:

## FREE to all ages 1-18

1. Arlington Ed. Complex	150 Arlington St.	B 7:30-8:30	L 11:30 - 12:30
2. Guilmette Ed. Complex	80 Bodwell St.	B 7:30-8:30	L 11:30 - 12:30
3. LHS Campus	70 North Parish Road	B 7:30-8:30 B 9:30-10:30	L 11:45-12:45 L 1:30 - 2:30
4. Leahy School	100 Erving Ave	B 7:30 - 8:30	L 11:30 - 12:30
5. No. Common Complex	233 Haverhill St.	B 7:30 - 8:30	L 11:30 - 12:30
6. Parthum Ed. Complex	255 E. Haverhill St.	B 7:30 - 8:30	L 11:30 - 12:30
7. South Lawrence East	165 Crawford St.	B 7:30 - 8:30	L 11:30 - 12:30
8. Wetherbee School	75 Newton St.	B 7:30 - 8:30	L 11:30 - 12:30

## Dates of Operation - July 6th through August 28th

9. Beacon Courts	71 Duckett Ave		L 12:15 - 1:15
10. Bruce Park	Providence St.	S. 2:15-2:30	
11. Community Boating	7 Eaton Pl.		L 11:30 - 12:30
12. Giesler Pool	High St.		L 11:30 - 12:30
13. Hancock Courts	61 Hancock St.		L. 1-2pm
14. Higgins Pool	Crawford St.		L 11:30-1:30
15. Howard Park	Lawrence St.	S. 2:15-2:30	
16. LFD Charter School	34 West St.	B 7:30 - 8:00	L11:00 - 12:00
17. Merrimack Courts	56 Melvin St.		L 12:00 - 1:00
18. No. Common Park	Haverhill St.	S. 2:15-2:30	
19. Riverfront Park	Everett St.	S. 2:15-2:30	
20. Stadium Courts	179 Osgood St.		L 12:00 - 1:00
21. Sullivan Park	North Parish Road	S. 2:15-2:30	

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Cooperating Agencies: DOE, USDA, and Project Bread  
Lawrence Public Schools - Summer Meals Program prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, age or disability