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NOVEMBER, 2010  
VOLUME 7, ISSUE 11

# THE VALLEY PATRIOT

"Congress shall make no law..."

2004

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2010

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

## Cops Under Siege!

### Shorthanded Lawrence Cops Confiscate Guns & Ski Masks



See Stories Page 6 & 7

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A new monthly  
police publication  
**FREE** inside this  
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## VALLEY PATRIOTS OF THE MONTH

### A Tribute to Veterans

Oliver North

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

*In honor of Veterans' Day, instead of choosing one veteran to honor this month in the pages of our newspaper, we decided to pay tribute and thank ALL veterans for their service and sacrifice to our nation with a guest column by hero Veteran Oliver North.*

PIERRE, S.D. — Last week, America observed its 56th Veterans Day. It hasn't always been so.

In 1938, Congress declared Nov. 11th, designated Armistice Day, a federal holiday to commemorate the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of

1918, when World War I ended. In 1954, at the urging of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Congress changed the name of the holiday to Veterans Day to honor American veterans of all wars. Then politics intervened.

In 1968, President Lyndon Johnson pressed his cronies in Congress to pass the so-called "Uniform Monday Holiday Bill" — a measure giving federal workers three-day weekends by "moving" Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Columbus Day to the nearest Mondays on the calendar. Congress complied, and U.S. Marines

OLIVER NORTH, page 41

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# GOP Makes Gains, Doubles Reps. in Mass. House

David Trumbull

VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

While nationally the Republicans picked up about 60 seats, and control, in the United States House of Representatives, here in Massachusetts a tide of Republican support doubled the size of the GOP caucus in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

On Election Day Republicans held 15 of the 160 seats in the Massachusetts House. Republicans held on to every seat and picked up at least 14 more seats!

Eight Republican members of the House faced no opposition in this election: Jay Barrow (1st Bristol), Vinny deMacedo (12th Plymouth), Paul Frost (7th Worcester), Brad Hill (4th Essex), Donald Humason (4th Hampden), Brad Jones (20th Middlesex), Elizabeth Po-

irier (14th Bristol), and Todd Smola (1st Hampden).

Three Republican incumbents faced and defeated Democratic challengers: Susan Gifford (2nd Plymouth), George Peterson (9th Worcester), and Daniel Webster (6th Plymouth).

Five seats that were open due to Republican office-holders not seeking re-election to the House were retained by the Republicans: Matthew Beaton in the 11th Worcester (vacated by Karyn Polito who ran unsuccessfully for Treasurer), Kimberly Ferguson in the 1st Worcester (vacated by Lewis Evangelidis who ran successfully for Sheriff), Randy Hunt in the 5th Barnstable (vacated by Jeff Perry who ran unsuccessfully for Congress), Sheila Harrington in the 1st Middlesex (vacated by Robert Hargraves), and Daniel Winslow in the 9th Norfolk (vacated

by Richard Ross elected to the Senate in a special election earlier this year)

In addition, Republicans picked up more seats in the House than we have in any election in the last 20 years.

Four seats occupied by Democrats not seeking re-election to the House switched to Republican: Paul Adams picked up the open seat in 17th Essex (vacated by Democrat Barry Finegold), Richard Bastien picked up the open seat in 2nd Worcester (vacated by Democrat Robert Rice), Angelo D'Emilia picked up the open seat in 8th Plymouth (vacated by Democrat David Flynn), Marc Lombardo picked up the open seat in 22nd Middlesex (vacated by Democrat William Green)

At least nine and possibly as many as 13 incumbent Democrats were defeated by Republicans:

GOP, page 34



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Andover Republican Jim Lyons defeated Barbara L'Italien to be elected as one of 14 new Republicans in the Massachusetts House of Representatives

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# Santa is coming to town November 27th

Tracey Zysk

VALLEY PATRIOT NAMA COLUMNIST

Here comes Santa Claus...November 27, 2010 Main Street North Andover! For years Santa has been coming to North Andover but none have been as special as this year's.

On October 12th the community of North Andover and the North Andover Police Department lost a very special person. Sgt. Frederick Soucy died after battling a long hard fight with leukemia.

Sgt. Soucy's passion...yes, was planning the North Andover Santa Parade.

Two years ago when Sgt. Soucy became sick, he was still determined to keep the parade going. He asked his partner Sgt. EJ Foulds to take his place on the festival committee. Foulds was honored to do this for Soucy, in fact, there wasn't even a second thought to it. Going to the meetings, reaching out to businesses, clubs and organizations, organizing a food drive, Sgt. Foulds jumped right into Soucy's routine to make it happen for his partner. Foulds stated "Fred talked about the parade all year long, he couldn't wait to start planning it and he always had new ideas of what he would like to add. He definitely really put his heart and soul into this." Foulds also added "Fred strongly believed the style of the parade should always reflect an old fashion, small town, and family valued event."

Old fashion, small town, family valued event is exactly what will be strolling down Main St. November 27 starting at Noon. Keeping the tradition going will be Santa Stewart, the North Shore Old Car Club, Clan MacPherson Pipes and Drums, North Andover School of Dance, Nancy Chippendale's Dancers and the North Andover High School Marching Band, just to name a few. There will also be some new additions joining the parade this year. Just Dance has recently signed on to perform and the North Andover High School Chorus will be singing Christmas carols while strolling in the parade.

The North Andover Merchants Association will be a sponsor of the parade, town wide food drive and a sponsor of the NAHS Chorus recent invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall.

## North Andover Police Department


Selectman Tracy Watson and Board of Director of NAMA says "It is an honor to be able to support the NAHS Chorus in this year's Annual Santa Parade. The NAHS Chorus has recently been invited to sing at Carnegie Hall and our sponsorship of them in the Santa Parade this year will help them achieve this goal! We as a NAMA as well as the community at large could not be prouder of them!"

NAMA will also be sponsoring this year's can food drive. Please bring a can to the parade and leave it along the route. Or you can bring a can to any of the merchants designated as a food drop off location. The food drive will begin November 1st and will continue until the day of the parade. NAMA will be donating all the cans to local food banks.

This year's parade route will start at the Middle School; go down Main St, turn onto Elm St, turn on to Water St and return to Main and end at Sutton St.

If you are a business, club or an organization that would like to march or put a float in the parade please contact Sgt Foulds at the North Andover Police Station. (978) 683-3168

Happy Holidays and hope you can join us for a very special Santa's Day Parade !



Sgt. Frederick Soucy died after battling a long hard fight with leukemia.

**dromat**, Merrimack Valley Martial Arts Academy, NOVA Salon Spa, **North Andover Senior Center**, OFF SEASON Sports & Physical Therapy, Quic Pic, Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center, Rolf's Pub, **Rose & Dove Gift Shop**, Salem Five Bank, Stachey's Pizza, **Second Hand Rose on Main**, TD Bank – Main St., **The Camelot located at the Knights of Columbus**, **Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care (dog & cat food)** **Wood Ridge Homes.**

## From the N. Andover Senior Center

The 2010 U.S. Census is now complete. The census gives a picture of America and of Massachusetts that shows how the population has grown over the last ten years and makes projections of what to expect over the next ten years. The information that is gathered is used to redistrict Congress and funds local support projects. Our Formula Grant is based on 60 and older population in our community set by the Federal Census. Currently we receive \$7.00 per elder which supports five part-time employees at the Senior Center. In the next decade we expect to see even more dramatic increases in attendance at the Senior Center. Boomers become eligible for services and the population is living longer. We have also noted an increase in request for assistance to our Outreach Department for the frail elders over 85 as they need more help to be independent in our community. Family support is a significant source of support for older adults. Many of the adult children of elders do not live in the community that once was their home. These adult children turn to the local Senior Center for assistance. More resources must be available on a local level to assist these elders. Transportation is the number one need to support our elders in their homes. Without transportation elders become isolated and alone. The need for funding to the Senior Center to enhance existing activities and to bring in new programs to meet the growing and ever changing needs of older adults is what the Federal Census will bring to the forefront in Massachusetts.

SUPPORT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

FREE MEMORY SCREENING: Monday, November 15, 12:30 -3:30 at the

Senior Center. Memory Screening takes 15 minutes to complete. Appointments are limited and filled on a first come first serve basis. Call the Center to register at 978-688-9560.

Attorney George White: Available to meet with you to discuss your legal issues. Please call the Senior Center to make an appointment.

SHINE Counseling: (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays from 12 – 3 pm. Call the Senior Center to make an appointment.

The SHINE program can help you! For help understanding your options and finding the lowest cost Part D Plan for you, call the North Andover Senior Center at 978-688-9560 to schedule a FREE individual appointment with a SHINE counselor as soon as possible. Do not wait! Bring all your insurance information and a list of your prescription drugs with dosages to the appointment.

You can also reach a SHINE Counselor by telephone. Call 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636), then press or say 3. Once you get the SHINE answering machine, leave your name and phone number. A SHINE Counselor will call you back as soon as possible. Please be patient as the demand for help is great.

Thanksgiving Feast: Join us for a home cooked turkey dinner Thursday, 12 noon at the Senior Center. Tickets are \$10.00 each and go on sale Oct. 22nd. Entertainment provided by Irish singer, Brian Corcoran.

We need Volunteer Medical Transport Drivers! Call the North Andover Senior Center for more information. Speak with Barbara at 978-688-9560 for application

N.ANDOVER, page 43

## NAMA hosts Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser Nov 27th at Rolf's Pub

Tracey Zysk

VALLEY PATRIOT NAMA COLUMNIST

The North Andover Merchants Association will be sponsoring a Cystic Fibrosis fundraiser on Saturday, November 27th from 6:00pm - 11:00pm at Rolf's Pub, 39 Main Street North Andover.

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system of about 30,000 children and adults in the United States and approximately 70,000 worldwide. It is one of the most common chronic lung diseases in children and young adults.

"This is a scary disease, but one where a cure is genuinely within reach," said Phil DeCologero, who is organizing the fundraiser. The idea for the fundraiser came about when DeCologero was out one night at Rolf's with KC Robinson, who has had CF her entire life. "KC has grown up with this and I have seen the challenges she has struggled with and what she has been able to overcome."

DeCologero approached Lesley Carlson, owner of Rolf's, and began working with her on planning the event. Carlson and DeCologero both serve on the NAMA Board of Directors and thought that this would be



a great event for NAMA to co-sponsor.

The fundraiser will raise money by asking pub patrons to pay a \$5.00 cover fee between 6:00pm and 11:00pm, with all proceeds going towards CF. All proceeds from the raffles will also go towards supporting CF with all prizes being donated by NAMA businesses.

"The 27th is the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and Rolf's is always packed," said DeCologero. "It's generous that Lesley is willing to help us out on one of Rolf's busiest nights."

"This is what NAMA is all about," said Carlson. "We encourage residents to support their local businesses, but that's because local businesses are always so supportive of local causes, as is evident by the overwhelming support they have already given to the CF fundraiser."

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NORTH ANDOVER



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# Lantigua has SIX cops patrolling early nights

## Mayhem ensues as citizens left unprotected, Missing teens found drugged in Andover

Tom Duggan  
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

When the call went out one Tuesday night last month, alerting Lawrence Police officers of an impending crisis, the details were sketchy. A thirteen year old Arlington School girl never came home from school just a few blocks away and by 11PM the parents were panicking at the police station. All that was known was her age, height and weight and that she was last seen leaving school in her school uniform. Police suspected she might be with her “boyfriend” but didn’t know for sure as they sent out the BOLO (Be on the lookout) to all cars and shared the missing girl’s stats with other surrounding community police departments.

The police radio was buzzing all night as Lawrence officers scurried in the late hours and early into Wednesday morning to find the missing teen who did not show up for school Wednesday morning. As time went on, police finally became convinced that she was most likely with a thirteen year old boy she was in love with, and whose parents also came forward to say their son was missing as well.

Methuen, Andover and North Andover police departments were on alert and as Wednesday wore on (the first 24 hours being most critical to finding a missing teen) love letters between the two were poured over by detectives in The Valley to try and get any clues as where the two might be.

“We had to go on the assumption that they may have been abducted or that something had happened to both of them. Even if they ran away a lot can happen to a couple of children that young,” one officer told the Valley Patriot. “We had to

treat this as if the kids were in danger,” he concluded.

But the parents were incensed that police could not send out an Amber Alert because there was no evidence she was abducted or that she was in danger, something police said seriously hampered their efforts. “That’s the law,” a North Andover cop said. “Many parents think as soon as their kid goes missing that we can shoot out an amber alert and the whole system will kick in, but it doesn’t work that way.”

At one point early Wednesday, word that the girl had been found made its way to the Valley Patriot newsroom where we reported it online but within hours officers contacted the paper to inform us that she and her “boyfriend” were still at large.

### LANTIGUA HAS SIX OFFICERS.. AND ONLY SIX OFFICERS PATROL CITY STREETS

By 3pm Wednesday, the 24 hour mark, police still had clues but very little to go on. Parents of both teens were driving the Arlington neighborhood and began to ask for help from family and friends to put up posters and aid in the search but by sundown there was no trace of the missing



Lawrence police rush from call to call with no backup

teens.

When the early night shift came back on duty early Wednesday night, Lawrence cops were devastated to learn that only SIX police officers would be patrolling the streets of Lawrence in SIX one-man cars with no state police backup on the streets.

“On a normal night, without the added problem of missing kids to find, six cops on the streets is a disaster waiting to happen for us and for the public,” one Lawrence officer said.

“There are nearly 90,000 people in this city and we’re expected to go out there and keep everyone safe? Including our own men? How long is it going to be before one of us gets killed or maimed? Now we have to go out, answer calls with no backup depending on how busy

it gets and on top of it try to find these missing kids. Someone is going to get hurt. There is no doubt about it. It’s not a matter of ‘if’ another cop gets killed or hurt in Lawrence at this point it’s a matter of when. Our families are crossing their fingers every night that we’ll come home ok. How the hell are we supposed to look for two children when we can barely keep up with the calls that come in?”

None of the officers we spoke to wanted to be identified for fear of retaliation by the Lantigua administration.

At one point Wednesday night around 10:30pm, every available Lawrence police officer was tied up with NO backup to help them if they got in trouble and no way to respond to any member of the public who called for help.

POLICE, page 8

## A Call to Respect Our Public Safety Officials

Marc LaPlante  
LAWRENCE CITY COUNCILOR

*The following is from a prepared statement given to the Lawrence City Council by Councilor Marc LaPlante two days before the story above took place. Lawrence’s Mayor Lantigua laid off 25 police officers earlier this year after borrowing \$35 million and gave raises to people in city hall but did not spend one dime of that money on public safety.*

Today, I am bringing up a disturbing incident that occurred in our City since our last City Council meeting. Not only is it disturbing on its face, but it is even more appalling that our elected leaders have become desensitized to the violence on our streets, and have yet to show public support for our public safety officials.

On the early morning of October 9th, a

brawl erupted on Doyle Street. 50-75 people were on the street and on the front porch where an “after hours” party turned violent at 3 am. In an attempt to restore order and avoid injuries, Lawrence Police Officer William Colantuoni was punched in the face, Captain David Kelly was hit in the head by a beer bottle, and Police Officer Carlos Vieira’s glasses were knocked off while someone was trying to unsuccessfully access his revolver.

Fortunately, the officers are all in good condition. But beyond the obvious strains the reduction of 41 officers have had on



policing (and let us not forget that our police force has been decimated with an elimination of the various specialty units), what is troubling is that not a word of protest was stated against this display of disrespect to our police from our elected officials. Our police and fire officials are on the frontlines to protect us.

We should be thankful for their service and supportive of their missions.

If this were Boston, you can be sure that Mayor Menino would have immediately called a press conference, displayed his outrage at those involved in the incident, supported the police officers who respond-

ed, and reminded citizens that everyone needs to work cooperatively with law enforcement officials to keep the city safe. Unfortunately in Lawrence, little is done to show support for our public safety officials. In fact, my fear is that our silence is condoning this lack of respect to our police and fire.

While the incident on October 9 did not take place in my district, the good, decent, law abiding citizens I represent are impacted when there is an outlandish display of disrespect shown to our police. It fosters an attitude that the police are part of the problem and that challenging their authority is acceptable and even encouraged. I find this behavior reprehensible and I call on the Council, Mayor Lantigua, and our state delegation to join me in denouncing what I fear is a growing disrespect to our public safety officials.

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# Cops under Siege: guns, ski masks, ammo confiscated

Tom Duggan  
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

When Lawrence police got an anonymous tip that a man with a gun in his waistband had just left Bali's, a nightclub on Essex Street, there were only seven patrolmen protecting the city of more than 80,000 people. The caller told police that the man got into a black Land Rover and even told police the license plate number as it sped away from the scene.

Two of those one-man cruisers patrolling the city were within a block or two of the nightclub and rushed to the scene but arrived seconds too late as the Land Rover was nowhere to be found.

Within less than a minute, however, the Black Land Rover they were warned about pulled back onto Essex Street towards the same night club.

"I've got him," Officer Dave Levesque said over the police radio as another cruiser arrived at the scene.

seat and began checking the door panels, between the seats and eventually an open space inside the roof of the truck.

"We got em!" one officer yelled as two dark objects fell from the interior roof.

When officers unwrapped the objects they discovered two weapons, a .40 caliber and a .45 caliber Rugar concealed by ski masks. Officers also discovered a cache of ammunition wrapped in plastic "looks like drugs" one officer said before correcting himself. "Bullets" he announced as he unwrapped the plastic.

"Look at these things," Officer Chris Bussey said, unloading a full clip of what another officer called "cop killer" bullets. "No round in the chamber, but these clips are full. If he shot at us with this one," Officer Raso said to one of his colleagues, "these bullets would have gone right through our vests. We got lucky tonight. If these guys had shot [at us] someone would be dead."

Patriot. "Lawrence police carry .40 caliber hand-guns, so the bullets in that .45 caliber gun they confiscated would have gone right through their vests."

Another court source confirmed that the .45 caliber Rugar was stolen out of Dover NH. All three suspects were charged jointly with; carrying concealed weapons, possession of a stolen firearm, possession of a high capacity magazine, illegal possession of a hand gun, illegal possession of ammunition, carrying concealed weapon, possession burglar tools, and approximately a dozen other charges including driving without a license for the driver of the vehicle.



Lawrence Police Officer Tim Dube questions 23 year old Jonathan Walker of Boston after fellow Officer Dave Levesque had to chase him down. Walker was driving the vehicle. Police found two guns and "cop killer" bullets wrapped in plastic, hidden in the roof of the Rover that Walker was driving before he fled on foot. Walker and his two accomplices are being charged with multiple firearms charges, possession of burglary tools and a stolen gun. Walker is also being charged with driving without a license.



Lawrence police arrested three suspects after finding three ski masks and two handguns, (a .40 caliber and a .45 caliber handgun stolen out of Dover NH), with full magazine clips inside them containing ten rounds each, a screw driver, a crow bar, black gloves, and burglary tools. Police say the three suspects were in possession of a "home invasion kit."

The driver of the truck was on foot fleeing the scene as Officer Levesque chased him. Two other suspects, one in the passenger's seat and the other in the back seat surrendered immediately as Officer Levesque captured and subdued the driver and brought him back to the scene.

In less than two minutes, five of the seven officers patrolling the city were on Essex Street searching the vehicle, pulling out a large speaker system from the back of the truck, and meticulously looking through every crevice of the interior.

"I've got nothing" one officer said from the back compartment. Officer's PJ Lopez and Tim Dube climbed into the back

Court documents identified the driver of the Land Rover as 23 year old Jonathan Walker, of Boston, the suspect in the passenger's side of the vehicle as 23 year old Rolando Dominguez of New Hampshire and the back seat passenger as 42 year old Lawrence resident Jaime Morales Ruiz.

A source at Lawrence District Court said that the FBI positively identified the suspects even though they had given fake names while being booked at the police station.

"Police officers in Massachusetts are required to wear the vest to the gun they are carrying," a court officer told the Valley

and arresting the suspects the rest of the city was virtually unprotected with only seven officers patrolling the streets and most of them tied up on that one call.

"We keep asking, begging for help out here but what we get is sporadic coverage from the state police when they can spare a few men," an off duty officer said after the incident. "But those guys don't know the streets. It's great to have them as backup, but they're riding around with GPS systems in their cars trying to find street addresses. They don't know where they are going and on these streets a few seconds could mean a life, a civilian or one of us. We're under Siege every single [expletive] night out here, and nobody seems to give a shit. But you watch, if one of us gets killed, or God forbid, we can't protect someone and they die, these politicians will all be mugging for the camera at our funeral pretending to care. The time to care is now before someone is killed. The time to care is now when we can actually prevent a tragedy."

"What we need is to get back our 25 officers, [that were laid off by mayor Lantigua] and that's just a start. We're gonna need another 15-20 guys on top of that just to get a handle on the epidemic that's been created out here."

"The criminals know what's going on out here, we are out manned, out gunned and under siege. That makes Lawrence a playground for hard core guys like they got tonight. The word is out, Lawrence is a magnet for anyone who wants to commit a violent crimes."

"These guys have obviously been through the system a number of times," on source told The Valley Patriot, asking not to be identified for fear of retribution from his superiors.

"None of them cooperated, they all gave us fake names and haven't said a word since." Officers at the scene were heard saying to each other that they "very likely saved someone's life tonight."

"These guys were up to no good, they left the front of the club, got in the car and came back to the scene, you don't do that unless you are casing a club or targeting someone," another officer agreed.

"Hey, this was a home invasion or a car jacking in the making. Who knows what they had planned, robbing one of the clubs or maybe targeting someone inside but our friend here," he said pointing to one of the suspects, "is going away for a long time."

"The problem," another officer added, "is that the caller who tipped us off didn't want to be identified and hung up before we could get their name. That could be a problem in court later on, I just hope the charges stick, these are dangerous guys!"

Documents obtained by The Valley Patriot show that the vehicle was registered out of Boston but the owner is allegedly in Puerto Rico. Officers said that while they were on Essex Street searching the vehicle



Photo #1: 42 year old Lawrence resident, Jaime Morales Ruiz, who already had three pending gun charges against him when he was pulled over on Essex Street by Lawrence Police following a tip that a man with a gun was seen outside Bali's Nightclub getting into a black Land Rover. Photo #2: Lawrence Police Officer PJ Lopez finds what looks to be drugs in the suspect truck, but when he unwrapped the plastic it turned out to be .45 caliber bullets that can penetrate police vests. Photo #3: Officer Lopez inspects a .45 automatic Rugar with a full clip of ammunition (carrying ten rounds) of what one officer called "cop killer" bullets. Photo #4: Officer Dube searches inside the sun roof of the vehicle where two guns, each wrapped in ski masks fell onto the seats when he reached into the open space.



# Former Mayor Sullivan speaks out on city finances

Tom Duggan

VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

Former Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan says he has had enough of the “lies” by current Mayor Lantigua and members of the Deval Patrick administration regarding his handling of Lawrence finances over the last eight years.

Sullivan called into the Paying Attention! Radio Program with Tom Duggan on WHAV last month, calling Lantigua to task for laying off cops and firefighters and blaming Sullivan for leaving him with a \$24.5Mil deficit in the city budget.

Tom: How infuriated are you, that when you were the mayor of Lawrence Jay Gonzalez at the Department of Revenue (DOR) was telling you to spend down free cash, spend down the health insurance trust fund, and certified your budgets as “balanced”, then the minute you are out the door, he said “Oh no, Mike Sullivan screwed up, we have deficits going back to 2006,”... even though he certified your budgets as balanced?

“When I heard that it made me go through the boxes of documents that I took from city hall and I remembered that I had DOR certification letters for the last eight years. You can’t operate a city without that (certification). Jay Gonzales and Bob Nunes certified every budget year prior, going back to 2003. I still have the letters saying “congratulations, you guys are doing great, you are balanced, everything is good.”

And then, the part that really made me sick, Tom, was the Secretary of Administration and Finance for the State (DOR), Jay Gonzales is now annihilating what we did in the past eight years in Lawrence as if he wasn’t part of all that. As if he had no idea what we were doing. I remember in 2004 and 2005, when he (Gonzales)

was making hundreds of thousands of dollars personally on selling bonds for the city before he got his job with the state. He was talking about the Lupoli’s coming in here, Bob Ansin coming in and buying two million square

feet of mill space, and creating 2,000 new jobs. It was like, “God Bless America!”

Now, I look at him in this role now as Secretary of A&F working for Deval Patrick. He is the most two-faced person I’ve ever met. And that’s what upset me personally, Tom, because I know the history. He sat across the table from me for two years as our bond council and he went out and made hundreds of thousands of dollars personally when he worked for Palmer and Dodge selling Lawrence as a great investment.”

Sullivan said that he doesn’t believe for one minute that there were deficits in the previous budgets and that Mayor Lantigua, who was the state rep. at the time, “knows full well that our budgets were balanced and there was no deficits in any city budget prior to 2009. You know, Tom, this is a shell game. It’s, ‘how can we hide money, how can we blame other people for Lantigua choosing to lay off cops and firefighters while he is secretly giving raises to everyone in city hall.’ Can you imagine if I had done that? The city council would have gone crazy. The DOR would have rejected my budgets!

The debacle now, Tom, the tragedy now



Former Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan and current Mayor Willie Lantigua

is that there is no city council holding Lantigua’s feet to the fire and there’s no city council asking questions about the DOR and their role in certifying city budgets.

A week ago, they (the council) came up with this fire

department concession and the mayor said ‘we found \$240,000 that we are going to be able to bring eight firefighters back.’

Well, under charter law if you have ‘new found money’ as they called it, you need to package that, show it to the city council, prove where it’s coming from and then, they have to make the appropriation. But, these guys, under the overseeing of Mr. Nunes, who took a \$72,000 salary out of the city budget and once certified all my budgets as balanced, he is now allowing this mayor to do whatever he wants ... with our money. And the council doesn’t care: with the exception of one, Mr. Laplante who is the only one asking questions.

The controller right now still does not have an answer of where is this newfound money coming from. Not one person in the last six weeks can answer that question, where is this “newfound money” coming from and why hasn’t the city council put a stop to this? And that’s the part, Tom, that kills me. What this guy is getting away with never would have been tolerated when I was mayor. But, he can’t even own up to his own actions. He has to blame everyone else and in the mean time

the city is suffering.

Now you are going to see the auto insurance rates going to go back up again. The police department has a 100% increase in stolen cars over the last 4 months. So, the numbers are all shifting back to where they were in the late 80’s when we were the auto theft capital of America. And that is what drives businesses and people out of here. That’s the atrocity that Governor Patrick’s administration has done with this city. It goes all the way up to him and these are the guys (Lantigua, Nunes, and Gonzales) that are letting it all happen. Tom, this is why the fraud is taking place again and the city council is turning a blind eye to all this.”

Sullivan said that he expect crime to continue to spike in the city with Lantigua doing away with the auto theft task force and depleting the detectives division in the police department.

“Here’s what I know, I never once laid off one cop in the eight years I was mayor. All my budgets were certified as balanced until the end. And when Deval Patrick cut our local aid budget by \$10MIL, I took a furlough and my staff and all my department heads took a pay furlough. We closed city hall at lunch time and even closed city hall one day a week to save money before I even considered laying off one firefighter. This mayor came in, and not only did he not take a pay furlough and lead by example ... he gave raises to people in city hall and then he borrowed \$35 Million, laid off cops, laid off firefighters, paid \$10,000 for curtains in his office and hired over \$1MIL in new personnel. Now he’s saying it’s my fault the city has not money, it’s laughable!

He can blame me all he wants but the record is clear and the people of Lawrence are being lied to.”

## LAWRENCE POLICE: FROM PAGE 7

Two of the short-handed Lawrence officers were dispatched to a taxicab robbery where the driver was hit in the head with a bat or blunt object at Demoulas parking lot on Essex Street. But, as police were responding to that call three more calls came in: a suicide attempt, three men stripping cars on Willoughbe Street, three men breaking into cars on the other end of Essex Street and there were still two missing teens to find.

As more calls came pouring in from the public, the battered Lawrence police struggled to maintain order in the city. They eventually caught an accomplice in the taxi robbery. The taxi driver actually chased down and caught one of the criminals who hit him in the head, while

officers on foot pursued three men who were stealing cars on the other end of Essex Street.

This posed yet another problem more critical for the public safety of the city. With all those arrests going on at once, now all six of the Lawrence police officers on duty were at the station, booking prisoners and leaving Lawrence with ZERO officers on the streets to respond to emergencies.

As the police radio went silent, the eerie calm meant that cops at the station had to start answering calls from the booking room as every available officer had to run in and out of the station to answer cries for help throughout the crime torn city.

“This is (deleted) madness,” one officer

said. “Do these politicians get what they have done here? Don’t they see?”

### A HAPPY ENDING.... FOR NOW?

As Lawrence police tried their best to keep up with what was going on in their city, Andover police were dispatched to Williams Street after a call from a concerned citizen who said that there was someone either “sleeping or in need of a medical attention” laying on the ground at the end of his street.

Within minutes, the Andover officers were on the scene reporting that the two missing thirteen year old kids from the Arlington School were either intoxicated or under the influence of some kind of drugs and were not responding appropriately to the officer’s questions.

An ambulance was called and the kids were rushed to Lawrence General Hospital for a medical check up as the parents were notified and a Lawrence police officer was rushed to the hospital to meet the family and the ambulance as it arrived.

Within the hour police turned the children over to their parent’s custody at the hospital and went back to chasing calls that had backed up nearly all night.

“Those kids could have been drugged out in our city, and if we got that call while everything was going haywire, that there was someone sleeping on the ground... there was no way we could have touched that call. There wasn’t one officer we could have gotten to that scene with what we were dealing with. They could have overdosed and died, or moved on to another location and we might have never found them,” a frustrated Lawrence cop told us.

“But it’s all good,” he said in relief as the midnight shift started to come on duty, “by the end of the shift we somehow managed to get by without anyone getting killed, but how many more nights like this can we take? They cut 25 of our guys and they say they have no money for police protection but look at all the (expletive) they are wasting money on in city hall. Something is going to break, I can promise you that, either we get help or people are going to die and I am afraid there’s a very real possibility that it could be one of us. When is the madness going to stop? We all have to go back to work tomorrow night and the next night under these conditions and every one of our guys is afraid to speak out because we’ve already seen massive retaliation against officers who do.”

“The public needs to know Tommy, they need to know this is real, it’s not political bull-shit, it’s not some talking point to get votes. We need help and all the mayor can do is bash us in the press and cut our funding and put our lives more at risk. You have to tell the people what are dealing with, here.... Our families live in this city too!”



Tom Duggan is the president of Valley Patriot, Inc., a former Lawrence School Committeeman, the former political director for Mass Citizens Alliance and a former radio host on WCCM, WCAP, WTTT, WROL and WEZE. You can now hear him on WHAV Wednesdays from 6-9PM. E-mail your comments to Tdugjr@aol.com .

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## Brownsfield Renewal magazine recognizes Manchester St. Park with 2010 Award

LAWRENCE - The recently renovated Manchester Street Park, a 5-acre former incinerator site on the Spicket River in urban Lawrence, Massachusetts, has been recognized by the trade publication Brownsfield Renewal with its 2010 Brownfield Renewal Award for Social Impact. The awards, determined by a distinguished panel of industry experts, are “presented to projects that represent the gold standard of development across three distinct industry spheres of influence,” according to the publication.

Manchester Street Park, which opened in September 2009, was jointly developed by Groundwork Lawrence, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Lawrence, and the City of Lawrence with extensive input from residents in surrounding neighborhoods. The waterfront park, now home to playgrounds and community gardens, groves of native trees and open green spaces, was once contaminated with mercury, lead and other pollutants, the toxic legacy of the former Covanta incinerator, which burned municipal trash on the site for nearly 20 years.

In her nomination, Groundwork USA’s Kate O’Brien described Manchester Street Park’s long transformation as a “multi-year labor of love.” She described a true partnership driven not by the promise of eventual profits, but instead by “the metamorphosis of this community liability into a quality neighborhood asset, thereby achieving triple bottom lines of improved environment, economy and equity.”

Heather McMann, executive director of Groundwork Lawrence, said of the award, “We are extremely gratified that Brownsfield Renewal has recognized Manchester

Street Park with this important award. Nearly a decade of work – community activism, fundraising, planning, clean-up and building – went into the realization of Manchester Street Park. The reward for that work is a neighborhood reborn – the vision of a community now sustained by and sustaining this beautiful, healthy, thriving place.”

“I want to congratulate Groundwork Lawrence for this significant recognition of their efforts to revitalize Manchester Street Park,” said Congresswoman Niki Tsongas. “Their hard work has transformed a once blighted area into community green space along the Spicket River. Groundwork Lawrence was the inspiration behind legislation I introduced earlier this year to create a Groundwork USA Trusts Program that would provide grants to local communities for development programs just like this that address brownfields and blighted urban environments.”

Manchester Street Park is one of the six sites along the Spicket River to be linked in the development of the Spicket River Greenway, a 2.5 mile “emerald bracelet” connecting new and existing parks through Lawrence’s lowest-income neighborhoods. Groundwork Lawrence was selected by the state of Massachusetts in July 2010 to manage the nearly \$3 million project in conjunction with the City of Lawrence. When complete, the Greenway will afford a safe, healthy connection to schools, the downtown and the developing mill district with new jobs and housing. Alleyways in the neighborhood will link residential streets to the Greenway and its parks and community gardens. The project is slated for completion in 2012.

## Working Weekends

Peter Larocque

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

I don’t know about you, but I have had enough of politics for awhile. So here is something different that I have had waiting in the wings just for a time like this, so here it is. Yes I work weekends! I sure am glad to get that off of my chest! One of the most annoying things that I have to do in my life is take time to explain why I can’t make someone’s event that they have scheduled on a Saturday or Sunday because I work those days. For some unknown reason to me, people who don’t work weekends have the hardest time understanding why some people work weekends. Why is there such a stigma attached to working weekends? Working Weekends is not some disease and those who work weekends shouldn’t be treated as having one. Those who don’t work weekends go along living their lives planning a majority of their events like shopping or going to the movies, or taking the family to some amusement park or even scheduling reunions and birthday parties on the weekends. Now in order for them to accomplish these things, somebody somewhere has to work the weekend so that they can do what they planned successfully. As I said earlier, I work weekends and therefore I have to tell them, I can’t make their event and unfortunately I have to keep reminding them of this fact, but they just don’t get it.

When I was a member of the Lawrence School Committee many events were scheduled on the weekends and I would have to say, I can’t be there because I work. The looks I would get were frightening at times, as if I had two heads. Even now I still at times get the blank stare and

I have to overlook it and explain that this is how it is!

The other alternative is, okay I will quit my job and all of the people who want me at their events on the weekend can support me and my family, meaning, pay my bills and put food on my table, now that’s a good deal. Then I promise to be at all your events that you schedule on the weekends, so how does that sound? Do we have a deal?

Just in case you are wondering, I did look up some facts and I found out from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and The American Time Use Survey, 2009 results that were released on June 22, 2010, that 83% of employed workers, work on an average week day. 35% of employed workers work on an average Saturday and Sunday and Holidays. Of these employed workers, 34% are Full Time workers and 37% are Part Time workers. It will be interesting to see how these numbers will change due to the economic times we are living in now. Most people are just thankful to be working and if it means working weekends, they will do it.

But in the mean time, the next time you plan an event on a weekend and someone says to you that they can’t make it because they have to work, please don’t be too hard on them. Work really pays the bills, unless you like my before mentioned deal which is still on the table. - God Bless



Peter Larocque is a former member of the Lawrence School Committee. . You can call him at 978-682-0900, email him at [peterlarocque@hotmail.com](mailto:peterlarocque@hotmail.com)

## Paying Attention! Radio Program returns to the airwaves

Paula Porten

VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

Valley Patriot president and founder Tom Duggan announced last week on his Facebook page that the Paying Attention! Radio Program, has been picked up by WHAV radio in Haverhill and now airs on Wednesday nights from 6-9PM.

WHAV broadcasts on 1640AM radio as well as live internet streaming on WHAV.net. WHAV.TV, Cable Access Television in Andover, Haverhill, Methuen, Plaistow and Sandown NH.

Duggan said that the three hour talk show featuring local politics, celebrities, news, opinion and analysis on local and state issues has not change its’ format in any way.

“It’s the same show just on a different station,” Duggan said.

“This is a great fit for WHAV, for me personally, and for Paying Attention! Nothing about the format of the show will change, but there will be one difference,” he admitted.

“Nobody is going to be telling me what I can and cannot say on the air.”

“Nobody is going to be controlling the topics I talk about or the way I deliver my commentary. Tim Coco is a professional businessman, and he understands that for Paying Attention! to be successful he has to leave me alone to do my thing. I am going to call it the way I see it no matter who it pisses off and whether the people I am covering are friend of foe. My loyal listeners have come to depend on me speaking my mind. I could no longer do that at WCAP.”

Duggan said that WHAV owner Tim Coco is a “visionary” who “understands

how critical it is to integrate new technology and change with the times.

Tim Coco is looking to take talk radio and broadcasting into the future. The facility in Haverhill has state of the art streaming technology. Tim has even integrated Xelocast audio and video streaming and he has even created cell phone application technology so that listeners can easily check out WHAV programming on their blackberry or iPhone.”

Duggan says Paul Murano will also return serving a dual role as producer and co-host.

“The future of talk radio is internet broadcasting, and taking advantage of other media sources, there’s no doubt about that. So, having WHAV also pipe their audio feed into cable access TV channels across The Valley gives us access to supervoters,” Duggan said.

That is the audience which my show appeals to most, people who pay attention to local issues and care about their neighborhoods.

“Tim Coco is one of those people revolutionizing the medium and is far ahead of his time. This is going to be fun.”

Duggan also said he is glad to be working again with an old colleague from his WCCM days.

“I am really happy to be working with Mark LeMay. I worked with Mark at WCCM years ago and he is a guy who truly understands Haverhill and Methuen. But he’s also someone who gets that what happens in Lawrence affects everyone on the North Shore more than any other community. There is no short sightedness at WHAV. They are long term thinkers.”

The Valley Patriot is a monthly newspaper that distributes to 28 communities

throughout The Valley.

Duggan’s Paying Attention! Radio show was canceled after a continuous 6 year run on WCAP. Duggan had also served as a street reporter often calling into the station with live, breaking news stories from the scene of shootings, fires and other news events.

“I was never paid a dime the entire time I was at WCAP and I never asked for a thing but for them to leave me alone and do my show the way I wanted to do it. It was a good run and I learned a lot about the Lowell, Dracut and Chelmsford area. That will continue to be a focus of the show at WHAV as we turn on our listeners and our readers to a new market,” Duggan said last night.

The Paying Attention! Radio Program debuted on WCCM in Methuen in the year 2000 and went from a weekly Saturday morning program to a daily show from 2001-2003 when Duggan took the show to WTTT in Quincy. There he partnered up with Lawrence native Jimi Carter to debut “Coffee with Carter,” a daily Boston talk show airing in morning drive time.

Duggan changed direction in late 2003 however when he took the show to WCAP in Lowell striking a deal with former owner Maurice Cohen.

“It was a pleasure working with Maurice. He was a true professional. He let me do my show and he left me alone when it came to content and style. Maurice was there to provide support not to promote an agenda. I missed working with Maurice.”

Cohen sold the Lowell station to Sam Poulton and Clark Smidt and retired from radio in 2008.



Don’t miss Paying Attention! on Wendesday evenings from 6-9pm on 1640AM or on WHAV.net, the show can also be heard on Cable Television Andover: Ch. 8 Haverhill: Ch. 22 Methuen: Ch. 8 & Ch. 22 (Comcast); Ch. 32 (Verizon Fios) Plaistow, NH: Ch. 17 Sandown, NH: Ch. 17

Tom Duggan is the president of Valley Patriot, Inc., a former Lawrence School Committeeman, the former political director for Mass Citiens Alliance and a former radio host on WCCM, WCAP, WTTT, WROL and WEZE. He was also a producer at WROL, WEZE, and WTKK.

You can email your comments to [Paulalporten@aol.com](mailto:Paulalporten@aol.com).



Paula Porten is an attorney at the Tarshi Law Office in Lawrence, vice chair of the North Andover GOP Town Committee, a former member of the North Andover Finance Committee, and part owner of The Valley Patriot. You can please email her at [paulalporten@aol.com](mailto:paulalporten@aol.com)



## Events from the Haverhill Council on Aging

OPEN-READ-SAVE any mail you received from your insurance company, Social Security, or Medicare!!! Many seniors are now receiving letters from their insurance companies informing them of changes that will take place on January 1, 2011, and it is important to be prepared. SHINE Counselor, Pat Paradis, will hold a very important information meeting on Friday, November 5, at 9:30 a.m. at the Citizens Center

Counselor Lou Bonano will be at the Citizens Center on Wednesday, November 3, at 10:00, for a discussion on "Coping with the Holidays". Registration is required.

Billiard Professional, Tom McGonagle, will be at the Citizens Center on Wednesday, November 10 at 10:30. He will offer a free demonstration and tips on how to improve your game. If you play pool or would like to learn, come by and join the fun!

We are planning a new overnight trip to the Beacon Resort for a Christmas celebration December 12 to 13. Trip features a holiday buffet luncheon, the all new 2010 Christmas show, a Holiday Candlelight Buffet, entertainment by singer Mark Shelton in Dad's lounge, and a full breakfast. Cost for this trip is \$155 per person, double occupancy and \$180 for single.

Anyone interested in playing Scrabble? We have boards at the Citizens Center and people who would like to form a Scrabble

group. Please contact Kathy or Rita for details.

Everyone loves Monday's Super Bingo! Bingo is played at the Citizens Center, 10 Welcome St., every Monday and Thursday at 1:00, and Super Bingo is played on Mondays only. There are many new friends to meet at bingo, and we welcome all players who are 60 and older or disabled.

What better way than a bowling group to make new friends and get in shape at the same time. Our group will play on Monday mornings at 10:00. The bowling center offers a special senior rate, and so call Kathy Bresnahan (ext. 11) or Rita LaBella (ext. 16) at 978-374-2390 to discuss details or help organize the group.

If you love museums, you will love our upcoming trips to the Addison Gallery on November 4 and the Peabody Essex Museum on December 14. The Addison Gallery in Andover recently reopened after an extensive renovation. In celebration, the Addison has developed an exhibit of over three hundred historical and contemporary art objects. The Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA, is offering a special exhibit titled "The Emperor's Private Paradise: Treasures from the Forbidden City." This exhibit displays the contents of a Chinese Emperor's private retreat. Contact the Council on Aging for details and to make your reservation. Both trips include a

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## The New Moon Coffee House

Pure dead brilliant fiddle; no other words captivate the musical exuberance of a Hanneke Cassel performance. She will perform, along with Christopher Lewis on guitar and Mike Block on cello, on Saturday November 20th at the New Moon Coffeehouse in Haverhill. The show starts at 8:00 pm. Tickets cost \$20 general admission; \$10 for kids 18 and under. Back by popular demand, the phenomenal funky Goli opens the evening.

This show, featuring the Hanneke Cassel Trio, will also be a 'Warm Clothes, Warm Hearts' night. Just bring any gently used jackets, coats, gloves, mittens, and hats to the show and they will be distributed to those in need at area homeless shelters. The New Moon is working in cooperation with WUMB radio and the Golden Key Society at UMass Boston to collect and distribute the clothing to those in need.

An evening with the Hanneke Cassel Trio is sure to please. Hanneke gathers her musical influences from Scotland to China, along with grooves and musical innovations from the hip Boston bluegrass/Americana scene. She's able to fuse together all these styles to create a uniquely American approach to Scottish music. She creates sounds on the cutting edge of acoustic music, while retaining the integrity and soul of

the Scottish tradition.



Hanneke is the 1997 U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion, she holds a Bachelors of Music in Violin Performance from Berklee College of Music, and she has performed and taught across North America, Europe, New Zealand, Australia, and China. Her fiddling has graced the stages of The Boston Hatch Shell, Boston's Symphony Hall, Mountain Stage, The Plaza Hotel, and the Lincoln Center.

Opening act Goli is Vessela Stoyanova on marimba and Valerie Thompson on cello and voice. Goli is a dou of misfit musicians with an appetite for world music that creates chamber music for the modern era.

Tickets for the show are available at the door starting at 6:30. Purchase advance tickets at [www.newmooncoffeehouse.org](http://www.newmooncoffeehouse.org).

The New Moon Coffeehouse is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization dedicated to supporting and enjoying the creative talents of acoustic performers. We strive to bring you the best performers in a relaxing, friendly, smoke and alcohol free environment, where you can enjoy a great show, good coffee, and awesome desserts. Established in 1987 by a great group of volunteers, the New Moon is now completing its twenty third season! The coffeehouse is located at 16 Ashland St. Haverhill MA 01830.



## MOVING HAVERHILL FORWARD

with Mayor Jim Fiorentini

### Mayor Fiorentini Names Caroline Allen as Artist of the Month

Haverhill Painter's Work on Display at Mayor's Office

Today, Mayor James J. Fiorentini named Haverhill resident and artist Caroline (Carrie) Allen as November 2010 Mayor's Artist of the Month.

Caroline's acrylic painting, 'Neptune,' is a triptych from her "Stream of Consciousness Series," which will be displayed in the Mayor's Office, Room 100, Haverhill City Hall, throughout this month.

Caroline Allen is a visual artist and novelist who moved to Haverhill several years ago from Seattle. She is an award-winning international journalist and has also coached several hundred people worldwide in fiction and memoir writing. She also has had several exhibits in Seattle but is now displaying her work for the first time in Haverhill in the Mayor's Office.

More of Caroline's work, as well as



coaching services, can be found at the following websites: ([www.carolineallen.com](http://www.carolineallen.com)), ([www.artofstorytellingonline.com](http://www.artofstorytellingonline.com)).

## Haverhill receives \$33,000 from CVS

The City of Haverhill received a check for \$33,430 in damages for overcharges to the city for prescription drug purchases at CVS Pharmacy, Inc. (CVS), Attorney General Martha Coakley and Mayor James J. Fiorentini announced last month. The payment is part of the damages required under an Assurance of Discontinuance filed last month by the Attorney General in Suffolk Superior Court.

The court filing stems from the AG's industry wide review of allegations that pharmacies overcharged towns and cities for prescription drugs. In this case, Attorney General Coakley's investigation revealed that pharmacy chain CVS had been overcharging towns and cities in the Commonwealth for various prescription drugs under the workers compensation insurance system. CVS was required to make a payment of

\$1.3 Million to approximately 200 cities and towns in Massachusetts as well as a \$1.35 Million payment to the Commonwealth.

"These are tough economic times for municipalities," said Attorney General Martha Coakley. "Recovery of monies like these can make a big difference in town budgets—and that translates into the services available to town residents. I'll continue to work hard to recover monies for towns and cities."

Other cities and towns are receiving lesser amounts, based on the volume of overcharges applicable to those towns. This matter was handled by Assistant Attorneys General Peter Leight and Glenn Kaplan, and by mathematician Burt Feinberg and economist Bryan Lincoln of Attorney General Coakley's Insurance and Financial Services Division. City Treasurer Mary Beth Roy processed the award for the City.



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# A rebuilding year for conservatives in MA

Christine Morabito  
MERRIMACK VALLEY TEA PARTY

I write this column with a heavy heart as conservatives across the state begin a painful recovery process. I won't pretend that I'm not incredibly disappointed in the Massachusetts election results and just as surprised. But, the way I see it, we have two choices: to stick our head in the oven or to dust ourselves off and childishly proclaim: "That didn't hurt!"

Although we lost every major State and Congressional race, conservatives more than doubled their seats in the State House, which is pretty darned impressive! We should be very proud of our Merrimack Valley guys, Jim Lyons and Paul Adams, who won their races offering our area some great representation. I'm particularly proud of Taunton's Shaunna O'Connell, who won a knock-down-drag-out race with the despicable incumbent Representative, James Fagan. He's the defense attorney who opposed toughening Jessica's Law, stating he would put child sexual abuse victims on the stand and "rip them apart." On Election Day, Fagan told O'Connell's husband to crawl back into the hole where he came from. Nice guy, huh?

Ok, so some really abhorrent candidates got reelected. No one ever said this would be easy. Those of us new to politics were astonished by how ugly, sleazy and demoralizing things can get when you challenge incumbent politicians. Definitely not for the squeamish. Even though we sustained many losses, we can take comfort in the fact that we scared the bejesus out of some entrenched politicians and caused them to spend a considerable amount of time and money campaigning--time and money that

could easily have been spent advancing additional job and freedom-killing legislation.

I'm trying to make sense of the fact that we just reelected a tax cheat to Auditor; the husband of a money launderer to Congress; the architect of the housing collapse to Congress; and a man indifferent to the plight of the endangered Massachusetts businessman to Governor. Either liberals in this state are spectacularly naïve or Massachusetts is so ethically challenged as to have a high tolerance for ridicule.

The Tea Party grew quite fond of our local candidates who we spent countless hours promoting, writing about, making phone calls for and donating money to. We had a fantastic crop of candidates who will hopefully not be strangers. Haverhill resident and Tea Partier, Marilyn Luther told me that it was the first time she had cast a ballot where she had at least met, and in some cases personally knew, every candidate she was voting for. How many voters can say that? We've now spent almost 2 years promoting conservative candidates. With all that experience, imagine what we can do by 2012.

Conservative activists were out in force ensuring fair elections by volunteering as poll observers. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of Tom Weaver and Ralph Zazula of the campaign "Show ID to Vote," and Tea Party groups across the state that facilitated training sessions and created instructional videos. They gave activists the confidence to speak up if they witnessed tomfoolery at the polls. We knew there would be voter fraud. It's been happening all over the country. The closer the race and the more desperate the candidate, the more easily fraud can sway an election.

TEA, page 43



Members of the Tea Party rally in D.C. to take the country back from self serving politicians who represent each other, special interests and illegals instead of their constituents.

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## Barcellos Rededicates CVS Building on Main St., Andover

(Above left) John Barcellos, Nancy Thompson Barcellos, George Barcellos, Manuela Barcellos, Maria Barcellos, Maria Barcellos Bettencourt, Joey Zingales, (Above right) Teresa Barcellos Zingales, Dan Barcellos, Maria Barcellos Bettencourt, Maria Barcellos, CarolAnn Gullage, Bob Barcellos, Joey Barcellos, Joey Zingales.

Photo Right: Manuela Barcellos, Maria Sideri Barcellos, Maria Barcellos Bettencourt. Far Right Photo: photo: Bianca Barcellos, Juliana Teresa Zingales, George Toscano, Teresa Barcellos Zingales, Ana Barcellos-Rosa Frank Rosa Jr., Victoria Rosa, Laurie Barcellos, Ryan Rosa at the rededication of the CVS building on Main Street in Andover. The Barcellos family held the rededication of the building last month. A Full Story will appear in the December Valley Patriot.



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THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

# Shaky new standards for college readiness

**Sandra Stotsky**  
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

*“Dr. Ormsby is taking the month off to assess the existential meaning of the election results. He will return in December.”*

A mesmerizing phrase regularly rolls off the tongues of education experts these days. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan used it in a recent speech to the National Conference of State Legislators, saying that Common Core’s new standards will try to make certain that high school graduates are truly “college- and career-ready.” Sounds impressive, but he never said what the phrase means.

Duncan’s silence on specifics is not surprising. In the final version of the standards released on June 2, Common Core itself (an initiative of the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers) made no effort to explain what precisely college and career readiness mean in math or English language arts. Nor did it provide evidence to support the standards or to demonstrate that they were internationally benchmarked. It cagily noted that it “consulted,” was “informed by,” or made “careful use of” research studies, evidence, and international data.

As the National Council of Teachers of English noted in a review of a July 2009 draft version of these CCRS, “the document presently contains a claim that these standards are evidence-based, but we note that none of the evidence has been drawn from peer-reviewed research

journals or similar sources. Rather, the evidence offered at present consists of surveys conducted by the testing companies that stand most immediately to gain from the testing of these standards. This seems to represent a conflict of interest in the development of the standards.” Nevertheless, over 35 state boards of education--all presumably guardians of the public interest--have voted to adopt all its standards word for word, some before they ever saw the final version.

This is not the first time the public has been enticed into purchasing a pig in a poke (think School-to-Work or small high schools). And it won’t be the last; friends of “21st century skills” hawkers are now working full-speed to get them to the head of the line at the public trough. But given the staggering educational implications and costs of requiring all high schools to ensure that every student they graduate is college-ready (a U.S. Department of Education proposal for the next authorization of No Child Left Behind), one might have expected a few state board members to ask for answers about the nature of this pig. Few if any countries expect all 18-year-olds to meet the same set of academic standards--high or low--as if there were no differences in young adolescents’ interests, skills, and abilities or in the requirements of varied occupational training programs or types of post-secondary institutions.

So, what do these “college and career readiness standards” (CCRS) appear to designate? Those in English language arts (ELA) are clearly identifiable. While a

few grade-level standards designate specific content, the CCRS consist wholly of content-empty and culture-free generic skills (e.g., “Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.”).

Why are the CCRS so bereft of substantive content in ELA? In large part because they reflect a faulty diagnosis of why many American students are unprepared to read authentic college-level texts. The misdiagnosis comes from American College Testing’s interpretation of its 2006 survey, which Common Core used to justify its CCRS in ELA. ACT surveyed thousands of post-secondary instructors across all subjects to find out what they saw as the chief problems in their freshman students. Unsurprisingly, the chief complaint was that high school graduates cannot understand the college texts they are assigned to read. Without an explanation for its reasoning, ACT leaped to two conclusions: (1) college students are not expected to read enough complex texts in high school; and (2) they are not given enough instruction in strategies for reading complex texts in high school.

With much more justification, ACT might have conjectured that an incoherent literature and reading curriculum, inappropriate teaching methods, poor study habits, and/or perhaps an unwillingness to put in much time reading or studying on a regular basis were contributing to high school graduates’ inability to read college texts. But, ACT did not consider these reasonable hypotheses. Nor did it

ask what literary or non-literary knowledge base post-secondary instructors also found lacking. Common Core simply ran with ACT’s unwarranted conclusions and decided that English teachers at all grade levels should spend more time teaching students how to read informational texts, regardless of subject matter, than literary texts.

It’s not easy to discern what the CCRS are in mathematics in the June document. Mathematics standards for grades 9-12 are grouped in six conceptual categories, not by course or grade level. Those that are unmarked “specify the mathematics that all students should study in order to be college and career ready.” Those marked by (+) will enable students to take “advanced courses such as calculus...” Since calculus is typically the lowest-level credit-bearing mathematics course at selective colleges, students addressing only the unmarked high school mathematics standards will not be ready for those colleges. Apparently, not only is it unnecessary to take pre-calculus, much of Algebra II isn’t necessary, either, according to the Foundation that paid for Common Core’s standards.

As Vicki Phillips and Carina Wong, director of education and deputy director of College-Ready Work, respectively, for the Gates Foundation, wrote in the February 2010 issue of Phi Delta Kappan, “In the past, higher standards just meant more math. A decade ago, completing Algebra I became the standard; now, the standard is completing Algebra II. But evidence

COLLEGE, page 32

## What is the Tea Party Movement?

**Tom Weaver**  
VALLEY PATRIOT TEA PARTY COLUMNIST

What unites this group of Americans? They meet, share ideas and listen without the benefit of elected leaders or organization rules. What is the glue, the spirit and the common beliefs that create the Tea Party Movement? Perhaps those beliefs embraced by the Tea Party Movement are indeed found within the DNA of every American, should they wish to acknowledge it.

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:** Years ago, families, adventurers, individuals and idealists fled the old world in search for something new. They were searching for religious freedom. They were searching for opportunity that was not taxed by the nobles. They were searching for self fulfillment, versus being told what to do by the ruling class. Indeed, they were searching for freedom. They accepted that it would

be hard work. They accepted there were no guarantees. They accepted that there would be no government assistance. They accepted that they would be responsible for their outcome. They accepted that they needed to rely solely upon themselves and their God, their families and their neighbors.

The hardship they endured to reach this land was unknown at the time, and yet they came. The uncertainty of the voyage was huge and yet they longed for freedom – something they had never experienced. And so, they came.

There was no interference from the old world – Europe had enough problems without worrying about the Colonies. So, the colonists set up a simple elected government, they took care of themselves. You met at the Meeting House, later a tavern and later a Town Hall. All government was local. If defense against attack was required, local militias were formed. If the community

needed a bridge, they organized and built a bridge. But if a member of the community was having difficult times, the local government did not reach in and assist, the community members did with charity.

Then the Crown, the remote faraway British government, needed money to refill their coffers. They had tried to conquer the world and they were near bankrupt. The land with the most wealth was the land with the most freedom – the Colonies. So they implemented a series of taxes, without proper representation. And that simple one act, the redistribution of wealth from the Colonies to the British Crown in order to bailout bad decisions, corruption and poor policies ignited the Tea Party Movement. The Tea Party Movement of today are proud descendants of that original movement.

As Americans, we have three documents that bring us together, that unite

us as a special nationality – documents written with the spirit of the original Tea Party. These documents dictate that we must be responsible for this gift of freedom. Make no mistake, it takes work. And the principles and truths expressed in our founding documents are indeed in the DNA of every American yearning for a better life, striving for freedom and desiring self fulfillment.

**DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE:** There are Five Truths in the Declaration. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed and I paraphrase, that when our government becomes overly intrusive, we have the

TEA PARTY, page 17



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## GEORGETOWN TODAY!

Faggan, L'Italien, Pelosi Dumped  
Ding, Dong, the Worst are Gone!

Lawrence "Lonnie" Brennan

VALLEY PATRIOT GEORGETOWN COLUMNIST

Locally and nationally, ultra-liberal, ultra-taxing, ultra-arrogant and entrenched politicians got slapped in the face and kicked to the curb. It's about time.

James Faggan was that notorious 'rep' who argued against protecting children, even going so far as to let us all know he would make a little girl's life a nightmare if she dared to testify in court, because he's "not a nice guy." He had a point to make, a real bad point, and voters in his district turned out to make their point: oust the louse.

We all know soon-to-be former speaker of the house Nancy Pelosi. Her name will ring in infamy for her arrogance and for telling us that the House needed to 'pass the healthcare bill, so that we could see what was in it.' Well, we saw how she did it, who she bribed, and what was in it, and the nation rose up and repudiated her, her boss, and most Democrats with the biggest turnover since Herbert Hoover was president!

Finally, locally, we have new representatives in Andover, Methuen, Boxford, Georgetown, Haverhill, and North Andover, as voters rose up and let our sitting 'rep' know that there's only one thing worse than tax increases, spending increases, and elitism, and that's arrogance. Attempting to take away the citizen's right to petition our government, by attempting to gut the citizen petition process was one step too far. It earned Barbara L'Italien the



Outgoing Ways and Means  
Chariman, Rep. Barbara L'Italien

direct scorn of the Citizens for Limited Taxation (CLT), more than her previous 93% of the time voting as a tax extremist.

The state remains slanted, with 36 Democrat senators and only 4 Republicans, but in the House of Representatives, having a few of the most notorious players ousted, is what we call a good start.

Remember, folks didn't fall in love with Republicans, they just fell out of love with arrogance. Here's hoping for a better year.



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).

## AGING: FROM PAGE 10

guided tour of exhibits.

Mahjong is played and taught every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Citizens Center. We also have bridge every Wednesday and Friday at noon. The Citizens Center offers yoga, tai chi, Zumba Gold, bridge, chess club, 45 tournaments, whist, art, mahjong, ESL classes, citizenship classes, conversational Spanish classes, woodcarving, bingo, and so much more.

Here is a list of some of our upcoming trips:

Trip to Symphony Hall for the Holiday Pops on Monday, December 13, for 4:00 p.m. show. \$80.

American Bandstand Revue at Lantana in Randolph, MA on Thurs., Nov. 4. \$70

A Christmas Holiday in Portland, Maine on December 3. \$88.

The Council on Aging is also planning the following overnight trips:

March 24-27-2011 Washington, D.C. for Cherry Blossom Time \$595 pp

April 7-14-2011: London and Paris, \$2,799 pp

September 13-19-2011: South Dakota Black Hills and Badlands, \$1,899.pp

Passports are required for Alpine Christmas and London/Paris trips. All prices are based on double occupancy.

Details on all trips and activities are available by contacting Kathy Bresnahan at 978-374-2390 (ext. 11) or [kbresnahan@cityofhaverhill.com](mailto:kbresnahan@cityofhaverhill.com). Be sure to pick up a copy of our newsletter, The Voice, for a complete listing of our activities and trips.

The Voice is available for viewing at [www.ci.haverhill.ma.us](http://www.ci.haverhill.ma.us) or you can send your email address to [rlabela@cityofhaverhill.com](mailto:rlabela@cityofhaverhill.com) to receive your copy via email.

Rita Labela and I would love to hear from you if you have any ideas, suggestions or questions regarding the Council on Aging.

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## Income Limits

Household Size	Maximum Income	Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$45,100	5	\$69,600
2	\$51,550	6	\$74,750
3	\$58,000	7	\$79,900
4	\$64,400	8	\$85,050

For Application and Information  
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617-388-1331  
email: [paulastuart@comcast.net](mailto:paulastuart@comcast.net)



Income and Asset Limits Apply - See Application for Details

## Out of Step?

John McCormack

VALLEY PATRIOT BOXFORD COLUMNIST

Boxford voters mirrored New Hampshire and the majority of the states in the November 2, 2010 midterm elections even as Massachusetts bucked the Republican wave along with the other New England states and other-worldly places like New York and California.

Republican candidates swept all contested elections, even Secretary of State, even as Republicans failed to capture a single state-wide office. The only ray of hope for Republicans came in the General Court where they stood to double their current number of sixteen representatives.

One of the new Republican representatives is Jim Lyons of Andover who won the 18th Essex district which includes Precinct 2 of Boxford which went 58% for Lyons. I did some campaigning for Lyons who ran a diligent, organized campaign with enough staffers and volunteers to motivate voters and cover the polls right to the end. His theme of fiscal responsibility likely played well in this time. Barbara L'Italien's predominantly social themes didn't resonate.

Lyons won in each part of the towns making up the gerrymandered 18th district except for his home town of Andover which he lost by only 98 votes. I'd assumed Andover was resolutely liberal until I collected signatures for the repeal of 40B and discovered a significant conservative streak in town. As a result Jim Lyons will now represent the 18th district for the next two years.

Republican Paul Adams succeeded Democrat Barry Finegold as representative of the rest of Andover.

Boxford voted 62% for Question 1 to repeal the sales tax on alcoholic beverages. Voting against Question 1 could be motivated by a desire for tax revenue or the prohibition-laced concern for the health of the electorate. As such, Question 1 lost in the areas of greatest Democratic support: Boston and its northwest suburbs and western Massachusetts other than Springfield's Hampden County.

Boxford ratified Question 2 by 55% which called for the repeal of the Comprehensive Permit Law commonly known as 40B. Question 2 lost badly state-wide with 42% of the vote. The Coalition to Repeal Chapter 40B which sponsored the petition is a grass-roots organization which only raised enough money to get the question on the ballot and couldn't mount an expensive election campaign in the media. 40B supporters have cultivated the image that the law is the only chance low income residents have to find a place to live in Massachusetts. It is actually a tool for developers to overbuild towns with "workforce housing" which is not low income and duplicates existing developments.

That said, Question 2 was the first state-wide poll of support for the law and there is some reason for optimism. Question 2 actually took Plymouth County with 51% of the vote. Question 1 won in 75 towns while losing in 276. Thirty towns logged less than 30% support for Question 2. Twenty-five were in the Berkshires; the other five were Cambridge at 20%, Brookline at 23%, Boston



Incoming Andover/Lawrence  
State Rep. Paul Adams (R)

and Somerville at 25%, and Newton at 28%. Support at over 45% came from 156 towns predominantly in eastern Massachusetts outside Suffolk County. These are precisely the towns targeted by the limousine liberalism of places like Boston, which as far as I know has never seen a 40B but then again, Boston hasn't responded to surveys for that information.

Question 3 calling for cutting the sales tax to 3% also passed with 56% in Boxford but failed badly state-wide. Its greatest support came from central and southeast Massachusetts. I don't understand why voters respond to apocalyptic claims if a tax cutting measure passes. It is the only way to tell the legislature we mean it. The legislature can turn right around and pass another tax or cut spending in response.

Charlie Baker won big for Governor in Boxford with 63% of the vote. Curiously, the areas most heavily supporting Baker also went heavily for Question 1.

Bill Hudak took Boxford with 56% in his U.S. House campaign for the 6th district. He lost overall though his strongest support was in the towns in the Boxford area.

The only local question on the ballot was Question 4, which was presumably a debt exclusion override of Proposition 2½ to finance the construction of a new library. This squeaked by with the narrowest margin of the day at 51%. An article authorizing construction passed at last week's town meeting. One of the odd things about Massachusetts law is that permanent overrides must include the dollar amount on the ballot; debt exclusions which are "temporary" do not. Thus, voters are asked to approve an expenditure of \$4,477,038 without being told the amount. I wonder what the Chris Dodd-Barney Frank financial reform law would say about that.

Additionally, the library funding is another of those bargains partially paid for by the state, meaning the money was stolen from our other pocket.



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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# Local Author helps aspiring writers get published

Rebecca Duggan Kruschwitz  
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

Lawrence native Ken Tingle, is a celebrated local author with glowing reviews of “The Girl in the Italian Bakery” and an honorable mention in the 2009 New England Book Festival. His book has been sold all over the United States as well as other countries.

Tingle has written a new book “How I Published My Book and Sold Thousands of Copies” which is a great starting point for anyone trying to get his or her work published and sold.

Tingle says it took him about a year to write “The Girl in the Italian Bakery” and when it was finished he didn’t bother trying to get the attention of the major publishers. “The whole process was so much quicker for me than a lot of people. Some people take years writing their book and then just as many years finding a publisher,” Tingle told The Valley Patriot in 2008.

“They say the odds of getting one of the major publishers to even look at your manuscript are as good as winning the lottery, so I didn’t bother chasing the big publishers like Random House,” he said

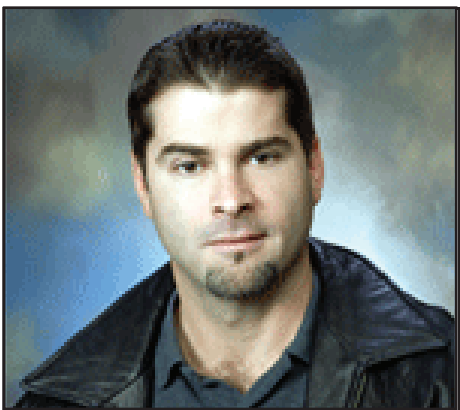
“Unless you have a high powered agent to represent you to help you get your foot in the door, getting a high powered publisher is nearly impossible. And getting a high powered agent is just as hard as getting a high powered publishing house to look at your book, so it’s a catch 22.”

“After I wrote The Girl in the Italian Bakery”, many people approached me and asked how to go about getting published and selling books. There are a lot of predators out there who exploit people’s dreams. I learned a lot over the last two years since the book came out, so I wanted to help people avoid some of the same mistakes I made. I wrote an e-book titled “How I Published My Book And Sold Thousands Of Copies”. It will really help anyone who is looking to get

published. It is only available online right now. Anyone interested can go to this link: [www.publishandsellmybook.com](http://www.publishandsellmybook.com)”.

Tingle made his dream come true and other authors can benefit from his experience and hard work. The time saving information in “How I Published My Book And Sold Thousands Of Copies” is invaluable for novice authors that are unfamiliar with the publishing process and how to market literature effectively.

Local author Kenneth Tingle, who wrote the local bestseller The Girl in the Italian Bakery, has a new e-book for aspiring authors. After much success in the Merrimack Valley with his book, Tingle is frequently asked about the publishing process and how to sell books. It became evident there was a need for some honest advice. According to Tingle, “ This is the wisest \$9.99 any aspiring author will ever spend. I had to learn all this stuff through trial and error, being mislead multiple times from predatory marketers. This e-



Lawrence Author Kenny Tingle

book could literally save people thousands of dollars and many hours of frustration. From a local and national standpoint, I can honestly tell people what does and doesn’t work. I went down a lot of dead-end roads, I’m hoping to help people avoid the same mistakes. This book actually works for any type of local selling and advertising.” It is only available online at: [www.publishandsellmybook.com](http://www.publishandsellmybook.com)

## TEA PARTY: FROM PAGE 15

right to replace them.

Our Founders realized that these truths and rights, these principles of basic human dignity, would require its citizens to remain vigilant and responsible. Our Founders escaped years of British dominance, despotism, monarchies, benevolent dictators, collectivism and tyranny; which is why they believed the power of government must come from the governed and that the governed could change the government if it became totally unacceptable.

Our Founders understood that equality only occurred once, and then it was up to the individual to determine their outcome. Our Founders believed in Pursuit of Happiness, a right bestowed from the Creator. They understood that government could not provide happiness, that each of us needed to pursue our Dreams on our own path and making. They knew that we had to keep the majority of the fruits of our labor to take care of ourselves and our family as we desired, not as the government dictates. They knew that we could fail, but we could recover and start again, without interference from the government. Our Founders believed that the only role the government played in the Pursuit of Happiness was to get out of the way.

**THE CONSTITUTION** –never before had the roadmap for a country been laid out, discussed, written down for all to see and adopted. The roadmap was based upon the historical lessons learned and mirrored the truths found in the Declaration. The spirit and

intent of the Constitution is contained in the Preamble, outlining six distinct purposes for the document.

We the People, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the Common Defense, promote the General Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America.

Securing liberty is a function of the Constitution, because the Constitution creates a government of just laws; and liberty without just law is meaningless. Our Framers understood life and equality under the law when it addressed justice and domestic tranquility – that all individuals would live under a guaranteed republican form of government – checks and balances, limited power, separate but equal branches and civic duty. There was no nobility and no class warfare, and the power to govern, came from us – the governed.

Our Framers also understood the expansionist tendencies of government with the phrase “Promote the General Welfare.” This phrase severely limited the power of the federal government because all actions and laws were for the whole of the country – not an individual, a group, Congress or a special interest. Our Framers knew that without limiting the power and reach of the established government, there would be no pursuit of happiness, because the government, not the governed, would reign supreme.

**GETTYSBURG ADDRESS:** During the midst of a great Civil War, a war which washed the sins of slavery from our shores with the blood shed on both sides, a great leader challenged those around him and future generations with words contained in his Address at a makeshift cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

That from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – that cause, for which they and others gave their last full measure of devotion -- life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And our new birth of freedom comes from realizing that we too are responsible for securing those rights, and in that belief, we know that heroes and honored dead have not died in vain.

And that government of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth. It is indeed a government of “We the People.”

**SO WHAT IS THE TEA PARTY MOVEMENT?** It is renewal. It is a renewal discovering the greatness of the United States of America, which differentiates this country from others. It is recognizing American exceptionalism, without embarrassment or apology. It is realizing that the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are worth securing once again. It is awakening to the fact that our God given rights have been slowly eroding, through Repub-

lican and Democrat administrations, through Republican and Democrat controlled Congresses – and as they erode our nation looks more and more like other nations. It is realizing, once again, that we give the power to govern to the government. And, it is a recalibration of what really matters, to us and our posterity. What really matters is freedom; it is individual responsible freedom that matters most, not government assistance.

The Tea Party Movement represents what is great about this country; that individuals, expressing ideas and differences can make an impact. The truths and ideals expressed within our founding principles and found within our national DNA, are taking hold once again. We know the strength of principles such as Liberty, In God We Trust, and E Pluribus Unum.

**THE TEA PARTY MOVEMENT HAS RECOGNIZED A SIMPLE FACT.** That Americans, like you and I, must become involved, that we must take it to the next level because we are responsible for the future of this country. It is not up to the politicians or Washington, for we give the consent to govern to the government. The Tea Party Movement, as with the original Tea Party, knows that securing our rights of life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness --- is up to us, it is up to We the People.

May God bless America.

Thomas Weaver, Westford-Speech delivered to the Waltham Tea Party



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## TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

YOU CAN GET IT ALL AT BORRELI'S DELI – not only does Borrelli's Deli on Merrimack Street in Methuen have great food, free Valley Patriot's and a clean dining room to enjoy your meal, you can also pick up a copy of Al Zappala's book "The Reverse Immigrant" a book about his love for Sicily. (See Page 23). But, not only that! Borrelli's Deli is also carrying Flavor Fresh Fruit Salad, the world renown fruit salad made right in Lawrence by Lawrence natives Bob Gangi and John Carsonaro. It's like one-stop-shopping at Borrelli's. So go by Borrelli's, pick up a copy of the Valley Patriot, buy a copy of "The Reverse Immigrant" by Al Zappala and enjoy some Flavor Fresh Fruit Salad while you are waiting for your meatball sub!

DAVID (WHERE-IS-HE) TORRISI LOSES NORTH ANDOVER – He may have won reelection to the House of Representatives but Dave Where-Is-He suffered a humiliating defeat in his hometown of North Andover last week when newcomer Kevin Begley beat the twelve year incumbent by nearly 500 votes. Torrissi retained his seat because of the votes Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua (dachief) was able to secure for him proving something I have been saying since Torrissi voted to give Lantigua a \$35MIL bailout loan last February. Shortly after Torrissi voted against the will of his North Andover constituents and supported giving Lantigua the loan, many pundits were stunned that he would "be so stupid" as to anger his hometown voters. But, I've said it all along and I will say it again. Torrissi only cares about pleasing one person and that's Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua because at the end of the day Lantigua delivers Latino votes in Lawrence ... to hell with his North Andover constituents!

GIVE WILLIE ENOUGH ROPE - GRISEL – You have to hand it to Lawrence City Councilor Grisel Silva (who always acting "of professionalism". Last week she really got the best of Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua and all she had to do is give him enough rope and let him hang himself. You see, Silva organized a candle light vigil on the Lawrence

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Common on the same night as she had scheduled a City Council sub-committee meeting to discuss crime, police protection (or lack thereof) and a proposal of a city curfew for teens. During the meeting she let Lantigua come to the microphone to speak but when Willie stared with his same tired speech about how he "inherited" a \$24.5 MIL deficit, and droned on about how people say mean things about him in the paper and blame him for stuff he doesn't do – Councilor Silva Gaveled him out of order. "we are here to talk about what this administration can DO to be proactive about the crime situation in this city," Silva told him. But Lantigua sot back holding up a letter that Silva had written to the ethics commission whining that she had complained that he was using city letterhead, envelopes and stamps to thank people for attending his mother's wake. Silva shot back, but quickly brought Lantigua back to the topic at hand demanding that he "stick to the topic" which was crime in the city, refusing to let him distract from the issue at hand. That's when Latnigua said "I am going to answer whether you like it or not." As Lantigua struggled to scream over Silva who was calling him out of order he screamed "how about when you were arrested?" City councilors then recessed the meeting with Lantigua still standing at the microphone scream-

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Andover went from two democrat reps to two republicans overnight. Andover has two new State representatives, Jim Lyons and Paul Adams, both Republican. Jyons beat out Barbara L'Italien and Paul Adam beat Pat Commaine. Lyons will now be representing parts of Andover, North Andover, Georgetown, Boxford, and Haverhill. Adams will be representing parts of Andover, Lawrence and Tewksbury. Both ran excellent campaigns and both deserve to win. The people of those communities are very fortunate to have these new reps. SILVER LINING - Republicans, independents and many voters across Massachusetts, especially in the Merrimack Valley, were extremely disappointed when those numbers began rolling across the

screen on election night, showing that Governor Patrick was leading the race against Baker. And when the race was called for Patrick and we saw that we also lost the treasurers, auditors, Secretary of State, Attorney General and all contested congressional races, sadness and anguish spread. However, with every cloud is a silver lining and that silver lining is 21 new Republican State Representatives. Yes, 21 new Republican State Representatives were elected to office, which has never happened here. They are: Jim Lyons, George Ross, Paul Adams, Sheila Harrington, Shaunna O'Connell, Steven Levy, Geoff Diehl, marc Lombardo, Dan Winslow, David Vieira, Randy Hunt, Steven Howitt, Angelo D'Emilia, Nicholas Boldyga, Kimberly Ferguson, Richard Bastien, Kevin Kuros, Matthew Beaton, Ryan Fattman, Peter Durant and Donald Wong!

Republicans now make up 34 Rep. seats and will help push a conservative agenda. So, we finally have a farm team and can start rebuilding the party from the bottom up as opposed to the top down, as traditionally has been the case in Massachusetts. Only then will Massachusetts be a real two party state.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR SCOTT BROWN? - Senator Scott Brown campaigned heavily for Congressional candidate Jeff Perry, Charlie Baker, Karyn Polito and many other Republican candidates in Massachusetts. Yet, not one Constitutional office or Congressional office went to a Republican on election day. So, is Scott Brown seen as vulnerable in two years when he is up for re-election? Or with the tea party still active, Obama on the top of the ticket, and the now 34 republican State reps campaigning, will Brown be stronger in two years? Time will tell.

TEA TIME - The tea party is alive and strong here is Massachusetts and across the country. The tea party helped get two fiscally and socially conservative state reps elected here in the Andovers as well as the other 19 seats that went republican. The Merrimack Valley Tea Party now has over 300 members who were anxious to get involved and participate in the process. And across the country, the tea party backed 129 congressional candidates of which, 113 won. I am so looking forward to the next two years. Democrats should

## Aggravated Assaults Keep Rising in Lawrence

LAWRENCE, MA: Reductions in the Lawrence Police Department continue to negatively impact crime in that City. Aggravated assaults climbed 94% for the months of July-September 2010 as compared to the same period in 2009.

"The loss of 41 police officers and the dismantling of the various specialty units in the past year continues to plague my City," said District "F" City Councilor Marc Laplante. "Escalating violence remains a critical concern, and the protection of our citizens has become compromised."

Aggravated assault is defined as "the crime of physically attacking another person and causing serious bodily harm; or assault with a deadly or dangerous

weapon such as a gun, knife, ax, or blunt instrument. Aggravated assault is usually a felony, punishable by a term in state prison." (Source: www.nolo.com)

In 2009, there were 81 incidents of aggravated assault between July and September. In 2010, there were 157 incidents of aggravated assaults for the same period.

"The upticking trend of aggravated assaults continues to shine a bright light on the impact of our police cuts," said Laplante. "The City needs to re-prioritize its spending and chase the resources that will return the Lawrence Police Department to adequate numbers. Nothing short of restaffing our police department will address the growing aggravated assault problem."

## What were they thinking?

Linda Lemerise

VALLEY PATRIOT COPY EDITOR

We hear over and over again about how important it is to get out there and vote. I agree, every voice should be heard. We all count. It is a privilege to be able to elect people we believe in and who will serve us in the manner we want them to. But can someone please tell me what the determining factor is on how we choose these people?

Is name recognition important? Do all the negative ads, some of which are just plain untrue, sway some voters? Do people just hear sound bites and believe them? Or do people go to the polls to vote for their favorite in one race and then randomly choose names from the lists?

Case and point is that over 20,000 people voted for Cole for State Senate

for the 1st Essex district. They voted for a man who, after he won the primary, dropped out of the race! He decided he did not want to serve the people of his district and 20,000 voted for him anyway!

This just does not make any sense to me. He is a Republican so maybe some people just vote along party lines but to vote for someone who clearly does not want to represent you is just a waste of a vote. It also makes you stop and wonder what these people were thinking when they cast their votes.

So while I agree that it is important to get out there and vote, please be sure that your vote is not just a check mark for anyone in a particular party but for someone who deserves your vote and is willing to represent you and your values.



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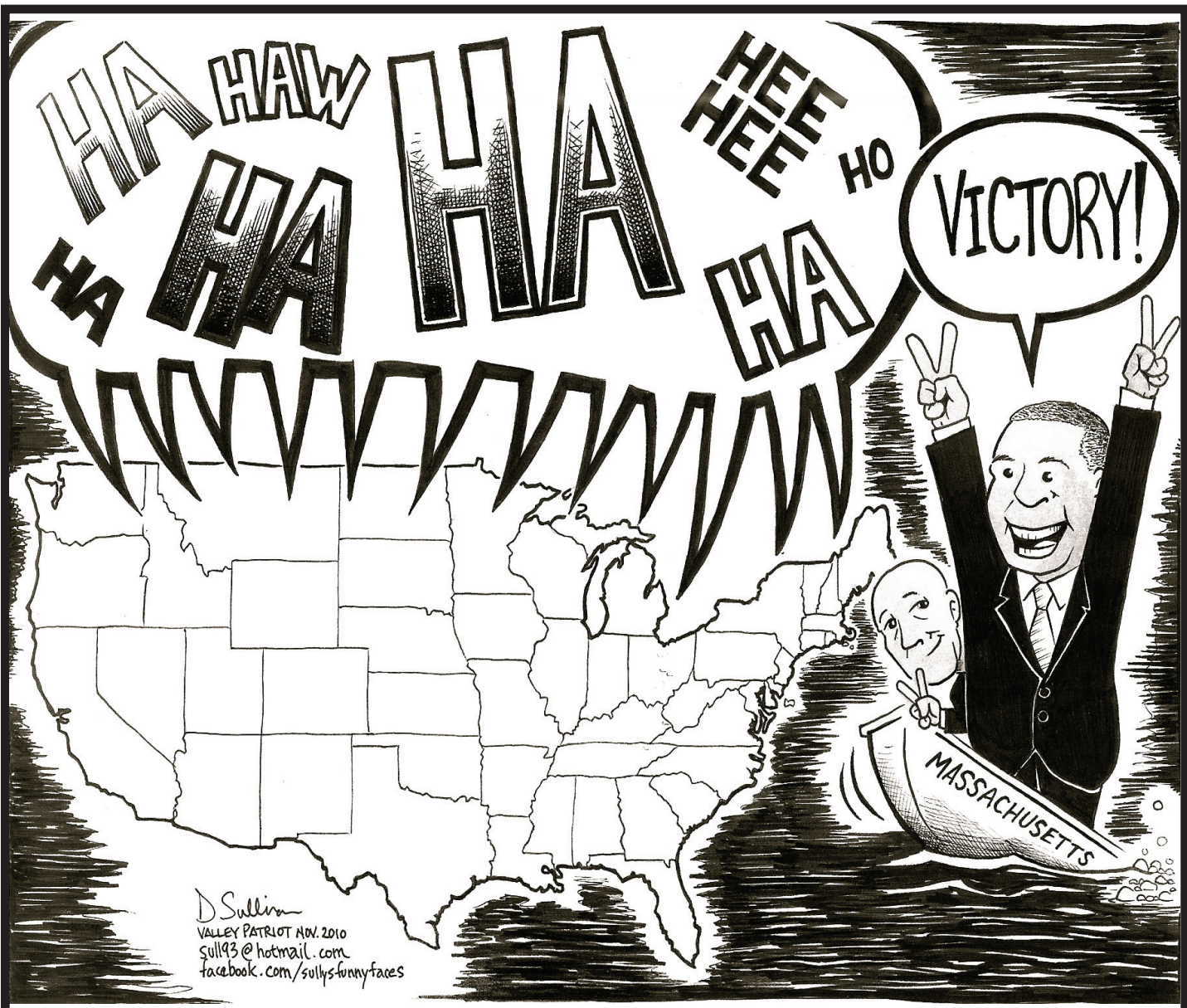
Hero Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling holds his copy of The Valley Patriot which is ALMOST as big as his world Series championship ring!

be scared.

SECRETARY OF STATE SHENANIGANS? - There were three ballot initiatives on the Massachusetts ballot during this election. Question 1 on the ballot won handily repealing the 6.25% liquor tax while the other two ballot questions failed. Question 2 was whether or not to repeal 40B and question 3 asked whether or not to reduce the sales tax to 3%. Ironically, question 1 was on the front of the ballot while questions 2 & 3 were on the back. I am just wondering how many people who voted were not aware of the two questions on the back and did not flip their ballot over and vote. Just wondering if that move by the Secretary of State's office made a difference in the voting.

AS OHIO GOES, SO GOES THE PRESIDENCY! - Ohio has been the battle ground state for presidential races and is sometimes the last state to decide who wins the presidency. In 2004 George W. Bush won Ohio and won the presidency. In 2008 Obama won the Ohio independent vote which helped him win the presidency. So after Tuesday's election results, Obama should be worried because the new Governor of Ohio is now a Republican. John Kasich won the Governor's race in Ohio in a tough battle against Strickland. And the open senate seat went to republican Portman over democrat Fisher. So goes Ohio...

NORTH ANDOVER – There are few places that conjure up as much holiday spirit as Smolak Farms, the charming 300+ year-old farm located just north of Boston, MA. Between the smell of fresh-from-the-oven baked goods and hot cocoa, twinkling lights, array of home-made gingerbread houses and the buzz of holiday cheer, there's no better place south of the North Pole to celebrate the holidays. This year the tradition continues when Smolak Farms kicks off the holiday season with their annual Tree Lighting Festival on Saturday, November 27, 2010, from 11:00AM to 5:00PM. The day will be filled with seasonal treats and activities for kids of all ages. From 9:00AM to 5:00PM, families are invited to peruse thousands of Smolak Farms' pre-cut Christmas trees. With the selection of trees including Fraser and Balsam Fir, you're guaranteed to find the perfect tree for your annual star topper while bringing



**NEWS ITEM:** While Republicans won landslide victories all over the nation earlier this month, retaking Congress and a number of state houses Massachusetts reelected Democrat Deval Patrick and elected Democrats to ever single constitutional office up for election this hear. Some pundits have likened Massachusetts to a sinking ship in a sea of RED!

that pine scent into your home. Since the holiday season is all about giving, Smolak Farms will be spreading the cheer to Toys for Tots. If you bring in a new unwrapped toy, valued at \$10 or more, to donate to Toys for Tots, you will receive 25% off of your Christmas tree purchase (on November 27th only).

In addition to the pre-cut trees, Smolak Farms also has a wide variety of "Choose and Cut" trees to choose from throughout the farm. Varieties include; Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir, Douglas Fir, Concolor Fir and a few minor varieties. Choose and Cut trees is open from 9:00am - 3:00pm While you search for the perfect Christmas tree, sip and savor the tastes of the season with complimentary hot cocoa, served all day long. After you've found that perfect tree, choose from an assortment of wreaths, holiday gifts, gingerbread houses, decorations and baked goods while children partake in a day full of activities including: wreath making, cookie demonstrations; caroling, holiday crafts, and coloring books! (Please see a full schedule of activities below.) Guests can also enter to win a free gingerbread house!

Throughout the afternoon, Christmas music will be playing the sounds of holiday cheer, and all visitors are invited to board the Smolak Express Train from 11:00AM to 3:00PM for a special ride throughout the farm with Mrs. Claus herself! At 4:30PM everyone will gather around Smolak Farms' very own Christmas tree when Santa Claus makes a very special appearance for the annual tree lighting.

Schedule of Activities: Smolak Express

Train ride with Mrs. Claus available from 11:00am - 3:00pm (photo opportunities available).

Wreath Decorating Demonstration from 12:00pm to 1PM. Cookie Demonstration from 2PM to 3PM. Carolers will be singing holiday favorites from 4PM to 5PM. Santa will arrive to light the Christmas tree at 4:30PM! Holiday Crafts for the children will be available all day, from 11AM-5PM. Stories with Mrs. Claus, throughout the afternoon, from 11am-5PM

WHAT: Smolak Farms' Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

WHERE: Smolak Farms, 315 South Bradford Street, North Andover, MA

WHEN: Saturday, November 27, 2010 from 11AM to 5PM

INFO: Free to the Public, Free Parking.

NOVEBER JOB FAIR - The ValleyWorks Career Center invites you to participate in our 2010 November Job Fair. It will be held at the NECC Haverhill Campus at the Technological Center, 100 Elliott Street, Haverhill, MA 01830, on Tuesday, November 16th from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. To honor the brave Women and Men who defended our country they will open the first hour of the Job Fair exclusively to the Veteran Job Seekers at 9am. At 10am the doors will open to the General Public. Their most recent job fair in Newburyport, Massachusetts drew over 550 job seekers with some of the finest companies in the Merrimack Valley in attendance. Representatives of these companies voiced their satisfaction with the

quality of the job fair and the prospective candidates. Space is limited and must be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis and we encourage you to reserve your spot early. The registration fee is \$300 and includes: \* Four hours of unlimited recruiting of

some of the most qualified candidates in the area, \* An opportunity to be part of sharing in the Appreciation Of Our Veterans \* Listing with corporate logo in the event Exhibitor Directory \* Internal and external event promotion via ValleyWorks marketing department

\* A 6 foot table with chairs, tablecloth, company table sign \* Space to hang your company signage \* Lunch provided for Employers

ValleyWorks maintains a database of thousands of job seekers in the Merrimack Valley region, so if you need employees with a specific skill set, ValleyWorks can provide you with the qualified candidates you seek.

For more information, or to register for this upcoming event please contact Chuck Masaitis Business Services Representative at 978.722.7008 or email [cmasaitis@detma.org](mailto:cmasaitis@detma.org).

LAWRENCE CHESS CLUB - The Lawrence Chess Club will meet on Thursday, November 18th from 6-8pm at the Lawrence Public Library, located at Lawrence & Haverhill streets. Please share this with the students, staff and faculty of your school. This will be the only

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# Lowering Dracut Town Meeting Quorum to 50 is a bad idea

D.J. Deeb

VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

Dracut residents recently rejected a warrant article lowering the quorum requirement at its annual November town meetings to 50. This change was proposed by Dracut Town Clerk Kathy Graham as a cost saving measure. Although I can appreciate Kathy Graham's good intentions, I believe that lowering the quorum requirement to 50 would have had devastating consequences for Dracut. Instead Town Meeting approved an amendment authored by Dracut resident Hank Noel which lowered the quorum from 250 to 200 at the November Town Meeting. This move makes more sense.

At the November 1st Town Meeting, Dracut residents who were in attendance wisely rejected a warrant article, which would have reduced the quorum requirement for Town Meeting from the current 250 to just 50 residents who are registered voters in order to legally conduct business at the November Town Meeting. This was a wise move on the part of Dracut residents who attended Town Meeting.

Those who favored reducing the quorum

requirement to 50 maintain that the November Town Meeting deals mostly with zoning matters that not enough residents care about to show up to vote on. Thus,

reducing the quorum to 50 would have been a cost saving measure since it costs Dracut taxpayers approximately \$2,000 for every meeting that is postponed due to a lack of a quorum. I can fully understand and appreciate the arguments here, but I think that this still establishes a bad precedent. As long as Dracut continues to maintain open town meeting, I feel that a quorum of 200 (or 250) out of 20,000 registered residents is not unreasonable. Reducing the quorum



requirement to 50 would have constituted a field day for special interests. Those with vested interests would show up while most residents would not.

Personally, I have long been

in favor of eliminating Town Meeting and changing Dracut's status to a city (like Methuen) and its form of government to that of a strong mayor with a city counsel. However, if we are going to keep the current form of government, Dracut would do better to explore the possibility of having elected Town Meeting representatives in order to meet the quorum requirement. This, in my view, this is a much better option than allowing decisions at Town

Meeting to be made by special interests. Changing the Town Meeting quorum requirements to 50 would have only given politicians the cover they needed to propose policies that benefit a few at the expense of everyone else and then blame Town Meeting. Reducing the requirement to 200 is even risky, but it makes more sense than 50.

Dracut chose wisely in not allowing the quorum requirement at Town Meeting to be reduced to 50 residents, thus providing a cover for the politicians and special interests. Dracut residents should still consider changing the form of government to a strong mayor-counsel form or changing the Town Charter to allow for a representative Town Meeting.



*D.J. Deeb is a of the Town of Dracut Committee on Government Rules and Regulations, served on the Dracut School Committee from 2005-2008 and the Gr. Lowell Regional Voc-Tech School Committee from 1997-2009. Deeb is an Adjunct Professor of History/Government at Bunker Hill Community College and an Adjunct Political Science Instructor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He teaches Social Studies full-time at Reading Memorial High School.*

## Local, national leaders honored for protecting children

Laurie Myers

VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

Community VOICES a Victims' Rights organization whose mission it is to raise awareness of child sexual abuse, missing and exploited children and Internet predators honored the Littleton Massachusetts Police Department with the Community VOICES Jeffrey Curley Dedicated Service Award. They received this award for their exemplary performance in 2009 that prevented the abduction of a 12 year old Littleton girl by Daniel O'Brien who traveled to Littleton from Virginia after meeting the young girl on the internet. O'Brien was convicted of Attempted Kidnapping and Child Endangerment in June of 2010. The award was presented during the Community VOICES Awards Ceremony at the Doubletree Hotel in Waltham Massachusetts on October 15, 2010 and was named in honor of Jeffrey Curley, who was murdered in 1997. It was presented by his father Robert Curley. The event was attended by U.S. Senator Scott Brown, Massachusetts Senator Richard Ross and Representative Jim Arciero.

Littleton Police Chief, John Kelly commented "The members of the Littleton Police Department, through the efforts of Lt. Matthew King, Detective Jeff Patterson and Detective Matt Pinard, humbly accept this award, named in the memory of Jef-

frey Curley and presented by his father, Bob Curley. The efforts of the Littleton Police Department in this and all of our work is in partnership with our citizens, who continuously support us by providing our officers with the training and equipment that is needed to effectively provide law enforcement services. Due to that support this award belongs to our community, as it is reflective of the core values of Littleton and the unity of its members."

The following people were also recognized with the Community VOICES Spirit of Compassion Award for their efforts in passing the Massachusetts version of Jessica's Law, mandatory minimum sentences for those convicted of the most heinous crimes against children, Mark Lunsford, father of Jessica Lunsford who was murdered by a repeat sex offender in Florida, and Stacie Rumenap, President of Stop Child Predators in Washington D.C., And former Middlesex District Attorney Michael Chinman who was the first prosecutor in Massachusetts to successfully indict and prosecute a case under Jessica's Law in October of 2009.

Stacie Rumenap commented "One in five girls and one in ten boys are sexually exploited before they reach adulthood. The number of registered sex offenders in the United States is enormous—more than half a million—and the average child



sexual offender exploits anywhere from seven to more than 200 victims in his or her lifetime.

Yet despite their potential to repeat their crime, the average child molester is released into society after serving just three years of prison—and after receiving a sentence of seven years, according to the most recent available data from the Justice Department.

Thanks to groups like Community Voices who combat the exploitation of children, and work to ensure public safety, Massachusetts' communities are safer. Mark Lunsford and I are honored to ac-

cept the Spirit of Compassion Award. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Community Voices to keep Massachusetts' families safe from child predators."



Laurie Myers, President of Community VOICES and Debbie Savoia Vice-President, commented "We have been fortunate enough to have these amazing people in our communities who have dedicated their lives to the protection of our children."

## Deeb selected for Who's Who in America

Dracut resident and Valley Patriot columnist D.J. Deeb has been selected for inclusion in the official 2011 edition of Who's Who In America, a distinct honor reserved for some of the most accomplished professionals in the nation.

Since 1899, Who's Who In America has been recognized as the premier biographical reference source with more than

95,000 accomplished professionals from every significant field of endeavor: those men and women whose achievements and contributions to society make them subjects of widespread reference interest and inquiry. The Who's Who publication is regularly utilized by librarians, historians, and researchers of all kinds.

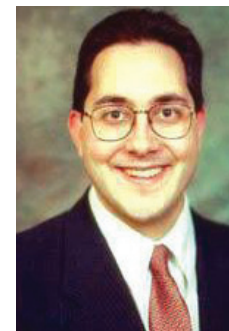
Deeb is a Social Studies teacher at

Reading Memorial High School in Reading, Massachusetts, an Adjunct Professor of History/Government at Bunker Hill Community College in Charlestown, Massachusetts, and an Adjunct Instructor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in Lowell, Massachusetts. Deeb is also the author of The Collapse of Middle East peace: The Rise and Fall of the Oslo Peace Accords, a book on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict published in 2003. Deeb is currently working on a sequel to that book.

From 1997-2009, Deeb served as an elected member of the Greater Lowell Regional Vocational-Technical School

Committee, serving as Chairman in 2003. Deeb also served as an elected member of the Dracut School Committee from 2005-2008. Deeb is currently an appointed member of the Committee on Government Rules and Regulations for the Town of Dracut, a position he has held since 2009.

Deeb holds a Master of Arts Degree in History from Salem State College, a Master of Science Degree in Political Science from Suffolk University, a Master of Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of MA Lowell, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and Political Science from the University of Mass. Lowell.



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The Lawrence Rotary held their annual “Wines of the World” wine tasting fundraiser at the Berkeley Retirement Home for the benefit of both the Berkeley Home and charities of the Rotary. The even was well attended and everyone was treated to delicious wine and food. The wine was provided by J & M Wines in North Andover. Above left: John Felci and Lori Samsy, of the Berkeley Home, Attorney Robert Auteri and Kathleen Boshar, President of the Rotary and Paula Porten, editor of The Valley Patriot, Pennie Hale, John Felci of Patriot Ambulance and Jessica Winiecki, (back) Jim Edholm. (Photo, Right) Jim Xenakis, owner of J & M Wines with Matt McGarry.



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# Meet Mary Jo Santoro Supt.of Gr. Lowell Voc.School

Gerry Nutter

VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST

Like many local school districts the Greater Lowell Technical School Committee is involved in contract negotiations with their teachers union. The real key to this one is that the School Committee in the past several years has given away the store to the Superintendent(s) and must now try to keep a straight face telling the teachers sorry there is no money.

Meet Mary Jo Santoro, she is in her first year as Superintendent-Director of the Greater Lowell Vocational School. She is responsible for one school, 2,014 students and 181 teachers. Her salary is \$160,000 a year plus \$3,500 annually, which represents the cost of a disability insurance policy that Santoro may buy on her own. She is entitled to all paid holidays and half-days before holidays other administrators receive, and receives 30 vacation days at the beginning of each fiscal year. She receives 15 sick days per year, with an extra 15 days given to her as of July 1 of this year giving her 30 sick days in 2010. She can accumulate sick days without limit. Her contract allows her to sell back up to 10 sick days per year at her per-diem rate starting next year, but only if she has at least 30 sick days. She receives three personal days and three bereavement days per year and is reimbursed up to \$2,000 per year for professional develop-

ment courses and reimbursements for gas mileage, travel, registration fees, food and lodging for conventions. In addition when she signed her contract she also receive a lump sum for her 10 unused vacation days and 46.5 unused sick days from her time as assistant superintendent/principal and her 116.5 unused sick days as the schools' director of special education. This past year the MCAS scores at the school went down.

Her predecessor retired after the technical school committee gave him a series of contracts that had increased his salary 69 percent in the seven years he was at the school, from \$112,000 when he was hired in 2003 to nearly \$190,000 when he retired in June of 2010.

The Technical School Committee is sending the message that they value the Superintendent more than the teachers! The Technical School Committee has shown they are willing to overpay their Superintendent. Yet is saying sorry to the rank and file teacher, you get nothing

They paid Santoro at the highest step advertised, plus paid her a buyout of unused vacation and sick days for her past two positions at the school and then gave her 30 sick days to start her superintendent career that allows a perk to kick in that would pay her approx. \$6,100.00 if she doesn't use any days and sells back 10 of those 15 days of sick leave.

Assuming that she sells back the 10 days and add in the \$3,500 stipend for disability

insurance to her \$160,000.00 base and that would bring her 1st year salary as Superintendent to \$169,600.00 almost what the current Lowell Superintendent makes.

Compare Supt. Santoro to Chris Scott Superintendent of the Lowell Public Schools, Supt Scott is responsible for 23 Schools, 13,331 students and 969 teachers. She receives a salary of \$170,000, five weeks of vacation, 15 sick days, three personal days and a \$300 monthly travel allowance In the last year the MCAS scores in the City have improved. In the past three years has turned down raises of 4 percent each year and the \$5,000 performance bonus each year that she earned.

So while both the Lowell and Greater Lowell School systems have to negotiate new teachers contracts, the city of Lowell at least has the advantage in saying that their Superintendent has shown an understanding of the fiscal crisis and has not only refused raises, she has proposed a new contract that would keep her salary the same next year. Not taking a raise for a fourth straight year.

Supt. Scott's contract is up and the Lowell School Committee has been presented with a request that would give her a new three year contract that has a zero increase for next year and would give the Supt. a total of a 17% raise for the six years she has been in Lowell. Why they don't jump on it is a topic for another time.

Compare the Greater Lowell Technical



School giving their superintendent 69% over seven years to a much bigger system giving 17% to their Superintendent. The Lowell School Committee can certainly justify that.

Lowell last year elected Fred Bahou to his first term on the Technical School Committee and while he has tried to change things he is out numbered. I think it's time we replace more members of the Lowell Technical School Committee, we can't afford them.

*Gerry Nutter is a Lowell Blogger who covers local issues you can read him on line at [gerrynutterslowell.com](http://gerrynutterslowell.com)*

## UMass Lowell adds Daktronics Integrated Video, Scoring System to Tsongas Center

Brookings, SD – Daktronics Inc. (Nasdaq-DAKT) of Brookings, S.D., announced recently that the University of Massachusetts-Lowell chose the company to upgrade the Tsongas Center with a new integrated centerhung video system.

"We decided the arena needed an upgrade," Peter Casey, Director of Athletics Business Enterprises at UMass Lowell, said. "Daktronics has been wonderful to work with in the past. We're constantly looking for more ways to engage fans at Tsongas Arena, and the video displays, added along with the current equipment in the arena, will do just that."

The system consists of four light emitting diode (LED) video displays, each

measuring more than eight feet high by 11 feet wide. These displays feature 10mm pixel spacing and provide live video and instant replays for fans. Four smaller video displays, measuring three feet high by 11 feet wide, sit over those displays. Together, the displays provide energizing video and scoring, as well as instant replays, animations, graphics and advertisements.

Completing the centerhung are two ring displays. Both are approximately two feet high, with the larger one measuring almost 73 feet around. These displays allow more opportunities for sponsor recognition during events, as well as use in providing fans real-time statistics and

animations and graphics to keep them on their feet.

A marquee outside the arena received an LED message display featuring 20mm pixel spacing. This allows the Tsongas Center to promote events 365 days of the year and gives it more opportunities to showcase sponsors.

All of the equipment is controlled by the new Daktronics Show Control System. The video processing system, one of the latest developments from Daktronics, is touted by experts as the best in the industry, processing and scaling live and recorded video signal to vivid digital imagery on large displays. The system provides a powerful combination of control software, data integration and playback hardware that forms a user-friendly production solution. For more on Show Control, visit [www.daktronics.com/show](http://www.daktronics.com/show).

Earlier in 2010, UMass Lowell installed two new ribbon displays and hockey scoreboards in the Tsongas Center. The ribbon displays measure approximately three feet high by 198 feet long each. Ribbon displays provide opportunities for sponsor recognition and energize fans by showing advertisements, real time scores and statistics and animation.

UMass Lowell currently has Daktronics equipment in their field hockey, soccer, baseball and basketball facilities.

"We have a valued long-term relationship with the university," Ross Yanco, Daktronics Regional Manager for New England, said. "We appreciate the opportunity to provide them with this new equipment for the Tsongas Center. Hock-

ey fans and other patrons will be thrilled with the game day experience with the new scoreboards and displays."

Daktronics LED video and messaging display technology offers a long lifetime with minimal maintenance and low power consumption, providing value and excitement for years to come.

About the Tsongas Center - The Tsongas Center, which opened on Jan. 27, 1998, was named for the late Sen. Paul E. Tsongas, a Lowell native. The 6,500-seat arena, now owned by the University of Massachusetts Lowell, is home to their NCAA Division I River Hawks hockey team. The center also hosts concerts, family shows, other sporting events, trade-shows and conferences.

About Daktronics - Daktronics has strong leadership positions in, and is the world's largest supplier of, large screen video displays, electronic scoreboards, computer-programmable displays, digital billboards, and control systems. The company excels in the control of large display systems, including those that require integration of multiple complex displays showing real-time information, graphics, animation and video. Daktronics designs, manufactures, markets and services display systems for customers around the world, in sport, business and transportation applications. For more information, visit the company's World Wide Web site at: <http://www.daktronics.com>, e-mail the company at [sales@daktronics.com](mailto:sales@daktronics.com), call (605) 692-0200 or toll-free (800) 325-8766 in the United States or write to the company at 331 32nd Ave. PO Box 5128 Brookings, S.D. 57006-5128.

## Carla L. Waldo Named M/A-COM Federal Credit Union CEO

Joseph Mendonca, Chairman of M/A-COM Federal Credit Union (MFCU) recently announced the appointment of Carla L. Waldo as the credit unions' new Chief Executive Officer. Waldo is the former Vice President of Operations for M/A-COM Federal Credit Union. "She brings over 12 years of experience in the banking and credit union industry, with proven effective leadership experience that promises to contribute to MFCU's growth and service to it's members", stated Mendonca.

According to Waldo, "MFCU is passionate about providing financial education and improving the financial wellness of its members and the community it serves. Throughout my career, my passion and primary objective have been to enhance members' ability to better manage their personal finances and improve their credit score. I look forward to expanding MFCU's impact on Lowell and the surrounding communities through providing FREE and low cost banking products, in addition to, providing credit and personal budget education. This will be accomplished by providing financial education

both one on one and through educational classes at local organizations, employers, and schools."

Chartered in 1958 as a not-for-profit organization, M/A-COM Federal Credit Union is owned and operated by its members. Since it's founding as a one-room operation, the credit union has grown into a fourteen million dollar, full-service financial institution serving over 2,300 members. Membership is open to anyone who lives, works, attends school or worships in Lowell, Northern Chelmsford, and Western Tewksbury. M/A-COM Federal Credit Union provides a full range of financial services including mortgage loans, home equity loans, auto loans, credit cards and personal loans; consumer credit counseling, budget counseling, and debt management services; savings and checking accounts; certificates of deposit; IRA savings; ATM and debit cards; and a full range of free electronic services including home banking, e-statements, text banking, bill payment and electronic payments. All deposits are insured by the National Credit Union Association.



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RONNIE’S RANTS

Random Thoughts

**Ronnie Ford**  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

By the time this paper is published, we will have gone through the election day of 2010. I for one will be so happy to stop watching those stupid, name calling, utterly disgusting, political ads on TV. They seem to get nastier each year. Then there are the telephone calls for surveys, who would you vote for? And on and on. That is no one’s business! That is between you and the ballot box! Of course they call during the basketball games, Red Sox and Patriots games. I hope someone who is elected to Congress will have the gonads to propose term limits! And get it passed! Then put a cap on the spending allowed for each candidate. Lets have a level playing field. God guide us as we cast our ballots.

The best bumper sticker I have ever seen, read “Don’t vote, you only encourage them”. Although a comical statement, it somehow seems to penetrate the soul into reality. Not really, but as we look upon the political atmosphere, shenanigans, flagrant deals that are obviously illegal and immoral and definitely unethical; a phrase sticks in our brain. This causes a questioning attitude to circulate about the grey matter we use to reason and conclude actions and reactions. “THROW THE BUMS OUT” How is that for an action? It is going to be difficult, you see, they breed! Yup there are more of them coming as we float through the years. Here is the good news. Already amongst the sheep turning into wolves, is a great deal of revenge streaming. Within the hearts of this populi, incumbency is no longer an asset. On the contrary, it is a liability. And do not think it is just one party they are after. Oh no, it is every politician who drapes the Washington, Boston and local scene. Elderly Veterans and the boarder states are being spat upon. Spat being a substitute for another word (fecal matter). The only way to defend ourselves is to react viciously. Replace the garbage who sets themselves up as our leaders with other people who are scared to death to cross the American public. It will be a gigantic task but we have had seemly insurmountable deeds we have accomplished before. Lets make this our Mount Serubacchi, Inchon, Bunker Hill, Hue City, Bastogne

and so many others. Lets throw every bum out we can find and make this republic a real government of by and for the people. this chance comes along few and far between. Lets do a good job. Keep in mind all those happenings that aggravated you over the years. Harry Reed with his Ritz Carleton Penthouse...Good old Barney Frank taking trips and taking care of his close buddies. And i mean close. This doesn’t start and stop with one party. Some of those Republicans are real sweethearts. Carl Rove just raised \$58 Mil. Not bad. Dick Chaney, you remember him, who almost broke Halliburton, then saved them with another deal. Listen, we all have our little things, but when it costs the little guy too much and he can no longer afford to take this crap; it is time to move. Remember as well that this fight is not going to be any day at the beach. They walk amongst us, be careful. Millions of deals and millions to make them at our expense. Until next time

We are fast approaching Veterans Day. At this point in our history we have been at war longer than at any time in our history. Except for the Korean war,( excuse me) Conflict. We are still over there protecting the borders! I would hope that every American goes out of his or her way to thank a Veteran that day. I would also hope we say a prayer for all the souls who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. A special prayer for our service men and women who are over in God knows where serving our country. As the saying goes, if you can read this, thank a teacher; if you are speaking English thank a Veteran! We could be running around speaking Japanese or German. And for those who have American Flags, please fly them!

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

Ronnie may be reached at radiotalk@comcast.com

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



The Merrimack Valley Irish Connection

The shooting of Sergeant Fallon at Ballymote

**Jack Doyle, County Sligo**  
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

Sergeant Fallon was a very dangerous enemy of IRA. He had gone out of his way 1916 onward to harry men who were active and on the run. This man’s daughter was actively engaged in doing Intelligence for the British. When Sergeant Fallon’s anti-IRA activities had become notorious, orders were issued to have him executed. On the 3rd November 1920 when Sergeant Fallon was on duty at the Ballymote fair two IRA men approached him and ordered him to put up his hands and surrender. Fallon attempted to draw his gun and he was shot dead.

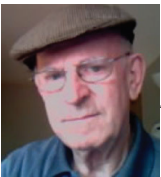
At the end of December 1920, or early 1921, a party of men were sworn into the IRA under the command of Jim Hunt, they proceeded to Kilfree railway junction and there they waited the arrival of the Dublin-Sligo afternoon train. Edward Doherty, the Battalion OC, had boarded the train at Boyle and traveled on it to Kilfree junction. At the junction he gave the waiting IRA party the signal that there was enemy personal on the train, and pointed out the compartment occupied by them. The IRA rushed this compartment where they found the DI and

two RIC men, they disarmed all three. In January 1921 a party of IRA was formed under the direction of Mary J. Marrin. They proceeded to Kilfree junction and waited the arrival of a train travelling from Sligo. The IRA party was small in number, about six or seven, and when the train arrived in Kilfree they noticed that there was a party of armed military on board. They waited for the train to move out of the station, as it was gathering speed, the IRA opened fire on the carriages occupied by the military. The military returned fire. Some of the Military was wounded. \*Keash and Culfadda

A local history. Pg. 72, Thanks to the Keash-Culfadda Committee

There are more stories like these that I will continue to share with you next month. The few that are listed here are but of a two small sections of Western Ireland. It was evident in those days that the British wanted to continue their abuse of the Irish people.

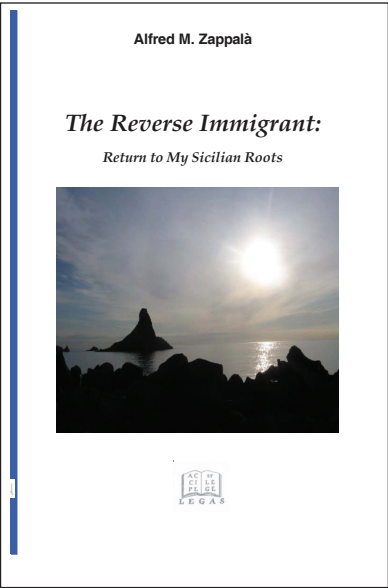
*Jack Doyle is an author and has published two books: Echoes of My Past, and Medjugorje, Heaven on Earth. To sponsor Jack's Irish Craic" in The Valley Patriot contact: Jack5772@comcast.net*



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This book is a love story. The object of the author’s love, however, is not a person. He loves an island, Sicily, or perhaps better his idea of the island: He was not born there.

His connections to the island come by way of both grandparents who hailed from Trecastagni, a village on the slopes of Mt. Etna, as well as by an affinity for everything Sicilian. Yet his love for the island is such that in his maturity he has decided to leave his native Lawrence, MA and become a reverse immigrant by moving to Sicily on the slopes of Majestic Mt. Etna



examination, he has trained thousands of aspiring lawyers to successfully become lawyers. He has authored several books on the bar examination and a screenplay. He also is a dual American-Italian citizen. He introduced thousands to the wonders of Sicily by importing various products from Sicily, including one that was deemed the best in its category at the nation’s premier food event, The Fancy Food Show. He has posted thousands of times on his popular blog and continues to write of his adventures in Sicily.

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Alfred M. Zappala is a father of three and a grandfather of four. His view on life is that everything else after that is pretty much gravy. He holds a law degree and teaches at prominent law schools in Boston. Considered an expert on the bar

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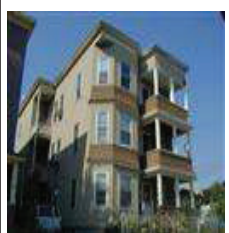
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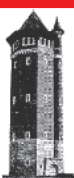
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## Hannah and Michael Keyes, Bak Fu Pai Kung Fu teachers and Motivational speakers

Tom Firth

VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

If you want to have a truly remarkable breakfast, have a coffee with Michael and Hannah Keyes! I met this couple for coffee and watched as Michael bent a solid steel spike in his hands, and broke a coconut outside with a few chops. But more than that, they are motivational speakers in the community, as well as teaching relaxation methods for seniors, Physical strength training for athletes, and a school for Back Fu Pai Kung Fu in which Michael is the sensei. Michael was Hanna's trainer as she took up the arts to deal with a seizure issue, and working out, toning her mind and body did help her. She was so inspired, Michael asked her out on a date, she accepted and they got married almost 2 years ago.

Since then, they have spoken at churches in Andover and surrounding communities, as well as private lessons and training. They design custom programs to motivate people also.

Michael was trained in Martial Arts as a boy by his dad and uncle who taught it in the military. His dad Ronald and Uncle Roland were twins who met and married sisters Helen and Lillian who were seamstresses from Lawrence. Ronald, his dad was an instructor in the military during the Korean War teaching a combination

of Chinese and Japanese fighting called Kung Fu.

In 1979 Michael started his career with Larry Giordano, one of Michael's mentors, who eventually gave Michael the opportunity to teach Tai Chi in Methuen. Michael also met Mike Dayton, a famous instructor and trainer in Methuen at St Basils during a demonstration and it motivated him into continuing his Martial Arts training.

In 2003 Larry Giordano introduced him to Mike Dayton and they became good friends with Dayton teaching Michael his training regimen. Today Mike Dayton does senior power lifting in California. Mike Dayton was one of the greatest influences on his life other than his Dad and Larry Giordano. Michael has also trained under Romel Rones Romel a famous Tai Chi and Chi Kung instructor.

I asked Michael what keeps you and Hannah going everyday and he responded by telling me that aside from that God is the center of their day, that passion is what keeps them going. I can assure you this is a very special couple who enjoy helping others.

Michael and Hannah Toabe Keyes have a Bak Fu Pai Kung Fu school in the area as well as the motivational speaking and relaxation techniques. They can be reached at 978-886-1282.

## In Defense of Bean Counting

William Manzi III

METHUEN MAYOR

One of the great fallacies of American political life has been that numbers don't matter, that we can do just about anything and worry about the numbers later. Numbers after all constrain those with a "vision" for the future, and carefully examining numbers forces us to make choices. Why would we want to make choices when we can ignore numbers and have it all? Why turn the country over to "bean counters" that lack the requisite "vision" for our future. Let us count the ways that reckless fiscal actions have put us in a hole that will require discipline and resolve to get out of.

At the federal level we have been subjected to reckless fiscal policies that have created a problem so large that political options for dealing with it are dwindling by the day. Today the federal government spends over \$200 billion dollars a year in interest payments to service the monstrosity that is the national debt. Current estimates are that by Fiscal Year 2019 those same interest payments will total over \$700 billion dollars. To put that in perspective a recent New York Times story estimates that 2019 number as bigger than the current combined budgets for education, energy, homeland security, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Despite that you see, with few exceptions, any effort by either party to deal with the long term fiscal crisis enveloping our nation. Maybe, just maybe, if someone had listened to a few bean counters we would not be in a position where debt payments to bond holders outstrips every single budget item except defense.

At the State level we have the dubious distinction of having a structural deficit of over \$2 billion, with multiple years of hits to local aid and other key accounts. And yet despite that many key budgetary reforms are left undone because key constituencies would be disaffected by change. And our past fiscal practices, which have mimicked the federal practice



of spend now and pay later, have left us in a deep hole, especially in the area of transportation. Why? Because we want the benefits of spending (which can be very real) but we do not want to pay the bill for such spending. Maybe, just maybe, if we had listened to a few bean counters we would not have spent so big, while ignoring the need to pay the bill.

And over in New Jersey Republican Governor Chris Christie cancelled a tunnel project that would have connected New Jersey to Manhattan by rail. The project was slated to add a slew of jobs, and help to fix a transportation system in New Jersey that is near gridlock at times. Just about everyone, including the Governor, see the value in the project. And yet, with the project cost of \$8.7 billion being split between the federal government, New Jersey, and New York, with New Jersey on the hook for any overages, the Governor has pulled the plug because his own independent cost estimates show a real potential cost of \$14 billion. The Governor has acted like a bean counter, and protected the taxpayers of New Jersey from a funding scheme that like most big financing programs in America these days simply kicks the can down the road on the issue of how to pay. The Governor said, "New Jersey has gone for too long and for too many decades ordering things they cannot pay for". I guess bean counting is not out of style everywhere. We would all be better off if we were willing to pay for the services we want, and have the courage to cut the services we don't want to pay for.

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# Patrick-Baker Result No Surprise

Robert O'Koniewski

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

If one had paid the slightest bit of attention to the progression of the latest gubernatorial election one would not have been surprised that Democrat Deval Patrick topped Republican Charlie Baker to grab the governor's office for another four years.

The result seemed to possess some shock to people whose enthusiasm got ahead of the reality. On paper and in person Mr. Baker appeared to be an excellent candidate – holder of an impressive resume, capable of articulating solutions to any number of issues plaguing the Commonwealth and her citizenry which the current administration has been unable to properly address. However, from a campaign perspective, the Baker team's effort failed in several areas.

In basic terms, a layman must look at a political campaign as having four components – four pillars of a solid foundation, if you will. First, the candidate must properly introduce him or herself to the voting public. Second, the candidate must connect with the voters on several key issues – displaying, with a certain level of sincere empathy, a working knowledge of what is affecting the voters and a fix to those problems. Third, as the election nears the home stretch, the candidate must close the deal with the voters. And fourth, the candidate's team must have an adequate get-out-the-vote (GOTV) effort, centered around identifying voters who will go to the polls for that candidate and then getting them out on Election Day.

In all four areas, the Baker campaign came up short to some degree, especially when he had to contend not only with a sitting governor with poor job ratings but positive personal likeability but also

an "independent" candidate, who was a sitting state treasurer who switched out of the Democratic Party and expressed many of the same positions on issues as Mr. Baker, a regular Mr. Me-Too or Baker-Lite. In a way, Mr. Baker was never able to break away from the drag of the Cahill anchor. Mr. Baker needed a head-to-head shot against the governor, and he never got this opportunity.

From the time Mr. Baker announced his candidacy in the Summer of 2009 through to the Spring of this year, the Baker campaign did very little to successfully introduce "Baker the Person" to the voters. There was considerable presence by Baker regarding issues like taxes, jobs, health care, and other key issues, but there was no real articulation of who and what Charlie Baker is. While many people gravitated to him based on the issues, people who pay scant attention to the political process and the issues really had nothing to sink their teeth into that would have them gravitate to him because "he seems to be like me and care about the things I care about." The Baker camp got the low hanging fruit and really did not expand beyond that because people really never got to know Baker the person. This at a time when, throughout the campaign, at least 60% of likely voters had a positive personal view of the governor as a likeable guy.

On the issues, Mr. Baker did really well on those things he wanted to talk about and what he wanted to do. On jobs, taxes, and spending he outperformed the governor in the polling on those issues. However, he never really aggressively took the fight to Mr. Patrick on issues that the Democratic governor was weak – job creation, fiscal chaos, state spending on illegal aliens, just to name a few. The

Baker camp needed to attack the governor openly and relentlessly, and this never happened to the degree the situation demanded. Regardless of what some people say, negative campaigning works; otherwise, it would never be used. But it can be done in a way that is respectful, aggressive, and truthful to paint one's opponent in a bad light, and the Baker campaign never did this. At a time when over 50% of the likely voters had a negative opinion of the governor's job performance and over 50% felt the state was going in the wrong direction, Baker needed to pound this point home. He tried, but it came too little too late. Fortunately for the governor, he did not. Mr. Baker still managed to hold Mr. Patrick to only 48% of the vote.

Three weeks out from Election Day, various polls showed that almost 20% of the likely voters still had no opinion of or did not know Charlie Baker. That is an incredible number given all the millions that were spent and is a direct correlation to part one above regarding an introduction to the voters. When one out of five voters does not know you, it is difficult to close the deal on a successful outcome on Election Day.

Finally, much has been written already about the extraordinary efforts the Democratic Party undertook, ramped up two to three weeks out, to combine the efforts of all the statewide and congressional candidates, identify their voters and get those voters to the polls – a complete top to bottom team effort. It was an impressive operation, and in heavily Democratic Lawrence we saw it first hand throughout that time period. On the other side, the Baker team had a fraction of the effort, volunteer numbers, and Election Day enthusiasm. As Election Day played out, the Democratic GOTV effort



enabled their candidates to nail down solid victories from top to bottom. When you look at the final statewide numbers, Mr. Patrick, while getting 48% of the vote, pulled in almost 70,000 more votes than Martha Coakley did in the January special Senatorial election when she lost to Scott Brown. However, Baker underperformed to Brown by around 200,000 votes, which coincidentally was almost the Cahill tally. Even if Patrick hit only the Coakley number he still would have outpolled Baker.

Further, where the Democratic GOTV effort really paid off was in those other constitutional officer elections and congressional races where the GOP candidates had no answer to the swarm of Democratic volunteers making phone calls and going door to door that delivered victory on Election Day. It was a difference of 40,000 votes in the state auditor election, and 24,000, 28,000, and 13,000 in the Frank-Bielat, Tsongas-Golnik, and Keating-Perry races, respectively. In the end, the necessary foundation for the Baker campaign was not strong enough to sustain victory – a lesson Scott Brown can learn from for his 2012 re-election bid.



Robert O'Koniewski is an attorney in Boston, a former member of the Lawrence zoning board and is the former campaign manager for Marcos Devers. You can email him at: [bobokesq@hotmail.com](mailto:bobokesq@hotmail.com)



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## Osteoarthritis... Part I

Rami Rustum, M.D.  
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Osteoarthritis is a type of arthritis that is caused by the breakdown and eventual loss of the cartilage of one or more joints. Cartilage is a protein substance that serves as a "cushion" between the bones of the joints.

Osteoarthritis affects nearly 27 million people in the United States, accounting for 25% of visits to primary care physicians. It is estimated that 80% of the population have radiographic evidence of OA by age 65, although only 60% of those will have symptoms. In the United States, hospitalizations for osteoarthritis increased from 322,000 in 1993 to 735,000 in 2006. In the United States, all races appear equally affected. Osteoarthritis occurs more frequently as we age. Before age 45, osteoarthritis occurs more frequently in males. After 55 years of age, it occurs more frequently in females. A higher incidence of osteoarthritis exists in the Japanese population, while South-African blacks, East Indians, and Southern Chinese have lower rates.

Osteoarthritis commonly affects the hands, feet, spine, and large weight-bearing joints, such as the hips and knees. Most cases of osteoarthritis have no known cause and are referred to as primary osteoarthritis. When the cause of the osteoarthritis is known, the condition is referred to as secondary osteoarthritis. Osteoarthritis is sometimes abbreviated OA.

What causes osteoarthritis?

Primary osteoarthritis is mostly related to aging. With aging, the water content of the cartilage increases, and the protein makeup of cartilage degenerates. Eventually, cartilage begins to degenerate by flaking or forming tiny crevasses. In advanced cases, there is a total loss of cartilage cushion between the bones of the joints. Repetitive use of the worn joints over the years can irritate and inflame the cartilage, causing joint pain and swelling. Loss of the cartilage cushion causes friction between the bones, leading to pain and limitation of joint mobility. Inflammation of the cartilage can also stimulate



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](mailto:ramirustum@comcast.net). Tell him you read his column... he likes that!

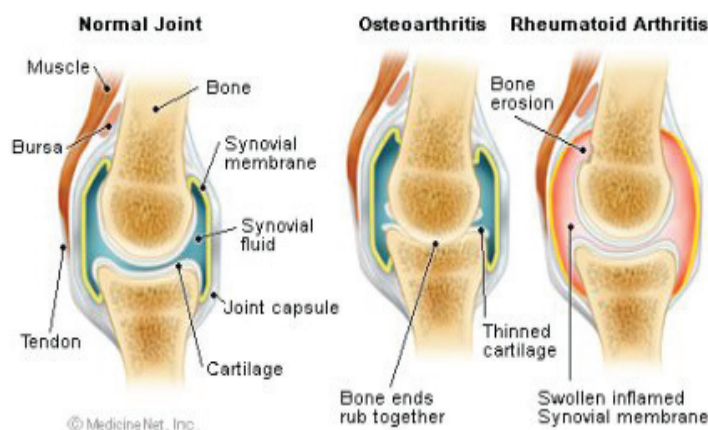
new bone outgrowths (spurs, also referred to as osteophytes) to form around the joints. Osteoarthritis occasionally can develop in multiple members of the same family, implying a hereditary (genetic) basis for this condition. Secondary osteoarthritis is caused by another disease or condition.

Conditions that can lead to secondary osteoarthritis include obesity, repeated trauma or surgery to the joint structures, abnormal joints at birth (congenital abnormalities), gout, diabetes, and other hormone disorders.

What are osteoarthritis symptoms?

The main symptom is pain, causing loss of ability and often stiffness. "Pain" is generally described as a sharp ache, or

a burning sensation in the associate muscles and tendons. OA can cause a crackling noise (called "crepitus") when the affected joint is moved or touched, and patients may experience muscle spasm and contractions in the tendons. Occasionally, the joints may also be filled with



Normal and Arthritic Joints

fluid. Humid and cold weather increases the pain in many patients.

OA commonly affects the hands, feet, spine, and the large weight bearing joints, such as the hips and knees, although in theory, any joint in the body can be affected. As OA progresses, the affected joints appear larger, are stiff and painful, and usually feel worse, the more they are used throughout the day, thus distinguishing it from rheumatoid arthritis.

In smaller joints, such as at the fingers, hard bony enlargements, called Heberden's nodes (on the distal interphalangeal joints) and/or Bouchard's nodes (on the proximal interphalangeal joints), may form, and though they are not necessarily

painful, they do limit the movement of the fingers significantly. OA at the toes leads to the formation of bunions, rendering them red or swollen. Some people notice these physical changes before they experience any pain.

OA is the most common cause of joint effusion, sometimes called water on the knee in lay terms, an accumulation of excess fluid in or around the knee joint.

Heberden's nodes may form in osteoarthritis

How is osteoarthritis diagnosed?

There is no blood test for the diagnosis of osteoarthritis. Blood tests are performed to exclude diseases that can cause secondary osteoarthritis, as well as to exclude other arthritis conditions that can mimic osteoarthritis.

X-rays of the affected joints can suggest osteoarthritis. The common X-ray findings of osteoarthritis include loss of joint cartilage, narrowing of the joint space between adjacent bones, and bone spur formation. Simple X-ray testing can be very helpful to exclude other causes of pain in a particular joint as well as assist in decision making as to when surgical intervention should be considered.

Primary osteoarthritis of the left knee.

Arthrocentesis is often performed in the doctor's office. During arthrocentesis, a sterile needle is used to remove joint fluid for analysis. Joint fluid analysis is useful in excluding gout, infection, and other causes of arthritis. Removal of joint fluid and injection of corticosteroids into the joints during arthrocentesis can help relieve pain, swelling, and inflammation.

Arthroscopy is a surgical technique whereby a doctor inserts a viewing tube into the joint space. Abnormalities of and damage to the cartilage and ligaments can be detected and sometimes repaired through the arthroscope. If successful, patients can recover from the arthroscopic surgery much more quickly than from open joint surgery.

Finally, a careful analysis of the location, duration, and character of the joint symptoms and the appearance of the joints helps the doctor in diagnosing osteoarthritis. Bony enlargement of the joints from spur formations is characteristic of osteoarthritis.



Rami R. Rustum, M.D. is the Director of Merrimack Pain Associates at 50 Prospect St. in Lawrence. For any questions or concerns, please email Dr. Rustum at: [ramirustum@comcast.net](mailto:ramirustum@comcast.net)

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# How to beat Peripheral Neuropathy

DR. Jin Sung

VALLEY PATRIOT CHIROPRACTIC COLUMNIST

“I haven’t slept well in months due to burning and tingling in my hands and feet. I get temporary relief with medications but it doesn’t seem to last. It really hurts, plus I feel tired and groggy all the time from the medications that were prescribed to me.”

These are some of the common things I hear, in my practice, from patients afflicted with peripheral neuropathy. Neuropathy is a fancy term used by your doctor to describe nerve “dam-

age or malfunction”. There can be many causes for peripheral neuropathy in the United States, such as diabetes, chemotherapy treatments for cancer, smoking, prescription medications, idiopathic (unknown origin), and even over the counter self medication and dietary supplements.

But, the good news is that there has been significant progress in the treatment of peripheral neuropathy that now allows patients to not only get excellent in-office care, but to be discharged in a very reasonable period of time to a home treatment program with follow-up.

In the modern world, we are subjected and exposed to many environmental toxins, including heavy metals. We also are seeing patients surviving cancer and living much longer. Unfortunately, one of the undesired complications of chemotherapy is the development of peripheral neuropathy. We are also seeing patients developing compression neuropathy, such as carpal tunnel, chronic sciatica and back pain and nerve damage associated with conditions like degenerative spinal disc disease and spinal stenosis. Part of this, of course, is

because we are living longer and being more active than ever before.

Other common causes of peripheral neuropathy: is the use of statin medications, kidney disease and hormonal diseases that occur in patients with hyperthyroidism, as well as Cushing’s disease, which affects the adrenal glands

and the output of cortisol. Alcoholism can cause peripheral neuropathy, as can vitamin deficiencies, especially deficiencies of thiamin, or vitamin B1. There are still more causes: chronic hypertension,

cigarette-smoking, immune-complex diseases, generalized degenerative lifestyles that include obesity, poor diet combined with cigarette smoking, abuse of over-the-counter medications, etc.

Symptoms initially may include such things as mild loss of sensation of the hands and the feet, progressive worsening of tingling and numbness that will often times wake the patient at night, or completely disturbed sleep.

We also find that many patients with peripheral neuropathy have a combination of these most annoying symptoms. This could include not only the presence of tingling and numbness but shooting pains. I have had many patients tell me that one of the most annoying symptoms, especially in colder climates, is the coolness of the feet as well as the changes that occur in the feet.

It is very important to have a doctor working with you, who is able to perform the most thorough evaluation possible, evaluate all your records to make sure that all correctible causes of peripheral

**NEUROPATHY, page 32**



## Miracle-Ear Center of Lawrence marks American Diabetes Month with call to action

Hearing solutions provider joins American Diabetes Association to highlight link between diabetes and hearing loss

LAWRENCE - November is American Diabetes Month and Miracle-Ear Center of Lawrence is joining in a nationwide call to action to involve individuals and organizations in the movement to Stop Diabetes®. Over the next several months, Miracle-Ear Center of Lawrence will sponsor the American Diabetes Association’s educational and fundraising events such as walks, bike tours and Association consumer EXPO events. This national strategic partnership will help emphasize the urgency of reducing the devastating impact – including hearing loss – of diabetes.

Today, nearly 24 million U.S. children and adults – nearly 8% of the population – have diabetes, and another 57 million individuals have prediabetes. If current trends continue, one out of every three American children born today will face a future with diabetes. For some high-risk populations, the risk is one in two. According to the American Diabetes Association, diabetes is a growing epidemic and is taking a devastating physical, emotional and financial toll on our country.

“Simple ‘awareness’ is not enough to change these statistics,” says Don Gross, Jr, owner of Miracle-Ear Center of

Lawrence. “What we need now is action. Individuals need to make the lifestyle, diet and exercise changes that can help prevent Type 2 diabetes; and we need increased education and outreach about symptoms that can help people seek early treatment before serious complications develop.”

Stop Diabetes is the movement to end the devastating toll that diabetes takes on the lives of millions of individuals and families across our nation. It will inspire and mobilize millions to take up the fight against diabetes.

Miracle-Ear is the first company in the hearing care industry to join the Association as a national strategic partner. Miracle-Ear will support the Stop Diabetes movement in order to shine a spotlight on the hearing-related risks of diabetes, as well as the Association’s education, prevention and treatment initiatives.

“Diabetes doubles your risk of developing a hearing loss,” Gross, Jr states. “Early diagnosis and treatment are critical in helping to minimize complications, including hearing loss. Since people with Type 2 diabetes frequently do not display any symptoms, hearing loss may be the first indicator that there may be a problem.”

**MIRACLE EAR, page 32**

# Preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas parties with food allergies

Dr. Thomas Johnson

VALLEY PATRIOT ALLERGY COLUMNIST

Thanksgiving and other food-focused celebrations can be a challenge for those with food allergies and special dietary needs. Most dishes are made from scratch by cooks who don’t have to think about allergens or cross-contamination on a daily basis.

Unfortunately, there is no rule book or etiquette guide to help us through these occasions. The following tips will hopefully help you and your family navigate holiday meals with relative ease.

When You’re the Host:

Plan Ahead: Start with a list of everything you plan to serve including drinks, appetizers, and desserts. Decide if the entire meal will be safe for your child and family or whether you’ll serve some foods that are not.

Have a Safe Start: If you do decide to serve foods that are not safe for your child or family with allergies, it is still recommended that you begin and end with foods that are safe. Veggies with safe dip and fruit kabobs (safe fruits cut, dipped in orange juice and then skewered) can be prepared ahead of time and are safe for a variety of special diets. The added bonus is that you won’t have to keep an eye on what your child or family is eating while you’re preparing the meal.

Happy Endings: Desserts often contain allergens or at least traces of them, so you’ll want to make sure that you prepare at least one special “safe” dessert. Try to plan this part with your family so that you are sure that they are ending the meal with treats they enjoy.

Keep an Eye Peeled: If you are serving foods that contain your child’s or family’s allergens, make it clear to well-meaning relatives that only you will serve your child. Grandma or Auntie may decide to give your child gravy, not realizing that you have a gluten-free version set aside for your little one.

Help Wanted: No one likes to come to Thanksgiving dinner empty handed so have a list ready of things you need. Do you have relatives or friends whom you can trust to prepare a safe side dish? Ter-



rific. If not, don’t feel shy about asking for wine, soft drinks, fruit, paper products, or perhaps some safe, prepackaged snacks.

Self Serve: Traces of allergens on utensils have caused severe and even fatal allergic reactions. Allow your guests with special dietary needs to serve themselves first at the buffet with clean utensils before there is any chance of the dishes becoming cross contaminated. You might also allow your guest to prepare their plate in the kitchen if they prefer, and you can offer to set aside some safe “seconds” for him or her.

Be the Change: Ask about other guest’s special dietary needs. Let your guest know exactly what you plan to serve and stick to it. If you do make changes to your menu, let your guest know so that he can plan accordingly. Whenever possible, save labels and recipe cards and serve sauces and dressings on the side.

Consult your local physician for more on how to prevent an allergic reaction during the holidays and how to be prepared for one.



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# Live the WOW!

What World Do YOU Live In? The Land of Oz? Where all you have to do is Click your Heels and you get Everything you Want? Or, the World of Poor Me? Where Nobody has it as Bad as you? People Living the WOW! Live Fully in a World of Opportunity. Ready to Make the Change?

**Thomas Connors**  
VALLEY PATRIOT WOW! COLUMNIST

What a World we live in!

People today fit themselves into one of three distinct "worlds". And like most things about us as human beings, we become what we believe, what we are exposed to and what our environment dictates.

But, there is one critical point to know upfront. The Lord Above gave us the distinct ability to CHOOSE the World in which we live. Living the WOW! is undoubtedly where He wants us to thrive here on earth.

**Come out from behind the curtain! The Land of Oz is only true in the movies. This Life is meant for Living by real people like you and not some character actors.**

Get rid of the idea that you can make your Life better by simply clicking your heels and having some magnificent opportunity drop into your lap. It is never

going to happen. Can you get lucky and have something wonderful happen to you? Sure. But hold yourself back from falling for that "wish upon a star" thinking.

Too many people let themselves get caught up in the belief that if they simply close their eyes and wish and dream all they hope for will come true. While it is ok to Dream, Life also demands we work toward making those Dreams come true. To do anything less or expect anything less reduces us to the level of animals. You are so much better than that. You have so much more potential.

**The Land of Oz is certainly attractive, especially to those who see fully living and achieving as something far out of their reach or only for those chosen ones anointed to live a life of ease.**

Learn to recognize and accept that every tool you need, every talent you must rely on to Live the WOW! is already right within you. More than anything else, the desire to be all you can be and the willingness to work at it are the greatest traits

you will ever need to make the changes you desire in order to get ahead.

**Millions of people Live the WOW! But, nope, not you. You choose to Live in that other world; the World of Poor Me.**

Such a lovely place indeed. Where excuses, whining and depression run rampant. Everything bad happens only to those living here! In fact, only people living in Poor Me associate with others living there. Their complaints about every little thing in life are so grating that only another Poor Me resident can stand listening to them.

It seems these people were given a personal cloud to hover over them when they were born. In fact, if you really think about it, cloudy days exist in their honor. Nothing they do ever comes out right, everyone is always against them and it is always someone else fault. Fate has all but sealed their demise. Poor Them.

Of course the fact that they put no effort into anything could possibly have something to do with their status on this earth. And the fact that they are too darn lazy feeling sorry for themselves just might have something to do with it as well. Then there is the simple realization that they ignore or snore through every opportunity that comes their way. "Too much effort required", they tell themselves as one chance after another to get ahead and make a mark in this world slips through their fingers.

**My Company, American Training is Living Proof each and every day as someone provides example of the difference Living the WOW! can make in a person's Life.**

Take Carmen. If she can do it, so can you! She chose to rearrange her World and is working very hard and with an enviable passion to Live the WOW!

You gotta love her! Driving for us at VANWAY at American Training was our

introduction to the hard work of which Carmen was capable. It was not enough for her though. She wanted more and most importantly, was willing to work for it.

When the opportunity to join our Business Office presented itself, Carmen took the leap and gave it a try. She has done wonders. Even recently, she earned a promotion to Accounts Receivable. And along the way, she improved her physical self (Damn, she is looking great!) and her intellectual abilities by returning to college. The Land of Oz and Poor Me are two Worlds Carmen is not going to be a part of. She is determined to Live the WOW! and is intently focused on recognizing opportunities that present themselves and using her God given talent to work toward making the most of them.

**There is a World out there looking for YOU, too! It is inviting you with open arms. Live the WOW! where the opportunities and satisfaction are real and not part of some fantasy or lame excuse.**

Why gamble on your life here on earth when you can control it? The next time you find yourself looking for courage or passion or smarts, don't leave your future up to some wizard you can't even see. Take control of your ability to Live the WOW! with the inner power God has given you. Create your own World of Opportunity by making YOUR LIFE MATTER!

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@American-TrainingInc.com or by writing to him at Tom Connors, American Training, 102 Glenn Street, Lawrence, MA 01843 © 2010*



## A Time for thanks

**Terri Crow Mercier**  
VALLEY PATRIOT SENIOR COLUMNIST

Many of us get caught up in the craziness of the demands of life in this day and age. We often forget to slow down and reflect on what is truly important in our lives, and to give thanks where thanksgiving is due. The Thanksgiving holiday will soon be upon us, providing an opportunity to reflect with gratitude on all our blessings. We are thankful for so many things--the food we eat, the clothes we wear--the things we have. The materialistic world that we live in today often clouds what is truly more important.

A special gift, so often overlooked, is the gift we receive from the elderly in our lives. They quietly teach us by their words and actions, and often unaware, we learn from their example. They speak from the lessons they learned in life, hoping to keep us from making the same mistakes, or perhaps wanting to save us from the pain they knew. They have shaped us and helped us become better people. How important is their role in our lives!

I find myself reflecting on some of the people I admire most in my life, particularly the men I have known. They were far from perfect, yet each strived to be a better person and taught me much about becoming a better human being. They taught me things like humility, generosity, compassion, forgiveness, patience and understanding. I am still working on the tolerance thing, but heck, no one is perfect!

My late great Uncle Phil (Moore) who worked at the Cedar Crest for as long as I can remember was a man of few words, but his actions had a powerful influence on my life. Uncle Phil was always giving to those less fortunate and in need. As a child I watched him pull the car over to give a homeless person a sandwich and a sweater. This was so impressive. He did it so quietly. He would give away his pay-- a little to one person, then to another. It was no big deal to him, but it opened my eyes. I remember the day he left this world. My sister and I were at the hospital saying our final farewell after he passed. The nurse came in and told me to take all his personal belongings. With tears still burning our eyes we burst into smiles and a little laughter. It was just like Uncle Phil to leave the world with only a dollar in his pocket. He was never a rich man, but he

gave the world some of the richest gifts. He taught me humility and generosity. I am thankful for these gifts from him.

My husband's Uncle John, more fondly known as Tubba, was very dear to me. I miss him so very much and am thankful I had him in my life. He was such a gentle soul. I would call him as I was freaking out over the day's latest dilemma or frustration. He always had a calming way to get me to see it from another light and to let the little things go, for they are really insignificant. He was one of my dearest friends. Tubba had a compassion for all living creatures. He would take in all the stray pets that found their way to his door. He would just smile at me when I lectured him about having too many pets, and he would say, "They are all God's creatures and need our love too." He was right. He taught me compassion and love. I am thankful for these gifts from him.

My grandfather had worked so very hard throughout his long life, working as a custodian in a factory well into his seventies. I remember his swollen hands from the severe arthritis he had. He must have been in so much pain, but you would never hear a complaint. He always had a smile on his face. Sometimes he would go on little walks with us, and while radiating contentment and breathing in the fresh air, he would point out the beauty around us. That little magical light in his eyes when he looked upon the wildflowers or birds singing in the trees told us that all was right with the world. "We are all connected," he would say. He taught me patience and appreciation for nature. I am thankful for these gifts from him.

Last, but never least, is my father. Dad has worked harder than anyone I know, and he never complains. Throughout my childhood and adult years I have watched him give of himself in so many ways, and so unselfishly. Complete strangers as well as our family have benefited from his acts of kindness. Looking for nothing in return, I have seen him slip money to someone in need, even when he needed it himself. He remains by our side with his words of support, even during those times when we were not so deserving. He doesn't dwell on negative things as so many of us do. Even during the darkest days he is uplifting and encouraging. "This too shall pass," he will say, "tomorrow will be brighter".

SENIORS, page 37

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# COLLEGE: FROM PAGE 15

about college expectations for learning tells a different story: Students need more agility at data analysis and statistics than advanced algebra.”

The article expressed relief that teachers and students finally had a “solid set of standards in mathematics and literacy.” Although publication of the article was premature, anticipating the final standards by over four months, the Gates Foundation seemed to know it would get what it paid for when the article was written, undoubtedly sometime in 2009. It had, after all, funded the development of Common Core’s standards, their promotion, their review and comparison with the best sets of state standards, and their validity, as well as influenced the membership of the standards development, writing, feedback, and validation committees.

Too bad Phillips and Wong seem not to have read one of the strongest studies of what is necessary for college success. As Clifford Adelman commented: “There is a quantitative theme to the curriculum story that illustrates how students cross the bridge onto and through the post-secondary landscape successfully. The highest level of mathematics reached in high school continues to be a key marker in pre-collegiate momentum, with the tipping point of momentum toward a bachelor’s degree now firmly above Algebra 2.”

Common tests based on these CCRS (and the grade level standards they spawned) are just beginning to be developed, so it is too early to know what they actually assess, where passing scores will be set and by whom, and what role the Gates Foundation will play to safeguard

its investments. Its College-Ready Work Team defines ready as “access to two-year transfer programs or four-year colleges with the knowledge and skills to succeed in freshman-year core courses--in other words, no remedial work.”

ACT (one of the three major organizations that developed Common Core’s standards) is reinforcing Gates’s goal in its report on its 2009 survey. It urges schools to “focus high school instruction on the essential skills needed for college and career readiness” and asks high school mathematics teachers to “avoid focusing on advanced content to the exclusion of the fundamentals that will provide their graduates with the rigorous understanding of mathematics knowledge needed for success in credit-bearing, entry-level college mathematics courses.”

It is not too early to ask what will happen when high school sophomores or juniors pass these high stakes tests and are declared to be “college-ready.” Will two or four year public colleges be required to place them in credit-bearing freshman courses if these students want to avoid meeting high school graduation requirements? Probably. It is also likely that college instructors will find themselves compelled, for the sake of survival, to adopt texts at the middle and high school level of difficulty in order to ensure that these “college-ready” students can read what is assigned, do the mathematics in them, and pass their college freshman courses.

Sandra Stotsky is a professor in the Department of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas, and holds the 21st Century Chair in Teacher Quality.

# NEUROPATHY: FROM PAGE 30

neuropathy have been addressed. If a root cause can be identified it should be addressed as completely as is medically and humanly possible.

In order to find out what components of peripheral neuropathy you have, your doctor should conduct a very thorough evaluation. This will include things such as your vital signs, body mass index, the mobility and range of motion of your lower back and hips, and the overall health of your feet, skin, nails and hair, blood vessels and circulation. This might include Doppler ultrasound, a simple painless test to check for blood flow or blockages.

As the doctor performs his clinical examination, he’ll also perform a very thorough neurological examination including reflexes, muscle-testing, and sensation to touch using a device as simple as a pin, a brush or perhaps even a pinwheel. Doctors commonly will also check your vibration sensation, which very often is disturbed in peripheral neuropathy. This is done

painlessly and very easily through the use of simple tuning forks. Your balance will be assessed. Laboratory tests may very well be performed. These would include things such as a chemistry panel, kidney and liver function. Your doctor will also want to double check your blood sugar levels. I have found many patients who present with neuropathy symptoms have not yet been diagnosed with diabetes but may very well suffer from what’s called a metabolic syndrome.

The clinical examination along with a complete review of the patient’s history will determine the appropriate treatments for the patient.

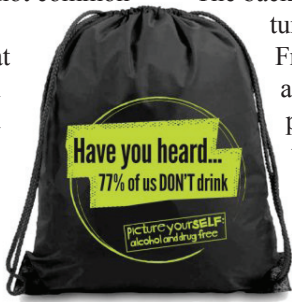


Dr. Jin Sung is the owner and clinic director of Functional Chiropractic, Inc. He can be reached at 978 688-6999. The clinic website is [www.DrJinSung.com](http://www.DrJinSung.com)

# Research: 77% of MA middle school kids don’t drink; youth disagree

ANDOVER - Although the great majority of Massachusetts’ middle school students don’t drink, that fact is not common knowledge. Many youth are under the false impression that more of their peers drink than actually do. “Perception has a powerful effect on behavior,” says Dr. Kathleen Herr-Zaya, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services. “Research shows that pre-teens and teens who believe that many of their peers are drinking are more likely to use alcohol.” To change this behavior, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is piloting an awareness effort featuring the number 77%.

At the end of September, 7th and 8th graders at the Wood Hill Middle School in Andover, along with middle school students in four other towns, received backpacks stamped with the message “Have You Heard... 77% of us DON’T drink.” The goal is to put peer pressure to work in a positive way. “As students walk through the halls and around their communities, their backpacks continually spread the message that most kids are not drinking,” says Herr-Zaya. In Andover’s



Wood Hill, the percentage of students who choose NOT to drink is actually higher.

The backpack effort is part of the “Picture Yourself: Alcohol and Drug Free” campaign, an innovative alcohol and drug prevention pilot program sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Now in its fourth year, the “Picture Yourself” campaign brings messages developed with local teens into five selected public schools, including Andover’s Wood Hill Middle School. “Picture Yourself” encourages young people to pursue doing what they love, without letting alcohol and drugs get in the way.

Research shows that youth who are involved in activities are less likely to start drinking and doing other drugs. Parents play a key role in encouraging their children to pursue their interests and reminding them that most of their peers are not drinking.

To find out more about activity programs for youth, check out your town’s recreation department or your local library. You can also visit [www.mass211help.org](http://www.mass211help.org) or call (toll free) 1-877-211-6277 (TTY 1-617-536-5877).

# MIRACLE EAR: FROM PAGE 30

To focus attention on diabetes and its link to hearing loss, throughout the month of November, all 1,200+ Miracle-Ear locations nationwide, including Miracle-Ear Center of Lawrence, will donate \$5 toward the Stop Diabetes movement for each Free Hearing Test they conduct – up to a maximum of \$50,000. The test measures speech recognition in noise along with loudness discomfort levels; its purpose is to measure the degree of any possible hearing impairment.

“We hope that our involvement with the Stop Diabetes movement will inspire individuals to take meaningful action to Stop Diabetes,” said Gross, Jr. The Stop Diabetes movement identifies four primary options that everyone can take: Share your story to inspire others; Act by

volunteering and raising funds in your community; Learn the facts about diabetes management, nutrition, lifestyle and prevention; and Give your time and your talents, along with your financial support, to support education, outreach, advocacy and critical research for a cure.

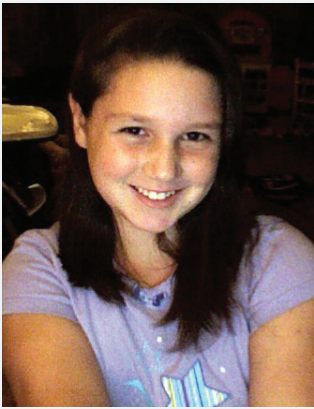
For more information on Miracle-Ear Center of Lawrence, please contact Don Gross, Jr at (978) 683-4232. About Miracle-Ear - A trusted resource for hearing solutions for over 60 years, Miracle-Ear uses state-of-the-art technology to remove the barriers of hearing loss. The Plymouth, Minn.-based company specializes in customizable hearing solutions that feature discreet, comfortable products designed to meet each individual’s hearing loss needs. Free hearing tests and consultations are available at all of the company’s 1,200 locations across the U.S., many of which are in Sears stores. Franchise opportunities are available for those interested in running their own Miracle-Ear business with the support of a nationwide industry leader. For more information, visit [www.miracle-ear.com](http://www.miracle-ear.com).

# Thanksgiving

What do you eat on Thanksgiving? My family eats turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, ham, cranberry sauce, chicken nuggets and french fries/tater tots. There is lots to eat on Thanksgiving isn’t there? My aunt always brings pies from Mann Orchards. My family likes the blueberry pie topped with vanilla ice cream!

The decorations people put up these days are FANTASTIC! My neighbor across the street from me has a big light wire turkey on their chimney. My other neighbor puts turkeys, pumpkins, and much more on their lawn! It’s all lit up too! I wonder what their electric bill is like! But it doesn’t matter. To us at least. Back to the topic of Thanksgiving. I bet some people don’t even know why we have Thanksgiving! If you’re one of those people who don’t know, this next part is for you. Why do we have Thanksgiving? It all goes back to the olden days. Like in Indian days. The Indians and Colonists had a HUGE celebration that lasted for 3 whole days. The celebration had all different kinds of food, all from different religions. I know it’s a bad description but that’s what I was taught in 4th grade! Now everyone have a GREAT Thanksgiving! I hope you stuff yourself!

Emily is a Methuen resident and a Junior Reporter for the Valley Patriot



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# Schools Banning Breast Cancer Support Bracelets

**Tyler Dumont**  
VALLEY PATRIOT TEEN COLUMNIST

They have become one of the latest trends in fashion: “I love Boobies” bracelets. You can buy them in many colors, at many stores, and wear them anywhere – except school. That’s what numerous high schools have been saying across the Merrimack Valley recently. Students who choose to wear the bracelets are being asked to either flip them inside out, or more commonly, remove them. Many are also given a detention if they refuse, and sent to the VicePrincipal’s office.

Now, don’t get me wrong. I thought I understood administrators reasoning behind the ruling. A physical reminder of a “sexual,” private body part? And it’s being worn in classrooms? Obviously, the answer should be no – and the ruling should be enforced. Strictly. It’s inappropriate, a distraction, and unnecessary.

But then I thought about it. I remembered the numerous people I had known that had died from breast cancer, including some members of my own family and friends. I remember the medical bills they had to pay, and the mental and physical pain they had to suffer. I thought about the joy when one of them overcame her sickness and since fully recovered. I also remembered when several of them passed away, creating some of the saddest devastations to their families; especially when one of them was only in her thirties with four children.

However, what I didn’t think about was if all these women had been informed through awareness programs at a young age. As a guy, this is one thing I guess I’m lucky enough not to worry about. But, as someone who values his mother above everything, I pay attention to

what’s happening to women, especially with diseases; and I decided to look up the facts. According to the American Cancer Society, more than two-hundred thousand women have suffered from breast cancer so far in 2010 alone. In addition, almost forty thousand of them have lost their battle and passed away. And, the stats get scarier. The chance of a woman getting breast cancer in her lifetime is a little less than one in eight women.

There is some good news, though. There are currently more than two and a half million women who have survived breast cancer in the United States. But what’s the belief of why many of them are still alive today? Researchers indicate that some of the reasons are that they’ve been able to find cases earlier, and improve treatment. But, I don’t think this is enough.

To me, those statistics are scary. As a teenager, I know the value of my friends in high school. And, if those statistics are right, almost six girls in my senior class alone will suffer from breast cancer. That should not be acceptable to any teacher, principal, or school district. I firmly believe that students need to speak up.

After I looked into the pros and cons, I determined my position on the matter. I’ve concluded that students absolutely, without a doubt, should be able to wear the bracelets.

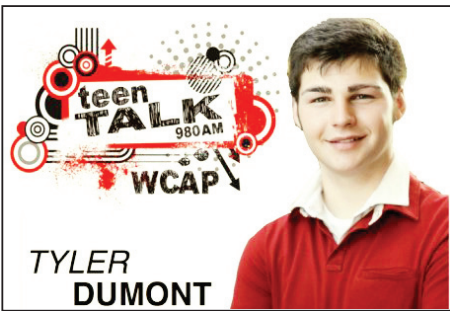
It’s not about maturity it’s not about it being inappropriate. It is simply about awareness. And let’s face it, teens know what “boobies” are. When a student looks at one of the colored bracelets, not only does the “I heart Boobies” slogan stand out, but their website does too ([www.keep-a-breast.org](http://www.keep-a-breast.org)). That website also sticks in students minds – I know it stayed

in mine. When I first saw a bracelet, I decided to visit the site. On the homepage, I was greeted with a video that told how a high school art teacher worked with students to create awareness by developing an art project that joined with sending a message to students: fight breast cancer. Imagine the young women that could be saved and helped, simply by purchasing a bracelet.

The website was also filled with other information, including the organization’s history, details about how to prevent breast cancer, self-check tests, and more. So, is it bad to love healthy breasts? Is it wrong to support fighting dangerous cancers to breasts? Should we be quiet and ashamed of supporting these body parts, which can potentially destroy a human life if infected? It’s hard and disappointing to think of a world where our “leaders,” who are supposed to be our educators and shape our future, tell us we are not allowed to publicly display our support for a foundation that does a lot good in a world where there is a lot of bad.

When people think of “peace” signs, some may also think of hippies smoking marijuana around a fire, having a good time together. So, should the peace sign be banned just because of the few people who may think about that? I also know that in my mind, I can think of a lot worse things than breasts. Should I not be allowed to think, just because I might think of something “wrong”? A line needs to be drawn about the context and meaning behind what’s presented to us in society.

Oh and by the way, if you’re wondering how much the bracelets cost, it may vary from store to store – but they usually go for around four dollars, and all money raised goes towards the organization’s



awareness and educational programs. That’s four dollars I would give any day. In my opinion, the message students are receiving is that they cannot support a foundation in a public environment simply because the message may be deemed “sexually inappropriate” by a select number of people. What happened to freedom of expression?

Society today is very different. It’s hard to flip through television channels and not see an example of sex. The media has deemed that what used to have been determined as sexual or “disrespectful” years ago may not be so inappropriate for younger viewers anymore. Times are changing, and so are the beliefs and mindsets of us teenagers. So, think about it. Would you support the cause, or would you make a joke when you saw one? Would you be inspired to continue awareness, or do you just want a bracelet that says “boobies”? The maturity part is up to you. However, making a difference, saving lives and showing that you stand up for your given rights is up to you too. The question is: Will you wear one?

*Tyler Dumont is the host of Teen Talk on 980 WCAP, which airs every Monday evening from 7-9 PM. Become a fan on Facebook at [facebook.com/teentalkwith-tylerdumont](http://facebook.com/teentalkwith-tylerdumont) and listen online at [980wcap.com](http://980wcap.com). You can also write to Tyler at [teentalk@980wcap.com](mailto:teentalk@980wcap.com).*

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# The Shallow World of Politics

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Okay, so Republicans have picked up major gains in this midterm election. Is this something conservatives should celebrate? Does it mean the country is turning right? Not at all. It is a pattern that has been happening for decades. There are basically two reasons people win major elections in America: charisma and non-incumbency. Let's take a look at both.

Regarding charisma, if you take away the one-third of voters that will always vote liberal and the one-third that will always vote conservative, the remaining third is who decides elections. In presidential elections this third invariably votes for the more charismatic and attractive candidate. Check it out for yourself; since the John F. Kennedy era when TV became popular, the more "presidential" looking candidate has always won. And this translates into possessing the two H's - height and hair, as well as an ability to connect. Shallow but true. Gone are the days when a Teddy Roosevelt or an Ike Eisenhower, or anyone who has considerable girth or is follicle challenged can win a major election. If Scott Brown looked like Karl Rove do you think he would have taken Ted Kennedy's (I mean the people's) seat? The stoicism of a Lincoln and the humility of a Washington could not win either today. In our materialist culture that emphasizes the physical and emotional we want to be proud of who represents us, not necessarily for the substance of what they stand for but on how they might appear in pictures and in sound bites.

And when it comes to non-incumbency, this is a dynamic that simply indicates people are unhappy with their lives. It's cathartic to blame politicians. As a result the aforementioned middle one-third will side with the left in one election cycle and then the right in the next, being ideological pendulums that continuously hope that "throwing the bums out" will somehow cure their own disappointments.

What people today do not seem to understand is that political solutions will never solve philosophical problems. America has been fighting an intense philosophical war for the past four

decades, and changing parties in power alone will do nothing to bring about peace. The cultural left and right see life very differently through lenses that color their understanding of reality. Politically with each election cycle this nation will continue to be locked into a pendulum-like existence of discontentment that leads to nowhere, until we diagnose the problem properly. One cannot treat the disease if the cause is misunderstood.

It is imperative that a national effort commence to honestly and objectively examine the factors involved in why people come to hold such contrary premises about life that inevitably lead them to see reality so differently. We must seek to understand the influences that contribute to this bizarre phenomenon that metaphorically leads people looking at the same object to disagree about whether it is white or black. When it comes to justice some people see it as something we must conform to while others see it is something we can create. Truth and goodness is seen by some to be independent of ourselves and discovered and by others as something that can be defined at the discretion of our collective will. These premises are irreconcilable.

What causes these contradictory views? Are the factors psychological? Are they the results of certain experiences early in life? Why do some people see objectivity in Fox News while others see it in MSNBC? How can some see life as a right while others see it as a choice?

We are a divided nation on a much deeper level than politics; and we can no longer have an attitude of resignation about things that go deeper than the political level. A unified nation shares one culture, which is founded on common practices born out of a shared language and philosophy of life. Until the cause of the culture war is truly understood no political solution or person will make much of a difference.



Paul Murano taught theology and philosophy at Assumption College and Northshore Com. College. He is also former co-host of *The Paying Attention!* radio program on WCAP and Host "Beneath the Surface" on Burlington Cable Access. You can E-mail Paul at [PJDM@aol.com](mailto:PJDM@aol.com)

## GOP: FROM PAGE 3

Geoff Diehl defeated incumbent Allen McCarthy in the 7th Plymouth, Ryan Fattman defeated incumbent Jennifer Callahan in 18th Worcester, Steven Howitt defeated incumbent Steve D'Amico in the 4th Bristol, Kevin Kuros defeated incumbent Paul Kujawski in 8th Worcester, James Lyons defeated incumbent Barbara L'Italien in the 18th Essex, George Ross defeated incumbent Bill Bowles in the 2nd Bristol, James Stanton defeated incumbent John Rogers in the 12th Norfolk, David Vieira defeated incumbent Matthew Patrick in the 3rd Barnstable District, and Donald Wong defeated incumbent Mark Falzone in the 9th Essex.

Four races are too close to call as of this writing: Shaunna O'Connell is tied with incumbent James Fagan in the 3rd Bristol, Nicholas Boldya is tied with incumbent Rosemary Sandlin in the 3rd Hampden, Steven Levy is tied with incumbent Danielle Gregoire in the 4th Middlesex, and Peter Durant tied with incumbent Gerald Alicea in 6th Worcester.

David Trumbull is the chairman of the Boston Ward Three Republican Committee. Boston's Ward Three includes the North End, West End, part of Beacon Hill, downtown, waterfront, Chinatown, and part of the South End.

## Ye Gay Ol' Valley

## PDgAys

D. B. Langevin

VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

Public Displays of Affection (PDA), I see them all the time. Students hugging in the halls, people old and young holding hands, giving each other a quick kiss goodbye or the worst is those teens with little to no respect for themselves or anyone else around them who deem it necessary to shove their tongues so far down each other's throats that they're probably ticking the other's colon.

I personally do not have a problem with the handholding, arms around waists or even a quick peck on the cheek or lips. However, you will never see me engaging in any of those activities in public except for Provincetown, Massachusetts gay Mecca.

Even though I live in a state that legalized gay marriage four years ago and I am legally married to my wife and partner of almost thirteen years, I am not comfortable with exercising my right to tasteful and subtle PDA. It comes down to a very simple reason. I am concerned about people's reaction and do not want to be subject to any kind of uncomfortable snickering or gay bashing as a result of me openly displaying my affection for my wife.

Quite frankly, I hate myself in this respect and I hate society for making me feel this way.

My wife is quite the opposite. She doesn't think twice about reaching over the table in a restaurant and grabbing hold of my hand, which I quickly pull away. She often times rubs the small of my back as we walk or tries to hold my hand. Every time she does, I feel my chest tighten, my skin crawl and my eyes immediately start darting about hoping no one caught sight of her boldness or, worse yet, will react to it. I love my wife. She is my most favorite person to spend time with. I am innately proud and honored to have her as my significant other and I am embarrassed by my adverse physical reaction each time she shows me affection in public. Is this my fault or society's? Who is in the majority when it comes to PDA- my wife or me?

I decided to poll friends both in and outside of the gay community to see what their thoughts were. Resoundingly, most of them didn't have any problem with PDA. It was pretty much unanimous that subtlety was the key. Everyone had no problems with hand holding, leaning against a loved one or a quick peck of the lips, but nobody wanted to see the swapping of saliva or pawing at

unnamed body parts. The sexuality of the couple was not an issue either. What did stand out is that gay/lesbian couples were less comfortable with engaging in PDA than straight couples. In fact, my wife is the only member of the gay community I spoke with that is comfortable with it at all. Not one of my gay/lesbian friends was willing to engage in any type of PDA at all. One friend, a gay man, said, "PDAs between same-sex couples, especially between two men, are not 'the norm.'" I don't like that I feel this way, but I don't want to call this type of attention to myself in public." Another friend, a lesbian said, "I have concerns of the negative reactions that can happen and my wife is very concerned and does not like any kind of PDA!!"

So, it appears that my wife is the big exception. She has no problem holding hands, leaning against me, or sharing a gentle caress. She does draw the line at kissing. She didn't realize how uncomfortable I was with PDA (although I thought I had made it clear) and says she will be mindful and respectful of my feelings when out in public, and she has. I can see her checking herself occasionally when we are out and she starts to reach for me. I feel bad. But I just can't help my fear of public reaction.

So, why is it that the majority of gay people I spoke with are so apprehensive at letting the world see their love for their partner? Does it come from within or without? Is this society's poison or our own inner discomfort? I can't answer any of these questions. I do know, however, that seeing a rash of teenagers feel that the only way to deal with gay bashing is to kill their selves does not help. Neither does the overall acceptance of using 'gay' as a negative term, i.e., "That's so gay,"

We all have come a long way, but the high road is hard to climb and we've got a rough row ahead of us. I'm going to try to reach out and hold my wife's hand in a public arena while squelching my instinct to run and hide from whatever reactions it may instill. I'd like to be proven wrong. I'd like to know that our society is tolerant, and loving and free.



Dani Langevin is a teacher and has a Bachelors in Fine Art and Masters in Education. She has written four young adult novels, one of which is self-published. You can email Dani at [DaniBLangevin@aol.com](mailto:DaniBLangevin@aol.com)



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## PUPPY LOVE! with Kate Whitney

# When it's time to say good-bye ...

Kate Whitney

VALLEY PATRIOT PUPPY COLUMNIST

I want to apologize for this month's column...it's not a happy or funny column, it's actually kind of sad. The topic I'm going to touch upon is dealt with very differently by each individual person. I hope that you might be able to take something away from it that will help you if you ever deal with losing a pet.

Over the past few years, I've had many people tell me about how they had to put down their dog, or say goodbye to their beloved cat. Having been there before, I know exactly the feelings that people go through when this happens. I can truly empathize. For those of us who consider our pets more than "just a dog or cat" losing a pet can be like losing a family member or a best friend.

If you are an animal owner, at some time or another you are going to be faced with one of the hardest things in life; the death of your pet. It's a shame that animals have shorter life spans than we do, I would honestly love to grow old with my dogs, Dash and Honey. But I know that this is not a reality. I think about where I will be in life when it is time to say goodbye to them. This fact is inevitable.

It pains me, even brings tears to my eyes while writing this. But it's reality. I've had to put dogs and cats to sleep in the past. To cope, I would spend days on the couch, crying and feeling my heart - literally - ache. I've honestly weighed the pros and cons about having and not having pets. I'd think "is this pain really worth it?"

The answer always came back, yes. Animals come into our lives, and only stay for a short time, because they are here to teach us things; about the world, about life, and about ourselves. No matter how you look at it, our pets teach us things every day. Take a moment to step back each day and make sure you recognize this. Watch your dog's excitement as you put on his leash and collar. What's he so

excited about...he's only going outside.

Or watch how happy your dog is in the car; sticking her nose out the window, feeling the breeze on her face and smelling all the sweet smells of the world. These little things remind us to enjoy the simple things in life. Yes, we get excited when we get a new car or get a raise at work. But don't forget that there are other things to be happy about too. Not everything to be happy about revolves around money or something new.

When the decision has been made that the best and only option left is to put a pet to sleep, the next few days, weeks, and months may seem to be a blur.

Everyone will handle this situation differently. Some will hold in their emotions and continue on their daily routine, quietly dealing with their feelings internally. Others will need to take time off from work or social activities to stay home and grieve. There is no "right" way to cope. When you research "coping" online, it will tell you that there are many different reactions that might come along with it. First there is denial and isolation. In the beginning of dealing with the loss of a pet, people may deny the reality of the situation and not accept the fact that their pet is really gone.

The next step is guilt. Many people feel like they may have been able to save their pet "if only" or "I should have/could have done more".

Eventually, for most of us, comes acceptance. The time it takes for someone to accept their pet is gone will vary for different people. There is no "right" amount of time. So take whatever time you need. People need to remember that when you finally accept your pet is gone, this doesn't mean that you can no longer grieve the loss of your pet or that you forget about your pet. It just means that you accept it is gone, and you can once again go on with your life.

So you might want to know how you can grieve for your pet. First and foremost be patient. Some people are surprised at how deeply they are affected when they lose a pet. Take your time and don't let



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

The Valley Patriot's PuppyGirl, Kate Whitney with Dash (l) and Honey reading the Valley Patriot. Dash and Honey were taken in by Kate as foster pups and she decided to adopt them. Please adopt a shelter dog or foster a puppy looking for a permanent home! For more information you can email One Tail at a Time at [onetail@comcast.net](mailto:onetail@comcast.net)

anyone tell you the correct way or how long you should grieve. This experience is individual and private. Also, make sure that when you are grieving you don't neglect yourself. It's easy to get into a slump and feel like you don't care about anything, but remember to take care of yourself by eating right, sleeping, and exercising. Getting out for a quick walk or hitting the gym can take your mind off your loss. For those of you who might want to seek help from others, I have often times seen advertisements for free pet loss workshops in the newspaper. So keep your eyes open or search online for similar topic groups. These things can be a big help when dealing with this sort of thing.

Some people keep their dog's bed and food/water bowls out in the same place they have always been. Others prefer to put these things away because the site of these items is just too much to take. If you decide to cremate, sprinkle the ashes at one of your pet's favorite spots, or maybe even one of your favorite places. Some people may bury their animal in their yard. I've personally done both. My cat, Mittens, is buried in the yard under the apple tree. My dog growing up, Sabina, is

buried in the back yard. My cat Kitty, who I had from when I was 6 years old through college, was cremated and is sitting on my desk in a box in the corner. Whichever way you decide, is once again, a personal decision.

Okay...so you've done your grieving and taken your time getting over your loss. Many people want to know, when is the right time to get another pet? Again, this is a very personal decision and everyone will be different. Some people want to get another pet soon after they put their old one down. Other people say they can never get another pet. Others may be ready a few months or years down the road. The main thing to remember is that you are getting a new pet because you want to have a new relationship with an animal and not because you are trying to replace your old pet. You will never replace a pet. Instead of hoping to find something "similar" to your old pet, be excited about creating a new relationship. Try to get a dog that is different looking from the previous one, and never name the new dog the same name as the previous one. This should be a fresh and new beginning for both of you...a happy time!

PUPPYGIRL: PAGE 44

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# Billerica Pet Owners do have “Peace of Mind”

Tracey Zysk

VALLEY PATRIOT KITTU CAT COLUMNIST

Peace of Mind Pet Care Solutions of Billerica really does offer the peace of mind pet owners are looking for in a pet care service. Owner, Jennifer Chubb started her pet care business servicing Billerica in 2009. With the amazing growth of her business and the obvious need for pet care she now has expanded her services to Lowell, Dracut, and Tewksbury.

Her services include daily dog walks, pet sitting and vacation care to all types of animals, and most recently Jennifer has started offering equine care for her horse clients. After each visit Jennifer leaves a log or notebook of all the activities the animal took part in and she also emails, calls and send pictures to her clients. This allows the owners to have the comfort their animals are safe and cared for while they are away.

Jennifer is a certified dog trainer and offers in home dog training to many communities north of Boston. She is also on a Dog Park committee for the Town of Billerica. This is an exciting endeavor for Jennifer as she would really like to see a place for dogs to interact and socialize with other dogs.

Jennifer, who grew up in Pennsylvania and relocated to Massachusetts, has been taking care of animals her entire life. She has been volunteering at shelters both regionally and nationally for several years. She makes every effort possible to travel to Best Friend’s Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, UT at least once of year for a week of volunteering with the animals. Jennifer always knew she would be working fulltime with animals and it was only natural for her to open up her own business. It was just a matter of time, and when the time was right, she started Peace of Mind Pet Care Solutions.

With people starting pet care businesses a dime a dozen, I asked Jennifer what a potential client should look for before they hire someone to take care of their animals. Jennifer suggested the following: Make



Training Shelter Dogs Seminar

sure they are insured and bonded, make sure you ask for references, and interview two or three pet care providers. Watch how they interact with your animal. If the pet care provider doesn’t have an immediate connection with your animal, it may not be the right fit.

Jennifer is a strong supporter of animal adoptions and she is extremely passionate about spay and neuter programs. For additional information regard Jennifer and her services please visit her website at: [www.peaceofmindpetcare.net](http://www.peaceofmindpetcare.net)

Tracey Zysk, owner of Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care in North Andover MA is a local pet care professional. She has been featured on local radio, tv and newspapers educating the general public on animal care and animal health & wellness. Tracey is a proud supporter of Police, Fire & Military K9 units. Tracey may be reached at [wigglegewalk@comcast.net](mailto:wigglegewalk@comcast.net)

# Doggie Holiday Party November 27th

Tracey Zysk

VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGY COLUMNIST

On November 27, 2010 from 11AM to 3PM GroomTown Pet Boutique & Spa and Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care will be hosting their first annual “Doggie Holiday Party”. This event will take place at GroomTown located at 137 Main St North Andover before, during, and after the North Andover Santa Parade.

The goal of the day is for pet owners and dogs to begin their holiday season while enjoying the town parade and then stopping into the Boutique for treats, snacks, music and some shopping too.

Year after year more and more people have been bringing their dogs to the Santa Parade so this year we decided to make it a fun day for all. Why not start the holiday season with your pets too? They are such an important part of our families it only makes sense to include them in the holiday festivities.

We will also be hosting a “Doggie

Costume” contest. Bring your dogs in wearing their favorite sweater, Holiday best or even dressed up as a reindeer. The judging will take place around 2PM so come one come all. Prizes include 1st prize is a \$50.00 gift certificate to Joe Fish and 2nd prize will be a \$25.00 gift certificate to Amici’s.

GroomTown and Wiggles & Jiggles are also members of the North Andover Merchants Association which is also participating in a can food drive for the entire month of November. Feel free to drop off a can of dog or cat food at GroomTown and enter your name in a raffle to win a free Groom. (value \$45.00). All cans will be donated to local food banks to help people that may need help feeding their pets during this tough economic time.

GroomTown and Wiggles & Jiggles would like to extend a Happy and Safe Holiday Season to you and your four pawed friend!



## THANKS: FROM PAGE 31


I remember being upset that someone had made fun of our large family when I was a teen. In frustration and with sarcasm I asked my father, “Why did you have so many kids?” He smiled and simply said, “So everybody always has somebody.” He has taught me to ignore those who gossip, and to simply wish them well. He always makes things better. He taught me forgiveness and understanding. I am thankful for these gifts from him.

So many gifts do not come wrapped up in pretty paper. Sometimes they are bestowed upon us without even realizing it is


happening. All too often these are the most important gifts we should be thankful for. I hope that you all take time this season to thank those seniors who have helped change and shape your lives for the better. Happy Thanksgiving!



Terri Crow Mercier is the Director of Activities At Colonial Heights Care and Rehab-where she has worked for many years. You can email Terry at [mike3433@msn.com](mailto:mike3433@msn.com)



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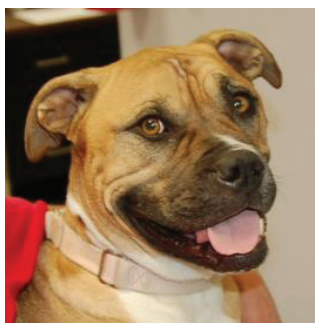


## Come to the Lowell Humane Society and take us HOME!

>>>>>Athena is a gorgeous girl with a beautiful smile. She was surrendered to our shelter because her owners no longer have the time to commit to walking her. She loves to go for walks and don't say R-I-D-E unless you plan on taking this girl for a cruise! Gentle and sweet, she enjoys the company of dogs and cats!

Shortly after arriving in our kennels, the stress of being removed from her home caused Athena to become extremely ill, a trip to the veterinarian brought surprising news; Athena has Addison's Disease. With no prior vet history, her family had no idea she was ill. Athena is now stable and with proper vet care she can lead a happy life. She is available for adoption and enjoys the company of other dogs and even cats. Athena loves going for walks and car rides. Gentle and sweet, Athena would do well in any calm household.

>>> Chubbs is a sweet 6 year old Chihuahua mix who loves to snuggle and give kisses. He also enjoys car rides and playing with other small dogs!



The Lowell Humane Society is a private 501(c)3 non-profit organization and does not receive any local, state or federal funding. Our shelter runs solely on the generosity of our supporters. To learn more about our 150+ available pets, to find out about our upcoming events and to learn about bringing your classroom, scout troop or other group to visit; contact Community Outreach Coordinator, Chris Arnott at [chris@lowellhumanesociety.org](mailto:chris@lowellhumanesociety.org), call us at (978) 452-7781 or visit our website at [lowellhumanesociety.org](http://lowellhumanesociety.org)

## Proposed dog park for Billerica

Tracey Zysk

VALLEY PATRIOT KITTY CAT COLUMNIST

When Billerica resident and avid dog lover Liana Measmer had the idea Billerica would be a perfect location for a dog park, she jumped right in and started taking action. Measmer thought there really must be a desire for this in her community and began her research with a survey.

With over 2200 registered dogs in Billerica and tons of open space, it only makes sense for there to be a place for dogs to run off leash. The survey proved to be to Measmer's liking and gave her the encouragement to move forward with developing a proposal.

Measmer reached out to some local pet owners, community leaders and pet care professionals to see if they would like to form a dog park task force team. Now, once a month a group of Billerica animal lovers meet to discuss their plan and proposal for a park.

Jennifer Chubb, owner of Peace of Mind Pet Care Solutions also located in town dove right into the opportunity of being on this committee. Jennifer stated "We are in the very early stages of developing our business plan. We are working with Town Selectman and various town departments on all the logistics and legali-

ties. First, we must find a location and once that is approved we will work on the details."

Dog parks are a great place for dogs to run off leash and to develop socialization skills. Parks are also a great way to help a town form into a community. When people are bringing their dogs to the park they start to interact with each other. People meet people in their community that they may not have had an opportunity to meet otherwise. It does become quite the social event for both the people and the pets.

If you are a Billerica resident and are interested in becoming a member of the committee or just interested in attending a meeting to see what it is all about...you are all invited!

\* The next two meetings dates: November 4 and December 16 at 7PM located at the Billerica Library \* Follow updates on Facebook at:

Billerica Dog Park Committee

Tracey Zysk, owner of Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care in North Andover MA is a local pet care professional. She has been featured on local radio, tv and newspapers educating the general public on animal care and animal health & wellness. Tracey is a proud supporter of Police, Fire & Military K9 units. Tracey may be reached at [wigglewalk@comcast.net](mailto:wigglewalk@comcast.net)



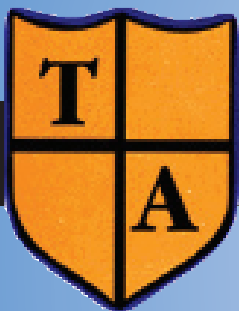
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## Fame Almost Took Away My Family: The Story of Juan “Taton” Solis

Dairon Sky

VALLEY VIBE CONTRIBUTOR

Disclaimer - Many names could not be mentioned at this time as the contract is still valid between both parties.

It is so easy to get caught up in fame and the perks that it brings for anyone within the limelight. What admiring on-lookers tend to forget is that being within entertainment details of being a mobile business. There is always an inquiring phone call to answer, an unopened email to read, appearances to fulfill - the list is ongoing and can become unbearable to your average person’s schedule. To make matters more intensive, imagine just starting your business and the jobs of a team of individuals relays on upon the shoulders of one person - we haven’t even brought in the fact that most likely there are other tasks

That was once the case with Juan “Taton” Solis when being a recording artist was just a dream in the making for the young choir member. Being better known for his presence of being within the reggaeton duo “Taton y Tremendo” with his older brother. Taton’s story is what reality is for many artists who fall in love during the process of reaching their fame and building a lifestyle for himself.

Growing up wasn’t easy as there wasn’t always money to support his ventures and Taton was back and forth between living between his mother and grandmother. During the times of living with his grandmother, she gave him the nickname “Taton”. When asking was there any meaning or connection behind the name, “I don’t know why she started calling me that but as soon as she did it, everyone was soon to follow so it was only right that I kept the name as I progressed with my music since she is my biggest support system.”

The first taste of fame came in 2002 in Haverhill, MA when Taton first sang for a city gathering and the attention of his vocal ability was growing among the masses. Soon after he started recording music in Worcester, MA but still didn’t think that music would be the leading force within his life.

Two years recording and releasing several mix tapes, the life of a recording artist was forming as he was more recognized for his underground releases and the list of performances was growing by the masses. Surprising enough Gladys Monroig, later to become Mrs. Solis, did not know of Taton and his efforts as a recording sensation. “I really did not know who he was until later on. It is actually funny that it was not until he told me that he was going to do a show that I finally knew what he was doing”.

The dream started to unfold when Taton was approached by another artist in 2007 who had signed a major recording contract and had obtained success on the Latin charts with his debut album and single. Taton was not one with traditional Spanish music and vaguely knew much of the singer and his journey.

“I heard many negative comments of the singer from several of my peers but I always decided to see that good in everyone and our business relationship started to grow. At first, I was just there to help him learn how to use certain music production software. He knew that I could sing but he wanted me as a part of an act. I

never really saw myself a piece of an act but if I had to do it to finally get heard on a major level.”

Taton enlisted his older brother Tremendo and they quickly started to work on the debut album together as they toured between New York, Massachusetts, Arizona and North Carolina to promote the future project. To Taton’s dismay, he was signed as a reggaeton artist to a multi album deal with his brother but deep inside he always had a love for soul RnB music. His original plan was to record what was necessary for his contract and branch out on his own.

“My brother and I were doing things that I could never imagine. Being heard on the radio, recording the music video in FL, visiting places and hearing people sing our songs was phenomenal. my home life was coming together as Gladys and I were expecting our first child and we were engaged to be married. I was then happiest that I ever was in my life and for the first time, I was truly happy.”

The happiness was short lived as the success grew the animosity between the team and Taton’s home life started to brew. The truth behind the matter was that the team felt that Taton’s growing needs of his family was conflicting with his career and they wanted him to make a choice on what was best. The duo was receiving the attention of label socialites and by not appearing single was harmful to their image.

“Minor excuses started to come up between my wife and the team which was funny because Gladys was so supportive in everything. I felt as if I was being brain-washed to ditch my family for the music but I started becoming depressed with the whole situation of it all. I would find myself running from every argument just to make an excuse to leave.”

Besides the troubles within the team, the production side of the project wasn’t doing so well either as the album had been pushed back twice and there was no follow up to their smash hit single, “Ya No Se Puede”. Their audience started to forget about them and everything that they had built was fading from them.

“I remember the arguments over the phone with our producers, engineers and even the CEO of the company who first brought me on two years prior. My brother and I stop seeing eye to eye on many aspects of our music as he wanted to started singing, when I was the singer and take our music to more of a Jamaican reggae feel. through it all, Gladys was there.”

After almost losing their apartment, the vehicle and adding another member to their family, Taton had finally had enough and called it quits form the industry as he discovered that his true happiness was at home with his loved ones.

Today, Taton works an everyday job close to Haverhill, MA and returns home every day to his loving family. The album was never released as his brother started to work on his solo efforts with other independent acts. He’s still fighting to leave his contract but has not entered a studio in about a year.

“I don’t feel the same when I hear music now - I just feel pain to know that I was so close. But I am keeping my head up because I have a wonderful family who loves me, no song could ever do that for me.”

## Shawn Hansen’s Comedy Corner: Jeff Dunham presents Diane

This past summer, Ventriloquist Jeff Dunham introduced Diane to the public in a movie called Dinner for Schmucks. On Saturday, Oct. 23, Dunham introduced Diane at the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester, NH. Talking to Dunham a few weeks prior to the show, he shared a story with me about the time he first started Ventriloquism, and the creation of his characters. “I was a shy little kid, I was terrible at sports, not one of the popular crowd,” said Dunham. “To get up on stage in front of the class and be able to pick on my classmates or pick on the school or pick on the teachers or the principal and get some laughs out of it, became some cool thing.” Testing the waters, getting away with things other students would get in trouble for Dunham began performing in front of audiences in elementary school. He said if for some reason people didn’t like his puppets and he couldn’t perform with them, real estate would be next on the Totem Pole.

“Every character I’ve had in my act, none of them have taken the same amount of time or have had a similar creation story,” said Dunham. “I actually thought up Peanut and designed him in my head. I described him to a woman that was making soft puppets and she drew up some sketches.” Developing the thought of Peanut, Dunham created Walter thinking he could fill time with an older grumpy man. “Everybody has that guy in him,” said Dunham. “Either they’re married to him or he’s their father. People for some reason love him, so that character just stuck.” Creating Jose the Jalapeno, Dunham reflects back to the days he was a college student doing a radio campaign on the radio. “I was doing all the voices of this pizza. Every ingredient on the pizza spoke,” said Dunham. “One of them was Jose Jalapeno. He ended up having all the funny lines. I thought about making a dummy in the act, so I thought why not a Jalapeno on a stick.” After the tragic incidences that took place on Sept. 11, 2001, and the United States going through devastating times, Dunham figured he could turn the topic around, and make people laugh. “There’s something people can laugh at in our country,” said Dunham. “The big surprise was that I had no idea it would go worldwide.” Trying to distinguish the best puppet to perform with was a tough task for Dunham as he said whoever the audience is enjoying the most, he has a ball with that particular night. “Achmed certainly has allowed me to break through in places that otherwise might have remained closed for a while. His clip on YouTube put whatever ride it is that the characters and I are on into a very high orbit.” Recently performing overseas, Dunham said Achmed was a big hit. “Is he my favorite? I couldn’t say that and hurt Peanut’s feelings,” said Dunham. Going on stage in Manchester for the first time in a couple of years, Walter greeted the crowd telling everyone that he signed Achmed up to be an organ donor, and thought it was the funniest thing in the world. Bringing up the fact that Achmed is letting his ego expand because of his fame, Walter acknowledged that he is dating a goat half his age. Traveling out of the country for work, Walter enjoyed Europe. “I liked London,” said Walter. “I wanted to meet Paul McCartney. I



heard he gives tons of money to folks with wooden legs, and I have two.” After greeting the Verizon Wireless crowd as infidels, Achmed talked about his childhood, and how he once had a pet. Telling the story in a low pitch, Achmed said, “My father was a very confused man, and that day my mother told him to go outside and blow up some party balloons. That’s how I got a dog with no legs.” Interested to find out more about his dog, Dunham asked what his name is as Achmed responded in a deep voice saying, “Seriously? You’re a comedian right? I had a dog with no legs, ask me again!” Finding out his dog had no name because he couldn’t come, Achmed said the only trick he could do was roll over, as the crowd laughed up a storm to the response.

“It’s not funny,” said Achmed. “If there was any kind of inclination, he couldn’t stop himself.”

Trying to apologize to a sincere fan who took the time to write a letter to Dunham about Peanut making fun of their culture, everything ended up to be a joke.

“We see your show last night and we laugh and laugh,” said Peanut impersonating a person of Chinese heritage. “Mr. Peanut, why do you make fun of Chinese people? Why not make fun of, what does that say?”

As Dunham said the word brack, and that it was a misspelling that meant black, Peanut cracked up. Continuing to read the note, he said it was signed his biggest fan, Bob, and his lucky numbers are 18, 34, and 14.

Lastly, as Dunham brought out Diane, she said hello to Manhattan, as Dunham advised her they were in New Hampshire.

Juggling multiple marriages, she said she was married to Henry, Franklin, and Timothy, and thought her other husbands name was Lawrence.

After trying to kill her first husband, and having her second be too much of a workaholic, she said her other one died of a stroke because she used a nine iron.

Attempting to get different dates, Diane said she uses modern technology like everyone else nowadays. “I tried the Internet, but it’s all lies,” said Diane. “There was a man that said in his profile he was 6’2. It turned out he was 62. I said I was 22. I was talking about my waist. Okay my thighs.”

For more information about Dunham, go to [www.jeffdunham.com](http://www.jeffdunham.com). He has a book that is in stores called, “Jeff Dunham: All By My Selves.”



Shawn Hansen is a graduate of UMass Lowell. He wrote for “The Campus Report,” and was sports editor. Hansen now writes for “The UMass Lowell Connector,” and the “Billerica Minute-man.” To get in touch with sports journalist Shawn Hansen of The Valley Patriot, email him at [smharticle@gmail.com](mailto:smharticle@gmail.com)



## VALLEY PATRIOT TV REVIEW

No Ordinary Family,  
ABC Tuesdays 8 p.m.

Beth Daigle

VALLEY PATRIOT ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

The idea of miraculously obtaining super powers seems rather appealing in this crazy and hectic world that we live in. Therefore, the concept behind “No Ordinary Family” starring Michael Chiklis is vicariously intriguing. Like most new shows, “No Ordinary Family” has some kinks to work out, but as a long-time Michael Chiklis fan (in fact, I am distantly related to him) and Bionic Man/Woman aficionado, I feel this show has an interesting blend of entertaining elements that are bound to please a vast number of viewers.

This family driven action/adventure series follows the Powell family as they work through the aftermath of an Amazon River plane crash that landed each family member with comic book-like super powers. Hulk-like strength, super speed, genius intelligence and mind reading capabilities are all qualities that the average person could happily take advantage of, right? Well, as one might expect, these gifts can often seem like a curse and the Powell’s are challenged with the task of finding the right balance.

Chiklis plays his character, Jim, with warmth and the natural ability that we’ve come to know of him through former roles in the “The Commish,” “The Shield,” and “Fantastic Four.”

Interestingly, many of the good storylines filter through the Powell children, JJ and Daphne. I am impressed with the quality of acting from these young actors and find their storylines to be relevant and well played out. Addition-

ally, the supporting characters opposite Jim and his wife, Stephanie, add a bit of humor and light-heartedness creating a pleasant dramedy effect that I always welcome in my programming options.

My one concern is with the role of Stephanie played by Julie Benz. Despite the fact that Stephanie is intended to be an A-type research executive, I find her portrayal to be unconvincingly stiff and very monotone. I was surprised to learn that Benz most recently played the lesbian, stripper involved with Dana Delany’s character last season on “Desperate Housewives.” That is quite a divergence from this new role, so I am willing to give her some time to figure it all out and work through these probable growing pains.

Overall, I like the direction “No Ordinary Family,” is going in. It has a little bit of everything that I like in a show and the good news is that ABC has ordered a full season of scripts so we’ll have the opportunity to see this show develop.

For more television reviews and other blog-worthy topics from Beth, visit [www.bdbuzz10.blogspot.com](http://www.bdbuzz10.blogspot.com).



*Beth Daigle is a freelance writer who writes for several area publications. Beth is a North Andover resident and happily reports on the good, the bad and the ugly in television entertainment. Beth's background is in marketing having earned her BA from University of Massachusetts, Amherst and MBA from Bentley College. Send comments to [Bethdaiglevp@comcast.net](mailto:Bethdaiglevp@comcast.net)*

## Shawn Hansen's Comedy Corner

## Great Comedy at China Blossom

Coming to Boston for the first time, Chinese food connoisseurs might think of China Town for the best food. If one wants to break out of that Boston atmosphere though, going to China Blossom in North Andover is a real treat.

David Yee of the China Blossom said he has been working at the restaurant for a good majority of his life.

“I don’t want to say this is my second home, because I spend more time here than I do at home, to be honest.”

With the holidays coming, Christmas, and New Years in particular, Yee said a truck load of family comes into help out with the busiest time of the year.

Giving back to the community, the China Blossom supports non-profit organizations, especially those who support North Andover schools.

On Oct. 13, there was a fundraiser held with the idea of an anniversary party to raise money for United Way.

“From that event we raised \$10,000. We were happy about that, of course we wish that more people could have come, but it was on a Wednesday night, it was well attended, we had a lot of community leaders, business leaders, and our customers here that evening,” said Yee.

Weekend nights at the China Blossom around 9:30, Comedian Johnny Joyce has different comics come into perform for a live audience.

“We love Johnny Joyce,” said Yee. “He can be a little mean to us at times, but it’s all in great fun, and we love it.

We are a Chinese restaurant, we are the but of a number of jokes, but that’s what comedy is about. It’s about making fun of the facts of life.”

Yee said that one should go out to a show on the weekend because it is affordable, and is nine out of ten times better then seeing a movie at the theater.

“Joey Voices is going to be here Sunday, Nov. 07, and Sunday, Dec. 05,” said Yee. “Joey Voices is like a comedian, and a singing impressionist. He sells out at every show when he comes here, and we have him maybe seven times a year.”

On the night Voices comes out to perform at the ‘Blossom, come out to get a package seeing his act on stage while having a nice dinner.

Serenading the female audience with a variety of songs, Voices will sing Frank Sinatra, Cher, and more.

Aside Voices, Steve Bjork, and Steve Sweeney will be at the ‘Blossom this fall. “We’re a Chinese restaurant here,” said Yee, explaining they get some different opinions sometimes because they’re immigrants. “Little do people know that my father served in the U.S. Army for a couple of years, and he was honorably discharged, and only after that did he come back to the Merrimack Valley, and start the China Blossom”

For more information about China Blossom Comedy, go to <http://www.chinablossomcomedy.net/shows.asp>

## Valley Patriot MOVIE REVIEW

## Paranormal Activity 2

Ben Flagg

VALLEY PATRIOT MOVIE REVIEWER

Hello everyone and happy late Halloween! Because Halloween just passed, I felt it necessary to do a scary movie this month, so I saw one of the most anticipated horror movies of the year: Paranormal Activity 2. And oh boy did I choose a good one. This is one of the most effective, scary, and accessible horror movies of the year.

As we all know, the first Paranormal Activity was either pants wittingly scary to you or I-want-my-money-back stupid. The latter group usually enjoys movies like The Grudge, My Bloody Valentine, Friday the 13th, and other similarly gung ho horror movies. The people are so used to things jumping out at them and gore and other non-subtle forms of scary that they just can’t be scared by slamming doors or footsteps. The former group of people enjoys films like The Blair Witch Project, the foreign movie REC, and the Shining. These people have the ability to really be scared by anything and to suspend their disbelief enough to enjoy movies like Paranormal Activity.

This sequel is still certainly subtle like the first, but it found a much more “happy medium” style than, say, the Blair Witch Project. What I mean by this is that it’s very subtle at some points, but it builds up until things are jumping out at you and generally making a mess of your sleeping schedule. And I’ll be honest, I didn’t really care for the first one, it was a little

too subtle for my tastes. I guess what I’m trying to say is that even if you didn’t really like the first one, try seeing this one, because it hit a sweet spot with how much it shows.

The story is barely a story it’s just a wire frame setup to throw scares into. The family being tormented is a family of four; a mom, dad, teenage daughter, and newborn son. But surprisingly, the best actor in this movie is the family dog, Abby. I’m not even joking this is probably the best dog actor I’ve ever seen. They actually trained him to react to things that aren’t there. Besides the main family, the couple from the first movie returns, so it turns out that this is actually \*gasp\* A PREQUEL!!!! On the same note, if you haven’t seen the first movie, you won’t fully appreciate the ending of this, because the two play off each other.

In short, if you think the movie looks good, you’ll probably like this. If you liked the first one, you’ll LOVE this one. If you hate subtle horror, then you still might like this (depending on how much you truly hate this type of movie.) But all in all, this is an excellent movie, and a perfect one to go see to celebrate Halloween.



*Ben Flagg is a freshman at Methuen High School. He participates in the JROTC and Drill Team. He also enjoys playing the bass guitar in his spare time.*

## Shawn Hansen's Comedy Corner

## Prince Pizzeria turns 50

The night it happened my brother could say his birthday was in four months. It’s great and all, but what does that matter? I’ll explain. It matters because the word birthday was mentioned, and that was going to intertwine into a fancy transition telling the public readers of The Valley Patriot that Prince Pizzeria at 517 Broadway in Saugus turned 50 years old. Giggles is 22 years old for all that is giggling at this article already.

Before a sensational night of comedy began, the co-owner of the half-dollar year old pizza joint in Saugus reflected a bit about the history of the restaurant so the historians out there could indulge themselves in a good conversation... If that makes any sense? Heck, what do I know? I’m only a Comics Journalist, and a host of a television show at Burlington Cable Access Television called Shawn Hansen’s Comedy Corner... which quite ironically has the same name as this column.

Owner of Prince Pizzeria Steve Castraberti said, “What it means to me is I’ve been here my entire life with different parts of my family. I think it’s a landmark to make it 50 years, so many restaurants don’t make it to 50, so we’re proud to make it to that plateau of 50 years.” Turning 50 on June 01, 2011, Prince Pizzeria is going to have a celebration that is going to last about six months. “We’re going to run specials, probably give a trip, or two away, and we’ll continue to emphasis giving back to the community,” said Castraberti. “This is what we’re all about.”

Raising money over the next half year, Prince’ is going to be donating sizable checks to Lynn and Saugus schools.

Hosting the show, Comedian Graig Murphy made sure everyone was safe driving on Route 1, the safest round in the country.

Speaking of being laid off this summer, going to the registering for unemployment, Murphy said, “Three times she asked me, why come you got fired? By the third time I go, why come I’m unemployed, and you have a job.”

Introducing himself from Revere, Artie Januario was talking about Revere Beach being the third best in the country. Laughing with the crowd, Januario said they lost a point because there might have been syringes in the sand.

He said growing up, his mother would say to go into the salt water to have it cure everything. Transitioning into the holidays a bit, Tony V told the crowd how he bought his 87-year old father a cell phone.

“His life wasn’t complicated enough,” said V. “Did you ever hand an old guy a cell phone?” At this time V said that his father looked at it like he had an accident in his hand.

Walking on stage after V was Kenny Rogerson as he said, “Hi, how are you? Good. You know what? I’m going to use the entire stage this evening. I’m going to ramble all over this. Over in Saugus, there’s a lunch table missing somewhere.”

When Lenny Clarke took the mic,

**PRINCE, page 42**



# OLIVER NORTH: From page 1

— renowned for boisterously celebrating the Nov. 10, 1775, founding of the Marine Corps — were devastated. For a decade, Marine “Birthday Balls” were staid, quiet affairs that ended early in the evening with minimal consumption of adult beverages.

Then, in 1978, thanks to the ministrations of President Gerald Ford, Congress restored observance of Veterans Day to its original date, Nov. 11. Since then, Marines have toasted their historic anniversary assured of a federal holiday the next morning. And this year, our commander in chief will “celebrate” both the Marine Corps’ birthday and Veterans Day while he’s making history on the most expensive overseas trip ever taken by an American head of state. The rest of us will be urged to mark the holiday by purchasing a car or a mattress to help our sputtering economy.

There’s little doubt that Americans understand the economic mess we’re in. We can see the foreclosure signs and the empty storefronts, and most of us know someone who has lost a job. These are tough times — and it was reflected in this week’s midterm elections. Public opinion surveys show that more than 61 percent of our fellow citizens believe the country has been heading in the wrong direction. Overwhelmingly, we cast votes to elect legislators, mayors, county supervisors and governors who represent traditional American values, who will stop the rampant expansion of government spending, intrusion and taxation in our lives and who offer hope for a better future.

Unlike the 2006 midterm elections — when “the war” was the major issue and Republicans lost 36 seats and majority control in Congress — this time combat in southwest Asia was hardly mentioned by the victors or the losers.

On the morning after his party and his policies were repudiated by the electorate, President Obama devoted a single sentence of his news conference to the war. That means political pundits and campaign consultants don’t think winning or losing in Afghanistan and Iraq matters. They are wrong.

Six of the new Republican members of Congress — nearly 10 percent of those making up the new majority in the House of Representatives — are veterans of the war we have been fighting since 9/11. They have been part of the brightest, best-educated and best-trained military force the world has ever known. Their constituents expect them to cut federal spending, help make private-sector job creation easier and get government off our backs — but they don’t want them to gut America’s defenses to get it done.

That’s what I’m hearing and seeing as I crisscross America signing my new book, “American Heroes in Special Operations.” As we approach Veterans Day, that’s a message Obama needs to hear, no matter how far from home he wanders.

Those buying this book are overwhelmingly veterans or their family members. Undoubtedly, they are not all Republicans, and neither are the soldiers,



Hero Veteran Lt. Colonel Oliver North with Hero Veteran Francisco Urena of Lawrence in Iraq.

sailors, airmen, guardsmen and Marines I cover for Fox News. Despite the many months I have spent in the field with them, we rarely have talked politics. What we do talk about — on-air and off — is winning the war. They mean to do so. They are overwhelmingly committed to it. They volunteered to serve — as Gen. David Petraeus put it a few weeks ago when we were together in Afghanistan — “knowing they were going to war.”

The bright, brave, incredibly fit and talented young Americans documented in this book — and their families here at home — are making extraordinary sacrifices for this country. They fit the classical definition of heroes: those who put themselves at risk for the benefit of others. They deserve better than to have their commitment squandered by Washington’s power brokers — regardless of party affiliation.

Here in the capital of South Dakota, there is a statue of my departed friend Joe Foss. He was a U.S. Marine aviator and a World War II Medal of Honor recipient, and he served here as a legislator and a governor. He’s revered for his service to the people of his state and our country. He never felt it necessary to apologize to any foreign potentate for being an American. With our nation at war, that’s something else our president ought to keep in mind as he meets with all those other leaders this Veterans Day.

Oliver North is the host of “War Stories” on Fox News Channel, the founder and honorary chairman of Freedom Alliance, and the author of “American Heroes.” To find out more about Oliver North and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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# TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK: FROM 19

meeting of the Lawrence Chess Club for November 2010. It is always FREE. ALL ages & abilities are welcome. English is not required. Please bring a friend and a chess set, if possible. Remember, you do not really know how to play chess until you have lost 500 games.

**YOUTH COACHING WORKSHOP** - Due to the success and feedback of the workshop we did back last spring, we are coming back to present our Level 1 Successful Youth Coaching Workshop on Saturday, 13th November at 9:30am at the Lawrence Boathouse on Eaton Street. This workshop is for any type of sport and is free to all coaches and those interested in coaching. Older teenagers are welcome too.

Appreciate you passing this to any coaches or sport organizations that may be interested. Contact Christopher Hickey, Executive Director, Metro Boston Coaches Academy (978) 201-1024

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

**HOME BUYER TRAINING SEMINAR** - Learn about the home buying process. Each series consists of four sessions. Topics include an overview of the home buying process, the mortgage application process, legal aspects, home inspections, household budgeting and down payment assistance programs. The next series will be held on November 9, 10, 16 and 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 9PM Another series will begin on November 30th. The fee is \$60 per household which includes all materials and follow up support once the course is completed. To register, visit our website [www.mvhp.org](http://www.mvhp.org) or call our office at 978-459-8490.

**METHUEN VILLAGE AT RIVERWALK PARK**

Piano Player at Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer's care, invites the public to a performance by pianist John D'Ambrosio on Wednesday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. John will play a variety of standards from the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's! Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit [www.MethuenVillage.com](http://www.MethuenVillage.com).

Accordion Music at Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer's care, invites the public to an accordion performance by Sebastian "Busty" Faro on Sunday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m. Busty is the favorite accordionist of Mary Ann Esposito of PBS. He will stroll throughout the audience as he plays many old standards. Watch for his famous tam! Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit [www.MethuenVillage.com](http://www.MethuenVillage.com).

Storyteller and Guitarist Performs at

Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer's care, invites the public to a performance of Doug Rickard on Wednesday, November 17 at 2:00 p.m. Doug will take you on a musical journey across the USA with his story telling and guitar playing! Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit [www.MethuenVillage.com](http://www.MethuenVillage.com).

**Banjo Players at Methuen Village:** Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer's care, presents entertainment by dueling banjo players Bill Birtles and Roland Parquette on Thursday, November 18 at 2:00 p.m. Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit [www.MethuenVillage.com](http://www.MethuenVillage.com).

**LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY ONLINE JOB SEARCH TOOL PROVIDING STEP-BY-STEP ASSISTANCE IN FINDING JOBS** - For job seekers in Lawrence help has arrived! Job & Career Accelerator, a comprehensive online job search system, is now available to help overwhelmed job seekers find employment. This innovative online resource provides job seekers everything you need to find your next job, all in one easy-to-use application. The online program is available to patrons of the Lawrence Public Library at no charge with your library card and can be accessed at the Lawrence Public Library or from any internet-enabled computer by going to ([www.lawrencefreelibrary.org](http://www.lawrencefreelibrary.org)). Learning Express Job & Career Accelerator™ provides personalized, step-by-step assistance for job seekers at all experience and education levels - from exploring and matching suitable occupations from over 1,000 detailed occupation profiles to finding available jobs in their area from a database of over 5 million up-to-date job postings. With Job & Career Accelerator, users can easily create professional resumes and cover letters, master interviewing and networking techniques, improve work related skills, and prepare for occupation related exams. In addition, it helps job seekers plan, tailor, and track multiple job searches at the same time while providing expert advice and tips every step. The end result is the most efficient and effective job search possible. To find out more about how you can access Job & Career Accelerator, call the Reference Department at the Lawrence Public Library (978) 620-3600 or (978) 620-3619 or stop by and ask any of the reference staff for more information.

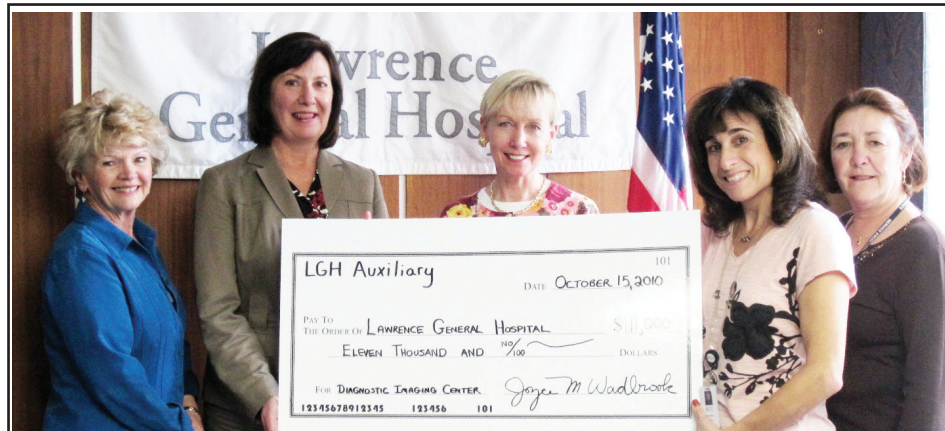
**NORTH ANDOVER GALA OF TREES** - The Friends of the North Andover Senior Center are sponsoring their annual fundraiser, the 2010 Gala of Trees at the North Andover Senior Center. The trees will be showcased starting on

7:30 on Fox. I am the host. The big break for me is called, "Catch an illegal alien," explaining that they're shooting it at the Home Depot on Route 1.

For more information about Prince Pizzeria, go to <http://www.princerestaurant.com/>. For Giggles, go to <http://www.princerestaurant.com/Comedy-Shows.cfm>.



Shawn Hansen is a graduate of UMass Lowell. He wrote for "The Campus Report," and was sports editor. Hansen now writes for "The UMass Lowell Connector," and the "Billerica Minute-man." To get in touch with sports journalist Shawn Hansen of The Valley Patriot, email him at [smharticle@gmail.com](mailto:smharticle@gmail.com)



The Lawrence General Hospital Auxiliary Board was pleased to present a check for \$11,000 to President Dianne Anderson, to fulfill their pledge for Breast Care Services. Pictured are Left to right: Nora Massiello, Hospital President Dianne Anderson, Jan Wuehrmann, Joyce Wadbrook, and Tonna Vaccaro. This check was presented during the Auxiliary's Fall Thrift Shop Lobby Sale. This successful event raised over \$2,000. The next Lobby Sale will be held on Friday, December 3rd from 10 am – 2 pm. We continue to welcome donations at the shop, and encourage you to shop for great bargains. The Thrift Shop hours are Tuesday – Friday 10 am – 2 pm. We are located across the street from the hospital in Lot 2. Look for the OPEN flag.

November 18 and raffle tickets can be purchased Mon – Fri 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Tickets will also be sold at the Holiday Fair on Saturday, November 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This month long event is made possible by the generosity of local merchants who have provided us with Decorated Trees, Wreaths, Gift Baskets, and Gift Certificates. All members of the community are invited to come and share the spirit of the season with us.

**BALLROOM DANCING CLASSES** Sunday nights 5 -6:30 pm starting November 14 – December 19, \$75. Per person or \$150. Per couple. Learn the Fox Trot and the Rumba. All ages are welcome and this class is open to the public. Payment due by November 5, call Barbara at 978-688-9560.

**FLU CLINIC** - Mayor William Manzi III and Mayor William Lantigua in conjunction with the Methuen and Lawrence

Health Departments, are pleased to announce the 2010 Seasonal Flu Clinic Schedule for The City of Methuen and the City of Lawrence residents - Wednesday November 10th at the Knights' of Columbus, from 9:00am-11:00am at 1 Market St., in Lawrence. Monday November 15th at Sanborn Hall in the Quinn Building, from 5:00pm-7:00pm

90 Hampshire St., Methuen. These clinics are open to residents age 18 or over. For more information please call the Methuen Health Department at 978-983-8655 or the Lawrence Health Department at 978-620-3260.

**M/A-COM FEDERAL CREDIT UNION** - International Credit Union Day.

On Oct. 21, credit union members around the world celebrated International Credit Union Day, an event to commemorate the credit union movement's history and achievements. In honor of this special day, M/A-COM FEDERAL CREDIT

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Lawrence's own  
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new dance single  
"IT'S OKAY BOY"

UNION helped those who live and work in the Lowell Community refinance their existing auto loans, reducing their rate by as much as two percent! Additionally, members of M/A-COM FCU won several prizes: Lajaris Griner of Lowell, MA won an IPOD Nano, while Kevin Merritt of Nashua, NH won a \$25 AMEX Gift Card. Michelle Moran, Branch Manager and Loan Officer, was thrilled to help local residents save money. "During these challenging economic times, it is gratifying to help members shave as much as \$75.00 a month of their auto loan payment." During the one day refinance special MFCU refinanced over \$200,000 in auto loans. Credit unions are not-for-profit financial

cooperatives that provide an effective and viable alternative to for-profit financial institutions for more than 186 million members in 97 countries worldwide. They exist to serve their members, providing a safe place to save money and access affordable loans. Since 1948, International Credit Union Day has been celebrated annually on the third Thursday of October. Each year, the international event affords the opportunity to remember credit unions' proud history and promote awareness of and support for the credit union difference. This year's theme – Local. Trusted. Serving you.™ – underlines the commitment to their communities and trustworthy member service

that credit unions today embody. Credit unions are recognized as a force for positive economic and social change and have provided significant social and economic value in both developed and emerging nations. International Credit Union Day is sponsored by World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU), the international trade association and development agency for credit unions worldwide, and Credit Union National Association (CUNA), the premier trade association for credit unions in the United States. For more information about becoming a member of M/A-COM Federal Credit Union, visit [macomfcu.org](http://macomfcu.org). LAWRENCE NATIVE RECORDS WITH MORE CELEBRITIES - Local Lawrence dance music recording artist BYLLI CRAYONE (Pronounced: Billy Kray-OH-nay) has been quite busy lately. Over the past year he has been working non-stop on an album that is already said to be one of the anticipated releases for 2011. Last May the album "PRESTO" was released in Japan and featured collaborations with such artists of the 80s as NU SHOOZ ("I Can't Wait") and U.T.F.O. ("Roxanne, Roxanne"). The 15 track album is available to purchase in the US as an import online at such outlets as Amazon and iTunes. This Japanese release was the launch pad to what is coming very soon. A complete dance album with a lot of 80s influence. "PRESTO" the US release is due out the first quarter of 2011. The album will feature collaborations with many artists of the 80s from Spinderella of SALT N PEPA to SAMANTHA FOX, BOY GEORGE and LISA LISA. This past week, Bylli Crayone teamed up with one of the original pop princesses of the 1980s - TIFFANY. Tiffany who is best known for her 80s classics "I Think We're Alone Now" and "Could've Been" is no stranger to dance music. Through out the 90s and

00's Tiffany has recorded quite a few albums along with many hit dance singles. Most recently "Dust Off and Dance" which is a complete dance album. Bylli Crayone and Tiffany just finished recording a song called "IT'S OKAY BOY". The song was written by Bylli Crayone and produced by Keith Kemper of New York City and will be featured on the upcoming full length album "PRESTO". The song itself is also said to be released as a maxi-single featuring various dance remixes in the near future. Recently, Crayone did an online radio interview with Joey Altura of Editz Planet. The interview was to discuss "The making of Presto". Discussing how the project came about and how the artists got involved. The station's website received its highest hit count ever due to this interview. Joey Altura states that Bylli Crayone is well on his way to become one of the biggest names in the industry as he has touched on something that no one else has done. Bringing in the 80s back in his own way and introducing the artists to a new generation of fans along with those who forgot about them. The album is a work in progress and is just about done. Only 3 more songs to do and it will be complete, says Crayone. Millions of fans online are excited about the release and look forward to its big day. As of right now selected songs from the upcoming album are being showcased on YouTube, iLike.com, MySpace.com and SoundClick.com. For more on Bylli Crayone, visit [www.BylliCrayone.com](http://www.BylliCrayone.com)

## N. ANDOVER: FROM 5

and assistance. THE FIX – IT SHOP: (New Hours) The first and third Monday of the month from 12-3:00. We repair almost as good as new. Lamps, with cords and sockets, replace watch batteries, small tables and chairs. Anything not listed; we will give it a shot! Your cost is \$2. -\$4 depending on work needed, plus parts. Proceeds benefit the Senior Center We are looking for people who would like to take YOGA 101 - Saturday mornings at 9:00. This class is for the person who has never taken a Yoga Class before and would like to learn the foundation for movement or for the student of Yoga who would like to refine their foundation. Experience brought to this class is 40 years of teaching YOGA. Registration in advance, \$32., class is limited in size. Single class is \$10. Runners, bikers, skaters, tennis players, bowlers, walkers, riders, or sitters, this class is for you. This class will run on a 4-week schedule. Please call the North Andover Senior Center and sign our interest sheet. Anyone Interested? Lite Cardio/Strength Class w/ Patty Ferullo, we need 8 seniors to run this class. Call Barbara at 978-688-9560 if interested. It will run once a week for 6 weeks, \$24 or \$6 a class. Ballroom Dance Class: Sunday nights 5 -6:30 pm starting November 14 – December 19, \$75. Per person or \$150. Per couple. Learn the Fox Trot and the Rumba. All ages are welcome and this class is open to the public. Payment due

by November 5, call Barbara at 978-688-9560. ZUMBA, ZUMBA , ZUMBA with Talie: Monday and Wednesdays 3:30 – 4:30 and Thursdays, 4:30 – 5:30. Punch cards are \$40 for 10 classes. ZUMBA Basic with Janet: Classes can be scheduled on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 if 8 people register in advance. Call the Center at 978-688-9560. YOGA: Yoga Class Monday mornings at 9:00 with Cheryl Cronin. Please call to register. WALKING GROUP: Wednesday mornings at 9. Meet at the Old Center Common and walk for an hour at your own pace. If we have inclement weather we walk at the Youth Center. BASIC COMPUTER CLASSES: Thursday mornings, 45 minute appointments for \$4. Learn to set up e-mail, search the internet and use Microsoft Word. Call 978-688-9560 for an appointment. Basic Computer Course: Starting Thursday, November 4, 18 and December 2 & 9, 1 – 2:30 pm, \$25. per person, limited class size, must register in advance. ADVANCED INTERNET: Wednesdays for 3 weeks, November 10, & 17th, 9 -10:30 am. \$20. per person and sign up is required. Class is limited to 4 people. Wii Sport Bowling: Stop by the Senior Center on any Thursday morning between 9 and 10 am and try your luck at Bowling with the Wii System. It's fun, good exercise and easier than you think. A volunteer will be on hand to show you the basics.

## TEA PARTY: FROM 13

I spent Election Day as a poll observer in the city of Lawrence, where we expected all kinds of nonsense. But, I must say, I saw nothing of the kind at my location. Louie, the A-4 poll warden, and his amazing staff ran a very tight ship and I witnessed their integrity firsthand. The morally challenged, Mayor Willy Lantigua was rumored to be altruistically chauffeuring people to various polling locations. He brought a woman to our location despite her not being registered in that precinct. When the warden offered to call City Hall, Lantigua held up his hand in protest. The mayor then made a series of phone calls, but to no avail. His female companion was ultimately denied from casting a ballot—at that location, at least. Despite significant losses in the Bay State we managed to repeal the sales tax on alcohol, which we may all soon be partaking more of. Meanwhile, California rejected the bid to legalize marijuana, which I'm quite sure they were smoking when they reelected Barbara (call me senator) Boxer and chose the socially inept Jerry Brown as their next Governor. Although you might never know it from looking at Massachusetts, conservatives won big across the nation. Perhaps our sweetest victory is that Nancy Pelosi will have to give up her gavel of destruction, as she will no longer be

the House Speaker. When the dust settles, Republicans will occupy an historic 63-67 House seats. Our Republican neighbors in New Hampshire took both the House and Senate. Florida turned a deep red. Incumbents Blanche Lincoln, Russ Feingold, Joe Sestak and Alan (die quickly) Grayson will be updating their resumes. And Obama's former Senate seat went to Republican Mark Kirk. See, even God has a sense of humor! So, before you call up that real estate agent in New Hampshire, take a little hiatus. Sleep in, disengage and lick your wounds. You might want to lock up the medications and hide the sharp objects for a while. Lie around in your pajamas and binge on Ben & Jerry's. Eat yourself into a diabetic coma if that helps. Then get yourself back out there-- we need you! Join our Tea Party meeting on 11/10 at 7 p.m. at the North Andover VFW at 32 Park Street to see what's next. Our featured guest will be the insightful and hilarious Rush Radio talk show host, Jeff Katz.



Christine Morabito is a resident of Haverhill and a member of the Merrimack Valley Tea Party. You can email her at [christine.morabito@hotmail.com](mailto:christine.morabito@hotmail.com)



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## What is Veterans Day?

John Lenotte

VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

Many get this holiday confused with Memorial Day. Memorial Day is to honor our fallen heroes. Veterans Day is to honor those veterans who are alive. And to clear up another point of confusion, those on active duty are veterans also.

How did this "holiday" get started? Initially, this began as a celebration of Armistice Day. It was November 11, 1918. At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the armistice was signed, ending World War I. This was called the Great War, the war to end all wars. Unfortunately, as history was to show, there would be other wars in the 20th Century. In 1954, then President Eisenhower signed legislation to change the name to Veterans Day.

This is a time to honor all the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces. Not all veterans have seen war but there is a common bond of wearing the uniform of our country. I will quote one definition of a veteran: A Veteran - whether active duty, retired, national guard or reserve - is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a check made payable to "The United States of America", for an amount of "up to and including my life." That is Honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it. - Author Unknown.

In 1789 George Washington said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country." We have the best Armed Forces in the world. They need our support while they are in harms way. And they need our support when they return. Let us remember that all gave some but some

gave all.

We must go beyond just expressing our words of appreciation for our veterans we need to express our appreciation through deeds. We must be there to support not only the families of the fallen but also those who return changed by the wounds of war. And we must not forget the families of those who are still serving.

Government statistics show that there are about 23 million living veterans today. In the Army alone, more than 665 thousand soldiers have been deployed for a year of combat and approximately 300 thousand have been deployed 2 or more times. Nearly 40 thousand military personnel have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. A tragedy is that 23 percent of the homeless population are veterans. While unemployment is high, it is about 20 percent for veterans.

Our thanks to veterans need to be shown directly and indirectly. It is easy enough to say "thank you for your service". But we need to let our elected officials at all levels know that the government needs to continue to provide adequate equipment and the best health care possible. And this care should not stop when they take off their uniform. In recent years, Congress has been supportive, but can and should do more. They will only do so when they hear the voices of you, the voting public.

I hope you will join me in letting our elected officials know that their end of the bargain needs to be fulfilled.

God Bless America and those who protect our way of life. Thank you all.



John Lenotte is the American Legion, Commander, Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4 Haverhill and Vice Commander, Dept. of Massachusetts. You can Email him at JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net

## Home Health VNA rated in the top 25% of home health agencies nationally

LAWRENCE – Home Health VNA, widely recognized as a leader in home health care in this region, announced today that the agency has been named among the top 25% of the "Home Care Elite", a listing of the top tier of home health care agencies in the United States.

Outcome Concept Systems (OCS) launched a compilation of the most successful home care agencies nationwide and Home Health VNA made their listing. As part of this prestigious group, Home Health VNA ranks in the top 25% of home health agencies throughout the United States.

John G. Albert, President and CEO credits Home Health VNA's highly skilled professionals and their dedication to the high standards of quality care with the company's ability to rank as one of the HomeCare Elite., "I'm fortunate to have a team of professionals that are not only experts in their field, but also have the same devotion to excellence in the care of our clients" said Albert. "Our staff is committed to providing the highest quality of care to our patients every day. Being named among the best agencies in the country recognizes that commitment."

To score home healthcare agencies, the OSC used publicly available data from the last half of 2009 and the first half of 2010. All agencies were rated on quality of care measurements in the Home Health Com-

pare report, and quality improvement and financial performance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Cost Reports. Each agency's performance in these three areas was compared against the performance of other organizations in their state and in the country. The three areas were combined into one overall score, using a methodology that gives the greatest importance to quality of care. Home Health VNA had high scores across all three areas. Those representing the top 25%, were identified and recognized for their accomplishment, including Home Health VNA.

"Home Health VNA is honored to be recognized for our patient care achievements. We are unwavering in our commitment to provide superior home health care and to assure our patients and families have the best possible outcomes; our employees demonstrate skillful care and compassion every day and it is very rewarding to have their efforts recognized", stated Gail DeLaney-Woolford, Vice President of Clinical Services.

Home Health VNA is a not-for-profit agency affiliated with HomeCare, Inc. and Merrimack Valley Hospice. Together, the three agencies serve more than 90 communities throughout Northeastern Massachusetts, the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire. For more information, visit their website [www.homehealthvna.org](http://www.homehealthvna.org)

## PUPPYGIRL: FROM PAGE 36

I'm sure by now all my readers know how important it is to adopt a pet, rather than buying from a breeder or pet store (puppy mill). So search Petfinder.com and go to local shelters and rescues. Don't be in a rush. Take your time and when the right animal comes along, you will know it.

Again, I'm sorry to have written about such a sad topic, but unfortunately, this topic is a reality when you are a pet owner. The most important thing is to remember what a great life you gave your dog or cat. However many years

they were with you, they were your best friends and cherished every moment with you. Remembering your pet might always be painful, but try to recognize the special memories your pet brought into your life. Your pet is now free from any pain and discomfort they may have been feeling. Most of all, realize that it is ok to be sad and to grieve. You are not alone with these feelings, most of us have been there before, so don't be afraid to reach out. Time will heal and once again you will be able to smile when you think of your old friend.

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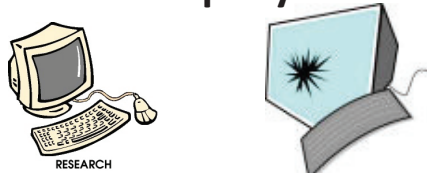
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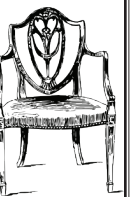
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