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OCTOBER, 2010  
VOLUME 7, ISSUE 10

# THE VALLEY PATRIOT

"Congress shall make no law..."

2004

A New England Press Association Award Winning Newspaper

2010

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

## Baker Vows Receivership

**Baker: Lantigua Incapable of Fixing Lawrence's Financial Mess**

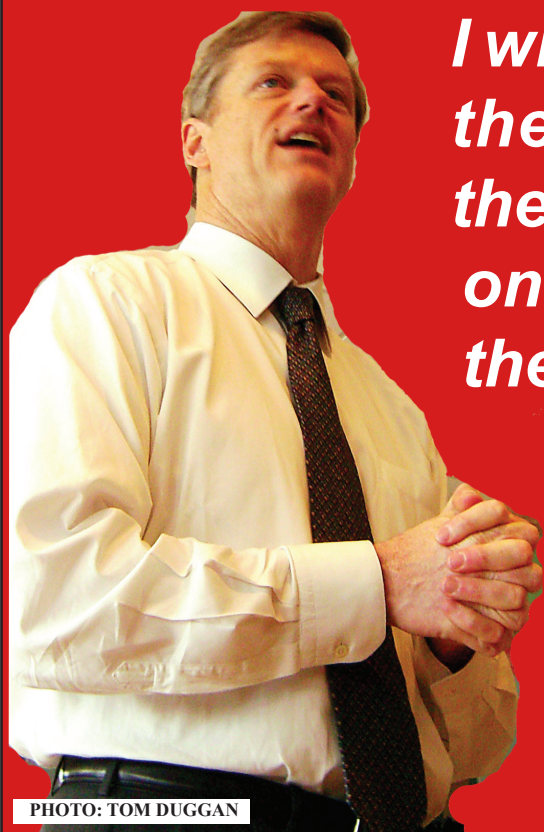


PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

*I will tell you something,  
the governor sold out  
the people of Lawrence  
on this one, he sold out  
the business people of  
Lawrence...*

*...and he sold out the  
kids of Lawrence!*

**- Charlie Baker,  
Candidate for Governor**

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Bruce Arnold Inducted  
Into The Hall of Fame**

By David Morrison

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### VALLEY PATRIOTS OF THE MONTH

## Gold Star Mothers

Paula Porten

VALLEY PATRIOT HERO COLUMNIST

Our Valley Patriot of the Month is usually dedicated to a man or woman who fought in war to defend the United States. This column usually names a brave soldier and provides his or her story of his experience in the military and their community service once they return.

This month's column, however, is dedicated to the Gold Star Mothers as our Heroes in Our Midst. On the last day of September, Gold Star Mother's Day is observed in the United States. In North Andover, we observed Gold Star

Mother's Day at the Lawrence Airport in North Andover.

Gold Star Mothers are the those whose sons and daughters served and died in battle for this country. The Gold Star Mothers was founded by Grace Darling Seibold of Washington D.C., who's son First Lieutenant George Vaughn Seibold was killed in aerial combat over France in 1918. Mother's today, like Lawrence resident Sanita Raymond, who's son Army Sergeant Pierre A. Raymond fought and died on September 20, 2005 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom are special to all of us and we wish to

**GOLD STAR, page 50**

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# EDITORIAL

## Welcome Back Chief Solomon

Love him or hate him, Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon may not be a saint, but he is certainly not the demon he was made out to be by The Eagle~Tribune and others when he was fired in 2008.

Solomon has been painted as a thief, a corrupt police chief and a danger to the people of Methuen.

In fact, the daily paper published a spate of stories, questioning every expense Solomon oversaw as police chief, even spinning for their own purposes, his purchase of a pretzel while on a conference for the Weed and Seed program. Even a Methuen councilor jumped on the bandwagon, making accusations of corruption against the chief that he later admitted under oath was unfounded.

After more than two years of having his reputation destroyed and his credibility called into question, losing his badge, gun and paycheck, and being the subject of a smear campaign by the Eagle~Tribune, nearly everything that was alleged against Chief Solomon turned out to be nothing more than a political hit.

Joe Solomon and the Methuen Police Department deserved better. The people of Methuen also deserved better.

Solomon has certainly made mistakes as chief and obviously, his political involvement contributed greatly to his own missteps and his eventual termination by Mayor Manzi.

But, Civil Service saw through the smears, rumors, speculation and political attacks that had very little to do with what the facts showed at the end of the day.

Now, Civil Service has returned Joe Solomon to duty as Methuen's head Law Enforcement Officer saying that, yes, Solomon deserved a reprimand and a suspension for his actions but that they did not rise to the level of being fired under the law.

Mayor Manzi has an exceptional point on this. He says it's wrong for judges in Boston to micromanage the hiring and firing decisions of a duly elected mayor. And on moral grounds he is correct. Mayors in every community *ought* to be able to hire and fire their own department heads without interference by outsiders.

However, that's not the system in place for dealing with civil service employees. Arguing how the system *should* work and how unfair the process is, however, does not absolve the city from following that process and adhering to the Civil Service laws currently in place.

We welcome back Joe Solomon as police chief in Methuen. We hope that with his return, the animosity by fellow officers, city councilors and members of the public can be left in the past as he now must administer the Methuen Police Department.

And we hope that both Solomon, his supporters and his detractors will cease all hostilities from here on in, move the city forward and tackle the crime problems in Methuen, especially the Arlington Neighborhood.

The taxpayers deserve nothing less.

### News tips

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

### Letters to the editor, columns and op/eds

can be submitted to [valleypatriot@aol.com](mailto:valleypatriot@aol.com). The Valley Patriot is not responsible for the opinions expressed in submitted letters or columns. It is the policy of The Valley Patriot not to edit or exclude submitted material based on content.

**Corrections;** Please contact the editors at [valleypatriot@aol.com](mailto:valleypatriot@aol.com)

The Valley Patriot is not responsible for, nor do we necessarily share the opinions of columnists and contributors that are published in the paper. Columns, by definition are opinion pieces.

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SURVEY: AMERICANS LACK KNOWLEDGE OF RELIGION -- EVEN THEIR OWN.



## LETTERS

An Open Letter to Lawrence City Council President Frank Moran

Mr. Moran, please help me and perhaps others to understand what the actual rules are for the public and councilors during council meetings. I have read and reviewed many other city council rules of participation for the public and fellow councilors. All these cities do not allow the "pep-rally" type atmosphere that we see here in the Great City of Lawrence. It's embarrassing to me as a citizen of Lawrence that there is such a lack of control and enforcement of the rules as they apply to the members of the public. Any person who decides to view a council meeting should not be allowed to bring in and display signs, banners, placards etc. Nor should they be allowed to demonstrate approval or disapproval with clapping, booing and cheering etc. The decorum of these meetings is unprofessional at best. I don't recall these types of actions being allowed with the past council, please explain what has changed.

Another observation I have is before the public participation begins, you state very clearly that the audience, when at the podium shall address the council as a whole. Do not single any one councilor out during your time at the podium. However when Mr. Lantigua is speaking, it appears these rules do not apply. You tend to just sit and grin while this is happening

in front of you. It's unfortunate that when folks are at a loss of intelligent verbal expression, that they have to resort to verbal abuse of one another. I've seen this happening from the podium and within the council members on more than a few occasions.

George Herman, Property owner/tax payer

To the Editor,

As a freshman in High School I joined with concerned citizens and organizations across Massachusetts to file legislation in 2009 that would outlaw devocalization—the cruel practice of cutting a dog or cat's vocal cords just to stifle their voices.

Devocalization is a risky and unethical procedure, but it's more common than you would think. I came across a devocalized dog for the first time in a Boston animal shelter while looking for a dog. There was a lot of opposition to this bill by special interests that profit from devocalization, but we overcame it. A few times a week I would travel to the State House after school, alone or with other advocates, and talk to legislators about the importance of passing this bill.

One legislator who stood out as an ally is State Representative Barbara L'Italien. She was one of the first Representatives to sponsor the bill, and was an avid sup-

LETTERS, page 8



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#### Hear what patients had to say about their treatments with Dr. Sung.

1. Dr. Sung, after all these months, I am still pain free! (It's great!)  
-Huguette G. Nashua, NH
2. I drove 900 miles on a trip, pain free. Imagine sitting for that long with back pain...I don't have that pain anymore-Blair P. Marblehead, MA
3. I have no reservations in recommending this treatment to anyone that is suffering from chronic back pain-Mark S. Winchester, MA
4. You were especially sympathetic to my pain when I first came in  
- Thank you!-Sara B, Winchester MA

A study in the Journal of Pain Management showed that up to 70-86% of those treated for ruptured discs reported significant improvement using this technology. The doctor further state, "I administered thousands of treatments to patients with chronic pain who thought there was no hope, some even had prior surgery."

Treatment for the patient is extremely comfortable and most patients fall asleep during their 45-minute treatment session. In many cases, the pain resolves after the first few minutes of being on the machine. This same technology is now being used to treat disc problems in the neck. The doctor further explains that, "Thanks to this technology, we are able to offer people a lasting solution without any risk of surgery." See if you qualify for this treatment. Until October 15, 2010 you can receive a comprehensive consultation and examination for \$49.

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# For Those About to Vote – We Salute You!

Christine Morabito  
MERRIMACK VALLEY TEA PARTY

I'm absolutely humbled by the Tea Party and what they have been able to accomplish over the past 18 months. Not bad for a haphazard group of disaffected citizens who have been called irrelevant and were never expected to sustain momentum until the November elections. It is my hope that this enthusiasm will convince those folks who have yet to separate their derrières from their couches, that they too can make a difference in American politics—even in Massachusetts.

Although turnout was poor for our interminable Massachusetts primary, we were able to advance some fantastic conservative candidates. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to some great ones too, but we hope they will not be strangers. The primary winners now challenge numerous out of touch politicians, many of whom went out of their way not to identify themselves as "incumbents" on the primary ballot. Being an incumbent these days must make for a bad night's sleep.

The most amazing feat of strength was our ability to execute a successful write-in campaign for James McKenna for Attorney General, who is now challenging the ineffective Martha Coakley. McKenna was required to obtain 10,000 votes, which is difficult enough. Can you believe he got almost 3 times that many?

The Conservative movement has caught fire and it seems there's nothing we can't do. But what I find distasteful is the reaction of some Republicans to the success of Tea Party endorsed candidates. If they thought having an "R" after their

name would give them a free pass, they were sadly mistaken. The Tea Party has made it clear we are not thrilled with some of the Republican candidates they have served up, and we no longer have the stomach for a RINO. For the Republican establishment to act like sore losers and disparage the Tea Party, which itself contains a large number of Republicans, seems unwise. Republicans, we are not your enemy. We are trying to tell you something.

Massachusetts has the rare opportunity on November 2nd to reign in state government by voting Yes on Ballot Question 3, thereby reducing the sales tax from 6.25 percent to 3 percent. For those of us who support the concept of smaller government voting Yes on 3 is a no-brainer. I was shocked to learn that some prominent conservatives are not exactly over the moon about the initiative. This has me puzzled. If we want smaller government we cannot shy away from the first chance we get to enforce it. Does anyone think our legislators will find religion and voluntarily reduce their spending?

Liberal hysteria over Question 3 is predictable. We must not believe the hype about the law "cutting aid to cities and towns." We all know there are a plethora of cuts to be made—starting with rampant waste, fraud and abuse—without devastating local aid. Making this a public safety issue is their predictable response to any proposed cuts. Only 10 percent of total state spending goes to local aid. If they choose to cut large amounts from our cities and towns then shame on them!

We applaud Governor Chris Christie for

**VOTE, page 34**



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

"Never too old, never too sick, never too bad... to start again from scratch" Bikram Choudhury



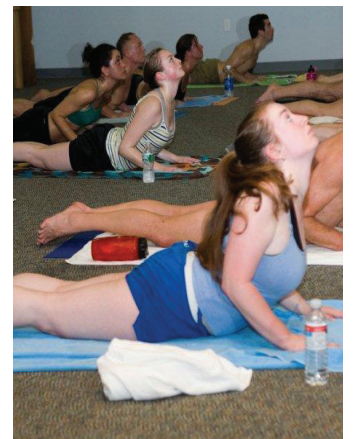
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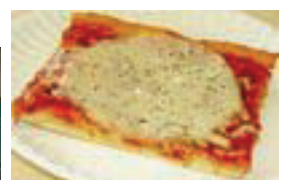
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## THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Vote *YOUR* Values This November

Dr. Charles Ormsby  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Do you believe in personal responsibility, or do you want to be oppressively taxed to permit others to escape the consequences of their irresponsibility?

Do you struggle to balance your family's budget and try to save for the future while you see your taxes going to bail out others who overspend or make foolish financial decisions?

Are you worried that our government's insane spending may destroy your savings and bankrupt your children's future?

Are you sick of the anti-American attitude by the progressive-left that currently rules in Washington and that runs rampant in our government-funded schools?

Make your voice and your values heard on November 2nd!

Two congressional races and two state representative races deserve special attention.

## VOTE FOR BILL HUDAK OVER TIERNEY!



on domestic issues and foreign policy.

If you are enthralled by Nancy Pelosi, ignore this advice. Tierney's voting record in the House of Representatives is NEARLY INDISTINGUISHABLE from Speaker Pelosi's ... both

The Club for Growth tracks the voting record of all congressmen and publishes an annual rating that reflects the extent to which their votes encourage economic growth, prosperity and job creation. This rating is based on 50-75 key votes each year. In 2009, Nancy Pelosi had a dismal score of 7%. John Tierney's rating at 2% was even worse!!

Yes, that is correct. In 2009, John Tierney had one of the most extreme, left-wing, anti-growth voting records in Washington. Over the past five years, Tierney's ranking was less than 7%.

Included in his pathetic record is a vote supporting the Center for Instrumented Critical Infrastructure in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. No congressional member could even confirm the existence of the alleged "Center" ... but Tierney thought it was worthy of your tax dollars anyway. You can see Tierney's other 250 plus pro-pork votes, including the trillions of dollars in wasted stimulus spending and the future-killing socialization of healthcare at [www.ClubForGrowth.org](http://www.ClubForGrowth.org).

Tierney's record on foreign policy is no better. He voted to permit release of Guantanamo prisoners INTO the U.S.! He voted to permit funding for the closure of Guantanamo without any plan for where to send the terrorists! He opposed funding for a defense system against ballistic missile attack on the U.S., while Iran rapidly moves towards just such a capability. He voted against the surge in Iraq, the policy that led to our eventual victory. Instead, he voted for the rapid removal of our forces from Iraq within 180 days, an insane policy that even President Obama

wouldn't implement!

Bill Hudak (see: [www.hudakforcongress.com](http://www.hudakforcongress.com)) will replace Tierney's far-left record with a voice that supports lower taxes, economic growth, job creation and smaller government, not to mention putting a halt to destructive deficit spending.

He will vote to overturn ObamaCare while supporting real healthcare reform that ensures competition to lower costs and letting you select the health insurance coverage you want. He will vote to eliminate the bureaucracy while empowering you to make your own medical decisions with your doctor.

Finally, he will fight for a sensible national security policy that keeps us strong and protects us from foreign threats while upholding American dignity.

## VOTE FOR JON GOLNIK OVER TSONGAS!



If you thought Tierney's economic voting record was horrendous (averaging 7%), consider Tsongas' voting record! Over the last two years, Tsongas' rating averaged 2%! (0%

in 2008 and 4% in 2009!) She makes Nancy Pelosi look like an advocate of free markets!

On her website she touts her support of the recent government takeover of our healthcare system. She does this despite

the increasing healthcare premiums this legislation is already inflicting on her constituents. Not to mention the fact that many private employers are being forced by ObamaCare to cut back the options offered for private insurance. Will Niki Tsongas not be satisfied until all of us are on Medicare and our most talented doctors retire in frustration over government interference?

Jon Golnik has pledged to dedicate himself to the following goals. If these are more in line with your values, vote for Golnik in November (see [www.jongolnik.com](http://www.jongolnik.com)).

\* Encouraging job creation (including tax credits to stimulate small business hiring)

\* Supporting energy independence (reducing punitive regulations and taxes on traditional energy supplies while letting free market forces develop the most cost effective mix of energy sources)

\* Stopping unsustainable government spending which is leading to deficits that will bankrupt future generations

\* Making healthcare affordable by allowing individuals to buy insurance across state lines and allowing individuals to deduct healthcare premiums on their income taxes. He will fight to let you choose the coverage options you need (ending unaffordable state mandates) and to legislate tort reform that will also lower costs.

\* Fighting to protect your Second Amendment rights

\* Work to control immigration by securing our borders and penalizing companies that knowingly hire illegal aliens.

OUTSIDE THE BOX, page 11

## Show your I.D. to vote: protect the process

Ralph Zazula

VALLEY PATRIOT TEA PARTY COLUMNIST

How can "We the People" ensure that the democratic principle of "One Citizen, One Vote" is followed unless we show that we are indeed the registered voter? Our future as a Republic demands no less than a fair and honest voting process. Show ID to Vote seeks to elevate the discussion regarding proper identification and voter fraud.

A bipartisan citizen's initiative called "Show ID to Vote" has been created in Massachusetts to address fraudulent voting across the USA. Through increased awareness it seeks to improve the integrity of the vote in the upcoming elections this November and beyond. By simply suggesting that voters voluntarily Show ID when Voting, they are helping people to better understand the issue of voter fraud. At the same time they are showing how simple it

will be for poll workers everywhere to check voter ID's the way it is required by law in several states.

Each State determines their own set of rules and regulations for voting. Identification in Massachusetts is required to be in possession of every voter, but it is seldom requested. As a result this means that anyone can assume the identity of any voter and cast an illegal ballot. Anyone can Google "voter fraud" and see the thou-



sands of reports of elections impacted by voter fraud. As citizens we must insure the integrity of the voting process. Massachusetts laws do not prevent people from voluntarily submitting their ID when voting.

Show ID to Vote is a grassroots movement with a presence on the Internet and can be found at [www.ShowIDtoVote.com](http://www.ShowIDtoVote.com), [facebook.com/showidtovote](http://facebook.com/showidtovote), as well as on twitter. A video was recently released on youtube showing how easy it is to Show ID to Vote! The video

features Tom Weaver of Westford as a caveman voting with a touch of humor applied to a very serious threat to the basic right of a citizen to have one vote count per legal voter. The video lasts under two minutes and makes the case for proper ID's.

The Show ID folks are trying to get people involved. Show ID to Vote asks local people to take a photo holding their photo ID up to their face. The people can submit the photos by email to [photo@showidtovote.com](mailto:photo@showidtovote.com) or on facebook. The photos are displayed on the [facebook/showidtovote](http://facebook.com/showidtovote) supporter page and can be "tagged" to express plans to Show ID on election day.

Show ID to Vote needs thousands of people to create a groundswell that will spread the message over the next thirty days. The message is Show ID to Vote! After the election the organization plans to continue working on vote fraud related issues.



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# Torrissi desperate to hold on to Rep. Seat

## Kevin Begley talks issues while Torrissi launches personal attacks

Dawn Rattelade-Brantmuller

TRANSCRIBER/ASSISTANT TO THE EDITOR

*A debate was held between State Rep. Dave Torrissi and his Republican challenger Kevin Begley at the Frost School in Lawrence last month. The debate was sponsored by the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Association.*

**State Rep. Dave Torrissi:** "Most people know me, I've been serving Lawrence and North Andover for 12 years now. I love the job. I am passionate every single day. I get up, I love to go to work every day and represent your needs and ideas. I'd like you to know my family background. Sixty-four years in Lawrence. Proud of our reputation in the city. Also, our place in North Andover. I'm very proud to serve my friend Barry Finegold over the last few years. Some of the comments that were made by the last speaker, (Jamison Tomasek) I didn't care for and I wish he was here to defend himself and he has done a good job for this city.

I love the job I do, I really do. It makes me feel good about some of the things we've accomplished over the last 12 years and sometimes people forget that because the last couple of years have been difficult. We've been going through an economic recession that we haven't seen since The Great Depression. It's been very difficult. We've had huge budget cuts on the state level and, obvi-

ously, we've had budget cuts at the city level, too. I'm not proud of that. I'm not happy about that. I know the city councilors that I work with every single day aren't happy about the budget cuts. But, those are the things you have to deal with. We are not the Federal Government. We don't get to print money to make things work. So, we are doing our best every day. I know we always don't agree all of the time, but there are many things we do agree upon. I know that by having a business on the NH border that it is important that we keep the city sales tax at 5%. I was very happy to vote against an increase in sales tax, because I do know, first hand, that business goes over the border. I also, voted against the alcohol tax, the new tax on beer, wine and liquor. I know a lot of our small package stores are suffering because of that. I think I know that it is difficult to make things work in MA sometimes. I just hope I can have your vote on November 2nd. Thank you very much."

*[Editors Note: While Torrissi did vote against the budget amendments to raise the sales tax and the alcohol tax, those tax amendments passed anyway and Torrissi then voted for the entire budget with those tax hikes in it.]*

**Kevin Begley:** "Good morning, my name is Kevin Begley and I'm here with my wife, Celeste. I'd like to thank you for having us and I'd also like to thank the

**STATE REP. DEBATE, page 25**



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Left: North Andover Republican Kevin Begley answers a question during the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Association debate last month. In the background is State Rep. David Torrissi.

## Ozzy Properties first area company to receive clean energy advisory services

Valley Chamber of Commerce and Nexamp announce program;  
Ozzy to gain short-term savings, develop energy management practices

Ozzy Properties, Inc., a premier property manager in the Merrimack Valley, today announced that it is the first area company to receive clean energy advisory services as a result of a partnership between the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce and Nexamp, Inc.

Under the program, Ozzy Properties, which currently has 2.5 million square feet of office space and 100 residential

units under management in the Merrimack Valley, will receive a variety of clean energy services at Heritage Place, a commercial building it owns in Lawrence. The services are supported through funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 through the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources' High Performance Buildings grant program. Ozzy is the first of nearly

30 area companies that will be selected for the program, officials said.

Based on Nexamp's initial high-level walk through, analysis of utility bill data, and experience performing building level energy audits, Nexamp recommended that Heritage Place be the site selected for the Clean Energy Road Map engagement. Heritage Place is home to a number of tenants such as NxStage Medical, an area office of the Social Security Administration, ValleyWorks Career Center as well as several medical, law and other professional offices.

"We are thrilled and honored to be named as the first recipient of clean energy advisory services from the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce and Nexamp," said Orit Goldstein, president of Ozzy Properties. "We are pleased that our ongoing efforts to make for a more energy efficient and sustainable work environment has enabled us to receive these comprehensive services."

The announcement was made at a recent Green Jobs Roundtable session hosted by U.S. Rep. John Tierney, D-Mass., at Osgood Landing. As a result of Ozzy's focus on green energy both for its own use and in locating tenants, the property manager

has been selected in the past to host green energy summits featuring Ian A. Bowles, Massachusetts secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Nexamp, a leading clean energy company headquartered in North Andover, will provide Ozzy Properties with a customized clean energy roadmap, energy monitoring and other services. The customized clean energy roadmap provides an in-depth assessment of the energy savings and financial performance anticipated for potential clean energy investments at Ozzy's Heritage Place facility.

Following the energy audit, Nexamp will provide Ozzy Properties with energy monitoring and building energy labeling to promote ongoing energy planning and identification of future energy savings opportunities. To ensure that immediate energy and maintenance savings benefits are realized, Nexamp will also provide Ozzy with retrocommissioning for suitable buildings. Retrocommissioning optimizes how individual equipment systems function, and how they function with each other for maximum energy efficiency. Finally, Ozzy may opt to work with Nexamp to implement additional solutions identi-

**OZZY, page 53**

## From the N. Andover Senior Center

With the heating season soon to begin, Community Action of Greater Lawrence has announced the start of its Heating Assistance Program. Funded through a combination of federal, state, city, utility and private grants, Community Action provided heating and weatherization assistance to almost 5,000 homes in the local area this past year. In addition to direct payment on oil, gas and electric heating bills, Community Action can also pay a portion of each month's rent for apartment dwellers whose heat is included in rent. Eligible residents also receive automatic discounts if they are customers of National Grid Gas and Electric and Verizon Landline Telephone. In addition, funding is also available for home energy efficiency projects such as the replacement of furnaces and boilers at no cost to eligible homeowners. Eligibility is based on gross income according to the number of people in the house and does not include money in savings accounts or CD accounts. Heating Assistance Program Application Packets have been mailed to all households that were eligible for the program last year. Households that did not apply for the program last year, can apply for the program by calling Community Action at (978) 681-4950 after September 15. For additional information or assistance with application packet please call the North Andover Senior Center at 978-688-9560.

The Senior Center needs donations of gently used jewelry, knick knacks and other small items for our Mini Boutique. Please leave your gently used treasures at our reception desk anytime. You can

also drop off your used cell phone and ink cartridges for recycling.

**YOGA 101 - Saturday mornings at 9:00 the month of October 2, 9, 23, 30.** 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 that would like to refine their foundation. Experience brought to this class is 40 years of teaching YOGA. Registration in advance, \$32.00 class is limited in size. Single class is \$10.00. Runners, bikers, skaters, tennis players, bowlers, walkers, riders, or sitters this class is for you.

**ZUMBA, ZUMBA, ZUMBA with Tal-lie: Is back on Monday and Wednesdays. Punch cards are \$40 for 10 classes. 3:30 - 4:30.**

**ZUMBA Morning with Janet Class** starts in October on Tuesday mornings at 10:00. **YOGA/PILATES:** Yoga Class Monday mornings at 9:00 and Pilates Tuesdays 3:35 with Cheryl Cronin. Blending both yoga and pilates in a 55-minute workout, we will strengthen and tone muscles while we increase flexibility & balance. Please call to register.

**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.

**Wii Sport Bowling:** Stop by the Senior Center on any Thursday morning between 9 and 10 am and try your luck at Bowling

**N.ANDOVER, page 34**

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- Intern for the Internet Crimes Against Children, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
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## LETTERS: FROM PAGE 2

porter of the bill throughout the process. I had the opportunity to meet with Rep. L'Italien, and she gave some great legislative advice. She contributed to the passage of this legislation with near-unanimous support.

From working with Rep. L'Italien firsthand, I know that she is a down-to-earth, honest and caring person. She genuinely wants to help however she can.

I am writing today to thank Rep. L'Italien's constituents for electing a woman as great as her. The voters of Merrimack Valley are extremely fortunate to have such a passionate and intelligent person representing them in the Legislature. Even though I'm unable to cast a vote for Rep. L'Italien, I wanted to provide her constituents with a story of my personal experience with their State Representative. I really hope the voters of her district vote to re elect Barbara L'Italien this November.

Jordan Star, Student in Needham, currently at the School for Ethics and Global Leadership in Washington D.C.

To the Editor:

Have you had enough of State Representative Barbara L'Italien and all that she stands for in our tax-and-spend legislature? I can't vote in the race for Jim Lyons because he doesn't represent my district, but I feel compelled to urge others to vote for someone who has had enough and is willing to do something about it.

Representative L'Italien has done little to stimulate our economy especially by voting to increase the sales tax by 25% and encouraging more Merrimack Valley residents to support the New Hampshire economy. Then she voted to maintain a \$403,000 office in Washington for our governor. To top that off, she voted against an independent audit of House finances in accordance with federal government standards. But her "independent voice" came through loud and clear when she voted against capping state pensions to four times the average state pension (our state pension is already at a whopping \$22 billion).

Have you had enough? If the answer is yes, then all you need to do is to vote for Jim Lyons on November 2nd. Jim will make state government more responsive by reforming an out of control budget; Barbara will vote for ways to increase our state budget. Jim wants to protect local aid for our police, fire and schools; Barbara wants to provide benefits to illegal immigrants. Jim wants to protect the taxpayer; Barbara wants to protect the political insiders. Jim will support the 5-5-5 tax roll back to reduce the sales, meals and income taxes; Barbara will vote another tax increase if you let her.

Barbara, it's time to let the voters become their own "independent voice" by voting in people who will actually listen.

Sincerely, Deborah A. Papalia, North Andover

## Original Intent Part III

Peter Larocque  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

This installment of Original Intent is my third and will also serve to be my last in this series of articles. It has been a wonderful blessing for me to get into material that deals with the U.S. Constitution, and I trust these articles have been a refresher course for you as well. In this article I want to go over the principle of Separation of Powers. This is a fundamental principle of the U.S. Constitution, right up there with federalism, democracy and the rule of law and judicial review.

The basic meaning of separation of powers in its simplest terms refers to separation between the three branches of government.

Legislative: Congress, the lawmaking branch of government.

Executive: The President, who has the duty under Article 2, section 3 of the Constitution to "take Care that the laws be faithfully executed".

Judicial: The Supreme Court justices and other judges who interpret and enforce the law through courts.

Each branch should stay away from the functions of the other two branches. But there are two problems with this theory. 1. In practice, overlap between the functions of the three branches can't be entirely avoided and in some important situations, overlap is quite deliberate. 2. If each of the three branches kept religiously to its own specific functions and didn't stray into the preserve of the other branches, the branches couldn't act as checks and balances on one another. Some of the overlap between the three branches of government is the result of a genuine desire of one branch to help out another. The concept of checks and balances is in one sense a natural extension of separation of powers, but in another sense the two concepts, separation of powers and checks and balances are actually in opposition to each other. On its own, separation of powers should just mean that each branch of government would go its own merry way without interference from any other branch. But this arrangement isn't practical, because the boundaries between the three branches of government aren't clear-cut. Plus, the Framers deliberately introduced overlaps

between the functions of the three branches so that they could act as checks and balances on one another. James Madison said in the Federalist Papers in support of separation of powers;

"The accumulation of all powers, legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny."

Madison and other Framers considered separation of powers essential in order to avoid "tyranny". But the Constitution went much further than the mere separation of powers; it also established an elaborate system of checks and balances.

Having now set the foundation of this fundamental principle of separation of powers lets apply it to what we see happening in the City of Lawrence. I find myself asking questions like where is the separation of power in Lawrence. We have a Mayor, The Executive, who in my humbled opinion doing just about anything he wants. Next we have the City Council, The Legislature, doing just about everything the Mayor wants. Then there is the Lawrence City Charter which serves as the local "Rule of Law" along with City Attorneys acting as its guardians functioning as The Judicial. They are supposed to represent the best interest of the City. But unfortunately they have demonstrated that they are better in representing the Mayor and his interest rather what is best for the City. Now what does this look like to you?

Before you answer, what about the Lawrence School Committee? We have two city employees who work for the Mayor on the Committee. After years of debate on this issue of City Employees holding elected office simultaneously, the City Council who took an oath to carry out the City Charter finally have taken action and have sent a Homeroom Petition to Boston to end this practice. So it is very encouraging to see the separation of powers, (the check and balances), working in the peoples favor in removing the obvious conflict of interest!

Next we have a City Charter Review that is finally happening in this year of 2010. There have been Charter Review

**INTENT, page 34**


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# Patrick Blanchette fined \$20,000 for taking money from campaign

**Tom Duggan**  
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

The State Office of Campaign Finance (OCPF) has fined former Lawrence City Council President Patrick Blanchette \$20,000 for taking money from his city council campaign account going back to 2006 among other violations.

Blanchette has admitted to OCPF that he wrote checks to himself from his campaign account totaling \$12,985 “with no supporting records on how the money was used for campaign purposes.”

Blanchette was the city council president in Lawrence for six years and was appointed by Governor Deval Patrick as a conciliator in the State Office of Industrial Accidents while still on the city council. Blanchette was a candidate for mayor at the time. The Internal Revenue Service currently has a tax lien on Blanchette for failing to pay taxes during the same time frame he was writing checks to himself from his campaign account. Blanchette has been a supporter of Governor Patrick through his ‘close personal friendship with Lt. Governor Tim Murray who appeared at a Blanchette fundraiser last year.’

While the city council president, Blanchette refused to set a tax rate in 2009 and held up Mayor Sullivan’s budget causing a budget deficit that ballooned from \$9.5 million to \$24.5 million after he refused to send out the city’s property tax bills. Last month, the Lawrence City Council voted to confirm Mayor Lantigua’s appointment of Blanchette as the

city’s Economic Development Director despite his tax liens and financial mismanagement of the city’s budget from 2006-2009. The city council voted 8-1 to confirm Blanchette with only Marc LaPlante voting against him.

The report by OCPF released last month, stated that Blanchette accepted contributions from corporations and individuals, failed to report cash expenditures and donations and refused to disclose donations and expenditures, accepted donations that were not deposited into his campaign account and cannot be accounted for, failed to keep records of donations and expenditures, accepted campaign contributions in

excess of the \$500 legal limit, accepted illegal money orders, used campaign funds for personal use, and expenditures made with cash.

According to the report, Blanchette tried to blame his bank for shoddy record keeping and discrepancies, “Furthermore, the candidate repeatedly expressed his concern to OCPF regarding the accuracy of bank records provided by the bank of record.”

Blanchette is now ordered to pay \$6,000 immediately in fines and penalties, \$6,000 to be paid no later than January 1, 2011, \$4,000 to be paid no later than May 31, 2011, and another \$4,000 fine by September 30, 2011. Failure by Blanchette to make any of the above payments could result in a criminal penalties and an investigation by the Attorney General.



# Somber Gold Star Event Shines

**Robert O’Koniewski**  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

In a city hall filled with appointed officials who are unqualified, incompetent, shirkers, and layabouts, one person stands out as a testament to what public service is all about – Lawrence veterans Agent Francisco Urena. A decorated U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Mr. Urena has demonstrated time after time a level of true professionalism that is sorely lacking throughout the rest of 200 Common Street. Whether through the vast improvements he has made to the Veterans office in the bowels of city hall or the numerous events he puts on honoring local veterans throughout the year, Mr. Urena is a glittering gem hidden amongst a barrel full of rotten apples.

Nothing brought this out more clearly than the recent Gold Star Mothers event held at the Lawrence Airport on Sunday, September 26. With the sound of bagpipes in the air, a couple of hundred attendees heard key note speaker, United States Senator Scott Brown, speak of how honored he felt to be amongst the mothers and fathers who had children that made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country. The morning demonstrated acalm, inspiring reverence for our recent and not so recent war dead that should make every one think each day of the men and women who have given their lives in defense of our freedoms, most of whom voluntarily chose to do so. Since the slaughter of 3,000 Americans on September 11, 2001, by foreign terrorists on our soil, well over 100 Massachusetts service personnel have given their lives in the two theaters of our on-going War Against Terrorism. As Iraq winds down and Afghanistan heats up, this number will surely increase. Nevertheless, it is how we honor our war dead that define us. National cemeteries here and abroad and ceremonies such as the Gold Star Mothers event lay testament to that.

And while decorated veterans like Mr.

Urena commit themselves every day in their public service to helping their fellow veterans, there are many who walk among us that apparently do not seem to care or may never even had held in their hearts and minds a single thought of thanks to the millions of men and women who have served this Nation in defense of our values and freedoms that the apathetic and disrespectful take advantage of daily.

It is amazing the number of people who show up at this event each year, as well as at the annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day services that Mr. Urena conducts on behalf of veterans and their families. What was even more glaring, however, were those who were absent. On Sunday morning, apparently the mayor or his chief of staff was too busy to show up to say “thank you” to these mourning and honored parents. Apparently only three of the nine city councilors – Marc Laplante, Dan Rivera, and Roger Twomey, two of whom are veterans themselves – felt their presence was demanded at such a solemn event. Thank you to them for being there. And apparently the two congressmen from our area, one of whom actually sits on the House Armed Services Committee, could not find their way to Lawrence Airport on a Sunday morning to demonstrate their appreciation for what these families have gone through over the years and months since they lost their children.

In November when Veterans Day rolls around, seek out veterans and thank them for what they have done. Think about the reasons why Veterans Day has flowed from its predecessor Armistice Day in World War One, the same war that inspired President Woodrow Wilson to create the Gold Star designation and the mothers of those dead veterans to establish the American Gold Star Mothers in 1928. Also, stop by the event that Mr. Urena will surely hold that day to commemorate our service personnel. You won’t be disappointed.

## GR. LAWRENCE COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL, INC. FY’ 2011 LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc., 2010-2011 Fuel Assistance Program has begun registering appointments to take Applications for FIRST TIME APPLICANTS\*. (Prior year applicants have been mailed an application again this season.)**

### CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY:

- \* Residency: Participants must reside in Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, North Andover, Reading or North Reading.
  - \* Low Income: Participants must prove they meet Federal and State Income guidelines by providing income and documentation showing gross household revenue for all household members 18 years and older for a minimum of 4 weeks (one month) prior to their application date.
- Persons whose heat is included in their rent (including those individuals who reside in Federal Section 236, Section 211 (D) (3) and Section 202 developments and in state Section 13A rental housing) may be eligible for assistance.

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## FY’ 2011 PROGRAMA DE ASISTENCIA PARA LA ENERGIA PARA HOGARES DE BAJO INGRESO

El Programa de Asistencia para la Calefaccion del Concilio de Accion de la Cornunidad de Lawrence (GLCAC, Inc.) a cornenzado a hacer citas para 2010 para el ano 2011. “PERSONAS QUE SOLICITAN POR PRIMERA VEZ.” (A los solicitantes del año anterior la solicitud les fue enviada por correo.)

### CRITERIOS PARA ELEGIBILIDAD:

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- \* Bajos Ingresos: El solicitante debe estar dentro de los limites de ingreso Federales y Estatales. Debe proporcionar prueba de ingreso y documentation que muestre las entradas gruesas de todos los miembros de la familia de 18 años en adelante por un minimo de 4 semanas (un mes) anterior a la fecha de la solicitud.

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- ★ **Steve voted against a 19 cent increase in the gas tax.**
- ★ **Voted against a proposed increase in the income tax.**
- ★ **Voted against the increase in the sales tax.**
- ★ **Led the fight against imposing tolls on I-93 along the New Hampshire border.**
- ★ **Authored legislation to create the Salisbury Beach Preservation Trust Fund helping preserve and maintain the beach for future generations.**
- ★ **Steve supported changes to create a more competitive auto insurance system that lowers rates and gives consumers greater choice.**
- ★ **Opposes granting driver's licenses to illegal immigrants and is leading the fight to prevent them from receiving public benefits.**
- ★ **Steve voted against giving the Governor the power to make a temporary appointment to the U.S. Senate.**
- ★ **Successfully fought efforts to charge \$5 for in-person visits to the RMV.**



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## Council on Aging Events for October

Haverhill, MA – As usual, we have lots going on at the Citizens Center! Haverhill COA is starting a new bowling league!! Join the fun at the newly renovated All Saints Bowling Center, 26 Broadway, Haverhill. What better way than a bowling league to make new friends and get in shape at the same time. The bowling center offers a special senior rate and is available any weekday morning, so call Kathy Bresnahan (ext. 11) or Rita LaBella (ext. 16) at 978-374-2390 to discuss details or help organize the league.

Have you ever wondered about your ancestry? We are offering a Beginner's Genealogy Roundtable on Friday, October 15 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Citizen Center. This will be an informal session to learn research tips, ask questions, and share resources and family history. This workshop will be presented by Marcelle Greenbaum, a member of Haverhill COA's Board of Directors. Please call Kathy or Rita to register. There is no fee.

The snowbirds are packing their bags, and we need new mahjong players to take their places! If you have ever wanted to learn to play, this is your perfect opportunity. Mahjong is played every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Citizens Center.

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. Cost of tickets and motor coach transportation is \$80.00.

Fall day trip to The Beacon Resort on Saturday, October 16 for a complete luncheon and foliage tour of the White Mountain and Lincoln, NH, area. Cost is \$55.00.

Lunch at Angelica's Ballroom in Mid-

dleton, MA, on Friday, October 29, 2010. Entertainment provided by impressionist Mark Verselli. Cost is \$45.00 without transportation or \$55 with transportation.

American Bandstand Revue at Lantana in Randolph, MA on Thursday, November 4. Cost for this trip is \$70.00 per person and includes lunch, show and transportation.

A Christmas Holiday in Portland, Maine on Dec 3. On this trip travelers will visit a lavishly decorated Victorian mansion, dine at DiMillo's Floating Restaurant, and visit the Stonewall Kitchen flagship store in York. Cost for this trip is \$88.00

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

Oct. 18-22-2010: San Antonio Get-away; \$1,499 pp

Nov. 30-Dec. 7-2010: Alpine Christmas, \$2,199 pp

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

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

Sept. 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. More information is available by contacting Kathy Bresnahan at 978-374-2390 (ext. 11) or kbresnahan@cityofhaverhill

Be sure to pick up a copy of 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). Both Rita Labella and I would love to hear from you if you have any ideas, suggestions or questions regarding the Council on Aging.

## WHA V Announces 'Tidal Wave of Winnings'

**Prize Recipients Sixteen winners drawn from hundreds of survey respondents**

WARD HILL, - Brenda K. Ghorashi of Haverhill won the grand prize — an iPod Touch — when winners of WHAV's "Tidal Wave of Winnings" were drawn live last Monday night during the Open Mike Show with Jack Bevelaqua.

Kevin Alder of Haverhill was named the second place winner and will receive an AM/FM radio and CD player. In total, 16 prizes were awarded during the contest, undertaken as part of a survey to ascertain the needs and tastes of listeners throughout the Merrimack Valley

"WHA V recognizes its responsibility to determine what programs are of interest to listeners and what improvements - whether in content or delivery - are needed," said WHAV General Manager Tim Coco. "The feedback received is already proving invaluable as program ideas and other suggestions are being considered."

A number of local businesses supported WHAV's "Tidal Wave of Winnings" drawing with donations of such prizes as an iPod Touch by COCO+CO., portable AM/FM radio and CD player by Haverhill TV & Appliance, \$25 gift certificate by Haverhill Beef Company, Checkered Flag Indoor Karting gift cards, family four-packs of

tickets to the Topsfield Fair, Roma Restaurant gift certificate and Supercuts haircuts gift cards.

Other winners included Gretchen Hildebrandt, Haverhill, Roma Restaurant gift certificate; Theresa P. Straw, Haverhill, and Brian Langlois, Haverhill, Topsfield Fair tickets; Colleen Lynch, Haverhill, Chandler Noyes, Georgetown, Tony Gesamondo, West Newbury, and Ruth Maciak, Haverhill, Checkered Flag Indoor Karting gift cards; Bonita Michaleas, Groveland, Haverhill Beef gift certificate; and Neil Pare, Windham, N.H., Lawrence Corcoran, Haverhill, Teddie Sarmanian, North Andover, Ana Chepolis, Haverhill, Carolyn Perry, Haverhill, and William Cox, Haverhill, Supercuts gift certificates.

Winners will be contacted by mail or e-mail, informing them when they will receive their prizes. The WHAV call letters have been associated with local broadcasting since 1947. For more than six years, the WHAV call has served the Merrimack Valley's pioneer Internet radio station at WHAV.net and a number of public access cable television stations in Andover, Haverhill and Methuen, and Plaistow and Sandown, N.H. The station is also heard over low-power AM 1640. To listen, or for more information, visit [www.whav.net](http://www.whav.net).



## MOVING HAVERHILL FORWARD

with Mayor Jim Fiorentini

Last month, Mayor Fiorentini presented citations from the city to Geraldo Pagan and Robert Carrier for their heroic and lifesaving actions at the Harrison St. fire on Sept. 10th. Mr. Pagan was present along with his wife Paula and his mentor, Sandra Kerwin. Mr. Carrier was unable to attend.

Pagan, who lives on Harrison St., entered the burning building with Mr. Carrier and assisted Constance Silvio out of the fire, saving her life. Mr. Carrier helped out Aja Silvio, who is still in the hospital recovering from burns received in that fire.

"When tragedies such as this occur," Mayor Fiorentini said, "seconds can sometimes mean life or death. I commend these two men for stepping into danger and risking their own lives to save this mother and daughter. It is not often that one sees such acts of bravery and selflessness and I commend Robert Carrier and Geraldo Pagan for their actions on September 10th."



Geraldo Pagan receiving citation from Mayor James J. Fiorentini

## Haverhill receives funds for river cleanup

Mayor James J. Fiorentini announced last month that Team Haverhill has donated the funds necessary for Clean River Project members and volunteers to remove trash and debris from the banks and waterway of the Merrimack River.

Recently, Rocky Morrison of Clean River Project met with the Mayor and appeared before the City Council to discuss his volunteer organization's plans to sweep the river between the Comeau and Bates Bridges to remove debris including illegally dumped automobile parts, plastics, trash and metals from the river banks and the surface of the water. Clean River Project leaders estimated that they would need around \$12,000 in order to make a cleaning of the Haverhill stretch of the Merrimack River viable.

Clean River Project has successfully

undertaken similar cleanups along the Merrimack in Lowell, Dracut, Methuen and Lawrence. In each case, private donations funded cleanup of tons of debris.

"I'm thrilled and pleased that Team Haverhill, their leaders and donors in particular, have again stepped up to allow for an extensive removal of unwanted material from the Merrimack," stated the Mayor.

"This River is the City's great jewel and greatest potential asset. This generous donation by Team Haverhill marks the start of another important chapter in the comeback of this great river," added the Mayor.

Team Haverhill lists itself as an independent, volunteer action group dedicated to making Haverhill a better place to live, learn, work and play. The organization recently sponsored the first 'River Ruckus' community celebration.



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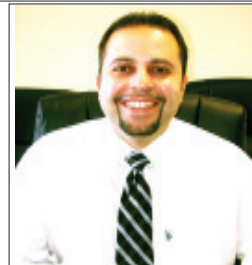
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# Baker: I will put Lawrence into receivership

## Baker says if elected, Lantigua will not manage city finances

**Tom Duggan**  
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

*Charlie Baker, Republican candidate for governor spoke at a Tea Party Rally in North Andover recently.*

*Earlier this year, Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua partitioned the state legislature to borrow \$35Mil claiming there was a \$24Mil deficit in the city's budget. Governor Deval Patrick wrote House Bill 4421 to do just that and the legislature approved the borrowing measure. Immediately after receiving the borrowed money, Mayor Lantigua gave raises to people in city hall, laid off 24 firefighters and 25 police officers and spent \$10,000 on new curtains for his office among other frills.*

*State Representatives Barry Finegold and David Torrisi voted to give Lantigua the money without any financial controls, without receivership and without a finance control board.*

*Charlie Baker was asked to address the financial mess in Lawrence and what he would do about it if he was elected governor.*

"I have said and I will say it again, we have to have receivership or a control board in the City of Lawrence or we will never straighten this out.

A \$25MIL deficit, \$35MIL of everybody's money invested in the city and the governor, I believe for political reasons, chose not to go with a control board and decided to hand the keys over to the newly elected mayor... who, by the way, didn't think he needed to be the mayor 24-7, 365 days a year. Remember that? He actually thought he could continue to be the State Rep. at the same time. That should have been the warning bell to everybody that this guy didn't understand the size and significance of the problem that Lawrence

faces.

So here we are, six months down the road and all that has happened is what everybody who wanted a control board or receivership said was going to happen; it's gotten worse in Lawrence.

We still need receivership in Lawrence and we need it now. We needed it yesterday, and we need it tomorrow. And I still expect that people in this administration are going to fiddle with this one and try to play it through until after the election.

Well, the problem that's going to create is, all those other communities that are expected to step up and provide mutual aide and provide fire protection and police protection for the citizens of Lawrence, they're not going to be able to do it.

The problem here is that the Governor, Deval Patrick, should have taken ownership and responsibility for this and made the proactive decision months ago to do the right thing. He didn't do that and as it sits today we still need receivership or a control board in Lawrence. We still need some sort of aggressive, independent review board for the city and we don't have it.

I will tell you something, the governor sold out the people of Lawrence on this one, he sold out the business people of Lawrence... the people who have businesses there, the guy who is worried every single day about whether or not their business is going to be able to survive... and he sold out the kids of Lawrence!

What you get out of receivership or a control board is professional financial management. Chelsea and Springfield both had receivership and financial control boards and they got better! And they got better quickly because, you had pros in there with leverage and authority to make

*I will tell you something, the governor sold out the people of Lawrence on this one, he sold out the business people of Lawrence... the people who have businesses there, the guy who's worried every single day about whether or not [his] business is going to be able to survive... and he sold out the kids of Lawrence!*

**- Charlie Baker, candidate for Governor**



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

decisions. That is what we need in Lawrence. We don't have it, we desperately need it and I really hope that at some point the governor is going to wake up on this issue because what's going on right now isn't fair to anyone who lives in Lawrence.

It certainly isn't fair to the surrounding communities like North Andover, Andover, Methuen and others who have to send in your public safety officials to the city, leaving your citizens less protected.

I have said all along on this one that Governor Deval Patrick has been kicking this can down the road hoping he can avoid the Lawrence problem till after the election. He's hoping we can keep Lawrence off the front page and let them continue in the direction they are going in and that's just not acceptable. Let's face it folks, Governor Deval Patrick has been the governor for the last four years while the financial problems in Lawrence have festered and gotten out of control.

He is just as much a part of the problem here than anyone else. On his watch, Deval

Patrick has allowed the deficits to climb in Lawrence, he has cut millions in local aide to that city and he has done nothing to ensure financial accountability with your tax money.

And remember, 100% of funding for Lawrence's schools comes from you the state tax payers. About 70% of the entire city budget comes from you the tax payer. And if Mayor Lantigua can't pay back the \$35Mil you're all on the hook to pay it back.

This governor's solution to the problem is to throw more money at it and it's clear now to anyone who has been watching this, that throwing money at the problem in Lawrence has made things worse.

If you elect me as your next governor, I will clean up the mess in Lawrence. I will restore financial accountability in that city, I will implement a receiver or a control board to make sure that your state tax money that we send to Lawrence will be spent wisely and a mechanism is put in place to hold people accountable. Thank you!"

# Karyn Polito tours North Andover, addresses Torrisi attacks

We caught up with Karyn Polito touring North Andover last month where Valley Patriot editor Tom Duggan asked her about the viscous personal attack Rep. David Torrisi launched against her in Lawrence during the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Association debate.

**Tom Duggan:** State Rep Dave Torrisi after you left the Mount Vernon neighborhood today, attacked you saying that you've been in the pension system for the last 10 years and that you've recently found religion on not taking a pension. I was just wondering if you could address that.

**Karyn Polito:** Sure, yes I make contributions to the public pension system and I

said that I am not taking a public pension. The point is that a public pension system is unsustainable and the tax payers are paying \$1.4 billion each year to prop it up. I have filed bills to reform it, and the Beacon Hill leadership is not capable of making the reforms that are necessary to keep the promise of the pension, to the hard working civil servants, our police, our fire, our teachers. Instead, you have politicians that are gaming the system, double and triple dipping and putting the system more at risk. I am taking the lead, unlike Representative Torrisi and I am telling everyone "Get the state elected officials out of the pension system, because they are the ones that are making decisions that

benefit themselves. If you take the politics and the conflicts of interest out, then we can get to the real reform for the next generation of public workers coming in to service. Then we can keep the promise of our pension to those civil servants that are earning it and I hope that Representative Torrisi will follow my lead and do the right thing.

**Tom Duggan:** What do you think of a guy running for reelection as a State Representative attacking a candidate for Treasurer? Why do you think he's attacking you?

**Karyn Polito:** Well, it's all politics, that's the problem on Beacon Hill. You've got too many legislators that are in there



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

**Karyn Polito, candidate for State Treasurer, chats with Paul from Star Pizza in N. Andover about the impact of higher taxes on small businesses.**

to feather their own nest, and they are not in it for the right reasons. I believe in term limits, I believe in new energy and new ideas coming into public service. I am in it for the right reasons. It's not to feather my own nest, but to work hard for the people and I hope that Dave Torrisi will follow my lead and also make the commitment that he won't be taking a public pension.

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## Jim McKenna urges AG Martha Coakley to enforce the law on illegal aliens

According to the Boston Herald, Governor Deval Patrick has ignored requests to disclose how many illegal immigrants are receiving health insurance, which has been pending since early September.

"On Sept. 10, the Herald requested a schedule of benefits for illegal immigrants enrolled in MassHealth Limited as well as coverage information for legal non-citizens.

According to the nonprofit Mass-Resources.org, non-citizens ages 18-64 who do not meet the eligibility requirements for MassHealth but qualify for the Massachusetts Refugee Resettlement Program have access for eight months to MassHealth Standard - a more comprehensive plan than some legal immigrants receive."

"A spokeswoman for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services failed to return calls regarding the information request for the last two weeks. The state legally has 10 days to respond, a period that lapsed on Sept. 20. After learning the Herald would report on the state's failure to respond, the administration released a general description of some benefits

illegal immigrants are eligible for late yesterday afternoon."

Laura Rigas, Communications Director for Jim McKenna said, "This is an inexcusable and blatant violation of the law. This apparent attempt to keep the public in the dark and not disclose how many illegal immigrants are receiving health insurance in Massachusetts must be taken seriously by Attorney General Martha Coakley. The fact that there has not been an immediate and forthright accounting of this information shows that this administration has something to hide and they must be held accountable. This is just another example of Martha Coakley turning a blind eye to the issue of illegal immigration. By helping to keep this information from coming to light she continues to

endorse amnesty by default. As Attorney General, Jim McKenna would turnover those records, stop sanctuary cities and fight against illegal immigration."

Source: <http://www.bostonherald.com/business/healthcare/view.bg?articleid=1285874>.

To learn more, please visit Jim McKenna's campaign website at [www.Jim-ForAG.com](http://www.Jim-ForAG.com).



Attorney General candidate Jim McKenna with Sam Meas at Heavenly Donuts in Methuen



## Bruce Arnold: A Merrimack Valley Radio Legend

David Morrisson

VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

When you think of Merrimack Valley Radio, the name Bruce Arnold most likely comes to mind.

With a career that spans more than fifty years in both the radio and television industry, Bruce Arnold remains part of our daily lives. At WCCM in Lawrence, he continues to entertain local residents with his warmth and charm every weekday. And according to Arnold, he is grateful for the opportunity to speak to thousands of people across the Merrimack Valley.

On Thursday, September 16th, 2010, Arnold was inducted into the Massachusetts Broadcasters Hall of Fame. The event, which was held at the Boston Marriott Hotel in Quincy, brought out the entire WCCM family, including Tom Zappala, host of the Sicilian Corner Radio Show. When asked about how he felt about Bruce's induction, Zappala responded "You kidding me? Bruce is a pleasure to work with. And he has the largest heart out there. He's so humble."

I had an opportunity to sit down with the living legend about a week before the induction ceremony, and his drive and passion for this business is as strong as it was the day he began his career.

"There hasn't been a morning where I didn't want to come into work," said Arnold. "Yes, there have been lots of changes to the industry, but I have been able to keep up with the time. And I'll tell you, it's always been exciting."

Humble beginnings - Born Bruce Arnold Salvucci, the Lynn native began his career in 1955 while he was still in Army. Arnold was stationed at the former Fort Devens base in Ayer, where he helped to produce training films. When he officially

began his radio career at WCCM, going on the air, according to Arnold, was not sweat. "When I came to WCCM (in 1959), I had been making training films for the Army at Devens, and I just fell in love with radio. I still love it to this day."

From there on forward, Arnold became synonymous with local radio. He also filled in for Boston radio legends such as Larry Glick, and has even mentored such modern day broadcasters like WBZ-TV and radio sportscaster Dan Roche. In fact, many credit Arnold with being a mentor to many up-and-coming broadcasters. But he doesn't like to take credit for other people's successes.

"They say that I opened the door for these guys," mentioned Arnold. "But the truth is, is that they opened the door for themselves. Never the less, it makes me feel so good to see these kids making it in the industry."

The radio and television field can be very cutthroat, with many consequences and repercussions that come with the experience of the industry. Arnold feels that broadcasting is a team sport and that nobody is better than anyone else.

"One of the things that I learned from the Army is that you can be the boss. But you have to work together no matter what the rank," said Arnold.

"I always say to the kids, 'you drop a pen, and I'll pick it up. You guys would do the same.' They always love that story (laughs)."

Man of the people - In addition to being a team player behind the scenes, Arnold has always maintained a strong relationship with the local listeners, including longtime fan Bob Hilgendorf of Methuen. Hilgendorf, along with his wife

**BRUCIE!, page 49**



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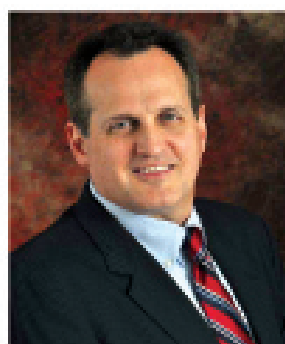
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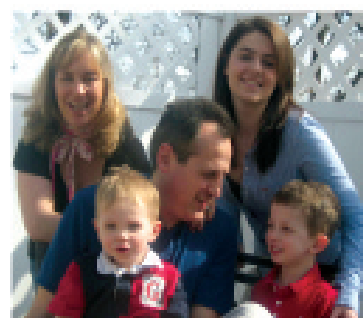
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# TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

LAWRENCE – As is the case in every election, Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua has a slate of candidates he is supporting. Right out of the gate, the number one candidate on Willie's dance card is State Rep. Barry Finegold who is not running for reelection, but is seeking to replace Sue Tucker in the State Senate. On primary day Lantigua had his campaign supporters out holding signs and corraling voters to the polls, handing out little cards with Lantigua's preferred candidates on it. On Lantigua's list was Governor Deval Patrick who wrote House Bill 4421 giving Lantigua the authority to borrow \$35MIL. Finegold testified and voted for the borrowing measure as did State Rep. David (Where-is-he) Torrisi. Willie is also supporting his good friends Secretary of State Bill Galvin, and Attorney General Martha Coakley.

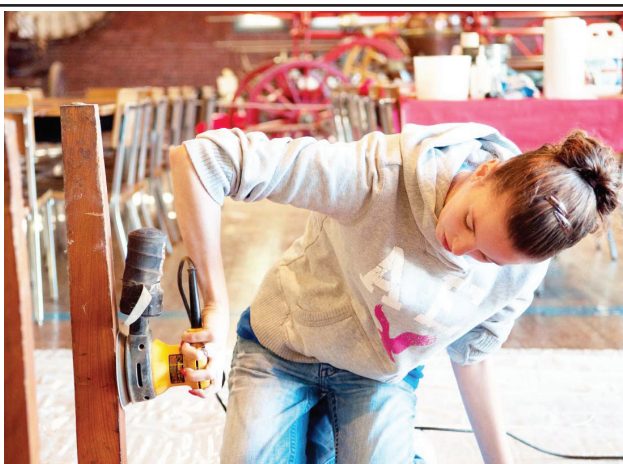
LAWRENCE – Speaking of Deval Patrick, I interviewed the governor last December and asked him about the financial mess in Lawrence. The governor told me, on the record, on tape that "the help we give Lawrence will not be an infusion of capital." At the time I was conducting the interview Deval had already written House Bill 4421 to let Willie Lantigua borrow \$35Mil. He also lobbied hard against any financial controls being imposed by the legislature. When State Reps. and Senators proposed a receiver or financial control board the governor and his supporters on the hill killed the measure.



METHUEN- One of the more interesting races in The Valley this election season is the state rep. Race in Methuen where incumbent Linda Dean Campbell (a former Valley Patriot of the Month) is facing

## National Day of Service Firefighters Museum: Jessica

Jessica Dick of Haverhill, a 2009 grad. of Central Catholic High School & current liberal arts major at Northern Essex Community College, was one of 100 NECC students, faculty, and staff who participated in the National Day of Service and Remembrance on September 11th. Dick was volunteering at the Firefighters' Museum in Haverhill. Over 100 faculty, staff, students, and alumni from Northern Essex Community College participated in the National Day of Service and Remembrance by participating in various volunteer projects throughout the day.



two challengers: Republican Al DiNiccio (who barely lost in last years mayors race) and Independent Phil Lahey a member of the Methuen City Council. Insiders say Campbell has a slight edge to win this race but I have to tell you this one may be tighter than people think. Campbell has been a staunch opponent of the tax increases proposed by Governor Patrick and has enjoyed a reputation as an independent rep. on the hill, but being an incumbent in this "throw the bums out" year means it's anybody's race! Lahey is a popular Central District City Councilor and DiNuccio still has an organization from his mayor's race last year meaning, Campbell has to work harder than even some of her colleagues who went along with giving Willie Lantigua \$35Mil or voted for the tax increases. Watch this one folks, anything can happen.

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ANDOVER/LAWRENCE – In the race to replace Barry Finegold Democrat Pat Comaine is facing Republican Paul Adams and it looks as though Adams is the front runner. Adams defeated Sal Tabit in the republican primary and did very well in Lawrence as well as Andover and Tewksbury. Comaine and Adams are both first time candidates and neither of them have the political machine that most candidates have at this stage of the game.



Tracey Zysk  
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Comaine is a state worker who says she wants to streamline state services and consolidate departments. Adams is running as a Tea Party candidate who supports lower taxes, opposes casinos, and running as the fiscally conservative candidate. Neither candidates have a lot of money to spend and with all the attention being paid to the bigger races (governor, senate, etc) this race is under everyone's radar screen.

ANDOVER – I wish I could express how disappointed I am in Andover School Committee Chairman Deb Silberstein who recently was defeated

in the primary for State Senate. Silberstein spent most of the primary attacking Barry Finegold, saying he didn't care about his constituents, criticizing him for voting to give Willie Lantigua a \$35MIL bailout loan and went out of her way to make the election about the shortcomings of Barry Finegold. Now that Finegold has won the primary however, Silberstein did what far too many politicians do today, she sold out and endorsed Finegold. I can respect any candidate who disagrees with me on issues, but I have no respect for politicians who think more about their own political future or being afraid to anger members of their political party than doing the right thing. Silberstein knows Barry Finegold has been mailing it in for the last four years or more and she also knows he doesn't deserve to be rewarded by getting elected to the senate. But she is going along anyway and endorsing Barry Finegold. Just remember that the next time she runs for office. Whatever she says on the campaign trail doesn't really mean anything because when it's politically advantageous, she will do the exact opposite from what she promises when she is seeking your vote.

NORTH ANDOVER – North Andover Selectman Tracy Watson, who was once a member of the Democrat Town Committee, was seen on Rt. 114 holding a sign for republican Charlie Baker, candidate for governor, during a Tea Party Rally. Word around town is that Watson is taking a lot of heat from fellow Democrats for her support of Baker but when I asked the selectman about any grief she was getting, in true Tracy Watson fashion she replied, "I don't care what people think about who I should be supporting. I support the person that is best for the job and I think Charlie Baker is the best person for governor. I've had enough. Haven't you?"



LAWRENCE – Last month Lawrence Mayor Lantigua tried to hire flag men to replace police officers on construction and road jobs in the city of Lawrence. When members of the Patrolman's union, Wayne Taylor and Alan Andrews testified in court opposing Lantigua's efforts, Lantigua gave orders to brass at

the department to punish the two officers by putting them back in uniform. This was a clear violation of union contracts and state law and it wasn't until Lantigua as

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State Representative

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**Vote Kevin Begley**  
State Representative

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threatened with a lawsuit that he backed off on retribution against the two cops. We will be keeping an eye on whether Willie tries to get away with punishing either of these two officers when this issue dies down.

LAWRENCE – A few months ago Mayor Lantigua laid off 24 firefighters and 25 police officers. He said there was no money for public safety officers while he was handing out raises to people in city hall. But, now Lantigua has “found money” and has negotiated the return of four of the laid off firefighters. We commend the Lantigua administration and the firefighters union for coming to the table and starting the effort to return public safety officials to the streets of Lawrence.

LAWRENCE – Last month was the 49th anniversary of Mount Vernon Neighborhood Association president Frank Incropera and Dotti Incropera. Happy anniversary!

LAWRENCE - Bed Bug Informational Workshop - The Lawrence/Methuen Community Coalition, in partnership with the City of Lawrence is announcing a series of informational workshops for the community about how to recognize and deal with bed bugs. The first workshop, intended for Community Service Providers is to be held on Monday October 4th at the LMCC Offices 112A East Haverhill St. Lawrence. From 11:30am-1PM

The second workshop for Residents and Community Members is scheduled for Monday October 18th, 2010 at the Lawrence Library 51 Lawrence St Lawrence, MA from 6pm-7:30pm. (Spanish translation will be available). Speaker: Peter Blanchette, Interim Building Commissioner, City of Lawrence. Presenter: Nancy Caraci, Pest-End Exterminators

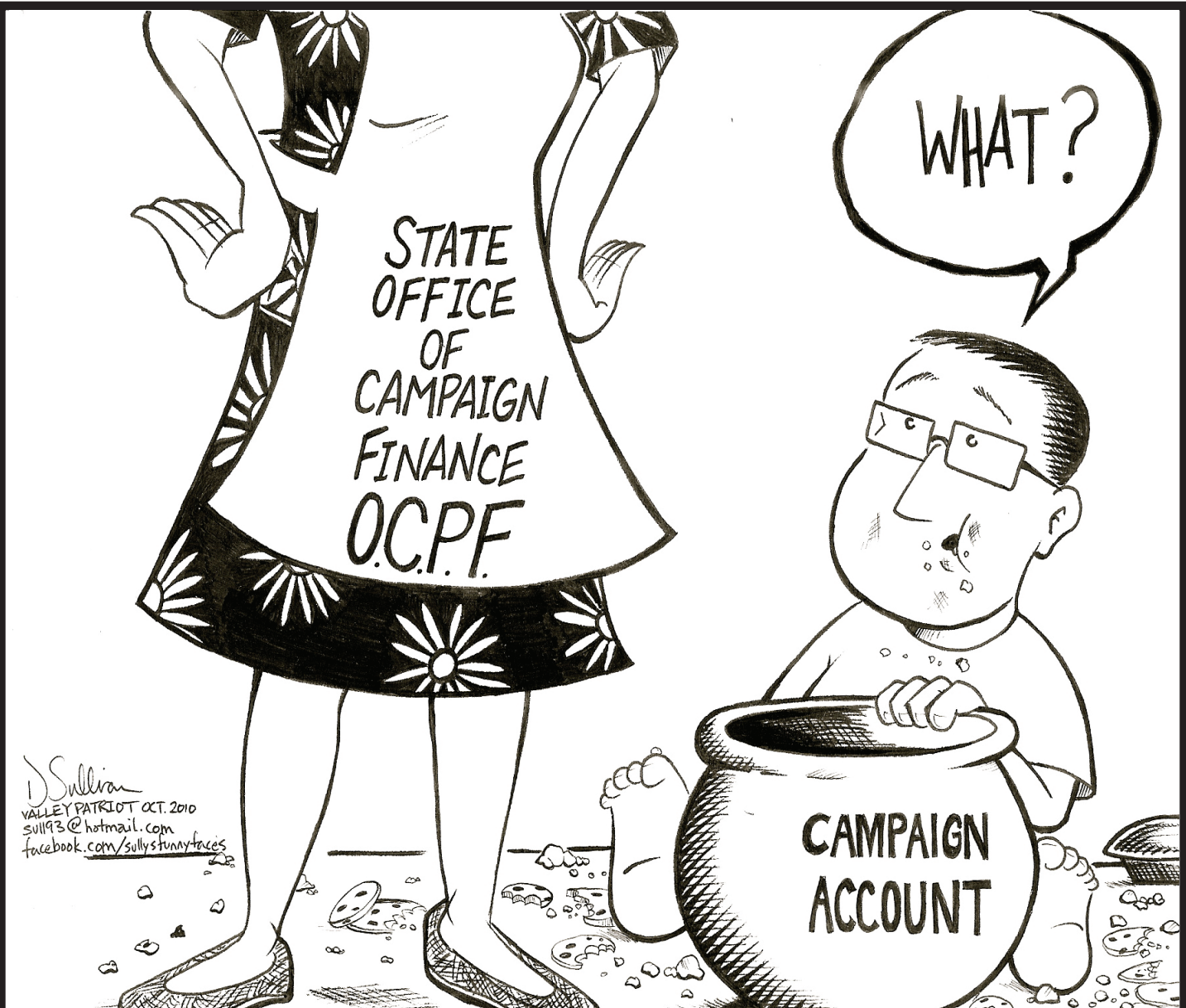
Register by contacting: Delilah Rivera, Program Coordinator [drivera@glcac.org](mailto:drivera@glcac.org) or (978) 332-8250

Topics Include: Responsibility of Landlords & Tenants, General information about bed bugs, how to help prevent a problem, what to look for if you think you have bed bugs. Provided to you by the Lawrence/Methuen Community Coalition in partnership with the City of Lawrence

METHUEN – The Holiday Craft Fair will be held Saturday, November 6, 2010 9AM to 3PM at the New Hope Church, 10 Phillips St., Methuen. Jewelry, Candy, Crafts, Baked Goods and much more. Breakfast & Lunch served.

NORTH ANDOVER – Welcome aboard Rachel Porten the Valley Patriot’s new ad designer!

HAVERHILL - Employees of Haverhill Bank contributed more than \$1,600 in recent months to Cinderella’s Closet, MooreMart and Haverhill Firefighter’s Muscular Dystrophy “Fill the Boot” fund



**NEWS ITEM:** Former Lawrence Council President Patrick Blanchette has been taking money out of his campaign accounts for YEARS, writing checks to HIMSELF, thinking the State Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF) would never notice his hand was in the cookie jar... last month OCPF caught him and he was fined \$20,000 for violating a spate of campaign laws including accepting illegal donations. **See story page 9**

drive. The money was raised and donated by the Haverhill Bank Activities Committee - an employee-based group whose mission is to give back to the community. Each month the committee holds a “Jeans Day” and, in exchange for a \$5 donation, employees may wear jeans on a designated Friday each month. The money raised is in turn donated to a local civic or charitable organization. “Bank employees are committed to giving back to the local

community,” said Haverhill Bank President and Chief Executive Officer Thomas L. Mortimer. “Whether they

are out working at local events or wearing jeans to benefit a charity, I’m proud of their endeavors.” Cinderella’s Closet provides “gently” used dresses, bags, shoes, jewelry and shawls to Haverhill High School students in need, while Londonderry, N.H.-based MooreMart supplies soldiers and local children in Iraq and Afghanistan with

needed materials. In the case of the recent Fill the Boot campaign, each branch obtained and displayed a boot from the Haverhill Fire Department.

A depositor-owned institution, Haverhill Bank was founded in 1877 and is the oldest cooperative bank in Massachusetts. The bank’s Main Office is at 180 Merrimack St. in Haverhill. Haverhill Bank also maintains offices at 163 South Main St., 1094 Main St., 100 Lafayette Sq., Haverhill High School and Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School.

METHUEN/LAWRENCE - Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley and Sons of Italy Lodge 902To Host 4th Annual Pasta Dinner Friday, November 12, 2010. The

Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley will once again host its annual Pasta Dinner Fundraiser at the Sons of Italy, Lodge 902 in Lawrence, on Friday, November 12, 2010. This year marks the fourth year for this worthy fundraiser and helps raise needed funds to support local foster kids in and around the Merrimack Valley. Proceeds from this event will help support the Annual Christmas Party held every December for foster children ages birth to 18. Each year, the Christmas Drive not only offers a fun, festive environment but also fulfills the wish lists of more than 250 foster children in the area. Tickets for the Pasta Dinner fundraiser are

NOTEBOOK, page 34



TIME FOR CHANGE

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Above: Speaking at Anti-Foreclosure legislation signing ceremony.

- ★ **Obtained \$64.7 million in State funding to renovate Methuen High School to maintain accreditation; bridge repairs over Route 213; a new Head Start building for Methuen; and more.**
- ★ **Spearheaded anti-foreclosure legislation** through the Massachusetts House of Representatives which further criminalizes mortgage fraud.
- ★ As Vice Chair of Veterans & Federal Affairs, secured increased housing and job opportunities for our returning Veterans.
- ★ Voted **against** increased sales and alcohol taxes; worked in successful opposition to several other taxes proposed by the Governor.
- ★ Voted to **require** that recipients of state aid be **legal** residents.
- ★ **Filed pension reform legislation** and supported the pension and ethics reform measures signed into law.
- ★ Voted against changing the law to allow the Governor to appoint an Interim U. S. Senator in advance of the special election.
- ★ **Fought successfully** against tolls on Interstate 93 and **led** our **state's effort** against them in New Hampshire.
- ★ Played key role in securing Federal disaster assistance following the Great Ice Storm of 2008.



Renovation of Methuen High School to begin Fall 2011.



Ground breaking for new Emergency Room at Holy Family Hospital.



New Head Start facility coming to Methuen for its residents.



Methuen Fourth Graders take a tour of the State House.

*I ask you for your vote  
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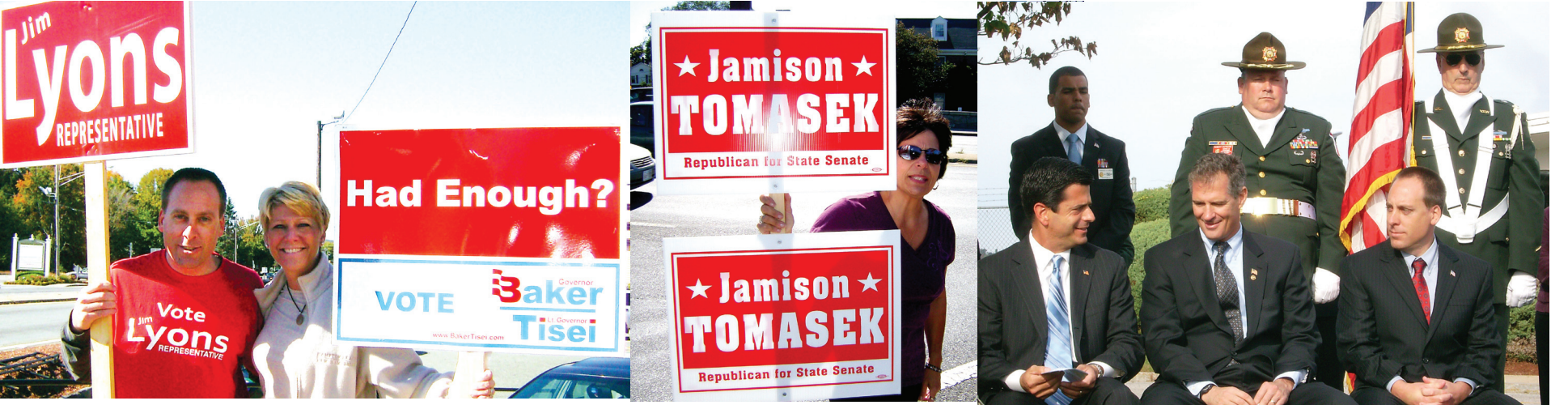




U.S. Senator Scott Brown campaigns with State Rep. candidate Kevin Begley in North Andover. Begley is challenging David Torrissi in November. Middle Photo: Lawrence Fire Chief Bryan Murphy commemorates 911 last month with a memorial service for the firefighters, police officers and 3,000 victims of Muslim terrorists on September 11, 2001. Photo on right: Talk show host Michael Graham of 96.9 FM TALK in Boston caught reading The Valley Patriot last month at a Tea Party meeting and said he was “shocked to read about all the corruption in The Valley.”



Valley Patriot President Tom Duggan with Craig Floyd, President of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund in Washington DC. Floyd holds the June 2010 edition of The Valley Patriot with the police memorial story on the cover. Floyd was in Dracut last month to honor State Senator Steve Panagiotakos. Middle: Tyngsboro Selectman Ashley O'Neill with her dad Steve at the Panagiotakos party in Dracut and Above Right, former Senate President Tom Birmingham poses with his Valley Patriot.



North Andover Selectmen Dan Lanen and Tracy Watson showed up at a Tea Party rally on Rt. 114. Watson and Lanen are supporting Jim Lyons for State Rep. (Lyons is challenging Rep. Barbara L'Italien). Linda Purpura of Andover, a supporter of Senate Candidate Jamison Tomasek. Above right; State Senator Steve Baddour, U.S. Senator Scott Brown and North Andover Selectman Dan Lanen sit in the front row of the service honoring Gold Star Mothers in North Andover last month (see story page 1). In background Lawrence Veterans services Director Francisco Urena.



# Baker gets a little Javo Joe's - To Go in Methuen

Republican candidate for governor Charlie Baker visited Methuen again last week and spent some time at the new downtown breakfast and coffee shoppe: Downtown Java Joe's on Hampshire and Broadway. Baker spent more than an hour meeting with patrons and sipping coffee, talking to the owners of Downtown Java Joe's about the increase in taxes and the struggles of owning a business on the New Hampshire border.



RONNIE’S RANTS

Random Thoughts

**Ronnie Ford**  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

PAYING ATTENTION? Not anymore! Now NOBODY GETS IT... at least not on that Lowell radio station.

You don’t have to like the aggressive talk show host and the Valley Patriot newspaper founder and editor Tom Duggan. But you have to admit, he is a digger who uncovers many political wrongdoings. He brought many more ears to 980AM in the time he was there as well as projecting accurate public information to the public at large.

But, that didn’t seem to matter though as Clark Smidt of WCAP was more obsessed with Duggan’s facebook postings than he was with the job Duggan was doing on the air, or how many listeners he brought to the station.

Tom Duggan is a guy you want to strangle on a Monday and give him a hug on Tuesday. It’s Smidt’s loss at WCAP, but it’s a loss to the radio listeners of the Valley as well. I’ve been hearing over the last two weeks how many people are turning off WCAP now that Duggan’s voice has been silenced. Hell, most people in Lawrence and Methuen didn’t even know WCAP existed before Duggan came along.

Let us hope Tommy will be on another station soon. With his talent there’s no doubt he will be leaving WCAP in the dust because now, NOBODY GETS IT! Wow, do any radio station owners care about the people? Care about their listeners? Care about quality talk radio, anymore? Or is it the just the ring of change in their pockets and who can stroke their egos and tell them what they want to hear?

Well, look at how far Duggan’s star has risen since Costa fired him from WCCM. No doubt his star will continue to rise and Smidt will join the list of fools who were not smart enough to ride his coattails on his way to the top.

\*\*Joe Solomon is behind his old desk once again. The question now is how will he perform? My advice, throw away those deep rooted thoughts about everything but protecting this community to the upmost. Forget the past and remember we all have a future. Make it a good and bright one. Methuen is in the spotlight!

\*\*Campbell, Leahy, Dinuncio, this little tussle is shaping up to be a possible interesting contest. The State Representative from Methuen is being challenged. The Independent Phil Leahy and Republican Al Dinuncio are frothing at the mouth for that seat. The incumbent Linda Dean Campbell has an impressive set of credentials, and has won the

City Council seat as well as occupying the Stat Rep position. Linda is a Veteran having served as a Captain with the US Army Airborne (paratroopers).

Leahy is aggressive and has the support of three city councilors that we know of (rumor has it). Phil sits on the City Council. Al Dinuncio has an up hill battle, but you never know. Campbell is pleasant and intelligent in her speech projection. The out-spoken Leahy is definitely challenging her. the question is will the incumbency hurt or help State Representative Campbell? The fight should start in about two weeks. Soooooooo stay tuned . My advice? Watch that Leahy Linda!

\*\*I don’t know about you, but I am tired and disgusted with all the negativity and the bickering among all the candidates. They tell us what they are going to do, but not how and where is the money coming from to do things. As for the race for Governor, Patrick is lacking, Baker, forget about him, Cahill? He is a no show. The only one civil and knowledgeable is Doctor Jill Stein. Plus, she has no baggage, owes no allegiance to ANYONE, and has more common sense than the three men put together. Wouldn’t the apple cart be upset if the people did a 180 and voted in Jill Stein? Then the powers to be would really be in a tizzy. And Massachusetts would be back on the map!

\*\*The new Market Basket being built on Rt 28 to replace Demoulas’s is coming along nicely. But in the meantime, everyone is going to the one on Rt 28 and Veterans’ Parkway. The people are nasty, fighting for parking places, parking in the fire lanes, and you take your life in your hands trying to get in and out from Veterans’ Parkway. The Demoulas family has built an empire, and more power to them, they worked hard and their prices are second to none. But come on! Put a policeman on detail in the parking lot and on the Veterans’ Parkway, before someone is killed. That would be the smart thing to do! Not wait until someone is injured or killed.

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 .net



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 “Quiet Man’s cottage”

“The Quiet Man” Visit to Counties Galway and Mayo:

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

During ten weeks in the summer of 1951 Hollywood descended on the old-world Irish village of Cong to film a movie (the village had its first electric power installed that year). John Wayne, Maureen O’Hara and other Hollywood stars were trundled down narrow Irish roads while townsfolk looked on in curiosity. The Quiet Man film project must have been underwritten by a higher power because miraculously there was not a drop of rain that Irish summer to spoil the shooting schedule.

If you don’t already know, and if you care a bottle cap about 1950s-era John Wayne films, “The Quiet Man,” is based on Maurice Walsh’s short story, “Green Rushes.” It is set in rural Ireland of the 1930s. According to Robert Osborne of American Movie Classics, the film was the only movie produced by Republic Studios (mostly known for westerns) that was ever nominated for the academy award for best picture. Here’s a synopsis: a prizefighter from Pittsburgh (played by John Wayne) killed a man in the ring so he retreats to the land of his roots and seeks out a quiet existence in his old family homestead, a thatched, whitewashed cottage called “White O’ Morn” outside of a fictitious town called Innesfree

The famous director, John Ford, claimed he was born Sean Aloysius O’Fearná in a postage-stamp-sized coastal town west of Galway City. I read that this family history has been disputed, or even disproved. John Ford was able to bargain the use of Ashford Castle in Cong to house the actors and crew for the movie. The movie was filmed in Technicolor on locations all over Counties Galway and Mayo. Scenes were shot in view of the low hills called “The Twelve Pins” and as far away as the seaside of Clew Bay. The movie towns of Innesfree and Castletown were invented from scenes shot in real life Cong. John Ford took home the best director Oscar for 1952 (it also won best color cinematography - here are all the 1952 Oscar nominees and winners).

Ford bought the rights to “The Green Rushes” as early as 1937 (he spent \$10 for the rights), but couldn’t get backing for a venture that required expensive Technicolor and on-location shooting in Ireland. Even with Wayne, O’Hara and Barry Fitzgerald committed to do the film, Ford couldn’t secure a backer. Republic agreed to finance the film if Ford and his leading actors for the project would first shoot a black-and-white western, the profits from which were expected to offset any loss from the Quiet Man project. In fact, both films, the western “Rio Grande” and the Quiet Man, were profitable for Republic.

What’s in Ireland Left from the Movie? Besides some small tourist attractions there are not many obvious landmarks remaining from “The Quiet Man.” Several shops in Galway City have photographs depicting the actors being outfitted in country tweeds to play their roles. Galway City is the local county seat, with a colorful main street lined with pubs and stores. The salty smell of the bay infects lunchtime appetites and drives travelers to the oyster and seafood restaurants along the pier and the High Street. Galway is a big town in this part of the world, and the motion of its traffic seems to be in a curious balance with an overriding Irish languor in the atmosphere.

To the north of Galway City, on the other side of Loch Corrib, the village of Cong is small and contented. Cong is perhaps more self conscious that it was in the days before it was chosen by Hollywood to represent a postcard image of rural Ireland. Cong has two major intersecting streets that conform to the path of the trout stream that gives the village its name. This glass-clear stream runs along the south edge of the village and the main street rolls down a hill to the stone cross that serves as the central roundabout. Many of the local business run on the lingering fumes of the Quiet Man movie. Reminiscence of 1951 is almost a cottage industry amongst the Cong townsfolk.

Some of the Cong villagers have written accounts of the filming, many of which are still found in Cong shops. If you want to find old filming landmarks you need some local guidance. It’s useful to buy a copy of “The

Complete Tour Guide to The Quiet Man Locations” written under government permit by Lisa Collins, an enterprising young Cong woman who apparently operated Quiet Man tours for years. This pamphlet-sized publication is widely available at local tourist shops in Cong. Paddy Rock, a local tour guide and festival organizer who dropped me an e-mail after spotting this page, reports that he charges 150 euros per day per couple for personalized Quiet Man tours. I’ve not met Paddy in person, nor taken his tour, but he takes an earnest delight in the movie, as well some other local peculiarities, like his involvement in the quest to find County Mayo’s heaviest person (here’s a link to Paddy’s enthusiastic Quiet Man Movie Club website).

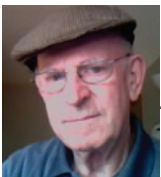
Tracking down the movie landmarks takes you conveniently over some of the most scenic countryside in the region. The Castletown train station depicted in the film is virtually intact, but it is in fact 20 miles away from Cong in the real life town of Ballyglunin. Similarly, Leam Bridge exists just outside of Oughterard in a condition almost identical to 1951 (here are some nice images from the region). This is the bridge where Sean Thornton dreams of his youth in the opening scenes of the movie and hears his dead mother’s voice describing White O’Morn cottage. The beach where John Ford filmed horseracing scenes is in the costal town of Renvyle in view of Lettergesh Post Office.

Within the town of Cong there is the richest assortment of movie landmarks. Ashford Castle, where the crew and actors lived during filming, is just south of town. Nowadays it is a luxury castle hotel with crenellated towers and a moat. Ashford Castle has only a small role in the actual movie. It is shown as a backdrop to the opening credits. However, the surrounding golf course was used in several scenes, including the climactic sequence when John Wayne drags his movie wife back from the Castletown train station to return her to her family. The fairways are strewn with sheep manure and I doubt Maureen O’Hara was able to rescue her movie costume from that day of filming.

The most obvious movie feature remaining in town is Cohan’s Bar, depicted in several scenes. Actually, Cohan’s Bar is a shop, not a bar. A sign reading “Cohan’s Bar” was put on the exterior of the shop for filming and it is still in place (the interior scenes of the bar were shot on a Hollywood sound stage). The location is much the same as it was at the time of filming. In the center of the intersection in front of Cohan’s Bar is a stone cross and roundabout that is depicted in several shots.

Of course, the big tourist draw from the filming of the movie is the actual cottage, White O’Morn, which is the centerpiece for the movie plot. There is a reproduction of the cottage in nearby Maam Cross that is open to tourists. With a bit of research, and a bit of mucky, off-road snooping around, one can find the original cottage near Maam Bridge along the Failmore River. The cottage is next to a single-family house that was built since the filming of the movie, but the house has since been abandoned. The original White O’Morn cottage is in a state of ruin. All that remains on this tufted patch of earth is shaped pile of housing stones. The thatch appears to have gone first, after which water seeped into the 18-inch-thick stone walls and washed out the mortar, peeling off the whitewash as the breakdown progressed season by season. During a visit in July of 2001 there was rumblings that the original cottage would be restored and made into some kind of tourist attraction. However, as recently as June 2003 it was still found crumbling to the ground with no evidence of any construction project. The word is that a Californian has owned the property for 22 years and remains unmoved by requests to sell so the cottage can be restored.

\*http://radioweblogs.com/0117154/stories/2002/12/14/westernIreland.html



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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# From the Desk of Mayor William Manzi

## Debunking Eagle Tribune editorial on early retirement- it does save money

An editorial in the Eagle~Tribune last month called into question the real savings to taxpayers that would come from Methuen's adoption of the early retirement law that the legislature passed as part of the municipal relief package. The editorial is interesting in that it makes some assumptions, and then asks a rhetorical question:

*"The retired workers, meanwhile, would be collecting pensions for the rest of their lives — at least three years longer than they would have otherwise. Is that being figured into the projected savings?"*

While the editorial does not explicitly say so it appears to assume that the extra three years have not been figured in. And they start the editorial this way:

*"So local residents should be skeptical of the claim by Methuen Mayor William Manzi that the city could save \$1.7 million if 39 employees who have expressed interest in early retirement follow through and leave by Nov. 1.*

I have attached the same spreadsheet on my website that I provided to the Tribune, so let us now review actual numbers, to see if the editorial skepticism is warranted. Let me first explain what the spreadsheet represents.

The law mandates that I conduct a "survey" of employees to see who might be interested in "early retirement". The spreadsheet represents the total amount of their current salaries, what their pensions would be if they retired standardly, and what the increase is to their pension by

virtue of "early retirement".

The spreadsheet shows the aggregate amount of pension benefit. It is important to note that any employee opting for early retirement must pay over to the retirement system all accruals they would have coming under existing law.(vacation, pension) That number, since it is not yet defined, is not shown on the spreadsheet, but is a major offset to the cost of the increased pension benefit. Another number to consider is the so called "30% rule", which allows the city to replace 30% of the salaries saved through early retirement in the first year after adoption.

So what are we looking at in terms of making the judgement? Lets look at the numbers.

For the purposes of this exercise let us just look at the city side numbers. These are full year numbers. The City would save, in the year of adoption, \$1,705,333.91 in salaries. (Based on those returning the survey). The increase in pension benefit for those opting in would be \$124,768.81. And that increased benefit, in year 1, would likely be entirely



wiped out by the forced givebacks of accruals. So on that basis the early retirement numbers are a no-brainer. But lets look at the numbers in a more comprehensive way. The new "retirees" would be collecting aggregate pen-

sions of \$1,166,605.26. Under the terms of the Tribune reasoning this three year cost to the retirement system would be \$3,499,815. Now that number must be reduced by the overall cost of foregone unemployment (Tribune editorial notes this potential savings) and by the amount of the accruals that the employees would have to give over. Although difficult to quantify here let us assume that the year 1 savings would be \$500,000,(conservative estimate) driving the total three year cost down to about \$2,999,815. The three year savings to the City budget (based on the \$1,705,333 annual salary savings) is \$5,116,002. Hmmmm. Where I come from that is a savings of over \$2 million dollars (American).

What has been left out? Have my numbers been cooked? Should we be skeptical? Aha you say! Mr. Mayor you

have not figured in the 30% allowed under law for the City to "replace" retired salaries!!! Great point. Lets look at that. The law "allows" such replacement, but does not mandate it. I have represented to City Council, per the law, that if replacement did occur, it would only come in the first year after implementation. What that means is that the replacement salaries would only exist for two of the three years in question. Since everyone agrees that one of the benefits to the law is that cities are trying to avoid layoffs and the costs associated with them, it is hard to see how any Mayor would be in a position to utilize the full percentages allowed by the law. I know that I do not intend to do so. But using that 30% number of \$511,600 and assuming the very worst you multiply that by two and you get \$1,022,000, which would then be deducted from the earlier savings shown of \$2 million, and you still get a savings of over \$1 million dollars.

The numbers, I realize, can make your head spin. And the Tribune editorial, I believe, relies on the fact that earlier "municipal early retirement" packages were in fact not great deals for the taxpayers. This package is indeed different, and the numbers show exactly that. Methuen taxpayers are substantially better off by adoption of this legislation, and our implementation of it will prove that.

Read the Tribune editorial on-line at: <http://www.eagletribune.com/opinion/x535471008/Editorial-Early-retirement-savings-can-be-fleeting>.



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- 2). Complete Pension reform to include:
  - Put a cap on what a person can receive (\$75,000)
  - Eliminate elected officials from the retirement system.
  - Proposed changes would affect present and future employees
- 3). I support the casino and slot machine bill with the following provisions.
  - With the stipulation that for the first 2 years all profits go to local aid
  - After the first two years at least 50% of the profits go to local aid.
- 4). I support legislation that would put a stop to illegal aliens from receiving any government benefits.
- 5). Support mandatory jail time for drug dealers.
- 6). I propose forming a committee to do a complete review of all State Government Departments. That would evaluate the necessity of personnel to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of each employee. Further, I would consider merging interdepartmental personnel to cross train employees to do "more with less".

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# Senator Baddour encourages Dems to embrace the Tea Party

Democrat State Senator Steve Baddour of Methuen has been seen networking and even speaking at Merrimack Valley Tea Party meetings in Andover, and North Andover.

Given the hostility that leaders in his own political have for the Tea Party and given the guaranteed negative media that accompanies any Tea Party meeting, we caught up with Baddour to ask him his thoughts on the party and the way they are treated by Democrats.

VALLEY PATRIOT: Senator, what do you think of the Tea Party?

SEN. BADDOUR: I like the Tea Party. I enjoy going to the meetings, I love the give and take. I love the fact that there are people there who agree with me, don't agree with me and aren't afraid to express their concerns.

So, I think the Tea Party is going to be an integral part of the election process going forward and, quite frankly, we need it on a local level. We need it on a national level and on the state level, too. Anytime we can bring in people and engage them in the process, it's a good thing.

VALLEY PATRIOT: Let me ask you this, when Jack Wilson was running, I kept encouraging him to go to the Tea Party meetings and he said that he was worried about the Democratic insiders attacking him if he goes. You are a Democrat insider, you are an incumbent, what advice can you give to other Democratic candidates about going into the Tea Party and networking with those people and working the crowd?

SEN. BADDOUR: First of all, I wouldn't say I was a Democratic insider, look at my voting records...

VALLEY PATRIOT: Come on, Senator you are an incumbent Democrat on Beacon Hill, you ARE an insider!

SEN. BADDOUR: Ok, so, I am an incumbent, I agree. There is a difference, though between an insider and an incumbent. But to answer your question, I would say go! Listen! Listen to what they are saying. Those are the people that you have to represent. They have legitimate concerns about government.

There are Democrats and Republicans. The Tea Party values are a lot like Democrat values.

There are similarities between the Democratic values, you know, fighting for working families,

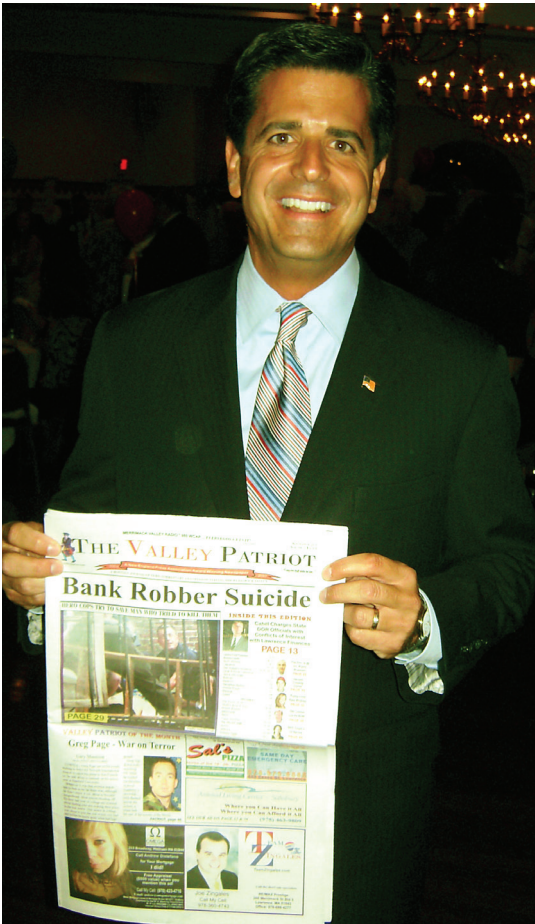
smaller government, lower taxes. Small business, private, let's put people back to work, that's what it is about.

VALLEY PATRIOT: Aren't you worried about being called a racist? Aren't you worried about the mythological narrative the media has created about those who attend Tea Party Meetings?

SEN. BADDOUR: Yeah, look, there's a fringe element to the Tea Party, that's true. But there is a fringe element to the Democratic Party! I think the media overlooks the similarities there.

Look, it wasn't too long ago that Democrats were holding signs saying "Kill Bush" or "Bush is a Nazi". So, there are radicals on all sides in every party. You have to forget about them, ignore them, push them to the side and go to the heart of what matters: that's working ordinary citizens, who care about their government, who want to see America and the Commonwealth move forward

TRANSCRIBED BY DAWN RATTE-LADE-BRANTMULLER, ASSISTANT TO THE EDITOR



# Willette Endorses Baker for Gov!

I am pleased and honored to endorse Charlie Baker as the next Governor of Massachusetts. Imagine voting for a Governor like Charlie Baker who opposes driver's licenses, in-state tuition rights and government benefits for illegal aliens—a leader who would have signed the Perry Amendment into law, denying illegal aliens access to taxpayer funded programs and services. Imagine voting for a Governor who will give the necessary high-tech tools to law enforcement personnel across the Commonwealth to apprehend illegal aliens with dangerous and heinous criminal records who are living here with relative immunity.

Can you envision voting for a Baker ticket that does not want to tax every consumer product or human transaction on the planet, and supporting a conservative candidate who promises to begin the process of rolling back the eight tax increases that the Patrick Administration has approved? Are you ready to join the hundreds of thousands of conservative and moderate Democrats, Independents and Republicans who fully realize that top-to-bottom reform of state government is still urgently needed, that more substantial pension reform cannot wait, that dozens of state agencies must be merged

and duplication eliminated, and that costly regulations must be streamlined and unfunded mandates stopped? Can you stand up and support the creation of 15,000 new jobs that a casino package signed into law would bring to a fragile Massachusetts recovery, and advocate for the infusion of hundreds of millions in new local aid dollars to finally provide real property tax relief?

A strong political wave is forming across the Merrimack Valley, which is constituted of committed and active voters who are seeking a candidate who will work across party lines to tackle the scourge of illegal immigration, who will reduce the size and reach of state government in good times and during economic downturns, who will restore sanity to our criminal justice system and who understands that the top-heavy bureaucratic beast must be tamed and significantly reduced. If you answered with a strong yes to all of the above questions, please join me in spreading the word about Charlie Baker—the next Governor of Massachusetts.

Kenneth R. Willette, Jr., Methuen School Committeeman and former Methuen City Councilor at Large

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## GEORGETOWN TODAY!

## Lyons, Finneran, Hudak: the 5% solution

Lawrence “Lonnie” Brennan  
VALLEY PATRIOT GEORGETOWN COLUMNIST

If you live in Georgetown (or many surrounding towns for that matter), and if you really, truthfully don’t want to support the ultra-liberal, ultra-tax-increasing, arrogant and entrenched politicians, it’s time to become part of the 5% solution.

That’s right, in past elections, if just 5% of the folks reading this now, would change their vote, we would have new people in office, and a chance to reduce government waste, and outrageous spending and tax increases.

So I ask you: will you go out and blindly ‘Vote Democrat’ because that’s what you’ve always done? Or, will you evaluate the candidates, see who fits YOUR voting preferences, and then ‘hold your nose’, ‘cross the line’, and vote for (wait for it, brace yourself, this is tough folks) a Republican?

Seriously, will you be part of the 5% solution? Or will you remain a slave to the Democrat corruption and arrogance and resulting spending and tax increases on nearly everything you touch every day (sales tax, meals tax, gas tax, utility tax, phone tax, tax on tax!).

There are three candidates to vote for when you hit the polls in November: Bill Hudak (Congress), Robert Finneran (Rep., Precinct 1), and Jim Lyons (Rep., Precinct 2). It goes without saying that each of the candidates, all running for different offices, are up again solidly entrenched ultra-liberal, ultra-left-of-left, tax increasing moonbats who represent the absolute worst of the Democratic party. In my eyes, they have helped to kill the former integrity of the Democrat party in Massachusetts.

So as not to bore you, let me just hit the highlights: Mr. Hudak faces off against illegal immigrant lover John Tierney. Mr. Tierney is a nice man who routinely votes lock-step with all tax increases and spending increases. We nickname him ‘lapdog’ a long time ago in this district, as he’s just a blind follower of the party leaders. No ‘independent thinking’ seen from this coward who refused to hold town-hall meetings last year on the Obama ‘health-care’ bill.

Robert Finneran in precinct 2 has his work cut out for him going against long-time rep. Harriet Stanley. Ms. Stanley announced this year that she will retire

after just one more election season. She just voted to increase the sales tax and she wants time to hang around and vote for more tax increases. But, she’s well-entrenched and it’s nearly impossible to throw a sitting rep out of office, when that seemingly lifelong poll has a name in the district and incredible financing from union and corporate interests.

That leads us to Jim Lyons, the true 5% solution running against Barbara “I’m nice and smiling to your face while I vote for almost every spending increase and tax increase that will hurt the elderly in my district” ‘Taxes’ L’Italien. Mr. Lyons is endorsed by the Citizens for Limited Taxation (CLT) because he has pledged to support restoring the sales tax to 5%, and the meals tax to 5%, and the income tax to 5%, unlike ‘Taxes’ L’Italien. In contrast, ‘Taxes’ was finally called out this summer by no other than Barbara Anderson of CLT, who lambasted ‘Taxes’ for her underhanded, sleazy attempt to eliminate the citizens’ petition process! Ms. Anderson and her group crushed L’Italien’s latest misguided attempt. But L’Italien remains the best representative tax-free Salem N.H. has ever had, driving Massachusetts residents over the border to shop in N.H.!

Indeed, L’Italien has reached the pinnacle of her career, now on the ‘wall of shame’ with the top 10 worst taxraisers in Massachusetts.

For those of you who love ‘Taxes’, here’s a thought: now it’s time to thank L’Italien for her caring heart (and desire to spend your money), and vote to retire her. She’ll still make a bundle of taxpayer money in retirement, so don’t feel bad for her or her family.

I had an interesting discussion with my 76 year old lifelong Democrat neighbor the other day. While she “can’t re-register as a Republican...it’s just too big of a leap”, she is dropping her “Demotax” registration and becoming an independent and is voting to join the 5% solution.

A final thought: if you vote for Mr. Tierney, Ms. Stanley, or Ms. L’Italien, you deserve every tax-increase you get.



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).



## Dump The Democrats

John McCormack  
VALLEY PATRIOT BOXFORD COLUMNIST

I was raised the son of parents who emigrated from Ireland after World War II. This child knew little of politics. I drank my milk to President Eisenhower’s photo with Big Brother Bob Emery while Hail to the Chief played. Ike seemed like a nice man. I didn’t know he was a Republican.

Republicans were said to be the political party of “the rich.” Democrats were the “working man’s” party. Labor unions were the epitome of the working man. Generally I heard about labor unions when they were on strike: the mine workers, the auto workers, and more locally the Carmen’s Union whose members drove MTA busses and trains. I don’t know how my car-less father got to work then.

The parties have changed but old impressions endure. Plato’s “Allegory of the Cave” envisions prisoners chained together and forced to face a blank wall illuminated by the light of a distant fire and the shadows of things in the real world behind. The prisoners try to understand the world by assigning meaning to the shadows. We are prisoners if our political understanding comes from advertising or mainstream media.

The “country club” Republicans have significantly died out, leaving behind the middle class Americans who still believe in self-reliance, hard work, and personal restraint. The “Tea Party” activists terrify Democrats because they are the vanguard of an aroused and angry middle class.

The Democrats have become the party of left-wing “progressive” intellectuals, public employee labor unions, and the many rent-seekers who pursue government’s favor. This includes business which has no allegiance and supports whoever is in power.

Understanding motivation helps. The Democratic elites’ goal, for the Proles anyway, is to sand down our rough edges, corners and advantages of mind or body or experience or possessions until we are all perfectly smooth, round, powerless and most importantly equal. Then we’ll inhabit Lisa Simpson’s imaginary utopian land of Equalia or perhaps the People’s Temple in Guyana.

Back in the fifties many feared creeping corporate mandated conformity (William Whyte’s The Organization Man). The Twilight Zone presented Number 12 Looks Just Like You which imagined a world where everyone is altered (genetically?) at age 19 to live longer, healthier lives as beautiful and unfortunately identical people. This seemed to self-destruct by the late sixties but has returned with a vengeance in a new form today. This is the morbid fixation on “fairness” enforced through the schools, tax code, health care, and environmental extremism.

“Progressives” in the early twentieth

century pursued this agenda by lopping off stragglers with abortion, sterilization, and other efforts at eugenics. These ideas were thoroughly discredited by the end of World War II and “progressives” became “liberals” even though they completely inverted the meaning of the word. “Liberal” became an albatross by the late twentieth century so “progressive” has returned but now they seek equality by hamstringing the successful and propping up the stragglers with wealth redistribution. The objects of this control may come to prefer death to this existence like Kurt Vonnegut’s Harrison Bergeron. Progressives’ fatal conceit is that humanity is infinitely malleable and can be perfected with coercive guidance by the elite.

This requires a therapeutic state, commandeering and directing much human activity; it needs a government of lawyers and social workers.

The undiluted progressive government on display in Washington has terrified many Americans. Massachusetts is Washington light. On November 2 Boxford elects federal and state representatives.

State Republican Brad Hill is unopposed in Precincts 1 and 3. Democrat Barbara L’Italien is running against Republican James Lyons in Precinct 2. I first saw Barbara in December 2005 at Lincoln Hall when our local progressives announced their plan to build subsidized condominiums on Porter Brook. She uttered the usual pieties about “affordable” housing and left early. In 2008 she listed the provision of 3,190 recycling education mailers as a benefit to Boxford from her office. I’ve not seen one. Barbara is a social worker. James Lyons is a small businessman, not a politician. Vote for Lyons and put sand in the Democrat machine’s gears.

The reason to vote for tax reduction isn’t the cost of the tax; it is to reverse the ratchet effect. Every tax increase means that government becomes a permanently larger part of the economy. It then over-extends itself leading to the next increase, etc. So vote YES on questions 1 and 3 and let the politicians know you want spending cut. Vote YES on 2 also.

After Niki Tsongas and others were swamped with angry constituents at “Town Hall” meetings about Obamacare John Tierney adopted the abominable “Telephone Town Hall.” You feel completely marginalized in these things. Tierney supports Democrats’ budget-busting crackpot schemes: Obamacare, cap and trade energy rationing, the porkula stimulus and more. Elect the energetic Bill Hudak and help dethrone Nancy Pelosi.



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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STATE REP. DEBATE: FROM 6

people that supported us in the primary. I was born on Andover Street (Lawrence), we moved to Howe Road. In 3rd grade, we moved to the corner of Brookfield and Chester St. and that's where I grew up. I graduated from St. Patrick's, graduated from Lawrence High in 1970. I was going to go to Harvard, but at the very last minute, I was accepted to Trinidad State Junior College in Colorado, thank God (laughter)...

In January 1981 I went into the insurance business and that's what I've been doing. Since that day I've never taken a paycheck. 100% of the money that I've earned has been commission dollars. So, I know a little bit about running a business, making mistakes, fixing the mistakes, making the decisions that will hopefully, take you in the right direction.

My fear is that most of the people on Beacon Hill have never done that, (they) have never been in that situation. So, there are things that are going on in this state and as a businessman I say "Look, we've made a lot of mistakes, let's not look back, let's not try to lay blame." In a business situation, you find out who made the mistake, you fire him or her, you wish them well and you move forward, you immediately move forward.

Take the situation in Lawrence, again, don't lay blame on that... (they) made a mistake. It's unfortunate that we may have to wait until January to fix that mistake and the thing that I see wrong on Beacon Hill is this; while Lawrence was literally burning, the Legislature bickered about casinos. How could casinos help Lawrence? Immediately help Lawrence? Immediately help the Merrimack Valley?

It's not just a Lawrence problem, it's a Merrimack Valley problem. Methuen has stood up and said "We're not coming in anymore to help you fight fires." North Andover is this close to telling you they are not coming in here to help you fight fires. The last time they were here, in May, it was a Saturday. The very next day, (councilor) Dan Rivera wrote a piece. He said that if Lawrence were allowed to change their health plan to the state plan,

they would save between \$400,000 to \$500,000. Lawrence has just done that. As a businessman, I say, "What in God's name took you so long to do something so simple?" It's just common sense.

**Audience Question:** "Do you (Dave Torrisi) have any regrets supporting Governor Patrick in 2006 and who are you supporting this year?"

**Torrisi:** I did not support Governor Patrick in 2006 and I am not endorsing anyone in this election either.

*[Editor's note: Torrisi did, in fact support Governor Patrick in 2006 and three days after this debate, he was campaigning in North Andover and Lawrence with Governor Patrick]*

**Begley:** First of all, I'll be supporting Charlie Baker and as far as Governor Patrick, that's a failed experiment.

**Audience Question:** The lady running for Treasurer, (Karyn Polito) made the comment about not taking a state pension if she's elected. Where do you stand on the state pensions?

**Begley:** I don't think that elected officials or appointees should be on a pension system, nor should they have lifetime health insurance. If you are asking me, personally, would I take that Karyn Polito pledge? I can't answer you, because I don't even know what the benefits are of this job. I didn't get into this for the money. I'm fortunate enough to have a business that allowed me to take a few months totally away from work to go knocking on doors. So I can't answer what I would do. I don't even know what the salary is. I think it's \$61,000, that's what Willie Lantigua was trying to take along with his mayoral paycheck. That's all I really know about the (pay), I swear to God.

**Torrisi:** Karyn Polito is a friend of mine, we served together for 10 years. Karyn, with all do respect, she's been in the pension system for the last 10 years, so she just recently found religion on this issue. I am in the pension system. I've been in for 12 years now. I pay 11% of my salary into it that sometimes gets lost in the shuffle. We actually pay into the system, we are not eligible for Social

"... my idea, (for) elected officials and any appointed personnel would be (to make them) 1099 employees... Give the guy a check and tell him/her to 'pay your taxes or don't pay your taxes, set up a 401K for yourself or don't set up a 401K for yourself. Do whatever you want with the money. You have no pension, you have no health insurance, buy your own health insurance and see what these mandates inside these policies are doing to you... I think that everyone inside government should have to do what a small business owner does. Buy your own insurance."

- State Rep. candidate Kevin Begley



Security. So, I think the problems that are haunting the pensions right now are; some of the older people who are in the system have too long been paying 4-5% into the system and that's what is causing the major structural imbalances. The people like myself that are paying 11% and actually, there are some teachers that pay 14% of their salary into the pension system, so those people are actually supporting themselves on that.

**Audience Question:** On that 11%, are they matching you on any of that?

**Torrisi:** There is an appropriation from the state budget, yes, but like Social Security...

**Audience:** But how much are they matching?

**Torrisi:** I don't know what the exact number is, but (crowd laughing and heckling)

**Audience:** You've been in for 12 years and you don't know?

**Torrisi:** No, I don't (crowd laughing and cat calling).. I don't know, but I would like to just say that in Social Security, there is an employee match, like 6.25% and the employer pays the other 6.25%

**Begley:** I had a meeting about a month or so ago with Barbara Anderson in her home. My idea, (for) elected officials and any appointed personnel would be (to make them) 1099 contracted employees. Give the guy a check and tell him/her to 'pay your taxes or don't pay your taxes, set up a 401K for yourself or don't set up a 401K for yourself. Do whatever you want with the money. You have no pension, you have no health insurance. Buy your own health insurance and see what these mandates inside these policies are doing to you. My wife and I spent almost \$10,000 a year for 2 people to be insured. So, I think that everyone inside government should have to do what a small business owner does. Buy your own insurance.

**Audience Question:** Kevin, Can you tell us how you would have voted on the \$35Mil bailout that your opponent (Dave Torrisi) supported?

**Begley:** Tommy, I think I would have supported giving Lawrence the money, but

I would have put them in receivership on day one. (applause)

**Torrisi:** "I generally don't answer questions for Tommy Duggan, because I have absolutely no respect for him at all and what he does and what he represents (boos and heckling). But I think I really want to answer this question because I listened to Jameson (Tomasek) talk and in my opinion, bad mouth the city about this quote-unquote loan bill.

You know, when we took that up, we were six weeks into a new administration and six weeks into a new council. So, what people wanted us to do was to say 'Lawrence can't take care of itself.' The election we had last fall, which I know a lot of people were not happy with the mayoral results, that's obvious. But, if you are telling me that we should just throw the results of that election out the window and bring the state in before they have the chance to get the job done? What happened to Democracy in this country, folks? We have elections for a reason and I know the person that ran from this neighborhood was supported by a lot of people in this room and, you know, I still consider Willie Lantigua a friend of mine, I consider Willie Lantigua a friend of mine, OK? I am not afraid to say that (Boos from crowd).

Well, I'm sorry. I've worked with these elected officials. Two of the people who won last year, a lot of respect, Dan Rivera and Eileen Bernall. I was going to give them a chance to make this right. Let me tell you something, they have done a good job. They balanced the budget for the first time in 3 years. So, people who just want to bring the state in, right off the bat, I mean, give the guy a chance. That's what we did and I'll tell you something, the same thing would have happened if David (Abdoo) would have won as well. So, thank you."

*[Editors note: The Department of Revenue certified all of Lawrence's budgets as balanced with the exception of 2009. All three previous years' budgets were balanced before Lantigua took office.]*

# Wiggles & Jiggles

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# Changes in the law and possible changes

**Sheldon Fine**  
VALLEY PATRIOT LEGAL COLUMNIST

A short time ago, I wrote in this newspaper that there could be a change in the law in regards to the Natural Accumulation Snow and Ice. Under the law before the case of “Papadopoulos et al Vs. Target Corporation et al, the “natural accumulation rule” which had been recognized since 1883, plaintiffs” (people bringing the suit) were prohibited from suing defendants (people who are sued) for injuries caused by untouched snow and ice on their property. The Supreme Judicial Court held in the above case, that property owners can now be found liable for failing to keep their land free of dangerous snow and ice regardless of whether the condition resulted from natural or unnatural causes.

Judge Gants of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts wrote the opinion for the court which reversed the decision of Superior Court Judge Merita A. Hopkins who had allowed motions of summary judgment saying and relying on the previous case law that held a property owner does not violate the duty of reasonable care by failing to remove natural accumulation of snow and ice and therefore, Judge Hopkins found the plaintiff could not prevail on his negligence claims.

In reversing Judge Hopkins, Judge Gants said the Supreme Judicial Court had decided to do away with natural and unnatural accumulation analysis of snow and ice in premises liability cases. He said “We now abolish the distinction between natural and unnatural accumulations of snow and ice and apply to all hazards arising from snow and ice the same obligation of reasonable care that a property owner owes to lawful visitors regarding all other hazards.” The Judge said that the ruling does not place any special burdens on property owners.

“If a property owner knows or reasonably should know of a dangerous condition on its property, whether arising from an accumulation of snow or ice or rust on a railing or a discarded banana peel, the property owners owes a duty to lawful visitors to make reasonable efforts to protect lawful visitors against the danger” he said.

Gants also said the Supreme Court ruling that was handed down would not impose unreasonable maintenance burdens on land owners but instead it would clarify a law that had spawned confusion and conflict in the past. The Court was in fact trying to make these cases easier to understand. As people know, the law was built on cases that took place in the past and a ruling was handed down. They made the law at that time. As time goes on, case law changes for the good or bad and those earlier cases are modified, overruled, etc.

The Court by Judge Gants went on to say “the snow removal reasonably expected of a property owner will depend on the amount of foot traffic to be anticipated on the property, the magnitude of the risk reasonably feared and burden and expense of ice removal. Therefore, while an owner of a single family home, an apartment home owner or store owner and a nursing home operator each owe lawful visitors to their property a duty of reasonable care what constitutes reasonable snow removal may

vary amount them.

This writer will continue to show in future articles the new cases in the law or how courts apply existing case law.

There are matters which could change law and/or open up a Pandora’s Box. Recently, I read an article in a national newspaper where they were talking about an attorney from a New York law firm who turned 70 and worked four decades for the firm was stripped of his financial stake under a policy designed to encourage older partners to retire. Most of the big law firms have some sort of policy similar to said. They seem to be saying this is necessary to make room for younger partners to advance. These firms are worried as industry competition intensifies that younger members are more productive then the older partners.

These mandatory retirements have stood for many years without being challenged. This is starting a debate which is starting to heat up as to how you deal with aging lawyers who want to keep working. We must remember that many years ago, people wanted to retire as life spans were less that they are today. Today, people want to work and do not want to retire. Cases have started and there will be more. One case, the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission settled a case against a large law firm and the firm had to pay 32 partners \$27.5 million, which many of whom the EEOC said were demoted because of age. The above case of the 70 year old lawyer is in suit accusing the law firm of violating age discrimination laws.

These cases involving lawyers, could be carried over to the large public accounting firms who at earlier ages (i.e. 55 or 65) are told that they must step down from their positions or possibly leave the firm.

Another possible change could be opening up where the Florida Supreme Court has attacked the single member LLC (Limited Liability Company.) In the case, the defendant had several LLC’s but only one member. The Eleventh Circuit certified in this case the following question: “Whether pursuant to FLA Stat. ss 608.433 (4) a court may order a judgment –debtors to surrender all right, title and interest in the debtor’s single member limited liability company to satisfy an outstanding judgment. This writer is not going to go into the facts of the case but basically open up an area which could change the way we treat Limited Liability Companies at least as far as the sole member company. This case could go across the county and have an impact on other LLC’s beyond the sole member. Once you open the door to a case the hole gets bigger. The Court said, “We hold that a court may order a judgment debtor to surrender all right, title and interest in the debtor’s single member LLC to satisfy an outstanding judgment”. This case was not a unanimous decision as there was opposing opinion however, only time will tell when this case is expanded to include not only sole member Limited Liability Companies. This writer will keep you up to date.

If you have any questions, please contact the writer at (978) 475-9886. He does work in personal injury, corporate law, real estate and bankruptcy.

# Ask the Reverse Mortgage Guy

**Bob Irving, CSA®**  
VALLEY PATRIOT MORTGAGE COLUMNIST

Q – I am hearing that fees & costs for Reverse Mortgages have decreased substantially very recently. Is this true? Marion G., North Andover MA

A – Yes! Several lenders have introduced new variations on the traditional Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) product that offer lower up-front fees & costs to borrowers. But be careful. You should work with an experienced reverse mortgage specialist to fully understand the pros and cons of each program. While upfront costs can be dramatically reduced (or eliminated), you will pay a higher interest rate on that loan. There is no free lunch.

You, your reverse mortgage broker and your trusted financial advisor need to spend some quality face-to-face time together to fully understand your needs. Once you are in agreement on your exact needs, it will be easier to select the specific program that works best for you. Believe it or not, the program with the lowest up-front fees might not be the least costly loan.

Q – We are reading in the paper that a new reverse mortgage program from HUD called the HECM Saver is now available for seniors. What is that? Peter, Salem NH

A – The HECM Saver was announced late last month by the U.S. Department of Housing and Development (HUD). It will shortly be added to the list of popular Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) products available to senior homeowners 62 years of age and older. The complete product line now includes HECM Standard, HECM Saver, and HECM for Purchase.

The new HECM Saver provides for a major reduction in the upfront mandatory FHA Mortgage Insurance premium... always the largest cost in upfront HECM fees. This fee, paid directly to FHA, usu-

ally equals 50% of overall upfront costs or as much as \$12,500 depending on your appraised home value. Under the new HECM Saver program just announced by HUD, the upfront fee will be reduced to no more than \$62.50. Borrowers will still pay ordinary 3rd party closing costs such as appraisal, title insurance, attorney fees, etc. but the HECM Saver represents a major reduction in overall upfront fees & costs.

As with most things, there is a price to pay for the reduced cost. All HECM loans also mandate a mortgage insurance additional fee be paid monthly to FHA. Under HECM Standard reverse mortgage loans, that fee is .5% (.05) added to your mortgage interest rate. HECM Saver loans with the drastically reduced upfront costs will require payment of 1.25% (.0125) added to the mortgage interest rate for FHA mortgage insurance.

Finally, the amount of money borrowers qualify for under the new HECM Saver program is about 15% less than the amount they qualify for under the HECM Standard program.

Q – You seem to constantly stress that seniors should work with “experienced brokers” when considering a reverse mortgage. Why a broker? What’s wrong with going to my bank or credit union? Bill G. Chelmsford MA

A – Here are your options: (1.) Going to your local bank/credit union might turn up unwelcome surprises if you seek assistance with a reverse mortgage. Most local financial institutions simply do not have the expertise to do reverse mortgages... few actually know anything about them. You will waste a bunch of time while they try to talk you into that wonderful home equity loan they offer. Or maybe they will try to refer you to a “non-profit” they are hooked up with that offers a bill consolidation term loan with a huge bal-

**REVERSE MORTGAGE, page 32**

## Celebrate Int’l Credit Union Day at M/A-COM FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ... Experience the Credit Union Difference!

LOWELL - On Oct. 21, credit union members around the world will celebrate 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 UNION invites its members and the whole community to enjoy warm apple cider, yummy cider donuts, FREE tote bag & piggy bank giveaway (limited supply!), enter raffle for IPOD Nano & \$25.00 AMEX Gift Cheque in addition to our ONE DAY ONLY Auto Loan Promotion: Re-finance your Auto Loan with MFCU and we will beat your existing Auto Loan rate by 2.00% (rules and restrictions apply, inquire within), 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, October 21st, 2010, at 83 Merrimack Street, Lowell, MA, 01852.

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. M/A-COM Federal Credit Union is a full service, member focused institution, with \$14.1 Million in assets, our field of membership includes any person who lives, works, attends school in the City of Lowell, MA, Northern Portion of Chelmsford, & Western Portion

of Tewksbury. MFCU has 1 main office located in Historic Downtown Lowell on the corner of Merrimack and John Street.

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.

On Oct. 21, credit unions from around the world will be celebrating the day with parades, festivals, contests and open houses. For more information about M/A-COM FEDERAL CREDIT UNION’s events, visit [www.macomfcu.org](http://www.macomfcu.org).

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# Methuen Receives Federal COPS Grant

By Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi By

Below is the press release from Congressman Niki Tsongas on the great news that Methuen was one of five communities in MA to receive federal money to hire or retain police officers:

Congressman Niki Tsongas has announced that the City of Methuen has received one of the very competitive federal Community Oriented Policing (COPS) grants from the Dept. of Justice in the amount of \$744,724 that can be used to hire or retain four police officers in Methuen.

"Methuen like many too many of our communities has had to make serious cut-backs in order to balance the budget," said Congressman Niki Tsongas.

"These federal funds will help the City keep police officers on the street during this difficult economic time. Public safety is critical for all our communities and I will continue to work with cities and towns in the Merrimack Valley to ensure that they have access to federal funds for this purpose."

"I would like to thank Congressman Tsongas and the federal government for providing Methuen with this important grant," Manzi said. "Public safety is of great importance to me and this grant will insure that we have enough officers protecting our city even in these difficult

financial times."

The federal funds will provide 100 percent of the approved salary and benefits for entry level officer positions over a three year period.

The funds can be put towards full-time sworn officer positions (including filling existing unfunded vacancies) or for rehired officers who have been laid off, or are scheduled to be laid off on a future date, as a result of budget cuts.

Congressman Tsongas is a strong proponent of the COPS program because of the overwhelming evidence in her district, and across the country, illustrating that it is a program that works and is worthy of receiving federal support.

"COPS has been and continues to be a critical means by which the federal government can provide desperately needed resources to local law enforcement, hiring new police officers, purchasing new technologies, hiring school resource officers to protect our children at school, and building better relationships between law enforcement and our communities," Tsongas added.

"My thanks to former Chief Kathi Lavigne, who oversaw the development and filing of this very competitive grant. I'm grateful to Congressman Tsongas, who has worked time and again to deliver federal resources to Methuen," Mayor Manzi said.



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**– Jon Hurst, President of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts**

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Dracut’s Mainstream Media Lost its Integrity and Its Audience

D.J. Deeb  
VALLEY PATRIOT DRACUT COLUMNIST

Perhaps the title of this column should be, “The Importance of Studying Several Different Sources Before Making a Decision”, but I just found it fascinating at this past June Town Meeting how Dracut’s various media outlets and Internet blogs handled a certain warrant article, which I felt should’ve been given a heck of a lot more publicity prior to the first Monday of June. Warrant Article 20, basically asked Dracut voters if they wished to continue having stipend elected officials eligible to enroll on the Town employees’ health insurance coverage as prescribed in Massachusetts General Law 32b. M.G.L. 32b allows individual cities and communities in the State the option of whether it wants to maintain this perk for its stipend elected officials or just eliminate it. In the past couple of years, for example, both Tyngsboro and Chelmsford eliminated this perk for its stipended elected officials. Dracut officials refuse to allow voters a choice, one way or another, on this particular issue.

Reportedly, there are at least three individuals (two current Selectmen and one “retired” Selectman enrolled in this health insurance coverage) exploiting our Town’s family health insurance collectively for about \$72,000 per year (\$18,000 per enrollee). This is quite a generous perk for a supposedly voluntary community service, wouldn’t you say? Also, the three individuals in question here are probably more financially wealthy than at least 90 percent of Dracut residents. I don’t believe any one of them would break a sweat if they had to purchase their family’s health insurance coverage privately. Instead, the lowly Dracut taxpayers get stuck footing the bill on this perk for these high-and-mighty privileged politicians. Can you blame them for taking advantage of this perk when the special interests who dominate Dracut Town meeting hand it to them?

Now, from what I’ve described thus far, wouldn’t you assume that the local media and Internet blogs would get all over this like a snake on you-know-what? Unfortunately, that just wasn’t the case.

I hate to toot my own horn, but this issue was the subject of my May column in this

same newspaper. It also got fairly good coverage on the Internet message board, “Dracut After Dark”, as well as the local access TV show, “Inside Dracut Politics”. Aside from these three entities, this controversial warrant article in that June Town Meeting was one of the best kept secrets in town.

Incidentally, this past June Town Meeting had just barely had a quorum with approximately 250 people in attendance. There was a push to eliminate the elected pols’ stipends in an earlier warrant article, which would’ve automatically killed the perk because that’s a requirement to M.G.L. 32b, but that failed because most of the crowd felt that our Selectmen, School Committee members, and Town Moderator were all deserving at least of some financial compensation for their public service. Article 20, however, was taken off the Town Warrant because our Town Attorney claimed that it was illegal. Both Chelmsford and Tyngsboro successfully managed to remove this perk from any of its stipend elected officials to exploit while Dracut, for whatever reason, is stuck with it. Incredible!

Getting back to the media coverage of this warrant article (or lack thereof), The Lowell Sun had to be the most disappointing. Arguably, still the number one source for news and information in Dracut, The Sun did absolutely nothing to promote the importance of this warrant article, or any other aspect surrounding this annual event, for at least 3-4 weeks prior to the June 7th date.

A couple weeks prior to the June Town Meeting, The Sun wrote two different editorials pertaining to Dracut – one calling for the resignation of an elected official, and another pushing for the termination of two town employees – the timeliness of both those commentaries could’ve easily waited till at least late August since neither one of them were appropriately addressed until months after that Town Meeting. On the weekend just prior to the June Town Meeting, The Sun published a rash of graduation articles from several of the schools in its circulation area. No disrespect to our recent graduates, but couldn’t those stories have waited till a couple days afterwards? From a news perspective, where should the priority be



here?

Then, four (4) days AFTER the June Town Meeting (June 11, to be exact), The Sun FINALLY published a wonderful editorial on this issue titled, ‘Dracut boards should give up insurance perk’. Funny thing, it seems whenever The Lowell Sun officially endorses a political candidate, it does it 1-2 days BEFORE the election so that the editorial can actually have some relevance and significance behind it. To publish an editorial like that four (4) days AFTER the event, just makes it totally superfluous and irrelevant.

Among the fantastic comments from this aforementioned editorial included: “...Was the vote truly representative of what most of Dracut’s about 31,000 residents want in regard to this issue? We’re not convinced. However, if the vote is not a fair representation of residents’ wishes, they have only themselves to blame for failing to attend Town Meeting...”

Personally, I would just add to that statement that if Dracut’s local newspaper of record – The Lowell Sun – had adequately reported on this particular issue 2-3 times within about a week BEFORE that June Town Meeting took place, there might’ve been enough people to have shown up and voted to eliminate this perk from ever being an option again. Granted, a lot

of folks are aware that Dracut’s annual Town Meetings are scheduled the first Mondays of June and November every year, but unless they know of a passionate, controversial issue(s) that’s scheduled to be addressed, they probably won’t bother showing up.

I am extremely thankful that we still live in a society, which if one doesn’t like the final outcome in most public forums, they can always pursue an appeal to a higher court. In this particular case, the ‘higher court’ (or next logical step of progression) would be, a referendum ballot question in an upcoming local or statewide election. The way I figure it, at least 20 percent of the registered voters making their decision in a private booth would produce a much better reflection on how Dracut truly feels about this issue as opposed to the just barely one (1) percent who had to literally shout out their vote at this past June Town Meeting. Don’t expect the Dracut pols to let this happen.

As for The Lowell Sun, if its coverage of this particular Town Meeting warrant article was a typical example of its best news reporting, then how the heck can anybody – especially the folks of Dracut – take that publication seriously any more?

Author Says: Westford Knight Should Be Preserved

The author of a new book on the Westford Knight warns that the Merrimack Valley could lose its unique piece of Western history if more is not done to protect the rock carving some say proves Scotsmen arrived in the New World a century before Christopher Columbus.

“It is part of the tapestry of history and culture that comprises the Westford community,” Haverhill native David Goudsward writes in the preface to his book, The Westford Knight and Henry Sinclair: Evidence of a 14th Century Scottish Voyage to North America. “Yet, there is no attempt to protect the carving from the ravages of time and New England weather.

“Be it Native American, Medieval or even a Gestalt reification, the carved rock

ledge off Depot Road has contributed to the historical identity of Westford,” Goudsward continues in the book, set for publication in October. “And for that reason alone it should be preserved and cherished as a local landmark.”

While under threat by nature, Goudsward argues in his book that the Westford Knight has become so burdened with stories about the mysterious Knights Templar and other Middle Age cults since the Da Vinci Code craze that the exciting true history it may represent has been, sadly, overshadowed.

“This book is an attempt to sweep through the claims and counter claims and present a brief survey of the Westford carving’s history and how it went from a local curiosity to controversial evidence

of Scottish explorers and how the carving was twisted into ‘proof’ of secret societies and sacred relics hiding in North America,” Goudsward writes.

In what will become the standard text on the history of the Westford Knight, Goudsward recounts the evidence showing that Scottish lord Henry Sinclair led an expedition to Nova Scotia and found his way onto the Merrimack River where one of his company died near what is now Depot Road in Westford.

“The explorers came to the hill-top in Westford where they would leave a full-size effigy of a knight in armor carved on the ledge, a memorial to a fallen comrade from the Gunn Clan,” he writes.



Goudsward provides a carefully detailed account of the rediscovery of the Westford Knight in the 1950s, and how in succeeding years, authors strayed from the thoughtful findings of objective researchers into the land of myths.

Goudsward is the author of several books on New England’s pre-Columbus European history, including an objective

look at “America’s Stonehenge” in New Hampshire and the book titled, “Ancient Stone Sites in New England,” an exploration of various rock carving sites around New England indicative of pre-Columbus explorations by Europeans.

The book will be published by McFarland Publishers, specialists in the publication of non-fiction whose website is www.mcfarlandpub.com. It is also available at major book websites, including amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com



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# They came to Honor Pangi

Tom Duggan  
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR

Last month hundreds of friends supporters and elected officials gathered at the Meadow Creek Golf Club in Dracut to honor the outgoing State Senator Steve Panagiotakos who announced earlier this year that he would not be seeking reelection after 21 consecutive years as an elected official.

Flanked by State Rep. Tommy Golden, Senator Steve Baddour, former Senate President's Tom Birmingham and Robert Travaglini, Lowell City Councilor and former Mayor Rita Mercier, Mayor Ed Bud Caulfield, and dozens of others, Panagiotakos thanked the crowd and talked about the importance of public service.

Lowell Police Detective Bryan McMahon, president of the New England Police Benevolent Association approached the podium and presented Senator Panagiotakos with a framed photo of his uncle's name on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington DC. On November 17, 1978 Panagiotakos' uncle, Lowell Police Officer Christos G Rouses

was killed in the line of duty answering a call at Limby's Drug Store at the corner of Middlesex and Branch Street. McMahon was the dispatcher who sent Rouses to the call on that dark day.

Panagiotakos accepted the photo and hugged it for a moment before thanking McMahon.

Craig Floyd, President of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington DC flew in special for the event to honor Panagiotakos for his life long dedication to law enforcement. The memorial in our nation's capital has the name of every police officer who has ever been killed in the line of duty engraved on two semi-circular walls.

Portions of the proceeds from the event went to the building of the National Law Enforcement Officers Museum.

Floyd said that Law enforcement had no greater friend in the Massachusetts State Senate than Steve Panagiotakos.

"Let me just say that I've had the privilege of serving for ten years as a legislative assistant to US Representative Mario Biaggi. I understand the value of having people in state and national offices who

care and support our Law enforcement officers. Having someone like [Senator Panagiotakos] in the legislature means a great difference. Because, those men and women are out there putting their lives at risk for our safety and protection, and we need to take care of them. And this State Senator has done that. We are going to miss him here in Massachusetts and this nation needs more people like him who care about the law enforcement professionals in our nation."

"Let me give you a couple of statistics: one police officer is killed in the line of duty every 54 hours.

There are now 19,000 names on the National



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Lowell Police Detective Bryan McMahon, president of the New England PBA presents Senator Panagiotakos with a framed photo of his uncle Christos Rouses's name on the National Police Memorial. Rouses was killed in the line of duty in 1978. McMahon was the dispatcher who sent Rouses on the call that fateful day.



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

Outgoing State Senator Steve Panagiotakos with a commemorative coin presented to him by Craig Floyd, President of the National Law Enforcement Memorial. Proceeds from the event were donated to building a new National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Museum in Washington DC.

Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington DC.

There are some 16,000 assaults by criminals against police officers in this country every year, resulting in 17,000 injuries. And yet despite those threats, those odds, there are 900,000 federal, state and local law enforcement officers who go out each and every day putting their lives at risk. We owe those men and women a huge debt of gratitude.

So, thanks to the efforts of a lot of good people in this country, members of the law enforcement community, we dedicated the National Law Enforcement Memorial.

On that wall in Washington DC are hundreds of officers from Massachusetts who died in the line of duty including Chris Rouses who is the uncle of State Senator Steve Panagiotakos. His name, along with all the others are forever honored on that national monument. But, the problem with that monument is: most visitors don't know

the stories behind those names.

So, we're involved now in an historic initiative which will kick off on October 14th. We are going to break ground on the first ever National Law Enforcement Officers Museum right across the street from our national memorial. Thanks to Senator Panagiotakos, tonight's proceeds will go to help build that National Law Enforcement Officers Museum. So they won't just be honored, but their stories will be remembered forever, stories like that of officer Chris Rouses and the sacrifice of so many others.

Senator, I want to thank you for what you have done here for us tonight, and thank you for your years of service to law enforcement and I want to give you, on behalf of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, a commemorative coin, a challenge coin to commemorate the ground breaking of the National Law Enforcement Officers Museum. Thank you Senator."



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# An open letter to the next generation

## Stop the madness, gays are human too

**Richard Delesdernier**  
VALLEY PATRIOT GAY COLUMNIST

As a high-profiled citizen of Lawrence, who happens to be gay, I feel I must speak about something that is really affecting me. Within the past 2 weeks, 5 teens ages 12 to 18 have committed suicide because of the constant bullying they receive at school over their sexuality. A 12 year old took a gun and went into the closet and shot himself while a 18 year old ended his life by jumping from the George Washington Bridge in New York. To be teased over something silly as kids do is one thing, but to be teased over ones sexuality is wrong. This kind bullying should be considered a "Hate Crime" against gays or straights, bullying is not right and it should be stopped. Some High Schools have the "Gay / Straight Alliance" a place where both gay and straight students can go to talk about their lives. But what about these 12 and 13 year olds? Aren't they only in 7th or 8th grade?? What about them? They need to know that they are ok, they need to be able to open up to someone if they have questions. Instead many of them feel alone as if they are the only one. These kids are not alone and they need to know that.

As a teen growing up, I was often harassed, teased and bullied for being gay. These days I am comfortable in my own skin. It was my youth that was not so fun. It should of been, but wasn't. I know from FaceBook, MySpace, Twitter and BylliCrayone.com that I have many gay fans worldwide. I always interact with all my fans and I listen to what they have to say. In fact, most recently a teenage girl named "Marta" from Los Angeles, CA asked me on Twitter if she could call me to talk about a problem she was having coming out to her family. I gave her my cell number, she called and we talked. She said I was the only one that she felt comfortable with talking to. She's not the only one, many fans of mine hit me up online asking for advice or just need someone to talk to. I have never turned away anyone or ignored anyone. Holding Celebrity status comes with responsibility. I cater to my fans wether it be granting an autograph request or lending an ear to listen to what they have to say. Making records is not the only thing I do. Not the only thing I am known for. I am someone who cares, someone who's been there.

As I sit here writing this, to all the young people I know and love, to all the teens I've never met, to all those in pain, in need of something, some kind of shelter, to all of you who feel terrorized, who feel bullied, who are scared and considering taking your own lives to escape this madness and fear, STOP now and talk to some one anyone, a teacher your Mom and Dad a friend, email ME on any of the above mentioned websites, Let us take your hand, let us help you remember that

YOU are NOT powerless, not helpless that you don't have to be a victim of any-one or anything not even yourself. What makes you different makes you special beautiful it makes you - you. It doesn't matter if you're gay , straight, fat, skinny, tall, short, if you're a jock, geek, brain, cheerleader, in the end you are human, and you are loved.

Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem , Life goes on after high school, and it gets better. But in the mean time ending your life does not end the pain the pain lives on with those you leave behind, those who love you who treasure you as sons, daughters, brothers, sisters...

IF you are the target of hate and violence TALK, SPEAK up, we ARE here for you, if you can't tell your parents tell a teacher a cop a councilor you have the right to live without fear , without pain and violence, you have the right to life and love. There ARE people who can and will help you, you do not deserve to be terrorized because of who you are, who you love.

So, please PLEASE reach out to someone....we are listening.

I also have my own SAY NOW (Fan Club) phone line, You can call and talk to me there and/or talk with others who may experience the same thing you are growing through.

And to those of you who use hate and violence against others, are you truly so small, so pathetic and weak that attacking those different from you is the only way you can forget your own insecurity, your own pain. No one in this world is ANY better than ANYONE else. This is a lesson best learned now before you enter a world that will cram this fact down your throat, that who you thought was so great in school means nothing, not a thing in the real world. To the parents and teachers to the media who raise this generation on hate and bigotry take a good long look in the mirror, or better yet take a look at your own child....now imagine them in a 5'6" pine box, see the blood pool they left behind, imagine never seeing them again because some one who hates LIKE YOU, decided your child had no right to live... how does that feel? Tell me....still feel superior?

My heart and prayers go out to the families of the teens who took their lives. Life is a gift from God and no one should be judging anyone, under any circumstance. As the late Tupac Shakur once said "Only God Can Judge Me".

Its time America wakes the hell up and realizes we are MURDERING CHILDREN as surely as if we were holding the razor the gun the noose or the pills ourselves.

Wake up America! ....and Children please SPEAK UP don't be silent come to us we WILL be there for you and to any-one of you in pain I AM LISTENING.

# Ye Gay Ol' Valley



In front of the Tower of London Bridge. (From L. to R): Robin Arsenault, Alison Arsenault, Carolyn O'Leary, Justin Iwen, Danielle Langevin, Michelle Clements, Zachary D'Angelo-Lombardi, and David Loconte.

# Landing in London

**D. B. Langevin**  
VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

Imagine landing in London's Heathrow airport with a box full of baby chicks, opening up said box and letting the chicks go. That was my experience this summer when I took a small group of students to London in July. In April of 2009, I took a group to Mexico to visit the Mayan ruins of Tulum and Chichen Itza. This summer we were off to Europe to see the areas my students studied while learning about the Middle Ages. Call me crazy, but this is what I do on my unpaid vacations.

There were eight of us in all, two high school freshmen girls I had the previous year, one of their mothers, three boys who just finished eighth grade, my wife and myself. I had never been to London and was very excited to share the experience with my students and wife.

Our first day was nothing but a blur. We arrived in London about 6:30 a.m. London time, 1:30 a.m. U.S. time. None of us were able to get any sleep on the flight because the seats have been cut down to a miniscule size that even I, a 5-foot tall woman, was uncomfortable. I can't imagine what my 14 year old, six foot three student was subjected to. Once settled into our hotel, we went on a whirlwind foot tour of the city: the Strand, Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square and Covent Garden. By the time we got to dinner we had been up for about 28 hours straight. The boys were falling asleep in their English version of lasagna (I don't recommend it) and I had all I could do to keep my eyes from bleeding. It was at dinner that we met up with the other two groups we would be spending the week with. One group was from Texas and the other from Indiana. Yeee, haaaw! I was a little concerned about some conservative bible beltters, but they were all pretty cool.

After a good night's sleep we were off to King Henry VIII's Hampton court. We had a tour guide on this day. He was a very flamboyant gentleman that kept calling us Ladles and Jelly spoons instead of ladies and gentlemen. Ya, I know. There were actors at Hampton Court playing the roles of King Henry in his middle years, his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves who lost her head for her adulteress tendencies and Sir Thomas Cromwell, the king's right hand man, who was hanged for betraying the king. My boys on the trip tried to get a hug from the king, but, sadly, he turned them down.

At the souvenir shop the boys bought themselves plastic swords, breastplates and shields. They proceeded to walk about the grounds singing a made up song about crumpets and tea in an English accent. That evening I would find them standing outside my hotel room keeping vigil over the hallway. I felt quite safe.

Later we went to see Wicked an incredibly amazing show so I thought. One of the boys and the mom fell asleep. After the show, my wife, Michelle, engaged in a sword fight outside the theatre with the three boys. Yeah, that's my wife, ever the role model for inappropriate behavior in a foreign country or just outside the theatre of a Broadway show.

We filled the rest of the week with visiting Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, The Tower of London built in 1066, Buckingham Palace, Piccadilly Circus, St. Paul's Cathedral, the Globe Theatre and ended with the Jack the Ripper tour which was so incredibly lame I should have slapped the tour guide.

What did I learn? London is a plethora of amazing history and architecture that would laugh at our oldest building in the United States. London (not England) has the worst food and rudest people on earth. Fourteen year old boys are just short of being uncontrollable in a foreign country and fourteen year old girls cannot get up earlier enough to primp long enough to make themselves presentable enough for a day out on the town. My wife tires easily. I worry too much, but damn do I love to travel.


What did I forget about being fourteen? Everything from a plane, to a hallway, to an historic site is a playground. Fourteen-year-old boys don't always brush their teeth and fourteen year old girls cannot go out in public unless they look perfect.

When you're 14, you can fall in love with someone in one week and look so incredibly crestfallen on the last day of an amazing, once in a lifetime trip, because you may never see them again. Boys are hysterical.

Most importantly, I learned that I'm going to continue to travel the world minus other people's children.



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



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# In defense of the Catholic Church

**Richard Riccio**

VALLEY PATRIOT RELIGION COLUMNIST

As a practicing Catholic, I feel compelled to present the current church “Crisis” from a Catholic’s perspective. After all, we constantly get the media’s version.

First of all, let me start by saying in no way am I condoning or attempt to justify the actions of the few priests who’s actions are indefensible. I am writing this in an attempt to present the entire picture of the Catholic Church, not the left wing media’s version.

The media would have you believe that the Catholic Church has done and/or is doing very little to rectify the wrongs that have been done by the molesting priests. The media also makes the non Catholics believe that a good portion of the Church is practicing these vile actions. Finally, the media has always stated this problem as “Pedophile” priests.

Let’s start from the beginning. This problem primarily stems from, ironically, an attempt by the church to lean toward liberal secularism in the late 60’s. As society became increasingly liberal, the church at that time followed suite. Hence, a large amount of Homosexual priests entered the seminary, far greater than before. This is important to understand as I go on.

As time went on, the church became more lax in it’s screening of priestly

candidates, and thus, it became more lax on it’s treatment of straying priests as well. Often, in this country, Rome was not aware of the scandals going on. For instance, in Wisconsin, there was a seminary which was in essence a “Secret Society”. This institution kept their dirty little secret from Rome. Essentially, to enter this seminary, you had to be a homosexual...and that included the faculty. No way would have this ever been condoned by Rome had they known. This seminary has since been cleaned up.

This is important for this reason. Almost all of the sex scandal cases involve young boys. There have been young girls serving at Catholics masses for the better part of 40 years now. Yet, it was primarily the boys who were harmed. AND, this is important. Most of the cases involved POST pubescent boys...which means this is a HOMOSEXUAL issue, not a pedophile issue. Pedophiles are not attracted to post pubescent children. This is something the media simply will not acknowledge. Now, I am NOT saying that every homosexual is a sex pervert. what I am saying is that the problem lies with priests who should have NEVER been allowed to be a priest, since their lifestyles were in total conflict with Catholic/Christian teachings. And while the liberal media attempts to attack the current conservative Pope at all costs,

one thing never mentioned is that the first thing this Pope did was forbid homosexuals from entering the priesthood... something that should have never been allowed to happen in the first place. The Pope in essence cut the snake’s head off by making this decision. Some will get thru, but overall the screening process will be tightened to ensure this scandal dies it’s proper death.

Despite what the media says or portrays, the Catholic Church has made great strides in attempting to right these wrongs. Every church has had for years now awareness groups, unlimited free counseling for victims, and support groups. Along with that, the Church has issued apology after apology, and paid literally millions of dollars in settlement cases which have caused the closing down of many churches. The awareness to this issue is such that you can’t enter a church service without seeing it mentioned on the bulletin, and often reminded of it at the weekly sermons.

The church is run by human beings. human beings are frail. they are often in error. Despite the media skew, MOST of the Catholic priests are good men who would not only never dream of doing such actions, but are totally embarrassed of what their peers did and are actively attempting to ensure this never happens again. But, you will NEVER hear this angle from the

media. This is because the Catholic church has been at odds with the liberal media since the 60’s. The 1973 Abortion Decision has been another reason the media is at odds with the Catholic church. This is because the Catholic Church has been the number one adversary against abortion defending the right to life at all costs. The media will never talk about how the Church will endlessly attempt to help the poor, the sick and quite frankly, anyone who needs assistance, Catholic or not. That is never mentioned, But every weakness the Church exhibits, the media cannot wait to pounce like a lion in the thicket.

As a practicing Catholic, I am fully aware of the problems the Church has faced. But I also realize the Church, like any other long standing organization, has faced other scandals in the past. And, they will face them again in the future. But, The secular liberal media is no one to judge the church. And one thing is certain. 100 years from now, the Catholic Church will be going strong, while the current day liberal leaders who oppose the church at all costs will be gone buried and forgotten!

Sergeant First Class Richard Riccio is stationed at US Army, Fort Hood, Texas and is a soldier currently on active duty. he has been in the military both reserve and active for 26 years. He grew up in Salem New Hampshire although most of his family lives in Lawrence Massachusetts.

## A woman in support of an all-male priesthood

**Kathleen LaPlante**

VALLEY PATRIOT RELIGION COLUMNIST

In this day of gender equality, people are surprised to hear that I, as a woman, think only men should be priests in the Catholic Church. I am even surprised at times, since I used to be a stereotypical women’s libber who thought women should be allowed to do anything men can do. However, when I looked at the biology and theology underlying the priesthood, I let go of my emotion-based demands.

From the biological perspective, it is clear that men and women are different.

Our bodies and our psyches attest to that. They also attest to the reality that we are not just different, but we are different in a complementary manner. That is, we fit together like pieces of a puzzle. Our intrinsic differences are equally important because both are needed for a union to occur. In fact, if the pieces were the same, the puzzle would never get made and we would never see the bigger picture.

So it is for men and women, and while this in itself does not mean that women cannot be priests, it does allow for the possibility that the priesthood could be for only one gender.

From the theological perspective, one might argue that women can be priests because Jesus was simply following the cultural and religious norms of His time, going along with only men being in leadership positions, not intending His choice to be definitive. Evidence, however, shows that this is not true. In fact, Jesus did just the opposite in matters of justice.

He was countercultural when He needed to be. For example, He ate and socialized with sinners and tax collectors (Mark 2:13-17); He talked in public to the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:4-42); He healed people on the Sabbath (Mark 3:1-6); and He and His disciples ate without washing their hands (Matthew 15:2). Back then, these acts were forbidden and unheard of, but Jesus performed them anyway.

Therefore, it is not reasonable to conclude that Jesus simply restricted Himself to cultural and religious norms when He instituted the priesthood. No, He had other reasons for choosing men instead of women.

Some of those reasons can be deduced from looking at the Mass, which is the primary form of worship in the Catholic Church. In the Mass, we believe the bread and wine are changed into the Real Body and the Real Blood of Jesus Christ. It is called Transubstantiation, and it is the remembrance of the Last Supper. It is also the remembrance of Jesus dying on the cross followed by His Resurrection. “This is my body which will be given up for you...” “This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you...Do this in memory of me.” This remembrance is known as a memorial in the Jewish community. (Jesus was Jewish.) In a memorial, it is believed that the event of the past is made present with the event of today. All time exists simultaneously and eternity is accessed. The people in the event today are joined with the people in the event from the past. This means that at each Mass, the priest literally joins Jesus at the Last Supper, on the cross at Calvary, and at His Resurrection. He becomes “another Christ” for his congregation.

It follows, then, that since Jesus was a man, the priest would be a man as well.

Of course, one might argue that this is not necessarily true, because God can supersede gender. We as Catholics, however, believe our bodies are sacred and our genders are purposeful in God’s plan here on earth and thereafter. So that argument would not be viable.

Further evidence supports the belief that Jesus did not intend women to be priests. As seen previously, He instituted the priesthood with men even when it was in His power to include women. He also had many women followers and supporters, but He never appointed one of them to be one of the twelve Apostles, who were the first priests. Then there were the many women who assisted the Apostles themselves, but none were ever ordained as priests. Lastly, there was Mary, the mother of Jesus, the Blessed Virgin. She is and has always been considered higher in stature than any man on earth, but Jesus never conferred the priesthood upon her. She was Queen of the Apostles, but she was not one of them.

It is this type of evidence that leads the Catholic Church to conclude that God, not man, mandated an all-male priesthood. Because God mandated it, man cannot change it, and that is one reason why the Church says it is not in Her power to ordain women into the priesthood.

This does not mean that men have all the power in the Catholic Church, or that women are less than. On the contrary, Jesus taught that all roles are equal because they are all meant to be roles of service, not power. The only power involved is the power of God, not the power of an individual or group.

Having said that, I imagine there are duties currently held by priests that women should be carrying out. Those changes need to be made. The core role of the priest, however, which is to be “another Christ” in celebrating the sacraments, should always remain with only men who have been ordained as priests.

Kathleen Laplante has a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering. She is a baker, a mother of two and a Benedictine Oblate. She speaks as a member of the Catholic Church, not for the Catholic Church Herself. You can reach her at klaplante2@yahoo.com

## REVERSE MORTGAGE: FROM PAGE 26

loon payment that comes due in seven, ten or twelve years. This is NOT a reverse mortgage!

(2.) If you chose to work with a national lender (over the phone or via a local rep resident in your state) like Wells Fargo, Bank of America, MetLife Bank you put yourself at a major disadvantage for several reasons.

First, the call center and local reps/loan officers are totally beholden to the small number of HECM programs offered by their own bank. None of them offers all variations of HECM programs. Each organization has their own version with different rates/costs.

There is no possibility for you to get a better program offered by Wells Fargo, for example, if you are dealing with a Bank of America loan rep or vice versa. Equally important in my view, all of these national reverse mortgage lenders are exempt from state licensing requirements for loan originators. Frankly, you don’t know who you are dealing with.

Finally, if you work with a call center (over the phone loan reps) you never have the opportunity for a face-to-face meeting and inevitable followup sessions with your family and/or trusted advisor(s). Few of us want to make such an important financial decision without the opportunity to meet face-to-face.

(3.) An experienced broker, on the other hand, has the substantial advantage of being connected to all three or more of the national lenders mentioned above. That’s

the unique role of the broker organization.

The broker is never biased toward a particular lender and will help you select the exact program and terms that make sense for you today.

What’s more, the loan officer working for an experienced broker has been required by the federal S.A.F.E Act to meet stiff licensing and knowledge requirements to include a National Test, a State Test (for every state he/she operates in), and has been subjected to a CORI check (criminal records investigation) including fingerprinting.

Local banks, nationally chartered lenders, and nationwide call centers have no such requirement.

You could be talking to someone who was a teller last week... or worse, someone with a background that has not been vetted. An experienced broker is clearly your best resource.



Bob Irving is a Sr. Reverse Mortgage Consultant with First Integrity Mortgage, LLC in Lawrence MA and a Certified Senior Advisor. He is fully licensed in MA, NH & ME (NMLS # 19086) and works with senior clients, their families and trusted advisors by referral. He may be reached at 978-686-0394 or by email at rhirving@gmail.com . Visit his website at www.rhirving.com for more detailed reverse mortgage information.



# Christianity vs. Humanism: A review

**Paul Murano**  
VALLEY PATRIOT RELIGION COLUMNIST

I went to a debate the other night between Humanists and Christians sponsored by the Chesterton Society of Worcester on the question of which offers the greater hope for humanity. I was impressed by the good will displayed between both groups, but it wasn't too long before I realized those representing Secular Humanism were not debating Christianity, but rather distortions of it. They rattled off several fundamentalist ideas they found unreasonable, such as hostility to the environment, the vengeful attitude displayed after 9/11, the world being 6000 years old, and everyone going to hell who doesn't explicitly believe in Jesus. A lady in the audience also brought up the Calvinist claim that everything is pre-determined including one's eternal destiny. But those representing Christianity that night were Catholics and would also reject those things. I have often found that those who reject the Catholic Church usually aren't rejecting Catholicism at all, but a false image or representation of it.

I came to realize the difference between the two sides was not these common misconceptions, but something more basic. One side respected reason as a way to attain truth and so did the other. One side had a love for the scientific method and so did the other. But one side recognized something more than these two avenues to the truth. For the Christian, faith is added. Faith in authority, which is common to all people, is extended to the ultimate Authority who has revealed Himself to restore our relationship. The humanists would readily trust human authorities but were not willing to look to any transcendent Source. This is a considerable difference.

The Garden of Eden story in Genesis speaks of a great rebellion at the beginning of history called original sin where personified evil in the form of a serpent offered man his ultimate seduction: Reject God and become your own ultimate authorities. That seduction echoes throughout history and although it leads to death secular humanism embraces it.

The Humanists considered their position to be the humble non-elitist one because they claim not to have received any special revelation from above. But I would challenge that on two counts:

1. They were certain that supernatural claims are make-believe. But how could someone know this, for such knowledge would transcend the limits of reason and science? It is like a fish claiming to be certain there is no reality outside of his experience of ocean life. A foolish claim.
2. Secular humanism claims man to be his own ultimate authority, his own god; that he can create his own truth according to his liking (as we have seen with the definition of marriage and the beginning of life). This seems considerably less humble than recognizing and submitting to One higher than oneself.

So why do Christians believe that this supernatural realm does exist? The onus would actually be on Humanism to prove that it doesn't. Religion and language are two universal traits that separate humans from all the other animals. They are "hardwired" into human nature signifying an immaterial spiritual component to the human person that can grasp immaterial things like thoughts and ideas. Children and primitive tribes have always had the sense of the supernatural and an innate propensity for symbolic language. We

HUMANISM, page 52

# On Probation in Massachusetts: a lethal mix of ideology and corruption

**Jeff Blanchard & Laurie Myers**  
VALLEY PATRIOT CRIME COLUMNIST

But for the involvement of a passerby, Debbie (not her real name) would most likely have died from the stab wounds. She counted 26 in all, including 17 in her neck. One ear was left dangling, and her hands were shredded, but she lived. She lived to work and marry and have children and to campaign for victims' rights and to do what she can to prevent a repeat of what happened to her.

That is getting harder all the time. Her attacker, Richard Potter, has moved to a place called Bullhead City, on the Arizona side of its junction with Nevada and California. If you want to check out his picture and profile, Arizona maintains an online database of ex-convicts such as Potter, deemed Level 3 High Risk for his crimes in Massachusetts.

It's something, if not perfect. In the space where inquiring minds would go to find out where Potter was convicted, it says, "Norfolk County," instead of Norfolk, which could be a problem down the road.

In any event, Debbie is worried for Bullhead City. "He likes the knife," she told us in a recent telephone interview. "Someone out there is going to die, because he has about 30 years of pent-up rage, and there's nothing to stop him from letting it out."

While she is glad to have the distance between them, Debbie is just as concerned that an unsuspecting community might be next. It is a frighteningly common theme, Massachusetts exporting its once-wanted unwanteds, only to read about them later.

Even as sex abuse experts acknowledge that rehabilitation is a dream-based objective, and that re-offending is a matter of time, the state's criminal recording system

is re-jiggered to the point where people convicted of violent crimes are lumped in with people who smoked a joint or forgot to pay a fine.

Meanwhile, the Sex Offender Registry Board is forever playing catch-up with its job of locating and classifying all deserving candidates, a number in the thousands, including many who list their addresses as homeless.

One high risk offender, Ralph Goodwin, made headlines recently for winning the right to not wear a GPS because his crime (child kidnapping and rape) pre-dated the technology. But Ralph was his own worst enemy. He got lugged back in a possible violation of his probation, which means now they might be able to skip the bracelet and get him right back into jail. We'll see. It won't help him that a media horde is likely to attend his surrender hearing.

Another cautionary tale is told in the story of Michael Houle, the 30-year old Chicopee man who got caught downloading child pornography at the public library, received probation for his crime in June, and while on probation grabbed and raped a neighbor's child in the woods.

It has gotten to the point these days, with so many violent sex offenders out on the street, that sex offender neighborhoods are popping up, areas that conform to probationary terms by being a safe distance from schools and libraries, near other men with similar backgrounds.

Concentrations of registered Level 3 sex offenders can be gleaned from a cursory survey of websites maintained by police departments, which show disproportionate populations in Lowell and Brockton, for example, compared to similarly-sized cities nearby.

PROBATION, page 49

# Downtown Java Joe's

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TOM DUGGAN’S NOTEBOOK: FROM 17

on sale now and cost \$10 each for adults, \$5 each for children ages 10 and under. Tickets may be purchased three ways:

- 1. Online at <http://fosterkidsmv.eventsbot.com>, 2. Picked up at the Giordano Family Methuen Karate Association at 76 Bonanno Court, Methuen, MA (Ph: 978-683-2220), 3. Purchased at the door night of the event. For more information, please contact Larry Giordano, founder of Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley, (978) 683-2220. Donations are welcome in lieu of tickets. Make checks payable to: “Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley” or visit <http://fosterkidsmv.eventsbot.com/> to make a donation online.

SALEM NH - The Greater Salem Rotary Club will be hosting it’s first annual Oktoberfest at Rockingham Park on Friday, October 15 and Saturday October 16, 2010. The event will be held outside in the parking lot under a giant tent and will feature food, fun and entertainment for everyone.

Authentic German delicacies will be served including bratwurst, knockwurst, pork sandwiches, sauerkraut red cabbage, German chocolate cake, apple strudel and more. Seasonal beers will be offered for those over 21. The renowned 13 piece

Oberlaendler Hofbrau Band will play on both Friday and Saturday nights. In addition to the fine German offerings, there will be children’s games and activities, tethered hot air balloon rides, a classic car show with live DJ music, a Saturday afternoon performance by the Chris White Band and more. The event will be held rain or shine on Friday, October 15 from 6:00-10:00 pm and Saturday, October 16 from noon to 10:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. All proceeds will be used for Rotary Service projects. For Further information contact Nanci Carney at 603-930-9443.



AROUND THE VALLEY - The Knights of Columbus in conjunction with Children’s Hospital of Boston is

pleased to announce that the Blood Mobile which was held on Saturday the twenty-fifth day of September was a resounding success. According to Ray McManus the coordinator for the Knights there were a total of forty three donors and out of that a total of thirty three pints of blood were collected.

Noteworthy is the fact that the maximum number of pints that could be drawn in the time period is fifty pints. The reason that the Knights choose to have the Children’s Hospital collect the blood in this

region is because for each pint collected there is a potential assistance for four children that are urgently in need of this life saving liquid.

So, today there is potentially that one hundred and twenty eight smiley faces are feeling much better under the care of Children’s. This year we held a raffle for a small lobster the qualifications for being in the drawing were to fill out the paper work and go through the screening process. We had a winner, and we are proud to announce that Michele Lawler was the winner. The Grand Knight Darryl Fedorchak presented Michele the lobster at the conclusion of the drawing.

NEWBURYPORT - The Polar Express...Believe! Inspired by the Warner Bros. film and the award winning book by Chris Van Allsburg, the magic of the Polar Express comes to life. Read along with the story as the train makes its magical round trip journey to the North Pole.

Meet Santa and enjoy caroling, hot cocoa, a treat and a special gift for each child. Kids are encouraged to wear their pajamas. Come join the Triton Music Parents Organization on Saturday Nov 27, 2010 for a 60 minute express ride to the North Pole! Leaves MBTA Station in Newburyport. Departure Times: 11:35AM, 1:15PM, 3:15PM 5:30PM

Tickets are \$25 per person (children 1 and under are free and must sit on a parents lap) Purchase tickets online @ [www.tritonarts.net](http://www.tritonarts.net) or call Sue @ 978 462 3348

NORTH ANDOVER - October 15, 2010 is the state deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply to the North Andover Cultural Council for grants that support cultural activities in the community. These grants can support a variety of cultural projects and activities in North Andover including exhibits, festivals, performances, workshops, and lectures. Grants must be postmarked on or before October 15.

PLEASE NOTE: Proposals from artists,



Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua (da chief) speaks at the 911 tribute at the Lawrence Fire Station on Lowell Street last month.

humanists, or organizations who have not made an agreement with a specific local venue or organization prior to applying will not be considered for funding. The North Andover Cultural Council will also consider funding proposals from schools and youth groups through the PASS Program, a ticket subsidy program for school-aged children.

The North Andover Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. Call 978-683-6627 or email [northandovercultural@gmail.com](mailto:northandovercultural@gmail.com) for more information. Application forms and information are available on the web at <http://www.mass-culture.org/North-Andover>

DANVERS, MA, October 15 - Tania Lillak, of Elemental Ergonomics, will speak at the North Shore Business Forum on October 15 on creating a healthy work environment. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:15am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA.



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INTENT: FROM 8

Forums recently where citizens have made some very well thought out recommendations. Now we will have to wait and see if the City Council has what it takes to implement the wishes of the people, or will they allow the Mayor to put a stop to it all! This then would look a lot like what was said earlier about tyranny, lots of power in the hands of a few! Benjamin Franklin said, “It is in the region of ignorance that tyranny begins”.

In conclusion, let me say that all is not lost. There is still hope. Why I know this is because God is not dead! I believe like so many others that our country was founded on Christian principles. As long as there are those of us who still believe and exercise our right to vote, then therein

lays our hope!  
Government is not our Savior, God is and He will continue to protect and provide for those who look to him to meet their needs.

Material for this article was taken from; U.S. Constitution for Dummies, by Dr.Michael Arnheim, Barrister at Law. Wiley Publishing, Inc.

God Bless, Peter Larocque



*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)*

N. ANDOVER: FROM 6

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.

WALKING GROUP: Wednesday mornings at 9. Meet at the Old Center Common and walk for an hour at your own pace. Inclement weather at Youth Center.

Foxwoods: Next scheduled trip, Tuesday, October 19, \$25 includes lunch buffet, transportation and Keno. Bus leaves from St. Michael’s parking lot at 6:30 am.

LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP: Every Monday thru October 25, 12:30 – 2 pm. This free 6-week support group will be facilitated by Lu Bonanno, Beacon Hospice. Please sign up in ad-

vance at the reception desk or by calling 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.

SUPPORT THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS: Tuesday, November 9, at 12:30 pm. If you have suffered a loss this year, please join us to discuss dealing with grief during the holidays.

VOTE: FROM 4

the difficult decisions he has made to get the state of New Jersey on the right fiscal track. His rare courage has allowed him to stand up to special interest groups and powerful public service unions. Watching him work makes us long for our own Chris Christie.

Tim Cahill for Governor, I’m sorry, but it’s time to give up the ghost. I was willing to give you a chance, but your numbers are subterranean and it’s becoming painful to watch. Your decision to pull a Democratic ballot in the primary, while attempting to convince us that you had left the party, was the final nail in your gubernatorial coffin. If you insist on staying in the race and become the spoiler, resulting in the reelection of Deval Patrick, Massachusetts conservatives may never forgive you.

The radical left has good reason to fear the Tea Party. The left’s progressive agenda is not sitting well with those of us who share a deep respect for the Constitution. Try as they will to discredit, belittle, misrepresent and demonize us, informed people are not buying what they’re sell-

ing. They cannot break our spirit nor will we sacrifice our values or our beliefs. Ultimately, we are not here to make friends. We are here to save our country.

There is still much we can do before November 2nd to insure that conservatives have a powerful voice in government. It’s not too late to adopt a candidate (or two), join a standout, donate or help with phone calls. Displaying yard signs and bumper stickers is also quite valuable. Come November 2nd, we will walk into our polling places with our heads held high, knowing we gave our all. The revolution will be televised.

If you’re tired of your government treating you like a baby treats a diaper, we welcome you to join us: Merrimack Valley Tea Party meeting. Wednesday, October 13th @ 7 p.m. VFW hall 32 Park Street N. Andover, MA



*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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The \$9 admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more information – [www.nsbforum.org](http://www.nsbforum.org)

DANVERS, MA, October 22 - Bill Hanney, of the re-opened North Shore Music Theatre, will speak at the North Shore Business Forum on October 22

on how local business can support the local arts. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:15am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$9 admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more information– [www.nsbforum.org](http://www.nsbforum.org)

DANVERS, MA, October 29 - Bring lots of business cards to the North Shore Business Forum networking event, October 29, at the Danversport Yacht Club. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:15am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$9 admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more information– [www.nsbforum.org](http://www.nsbforum.org)

DANVERS, MA – November 5 – Beth Gandafi will be speaking at the North Shore Business Forum on November 5 on how to market to your clients during the holiday season. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:15am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$9 admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more information– [www.nsbforum.org](http://www.nsbforum.org)

DANVERS, MA – November 12 – Phyllis Sagan, of Sagan Realty, will speak at the North Shore Business Forum on November 12 on how doing community service can help your business. . The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:15am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$9 admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more information– [www.nsbforum.org](http://www.nsbforum.org)



HAVERHILL – Penacook Place Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Haverhill, 150 Water Street in Haverhill, will hold a yard sale to benefit its Residents Council on Saturday, October 23, AM to 2PM. Come find a bargain and help a worthy cause. Penacook Place is the city’s only not-for-profit nursing and rehabilitation

facility. Have items you’d like to donate? Please contact Penacook’s Activities Department at (978) 374-0707.

SALEM MA - Essex Heritage Photo Contest Submission Deadline (extended)

All amateur photographers are invited to submit images to the Essex Heritage Photo Contest! All submissions are due by November 1, 2010. Any photos captured between October 1, 2009 and November 1, 2010 are

eligible. Share your story and submit images taken in the Essex National

Heritage Area, assigning them to one of four categories: “People,” “Essex Heritage Events,”

“Essex Heritage Scenic Byway” or “Four Seasons.” Sponsored by Essex Heritage and Hunt’s Photo and Video, the Essex Heritage Photo Contest will award one Grand Prize winner followed by a first, second, and third prize in each of the contest’s four categories. Award winning photographs are exhibited for one year at the National Park Service Regional Visitor Center in Salem (2 New Liberty Street, Salem, MA). For more about the Photo Contest visit: [Essexheritage.org/photocontest/index.shtml](http://Essexheritage.org/photocontest/index.shtml)

HAVERHILL - Council on Aging is pleased to announce yoga classes with Flynn Costello. Classes are held on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 and Friday mornings at 10:30 at the Citizen Center, 10 Welcome St. Cost is \$5.00 per session. The classes will focus on such issues as stress reduction, improving flexibility, and maintaining overall health. Flynn has been practicing Yoga for over 10 years and has been teaching for over four years. She



Liz Morris Tolini, Rob Pehlke, Tracy Harding, and Valley Patriot comedy writer Shawn Hansen at Comics for a Cure in Boston last month during a benefit for local children with cancer.

was trained at Kripalu in Lenox, Massachusetts. Flynn is inspired by Hatha and Anusaura systems and has a keen interest in the healing benefits of Yoga. The classes will demonstrate a gentle approach to the practice with focus on breath and alignment. Contact Kathy ext 11 or Rita ext 16 at the Haverhill COA at 978-374-2390 for details.

SALEM NH - American College of History and Legal Studies Open House, Wednesday, October 27th Guests are invited to visit the new ACHLS campus, meet with distinguished faculty, mingle with students, and sit in on a class discussion. Reception to follow. RSVP: 603-458-5145 or [info@achls.org](mailto:info@achls.org).

The new American College of History and Legal Studies offers the junior and senior year of undergraduate education and grants bachelor’s degrees in history. The ACHLS was created by the Massachusetts School of Law at Andover and offers early admission to the law school for qualified students.

The education is rigorous, yet affordable. Tuition is only \$10,000 per year and scholarships are available to outstanding candidates who plan to enroll for the fall 2011 semester. For more information, visit [www.achls.org](http://www.achls.org) or call 603-458.5145 or

[info@achls.org](mailto:info@achls.org). WHAT: Open House for Prospective Students, WHO: American College of History and Legal Studies. WHERE: 1 Stiles Road, suite 104, Salem, New Hampshire 03079. WHEN: Wednesday, October 27th. TIME: 7 PM to 8 PM

METHUEN - The Animal Rescue Merrimack Valley’s Black Cat Benefit Bash will be held on October 15th at 6pm, at the Nevins Memorial Library in Methuen. There will be a HUGE Silent Auction, Raffle, and refreshments. The Animal Rescue still needs Auction and Raffle items.

Sponsorship ads in our program are also still available. If you have something you’d like to donate let me know and I will arrange a pickup and provide a tax deduction receipt for the value of the item.

NORTH ANDOVER – The North Andover Santa Parade will be held on Nov. 27th starting at 12 Noon on the corner of Main St. and Sutton St.



Tom Duggan is the president of Valley Patriot, Inc., a former Lawrence School Committeeman, and the editor of “Beyond the Badge” a new police publication in The Valley. You can email your comments to [Tdugjr@aol.com](mailto:Tdugjr@aol.com) .

# State foreclosure law improvement is focus of MBA task force

Boston, MA – The Massachusetts Bar Association announces the formation of the Joint Foreclosure Legislation Task Force, which strives to improve both the state’s foreclosure law and borrowers’ access to assistance in the foreclosure process. A collaboration among bar associations, legal services, real estate attorneys and banker’s associations, the task force plans to draft a legislative proposal to modernize foreclosure law in Massachusetts and ensure a fair and efficient foreclosure process.

“The development of this task force comes at a critical time when many Massachusetts residents are struggling to stay in their homes,” MBA President Denise Squillante said. “The MBA hopes this new effort will result in a more streamlined foreclosure process in Massachusetts – making it easier for both homeowners and their attorneys to navigate the system.”

The task force includes representatives from the MBA’s Property Law and Access to Justice sections, as well as the Real Estate Bar Association of Massachusetts, the Mass. Bankers Association, the Mass. Mortgage Bankers Association, Western Massachusetts Legal Services, and other real estate practitioners.

“Piecemeal changes to the state’s mortgage foreclosure laws over the years have created a foreclosure process that is incomprehensible to borrowers and disruptive to lenders trying to comply with the law,” said Beth Barton, task force chair and vice chair of the MBA’s Property Law Section. “The task force strives to build a clear, open and understandable foreclosure process, from the ground up, which will benefit both homeowners and lenders.”

In conjunction with the task force, the MBA has formed the Foreclosure Education Committee to teach attorneys how to counsel and advocate for individuals facing foreclosure. The free education program will kick off on Oct. 28 with a seminar covering changes in foreclosure laws. The program will also be available via MBA On Demand, an innovative approach to continuing legal education that allows users to watch programming from the comfort of their home or office. Seminars to follow will cover topics that include HAMP Loan Modifications, Alternatives to Foreclosure and others.

The task force will be led by: Chair Elizabeth J. Barton, Vice chair of the MBA Property law Section Council,

**FORCLOSURE, page 53**

## VOTE YES TO ROLL BACK THE SALES TAX TO 3%

“There is a tide in the affairs of men” said Shakespeare. In Massachusetts, indeed in the nation as a whole, a confluence of frustration, disappointment, and outrage has brought about a surge of public awareness that is finally sparking action. An electorate formerly mesmerized by catchy phrases like “yes we can” or “hope and change” is finally confronting the factual reality of what has happened. Present economic conditions clearly linked to bad decisions by elected officials are bringing that reality home to roost.

Government appears dysfunctional and unresponsive to the will of the people. Our education system fosters the entitlement philosophy. Duval’s support of valid solutions with his right hand are sabotaged by imposing restrictions to implementation by his left hand. (evidence the requirement for nearly impossible union approval in order to allow communities to join the cost savings State Health Insurance Program) Witness his campaign promise to reduce the real estate tax burden, and instead, when elected, to support raising the sales tax. Witness politicians staying in office for decades spurred on by ridiculous pension benefits. Witness as more and more of the electorate become dependent on the largesse of government, either for jobs or so called “entitlements,” spawning the growth of a new class, forever beholden to those they elect to public office. Witness the nepotism that pervades the hiring practices of friends and relatives close to elected officials. Witness the special interests that control what happens on Beacon Hill.

Now, as never before, is the time for bold measures. Considering the disrespect and abuse taxpayers have suffered at the hands of the Massachusetts legislature over the years, a popular vote to reduce the sales tax to 3% is the right measure at the right moment. The spigot must be turned down. To let the opportunity pass by will only allow the same abuse to continue. It could be stretched over 3 years, but the 3% target must be resolute. The majority of sensible people know that the sky will not fall, and the ultimate health of the Commonwealth will not only survive, but flourish.

Ralph Wilbur  
Voice: 978.683.2766 / Fax: 978.681.7588



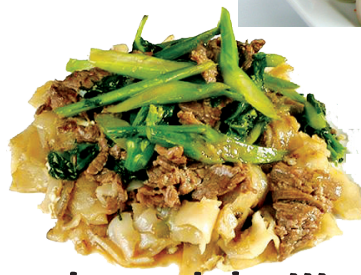


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THE DOCTOR IS 

## Osteoporosis... Part II

Rami Rustum, M.D.  
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Last month we learned about causes, risk factors and symptoms of osteoporosis.

In this brief presentation we continue our discussion sharing available testing and treatment finishing with some pearls on how to prevent the disease.

It's highly recommended to be prepared for your doctor's appointment by having questions to ask, prepared list of medications and listing any symptoms or some recent health changes.

Your doctor may ask:

- Have you experienced any fractures or broken bones?
- Have you noticed a loss of height?
- How is your diet? Do you think you get enough calcium? Vitamin D?
- Do you take any vitamins or supplements?
- How often do you exercise?
- Did you exercise more or less in the past?
- Does anyone in your family have osteoporosis?
- Have you taken corticosteroid medications (prednisone, cortisone) as pills, injections, suppositories or creams?



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. Tell him you read his column... he likes that!

### \* Bone Density Test:

Doctors commonly diagnose osteoporosis by measuring bone density. The best screening test is dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA). This procedure is quick, simple, painless and gives accurate results.

It measures the density of bones in your spine, hip and wrist — the areas most likely to be affected by osteoporosis — and it's used to accurately follow changes in these bones over time.

### \* Treatments and drugs

Treatment for osteoporosis focuses on slowing down or stopping the mineral loss, increasing bone density, preventing bone fractures, and controlling the pain associated with the disease.

Some 40% of women will experience a broken bone (fracture) due to osteoporosis during their lifetime. In those who have

a vertebral fracture (in their back), one in five will suffer another vertebral fracture within one year. This condition potentially leads to more fractures. The goal of treatment is to prevent fractures.

**Diet:** Young adults should be encouraged to achieve normal peak bone mass by getting enough calcium (1,000 mg daily) in their diet (drinking milk or calcium-fortified orange juice and eating foods high in calcium such as salmon), performing weight-bearing exercise such as walking or aerobics (swimming is aerobic but not weight-bearing), and maintaining normal body weight.

**Exercise:** Lifestyle modification should also be incorporated into your treatment. Regular exercise can reduce the likelihood of bone fractures associated with osteoporosis.

Studies show that exercises requiring muscle to pull on bones causes the bones to retain, and perhaps even gain, density.

Researchers found that women who walk a mile a day have four to seven more years of bone in reserve than women who don't.

Some of the recommended exercises include weight-bearing exercise, riding stationary bicycles, using rowing machines, walking, and jogging.

Before beginning any exercise program, make sure to review your plan with your doctor.

### MEDICATIONS:

A number of medications are available to help slow bone loss and maintain bone mass, including:

- \* Bisphosphonates. Much like estrogen,

**RUSTUM, page 53**

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# Treatment for Degenerative Discs and Spinal Disc Herniation

DR. Jin Sung

VALLEY PATRIOT CHIROPRACTIC COLUMNIST

Non-Surgical Spinal Decompression is a revolutionary new technology used primarily to treat disc injuries in the neck and in the low back. This treatment option is very safe and utilizes FDA cleared equipment to apply distraction forces to spinal structures in a precise and graduated manner. Distraction is offset by cycles of partial relaxation. This technique of spinal decompression therapy, that is, unloading due to distraction and positioning, has shown the ability to gently separate the vertebrae from each other, creating a vacuum inside the discs that we are targeting. This “vacuum effect” is also known as negative intra-discal pressure.

The negative pressure may induce the retraction of the herniated or bulging disc into the inside of the disc, and off the nerve root, thecal sac, or both. It happens only microscopically each time, but cumulatively, over six to eight weeks, the results are quite dramatic.

The cycles of decompression and partial relaxation, over a series of visits, promote the diffusion of 1. water 2. oxygen and 3. nutrient-rich fluids from the outside of the discs to the inside. These nutrients enable the torn and degenerated disc fibers to begin to heal.

For the low back, the patient lies com-

fortably on his/her back or stomach on the decompression table, with a set of nicely padded straps snug around the waist and another set around the lower chest. For the neck, the patient lies comfortably on his/her back with a pair of soft rubber pads behind the neck. Many patients enjoy the treatment, as it is usually quite comfortable and well tolerated.

Non-Surgical Spinal Decompression is very effective at treating bulging discs, herniated discs, pinched nerves, sciatica, radiating arm pain, degenerative disc disease, leg pain, and facet syndromes. Proper patient screening is imperative and only the best candidates are accepted for care.

Spinal Decompression has been shown to be effective for the treatment of back pain, sciatica, leg pain, herniated disc, degenerative disc disease, bulging disc, spinal stenosis and radiculopathy.

Dr. Jin Sung is the owner and treating physician at Functional Chiropractic, Inc. The office is located at 126 Merrimack Street in Methuen MA behind Heavenly Donuts. Dr. Sung can be reached at 978 688-6999 or you can get more information about the practice at [www.DrJinSung.com](http://www.DrJinSung.com)



# It Takes A Village

Terry Crow Mercier

VALLEY PATRIOT SENIOR COLUMNIST

The Andovers at Home, also known as TAVAH is a non-profit, newly formed group located in Andover.

Its main goal is to offer services and resources, and to support the overall well being of those who are 50 years of age and over, living in Andover and North Andover. This community group is modeled after a national program that has proven to be highly successful.

Residents from the Andovers may join if they are able to live independently. Individual or household memberships are available. There is an annual membership fee of \$300.00.

This is used to help defray the organization’s expenses. Membership is limited to 350 members. TAVAH’s purpose is to help residents stay at home and maintain their independence as well as support their overall well being. Sometimes the simplest types of support can help achieve this. Often other family members are unable to provide assistance needed for a variety of reasons.

The idea behind the program is to operate a supportive “village of neighbors helping neighbors” says Muriel Catscher, one of the volunteers. Members are encouraged to share their special interests and talents. Some of the many benefits can include weekly grocery shopping

trips, transportation, errand assistance, yard work, property maintenance and repair. as well as home cleaning and organizing. Emergency preparedness assessments and safety are also addressed.

The group can offer resources for health and well-being and link them to at-home nursing services. if the need should arise. The organization also has many other benefits such as keeping members connected to their community with social and cultural events. TAVAH can help coordinate programs and activities that help maintain ones sense of belonging and psycho-social well being. Members will also be encouraged to share their own personal interests and talents within the group.

TAVAH also works with the wider community to help meet the needs of its members. They have a large pool of carefully checked, insured, and licensed contractors who provide services at a discounted rate for the members. Each member is assessed, and services are arranged with regards to their individual needs and wishes. TAVAH also can provide a daily phone call if a member desires it.

They have an interactive website, newsletter, and comprehensive calendar of the local events for their members. To contact The Andovers Village At Home you can call 1-978-623 0070 or go to [www.tavah.org](http://www.tavah.org). They gratefully accept donations and are always looking for new volunteers.

# Fall... the other season of sneezing is here!

Dr. Thomas Johnson

VALLEY PATRIOT ALLERGY COLUMNIST

When most people think of allergies the first thoughts that usually come to mind is either springtime or end of summer ragweed season. But Fall truly is the OTHER allergy season.

October is the month in New England when the temperatures will cool off and leaves turn colors. But make no mistake about it: while fall is the time when we think of Halloween pumpkins and Thanksgiving turkeys it is also when seasonal allergies begin to act up.

The major culprit of sneezing and itchy eyes, noses and ears is weed pollen, particularly lingering ragweed pollen. Mold spores are also often at their highest levels. There are some things you can do to relieve fall allergies, but keep in mind that some allergies are simply genetics. If you or you’re child have severe allergies this season, keep in mind that heredity is a key factor in the development of allergies. If you or your spouse have seasonal allergies, chances are good that your children will, too.

A Few Tips for Those Who Suffer From Fall Allergies:

Know Before Going-Check your area’s pollen count daily. You can do this through many TV stations and online. You can also check at New England Allergy’s website, <http://newenglandallergy.com/levels.php>, which is updated every day with pollen and mold counts. Stay inside on dry windy days as the count is usually considerably higher.

Delegate Work To Others -Leave the yard work to others. Have someone do your weeding and landscaping chores for you so there is no standing water, as mold spores can also cause problems. If you must do yard work or if your garden brings you joy, be sure to wear a mask while outdoors. Change clothes immediately after coming inside and shower immediately to remove any pollen that may



have attached while outdoors.

Keep It Inside-Minimize the exchange between inside and outside air. You can do this by keeping windows and doors closed, and use air conditioning or heat to keep temperatures comfortable. Avoid using whole house fans that pull air from outside.

Control the Cause- You can’t control what’s outside but you can control the pollen count indoors. Continuous filtration of your air with a high efficiency particle arresting air purifier can greatly reduce the amount of airborne pollen in your home. Because this type of filtration is also designed to remove airborne particulates that are extremely small, it will also take out other allergy triggers such as dust, mold spores and pet dander.

Consult your local physician for more on how to prevent fall allergies and how to be prepared for this allergy season.

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# Live the WOW!

Learn to Dance! When You Hear the Music of Life You have a Choice. Sit it Out as a Wallflower. Or, Dance! People Living the WOW! are Dancing their Hearts Out to Their Own Music! YOU Should too!

**Thomas Connors**  
VALLEY PATRIOT WOW! COLUMNIST

What are you waiting for? Get up there and Dance!

Dancing with the Stars! It was an amazing phenomenon the first time it hit television screens. For some crazy reason it brings a great feeling to audiences all across America.

Maybe that's because it represents Life in General and our inner Desire to Live the **WOW!** throughout all aspects of our own lives.

**Pay Attention to Life! You, too, will hear the Music; the Rhythm, the Beat that MOVES those who Live the WOW! every day of their Lives.**

I can still remember my Mom cradling me in her arms as she rocked me in her rocking chair. And I can still hear her singing me to sleep. Believe me when I tell you that took some effort. One thing about Mom, she could not carry a tune (even if she had a bucket to put it in!). Despite that,

## Breakthrough treatment now available in Andover

Imagine thirty to forty years ago if you were told that lasers would replace scalpels in surgery or that robotic instruments would build cars: you may not have believed it! By the same token, would you believe that chiropractic treatments can now be performed using a special hand-held instrument developed by NASA scientists; all while you are sitting in an upright position without any turning or twisting movements?

Advances in computers and engineering technologies have been able to uniquely blend with chiropractic in order to both analyze and treat the human body in such a way that was never before realized.

According to Andover Chiropractor, Dr. Richard Tellier, "This new form of computerized treatment is so gentle and effective, that it amazes even the most skeptical patients." It's called the Pro-Adjuster and is the latest, state-of-the-art technology in existence today, and there is only one in the Andover area.

The Pro-Adjuster is a brilliant combination of tradition and technology. It can safely and gently analyze and treat the spine and other joints to remove the nerve impingement that is often the cause of pains in the low back, neck, shoulder and elsewhere in the body. The Pro-Adjuster also works on a variety of muscular conditions to loosen tight muscles with ease and comfort. Many patients say that it's like getting a mini-massage.

It can also help increase the amount of motion in almost any joint. Even patients with knee, hip and foot problems such as plantar fasciitis are being helped. The treatment is covered by most insurance companies.

Dr. Tellier says that "The secret to the Pro-Adjuster lies in its advanced piezo-electric sensor that is able to detect the slightest amount of restriction in a joint and then deliver an extremely precise adjustment." He says that "even though traditional forms of adjusting also work, people are drawn to this new technique

I always remember her having a song in her heart.

People Living the **WOW!** find that Life provides them with that same consistent "music" or rhythm to their daily routines as well. They see it as a gift; a type of motivation that gets them going and helps them regulate their day through calm and rational emotions. You could say they go with the flow of the music and use it to their advantage. Not only does it stir their creativity and builds energy, it adds meaning, both tangible and spiritual to their lives.

But, you have to pay attention to its existence. You have to listen for it. It's not like a whole symphony shows up on your front door step and entertains you. No, it is subtle, yet, succinct, once you figure out how to get into the Rhythm of Living your Life with flair and gusto. It will move you too, if you let it.

**You CANNOT go through the Motions and Expect Success to Fall at your Feet. You have to Learn HOW to Hear the Music of Life Through your Heart and**

because of how gentle it is and does not involve any twisting, especially in the neck. Many people love getting adjusted with manual techniques, all of which are safe and effective. But there are a large number of people who never get to experience the amazing benefits of chiropractic because they are scared to have their spines adjusted in that way".

Now, there is no longer a reason to be weary. The Pro-Adjuster is perfect for anyone who has been thinking about going to a chiropractor, but hasn't yet made that decision. Dr. Tellier wants everyone to be able to experience these same benefits and if you have any of the following conditions, the Pro-Adjuster may be the answer you've been looking for....

Low back discomfort  
Fibromyalgia, Sciatic nerve, Planter Fascitis, Neck and shoulder pain, Knee or hip pain, TMJ dysfunction, Scoliosis, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, Arthritis, Headaches, Sports injuries

Treatment with the Pro-Adjuster is consistent, measurable, and extremely gentle. There is no guesswork, and it's safe for individuals of all ages. Call the office today and mention this article to receive a FREE Pro-Adjuster analysis to pin-point your problem areas and to see how the Pro-Adjuster can help. Call within the next 10 days and you will also receive a complimentary muscle test that can show the areas of your stress and how it's affecting your body. Call (978)474-0836 today to reserve your free Pro-Adjuster Analysis Scan.

This technological marvel can help you return to a healthier lifestyle. You may no longer have to live with a persistent, painful condition, Call today!

**Dr. Richard Tellier**  
28 Andover Street, Suite 230  
Andover, MA 01810  
(978)474-0836

**Soul!**

Any body can learn the steps to a particular dance. But that is purely going through the motions. And no matter how hard a person tries, he or she will always look awkward. Almost as if they are tripping over themselves. They choose to only dance with their feet. It is strictly physical for them.

The Pros, on the other hand, dance with their heart! They FEEL the music and let it direct their every step. They don't walk through a number; they glide through it. Music and Dance become One!

Living the WOW! becomes possible when you force yourself to do the very same thing. Listen for Your Music. I swear the Good Lord put it there to attract you to the good Life He has in store. Cup your ears if you have to and find the volume control so you don't miss a single beat. Force yourself to start listening.

**Be Patient and Have FUN! Take it One Step at a Time until you can Put it All Together in Harmony. Practice Makes Perfect!**

If you have ever taken dance lessons you know what every instructor does. He or she runs through the whole dance or routine. You tell yourself how impossible this will be. Then the instructor begins practicing the first step with you. Then the second step. Third step. And on and on.

Days or weeks later you can run through the routine with ease. Perfection follows when you get the rhythm of the music to match the movement of your body.

Living the **WOW!** involves the very same process. It's learning what the flow or rhythm of Life really means. It means putting your heart and soul into your daily life. Whether it is at home, work, school or play.

**That is what is so Energizing about Dance and Music. VARIETY! It is never boring or even predictable. Just the way Living the WOW! should be!**

Mix it Up! Get out of Your Rut! Variety CAN indeed put Spice into that Life of Yours. If you Let it!

Dancers take on many types of chal-

lenges. From the old soft shoe to tap. From ballet to modern jazz. As long as there are different kinds of music there will be unique and different interpretations of dance and movement to go along with it.

That is the Magic of Living the WOW! Never a dull or uninteresting moment. Life becomes an event; a memorable occasion to celebrate all the wonder before you as you live life to the fullest here on earth.

**Some of our Guests in Contract Services at American Training have learned to harness the rhythm of a WOW! Performance through music. So much so, they beat all records this past month!**

New jobs to do mean new tasks to learn. To many people, the eye/hand coordination that is required to perform up to our customers' standards is not so easy. Once I see a Guest learn the steps to a job, it is so rewarding to watch them methodically perfect their rhythm or pace. The headsets go on and they set their goals of completing so many widgets in fifteen minutes, a half hour and an hour. They adjust by putting their passion into each piece they produce.

These people with disabilities take a special, personal pride in their work. They use every gift available to them to produce successfully for our customers. They're not sitting life out as wallflowers because of some disability. They're hearing their own music and getting up to Dance. The result? Last month we hit our best month ever. Just a little bit over \$40 thousand dollars in billings.

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*



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State school board loses independence

Sandra Stotsky  
VALLEY PATRIOT EDUCATION COLUMNIST

In November 2006, Governor Romney appointed me to the nine-member Massachusetts Board of Education. In January 2008, the Legislature passed Gov. Deval Patrick’s bill establishing a cabinet-level secretary of education position and expanding the board to eleven members. The bill specifically shortened my term, but three-and-a-half years were enough to discern the effects of the 2008 changes.

In 2003, in testimony against the creation of a similar cabinet-level education position, Paul Reville, then director of the Center for Education Research and Policy at MassINC, warned that an education secretariat...seems to create “three masters” for the commissioner of education: the governor, the secretary of education, and the board of education.

How wrong he was. The secretary position, to which Gov. Patrick appointed Reville, did not create confusion. It instead created one boss for the commissioner: the secretary, who oversees the budgets and policies of the three state education agencies. The secretary is also a voting member of the boards of early education and care, elementary and secondary education, and higher education.

The expansion of the K-12 board included in the 2008 law was the key to minimizing independent thinking because it altered the terms of existing members and allowed Patrick to make appointments that gave him immediate control of the board.

To avert potential power struggles between a new secretary and the board chair (whom the governor already had the power to appoint), Gov. Patrick appointed someone who could make meetings run on time but was without political ambitions. Indeed, Reville’s position at board meetings came to symbolize his role; Commissioner Mitchell Chester was sandwiched between him and the chair, Maura Banta, at the head table. The board’s union representative was on the other side of Banta. Not much wiggle room for the commissioner.

The first clear sign that the governor’s office, not the board, was the commissioner’s boss was Chester’s 2008 appointment of former Lowell Superintendent Karla Baehr as a second deputy commissioner. Baehr was the Patrick administration’s choice for commissioner when the board for other reasons chose Chester.

Since spring 2008, the board has voted on few significant policies. Indeed, when asked to note for the 2009 summer retreat

what important decisions they had made in the previous year, hardly anyone could think of one. Meeting agendas have largely been determined by the secretary and commissioner, with no board input desired. At the 2008 summer retreat, Secretary Reville told the board directly that meetings would be too long if every topic members wanted discussed was added to the agenda.

Because administration control of the board was so complete, policy discussion was minimal. Reville didn’t need to ask many questions; Banta usually asked none.

Even when the board finally did consider a significant issue - whether to adopt still-evolving national standards - there was little discussion. Board members knew they would vote to adopt them no matter what condition they were in. The draft copy of the standards included in an appendix of the commonwealth’s January application for federal funds was so inferior it had to be completely revised before it could be released for public comment. The chair was the only board member who saw that application before it was sent, and no questions were raised about it after my request for a copy and hard copies were then sent to all board members.

With Patrick’s June 2010 decision not to reappoint Tom Fortmann and me, the two remaining Romney appointees, the board has become little more than a facade to satisfy the statute requiring a citizen board to oversee the department of education.

The ostensible results of the 2008 legislation have been exactly as intended - complete control of the state’s educational agenda by the Executive Office of Education, with minimal public discussion.

By appointing a board with a strong commitment to the governor but little understanding of K-12 education, the administration has prevented not just the public but its own officials from learning about flaws in their policies. The next bill for that hubris comes due when Massachusetts begins to implement the inferior national standards and high school students deemed “college-ready” by state tests based on those standards fail their college courses.

Sandra Stotsky is 21st Century Chair in Teacher Quality in the Department of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas and a former member of the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Get Rid of Calculators

Dr. Chuck Ormsby  
VALLEY PATRIOT EDUCATION COLUMNIST

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE NY TIMES

In my experience teaching college freshmen, my sense is that the average level of academic rigor in our public schools has fallen significantly over the past five decades.

Even in wealthy communities, only a fraction of parents are aware of the academic failure of their children. There are numerous examples of this decline: From the elimination of the study of grammar in English and proof-based geometry to the introduction of inquiry-based learning in science and the ubiquitous use of calculators. Today, all but the most elite colleges and universities have been forced to make a major commitment to remedial programs for entering freshmen in both mathematics and the language arts. Many, if not most, students who are in need of such help fall by the wayside despite such commitments.

Tutoring is the parental response to this failure. There are very few Kumon or Sylvan learning centers in poor areas. Even in wealthy communities, only a fraction of parents are aware of the academic failure of

their children – at least partially because of rampant grade inflation.

The problem stems from a lack of competition in education. The inability of parents and students to vote with their feet -- and

dollars -- makes them prisoners of policies that have steadily ratcheted up to serve the educational institutions rather than the children.

My prescription for improving mathematics education would include eliminating the use of calculators, ensuring that elementary math teachers are truly proficient in mathematics through Algebra II, requiring students to demonstrate proficiency in the core

mathematics disciplines before moving into non-core topics like statistics, and returning to proof-based geometry.

Ultimately, the solution to the problem rests on the introduction of choice and competition in education. And, if schools can offer higher quality education to their students, then parents will not have to turn to tutoring.

Topics: Education, high school, tutoring  
Dr. Charles Ormsby is a visiting professor of mathematics at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. He has served for six years on the school committee in North Andover, Mass.



Being the candidate’s son

Zeke Golnik  
VALLEY PATRIOT KID COLUMNIST

Hi my name is Zeke Golnik. As some of you might know, I wrote an article about my dad, Jon Golnik a couple of weeks ago.

Guess what... HE WON THE 5th DISTRICT REPUBLICAN PRIMARY!!!

I knew he had a big challenge ahead of him, but I always thought he would win. Well, now my dad has a bigger challenge ahead of him, running against the Democratic incumbent Niki Tsongas. She has been a congresswoman for three years, but I still think my dad can beat her. To do this, he is going to need help from all of you.

There are lots of ways to help. You can make calls, knock on doors, help make signs, but the biggest help my dad needs is raising money. You can’t do radio ads or TV commercials if you don’t have the

money. I am pretty sure those are two key factors helping to spread the word about my dad. I know that even if you donate only \$25 it will help my dad’s campaign

My dad is doing the right thing by running for office because he is setting an ex-

ample of how an ordinary person who is unhappy about the way the government is leading the country does something to fix it. My dad is a great role model because he is showing my sister and I that if you follow your dreams and work hard, good things can

happen. He is also showing us that no matter how many times there is a bump in the road, there is always a way to get past it. My dad is a great man and the right person to represent us in Congress. So, vote for my dad on November 2nd. And remember what my dad says “Congress isn’t listening, Jon Golnik WILL.”



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Halloween

I’m so excited for Halloween! Are you? I am going to be either Katy Perry or a vampire when I go trick or treating! I’m going to suck your blood - Mwah ha ha ha!

If your kid is around 2 or 3, maybe he or she should be an animal!

If they’re around 4 or 5, maybe a superhero! If they’re around 6 or 7, maybe something like a ghost! If they’re 8 or 9, devils or angels or the Hulk. And a 10 or 11 year old could be a superstar or a vampire.

But its not up to me...you decide! Or you could let your kids decide. Anyway, enjoy your Halloween! Lots of happiness and fun to all. And kids....get lots of candy! Parents....let them, its Halloween!

Emily, Methuen resident, Junior Reporter for the Valley Patriot

valleypatriot.com



# Afghanistan... What Infrastructure?

**Leo Jesudian**  
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

I used to own a factory in Afghanistan in the 1970's. I co-incidentally happened to be in Kabul at the Then Sheraton Hotel when the rebel army backed by the Russian Regular forces rolled into town at about 6:00AM. They drove their tanks onto the streets and that was what woke us (the hotel residents) up – the roar of the metal belts of the tanks on the paved roads in Downtown Kabul. I got a call from my partner, an Afghani guy named Mohammed Bhaktari. He suggested that I immediately leave the Sheraton Hotel and move in with him and his family outside the city as the rebels were going to be very aggressive and he did not want them to find an American Citizen, namely me, in the Sheraton.

Across the hallway resided a French journalist who was writing about ancient artifacts and antiquities. He was extremely afraid about what was transpiring, so I decided to take him along with me as well. The next four days were not good at all. We were self imprisoned and we were extremely unhappy. However the news was not good about what was going on

in Kabul and so we hunkered down and stayed put. We heard that Doud (the then President of Afghanistan) and his family were all executed to the last member, an 18 months old.

On the fifth morning Bhaktari came with great news – Pan Am had scheduled a flight to New Delhi, and I was a Pan Am ticket holder! There was one glitch though as is often the case. We had a 40 mile ride to the airport and there would be armed check posts that we would have to pass through. I sported a French beard and shoulder length hair and could pass for a Muslim. The Frenchman however was dithering with a serious does of honest fear. Anyway we proceeded to the airport. We passed two check posts that were manned by armed men with AK-47 Assault rifles that looked uneducated and crazed. At the first road block, they wanted to know who the white man was I understand Pashto but don't speak it. They checked his passport and then turned to me and asked the driver (Bhaktari), "who is this guy"? He said he is from India and was visiting from New Delhi. One of the militia talked to me in Urdu and I replied in fluent Urdu, which satisfied them and we proceeded "PHEW"!

We finally made it to the airport and

there was a huge sigh of relief. I told Bhaktari to stay till the flight took off, in case we needed a ride back to his house. We proceed to the authorities and now I was a bit nervous as to what they would say when they saw my U. S. passport. However, the authorities were afghan rebels and not the civil servants that usually run airport services. They asked us to fill the forms (which we found out very soon, they could not read) and then looked at it and handed it back to us – what a joke! I put my departure papers in the inside pocket of my navy Yves St. Laurent Blazer and proceeded to the gate without showing them my passport – man! That was the only time in my life, I was overjoyed by complete incompetence.

Aboard the Boeing 747 the Pilot advised all the passengers not to celebrate till we left Afghan airspace. This was because there was a possibility that we would not take-off or be even commanded to return after take-off. So needless to say, the mood was very sober. After we crossed the Kandahar mountain range we left Afghan airspace and there was pure jubilation on board that aircraft!

The reason I narrated that story was for credibility. I have made numerous trips to Afghanistan and know the region and the culture fairly well. I want to state unequivocally that Afghanistan never had any infrastructure other than some rudimentary Roads, an archaic Post & Telegraph system, running water and electricity in very few urban areas etc.

Now when Hamid Karzai was made the president of Afghanistan (actually just Mayor of Kabul for all intents and purposes) one of the first things the US Government did was allot an initial 8.5

billion dollars to re-build Afghanistan's infrastructure that was destroyed by the US bombing. I ask this simple question: "What infrastructure"? There has not been, still isn't and never will be any infrastructure in Afghanistan. 8.5 billion dollars would do in Afghanistan what a trillion dollars would do in the USA. Since then, there have been billions more given to them. One only need ask – who is getting this money and for what purpose?

The United States of America has completely lost its sense of purpose. We desperately need to vote out these jokers all the way from Washington to Beacon Hill to even town hall. We need to elect real competent people that are fiscally responsible, socially tolerant when it comes to real hardship, with a vision for America and the future of our planet. Socialism and Communism has never worked and never will. With all its woes, Capitalism is the only form of government that rewards the human spirit and boy what a spirit humans have. That is why, even though America is a mere 4% of the global population, it is responsible for more than 75% of all inventions and Nobel laureates. We write more songs, make better movies, have a better quality of life and by and large, we are a happier nation. We also need to be less invasive about evaluating the private lives of our political candidates. There are many capable and competent individuals with a great vision for America that shudder from the exposure and scrutiny they would face, if they ran for office and hence they never do.

Leo Jesudian is a resident of North Andover. He emigrated from India in 1971 and has been in business ever since. He has travelled the world many times over. For the past 11 years, he has done seminars worldwide, teaching people in all walks of life on how to become financially independent.



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Governor Deval Patrick with Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua, State Rep. Barry Finegold, State Rep. David Torrisi and Robert Nunez of the Department of Revenue last year announcing his plan to help Lawrence out of its financial crisis.

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# How to make your Outdoor Cat a Happy Indoor Cat

Tracey Zysk

VALLEY PATRIOT KITTY CAT COLUMNIST

With the long winter days nearly upon us, come the cold breezes, snow falling and below zero nights. Living in the Merrimack Valley we all know how cold, cold can truly be. As we all cuddle up by our fire places or snuggle under one of our favorite blankets, let's not forget our little furry friends.

I heard from a friend of mine the other day and we had a conversation regarding how to transition cats indoors during this season. Dogs are easy, we let them out, they come back in. However, sometimes cats can be a little more of a challenge. They are very independent by nature and some think they are as durable as a lion. Beth from the Coalition to Protect and Rescue Pets, gave me this pamphlet and I asked if I could pass this along to our readers. Hopefully, these tips will help you to provide a safe and healthy winter environment for your feline.

Don't let your kitten out: She won't miss what she doesn't know. But even adult cats can adapt to the Great Indoors. The key is to provide attention, exercise, mental stimulation...and love.

Timing \*\*The easiest time to transition your cat is during the winter, when she'd rather be inside anyway. But cats can adapt any season. Some people transition their cats gradually, bringing them in for increasingly longer stays. Others bring the cat in and shut the door for good.

TLC \*\*The aloof feline is a myth: Domestic cats need human companionship.

An outdoor cat will welcome life indoors if she gets enough attention and play. Many also enjoy the company of a compatible cat or dog. Consider adopting another pet. Your vet or shelter can advise you on "breaking the ice."

Shake It Up \*\*Shake a can filled with coins or marbles when your cat meows at the door. Or try a remote device so

kitty doesn't associate you with the noise that startled him.

The Fix \*\*Spaying or neutering your cat at the appropriate age will reduce kitty's wanderlust—and prevent the tragedy of more unwanted, homeless cats.

Fun and Fitness \*\*Play with your cat! Interactive toys, such as a pole and attached line with fabric or feathers at the end, are fun for your cat and provide a bonding experience for both of you.

\*\*Hide toys around the house so your cat can hunt for "prey." Be sure they're not small enough to be swallowed.

\*\*Paper bags (without the handles) and cardboard boxes help satisfy your cat's need to explore. Move them every few days so she can conquer new territory.

\*\*Multilevel cat condos and trees are as much fun to climb as the backyard maple.

\*\*Posts, corrugated cardboard or sisal rope give kitty better things to scratch than your furniture; praise him for using them. Claw caps-or just keeping claws trimmed-will help too. Or try a boundary spray that will let your cat know the area is off-limits. Don't declaw: It's amputation of the toes to the first knuckle that can cause behavioral and physical problems. (So can tenectomy, the other surgical "fix" for normal cat behavior.) If your cat ever does get out, he'll be unable to protect himself or climb to safety. How cruel is that?

Outside In \*\*Providing fresh greens lets your cat graze safely instead of munching on houseplants. You can get kits complete with containers and seeds or plant



pesticide-free alfalfa, grass, or catnip in your own container. Try cooked string beans or peas (cooled); many cats love them. \*\*Give your cat a

bird's eye view. You can buy a comfy window seat if you want, but any access to a windowsill will do. Make sure screens are secure!

\*\*Treat your cat to a special "kitty video" of scampering wildlife. Some cats even enjoy watching cartoons or Sesame Street. Oprah, well, not so much.

The Safe Outdoors

\*\*An outdoor covered enclosure or run that your cat can access through a window or pet door gives her the best of both worlds: fresh air and safety. Screened porches are another option. Make the space even more fun by adding tree limbs, multilevel cat condos, hanging tires, boxes, grass and toys. You can find cat enclosures—and instructions for making one yourself—online.

Walk This Way \*\*Consider leash-training your cat for outdoor walks; attach the leash to a harness. She may resist at first, but most eventually will accept this. Never leave your cat outside unsupervised

while on a leash. With coyotes and other predators everywhere these days, that isn't a good idea for dogs either.

Litter Box Training \*\*Confine your cat to one room, preferably without absorbent surfaces. When she is using the litter box regularly, let her out under your supervision; eventually let her explore unsupervised. Scoop the box often, or she may not want to use it. Can you blame her?

Ask the Experts \*\*Your local shelter can provide more advice. Or ask your veterinarian for a referral to a cat behaviorist.

Don't Give Up \*\*Some cats may develop behavioral problems if the change in routine is too abrupt. You can fix that. Keep working on your "transition plan," giving your cat TLC and praise. Be patient.

The reward—a safe, healthy companion for many years to come—is well worthwhile.

As always if a cat is a pet you are considering, please visit your local shelter and adopt!



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



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# Michael Vick: still NO HERO

Tracey Zysk  
VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

It's officially football season and every Sunday and Monday night is probably blocked off on your calendar until the last weekend of January.

For some it is tailgating in parking lots, and for others it is sitting around your living room watching the game and for a few it may even be hopping on a plane to see your favorite team play away. As I did for 10yrs. A group of friends and I faithfully flew around the country to see the Patriots play in other stadiums. The year we went to Atlanta, guess who was injured? No loss actually!! I'm glad now I didn't spend my hard earned money to see "the man" who had all this hype, "the man" that was predicted to produce untouchable numbers, "the man" that was the key to winning against the Patriots. He was on the bench. No play time, no publicity, and no stats to pump up his value. Yes, I am speaking about the overly rated Michael Vick. (The Pats won that game)

Last weekend, September 26 2010, week 3 of the NFL season Michael Vick was all over the news. He pulled in some great numbers as he went 17-of-31 for 291 yards, passed for three touchdowns, rushed for 30 yards and a touchdown during the Eagles' win over the Jaguars. These statistics are nothing but the numbers that represent a player on a field. These numbers do not represent the person Michael Vick is nor do they represent the character of the person he will always be. For that we need to look at some different stats:

Note\*\* 70 dogs were seized from Vicks property all had physical injuries and/or were emotionally traumatized.

Public Records show the following:

July 2 filings  
The federal court filings of July 2 alleged that Vick's property was used as the "main staging area for housing and training the pit bulls involved in the dog fighting venture."

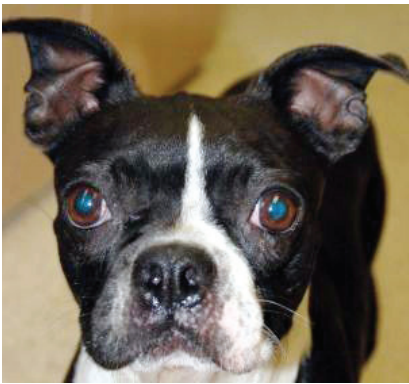
July 17 indictments  
On July 17, a federal grand jury indicted Vick and 3 others on multiple counts, stating that Vick and three other men spent six years "knowingly sponsoring and exhibiting in an animal fighting venture." The grand jury also charged the men with establishing a kennel to represent dog fighting competitions, purchase and train pit bulls in dog fighting competitions and "destroying or otherwise disposing of dogs not selected to stay with the ongoing animal fighting venture."

Detention and arraignment hearing, bail conditions  
On July 26, all four pleaded "not guilty" to all of the charges against them during a hearing, and a trial date was set for November 26.

Vick prepared statement: Vick issued a prepared statement through his lawyer in which he proclaimed his innocence. Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank stated that Vick had to give up any thoughts of playing until the case is resolved.

Vick pleads guilty: On August 20, 2007 Vick plead guilty to the federal felony dog fighting conspiracy charge.

On August 24, 2007 it was announced that Vick had signed a plea agreement and issued a statement



admitting his participation and funding of the dog fighting ring, but maintaining that he did not place any bets or take any prize money.

On August 27, Vick appeared before Judge Hudson, submitted the guilty plea, and was given a sentencing date of December 10.

Sentencing: Vick was sentenced to 23 months in prison on the federal charges on December 10, 2007.

Disposition of property  
The property used in the operation, 1915 Moonlight Road, was forfeited by Vick.

Now these are some stats that will go down in history!

Ironically, the season we retired our trip, I still hopped on that plane. Although my destination was a much different location. It wasn't a stadium of football fans; it was an animal sanctuary in Kanab Utah. Yes, I went to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary to see the twenty four most victimized and traumatized dogs from Michael Vicks ring. They were brought to this facility for complete rehabilitation and with the hopes to be adopted someday. Animals of this level of abuse have a lot of challenges to over come and need specialized training and attention for their rehabilitation to be successful. (For more details please visit bestfriends.org for a list of their stories.) What I saw was unexplainable. How Michael Vick can sleep at night amazes me, how this man has a conscience surprises me, however thank God over and over for


this wonderful facility. Years later many of the dogs are still there, a few have been adopted and more are now in foster homes waiting for the right home. But it took a group of very special people with an amazing love for animals to help these dogs to learn to trust again. Having worked with abused animals and currently a proud owner of a rescue dog, I can tell you this takes many hours and a lot of patience. Trust isn't something that is taught it is earned. The staff at Best Friends worked endlessly to help these dogs be able to become dogs again. Remember, these dogs never had the life of a dog. They only lived in a crate and were thrown into the ring to fight. There were no social skills ever developed. Best Friends literally helped these dogs learn to be dogs.

As Best Friends will tell you these dogs are no longer victims of Michael Vick, they are VICTORIOUS over him. They are now known as the "Victory Dogs"

I have to ask you all, next Sunday when Michael Vick's name is mentioned all over the news, please don't glamorize him, please remember the person behind the player and the man he truly is. He is NO HERO!





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 wigglegwalk@comcast.net




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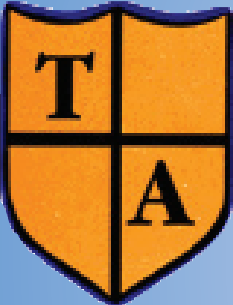




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## PUPPY LOVE! with Kate Whitney

# Spaying and neutering is so important

Kate Whitney  
VALLEY PATRIOT PUPPY COLUMNIST

Spaying and neutering has become “the norm” for today’s pet owners, but how many of you do it because it’s “the right thing to do” and don’t really know why it is the right thing to do? For anyone that does not know or has yet to have their dog or cat fixed, I hope this article will provide good reason.

Every day there are thousands of dogs and cats dying in shelters around the US. Spaying and Neutering not only provides health benefits but it drastically helps to reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs that are born every year.

Did you know that dogs that are fixed will have an average life increase of 1 to 3 years and cats that are fixed have an average increase of 3 to 5 years? That alone should make the decision a simple one.

Let’s discuss many of the benefits of spaying (which is for females).

First of all, if you can, get your dog spayed as early as your vet will allow; most vets will spay anytime after 8 weeks old.

If you prefer to wait a little bit, try and get it done before your dog has its first heat cycle. If your dog is spayed, there are many negatives that you will avoid. Your dog will not have a heat cycle; therefore male dogs will not be attracted to your female dog.

The dog will have less of a desire to roam, therefore keeping your dog safe. And this is the biggest one for me: the risk of mammary gland tumors. As a result of the spaying, ovarian and uterine cancer is reduced or eliminated, especially if done before the first heat cycle. The facts make the correct decision clear: if you can prevent or at least reduce the risk of your dog having certain cancers, why the heck wouldn’t you?

So now let’s talk about neutering. Let’s get one thing straight...for all the guys who read this article and have male dogs...when you get your dog neutered, you are getting your dog neutered. You are not the one on the operating table. I hate when I hear people say “it will change his personality” or “he’s going to be a different

dog” or “that procedure would hurt so much”. It doesn’t hurt and your dog will only change for the better! His personality won’t change, he’s just going to be healthier in the long run. Ok, now that we have that figured out, let’s talk about the benefits. Neutering your pet reduces or completely eliminates the risk of spraying or marking. We’ve all been witness to those male dogs and cats that lift their legs whenever they so choose. Well that behavior can stop, with a simple little snip. There is also less of a desire to roam, which

means that there is a decrease in the chance of your pet getting hit by a car, stolen, or in a fight with another animal. Even if you think that your dog will never get out or leave your sight, why take the chance? No one plans for an accident, but they happen. I have two indoor cats and they are both fixed. I never plan on them getting out, they live quite

a great life in the safety of my house, but I don’t want to risk it, and I realize the significant health benefits that come along with sterilization. Another benefit is that the potential risk of testicular cancer is eliminated and it decreases the risk of prostate disease. Neutering also produces a decrease in aggressive behavior like dog bites. And once again, just like spaying, it reduces the number of unwanted kittens and puppies. An unaltered male cat can produce hundreds of kittens per year. Walk into any animal shelter and you will see that there is NO shortage of cats and kittens!

It is extremely frustrating to walk down the street and see an “intact” male dog walking in front of me. Not only is it disgusting to look at but it is disappointing that people are still uneducated about the benefits of spaying and neutering, and the importance of reducing the population of dogs and cats. I believe that neglecting to get your pet fixed for breeding purposes is selfish and cruel. There are just too many unwanted dogs dying every day in shelters. Be responsible. If you breed your dog, you are taking the potential homes away from dogs in shelters that have been waiting for them, and you may even be taking away their lives..

There are many low cost spay/neuter



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Valley Patriot’s PuppyGirl, Kate Whitney with Landon who was a foster puppy waiting to be adopted through One Tail at a Time and last week was adopted by a loving family in Maine. 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)

clinics. If you can’t afford to have the procedure done at your vet, look for one of these clinics. Remember, fixing your pet is a decision that responsible pet owners make. If you can not afford to have this procedure done, please think twice before getting a pet. They aren’t cheap. Vet bills, food, etc. add up so make sure you have the means to provide all the necessities for your pet before you take on into your home.

Furthermore, have you ever thought about who pays for stray animals? Are you a taxpayer? Then it’s you who pays! To capture, house, and eventually “destroy” a stray dog or cat costs money - billions of dollars every year. Many stray animals have rabies and other diseases. We need to make an effort to help control the number of strays on the streets.

I’m part of an online dog rescue group in which we help arrange for transport of homeless dogs. One lady’s comment resonated with me. Elana said, “the day my inbox is not filled with pleas for transport and rescue from kill shelters is the day that I MIGHT believe that there is a potential shortage of shelter pets.” So

remember, in addition to fixing your pets please remember to adopt, not shop. If you don’t have a dog or cat but would like to help, then spread the word about how important spaying and neutering is. You can also make a donation to a local shelter, rescue or clinic and ask that the money be used to pay for a spay/neuter procedure on a homeless animal. If you are interested in contacting a clinic, just type in “low cost spay/neuter clinic in MA” in your search engine and a list will come up.

The bottom line is simple: spaying and neutering helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives. It is only appropriate to end with the legendary sign-off made popular by the retired Price is Right host Bob Barker: Help control the pet population. Have your pet spayed or neutered.

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

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PHOTO: COURTESY

## Donna Feldman stars in Visa Black Card commercial

**Shawn Hansen**

VALLEY PATRIOT ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

Growing up in Calabases, California, Donna Feldman started modeling as a part time gig after high school.

Developing a modeling career with Elite Model Management, while attending the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising [FDIM] in Los Angeles, Feldman said she enjoys her modeling career because it takes her all over the world.

“Every year has been better then the last,” said Feldman. “The first couple of years was just part time. I was going to college, I was selling suits, and I was modeling on the side, and then I realized I was definitely making more money modeling then doing anything else.”

Working in a German market, Feldman said she never knows what to expect in the business because it’s not a set schedule.

“You don’t even know the phone call you’re going to get tomorrow,” said Feldman, explaining that she has traveled a lot in the past three months.

In the time span mentioned, Feldman traveled to Israel, back to Los Angeles,

France, and Mozambique, Africa.

While in Mozambique, it ended up being immensely cold, so the company she works for flew to Hamburg, Germany.

Out of all the places Feldman has traveled to in her young career, she cherishes going to tropical islands, and Japan the most.

“I felt like Bill Murray in Lost in Translation,” said Feldman. “It was a totally different world.”

On the other side of the table, Feldman has acting credentials that have included being in the 77th Annual Academy Awards, Deal or No Deal, Fashion House Las Vegas, and You Don’t Mess With a Zohan.

“I never really thought that I would be an actress,” said Feldman. “I was really shy growing up, so in a way I went to FDIM, I was studying Fashion Marketing Business Management, and I thought a good way to network with designers was to become a fit model for clothing lines.”

Getting discovered through modeling, when Feldman started her acting career,

**FELDMAN, page 49**

## Reward yourself with Aztec Two-Step “The elegant folk group,” at the Firehouse

**Dairon Sky**

VALLEY VIBE CONTRIBUTOR

NEWBURYPORT - When Rex Fowler and Neal Shulman, the critically acclaimed duo known as Aztec Two-Step, burst onto the scene in 1972 with their Elektra Records debut, they were reviewed as having the “intellectual lyricism” and “ethereal harmonies” of their legendary predecessors, Simon & Garfunkel. Jack Holzman, founder of Elektra Records called the pair “the elegant folk group” and insisted they join the recording company’s impressive stable of rock legends.

Now, elegance arrives at the Firehouse Center for the Arts, Market Square, Newburyport, MA on Friday, October 15 at 8pm when Aztec Two-Step, one of acoustic music’s most respected and enduring acts, will perform. Tickets are \$32 for Students, Seniors and Members and \$34 for Adults and may be purchased at the Box Office by calling 978/462-7336 or online at [www.firehouse.org](http://www.firehouse.org).

In the years that followed their musical debut, Aztec Two-Step recorded 16 CDs, became the subject a documentary DVD about their story and created a loyal fan-base whose numbers have swelled over the last four decades of the duo’s career. Their first album, along with their subsequent albums for RCA Records, was a staple of progressive FM and college radio.

After a chance meeting during an open mic session at a Boston coffee house, the Stone Phoenix, in 1971 Fowler and Shulman formed their band and chose the moniker Aztec Two-Step after a line from the poem “A Coney Island of the Mind” by Lawrence Ferlinghetti, a self-described bohemian who published Beat poets. Subsequently the duo would go on to write and record the first song ever written about Jack Kerouac’s iconic American novel, On the Road. It is no wonder that the band has been described as the bridge to The Beat Generation. In addition, they are renowned for bringing the folk/rock music of the 60’s into the 70’s and beyond and for more than thirty-five years, Rex Fowler and Neal Shulman have been writing and performing songs that helped make their generation’s musical memories, all the while inspiring future generations of young singer/songwriters.

As their recording career continued, so did the critical acclaim. In 1987 Living in America, received the New York Music Award for Best Folk Album and was named in Billboard’s year-end critic’s poll. They have been praised in countless major US newspapers and magazines, including Rolling Stone, and have appeared on numerous TV and radio shows, such as the David Letterman Show, the King Biscuit Flour Hour, and World Café Live. In 1999 they were the subjects of the documentary, No Hit Wonder, which was aired on PBS.

While the duo possesses a rich musical legacy of their own, it only makes sense that they would choose to interpret and perform the timeless songs of Simon & Garfunkel and in this special performance at the Firehouse you will hear beloved Aztec Two-Step songs as well as the intricate harmonies of classic Simon and Garfunkel hits. The original euphonious style of Fowler and Shulman adds another dimension to the classic Simon and Gar-

**WHAT:** Aztec Two-Step

**WHEN:** Friday, October 15 at 8pm

**WHERE:** Firehouse Center for the Arts, Market Square, Newburyport

**TICKETS:** \$34 Adults, \$32 Students Seniors and Members. For more info please call the Box Office at 978/462-7336 or visit online at [www.firehouse.org](http://www.firehouse.org)

funkel arrangements and allows the lyrics of some of our all-time favorite songs to shine again during a live performance.

David Lavalley, Director of The Center for Arts (TCAN) in Natick, MA has said “Much more than a night of nostalgia, Aztec Two-Step invite you into their living room for a personal retrospective on the music that influenced them - and an entire generation.

The new owner David Geffin had a different vision for the label and perhaps it was a lack of support during the phase when all artists need nurturing that ultimately would result in such talent getting overlooked. Pete Fornatale, the disc jockey of WNEW and “Mixed Bag” fame and always a huge fan of Aztec Two-Step was “personally disappointed” that the duo never made it to the top of the charts. But in his opinion, even though they did not make the charts, they were out there in the culture. They were a “qualitative success” and “if success is measured by the mark they left on the hearts and minds of listeners they touched then ‘Yes,’ they were most definitely a success” explains Fornatale, although not necessarily by the standards that the music industry usually employs.

To help put Aztec Two-Step’s place in musical history into better perspective it helps to know another music professional’s view of the group. Dean Sciarra, music journalist, creator/former owner of indie record label 7Records, and President/Owner of ItsAboutMusic.com, an E-Label with more than 300 exceptional independent artists; says:

“1972 was a remarkable year in the history of rock. It stands out as my personal favorite year just because of the sheer volume of magic that was released on vinyl by artists such as Poco, The Eagles, Crosby & Nash, Loggins & Messina, Van Morrison, Paul Simon, Dan Fogelberg... The Hollies, Peter Frampton, Seals & Crofts, Fleetwood Mac, Rick Nelson and the list goes on to include the first album by Jackson Browne and more.

But there was one album released that year that defines the time for me more than any other record - the debut of Aztec Two-Step. Please reward yourself with ... music from this legendary band.”

Maybe it was that “sheer volume of magic” that overwhelmed the traditional record labels and Aztec Two-Step just got a little lost in the crowd. To be sure you don’t miss them on Friday, October 15 at 8pm at the Firehouse Center for the Arts, get your tickets by calling the Box Office at 978/462-7336 or order your tickets online at [www.firehouse.org](http://www.firehouse.org). Listening is its own reward – and you owe it to yourself.

About The Firehouse Center for the Arts- The Firehouse Center for the Arts is member-based organization located on the waterfront in Newburyport, with a 195-seat theater. The Firehouse offers “arts inspired experiences” including film, dance, theatre, concerts, children’s programming, a new works festival, and an art gallery which exhibits works by local and international artists. The Firehouse is handicap accessible.



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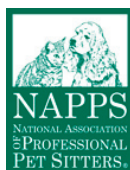
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## VALLEY PATRIOT TV REVIEW

## Fall Television 2010

Beth Daigle

VALLEY PATRIOT ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

Where to begin? Fall premieres have been fast and furious and generally I am pleased. Rather than delve deeply into just one program, I thought I would take this opportunity to briefly break down what I have seen so far.

Dancing with the Stars, ABC Mon 8:00— So over it. Sorry, but much like “American Idol” there is only so much I can take.

The Event, NBC Mon 9:00— I wasn’t a big fan despite all the hype. There were too many killings, flashbacks, twists and turns and that was just episode 1. It looks like they are trying to be another “Lost” with unanswered questions and unclear story lines. No thanks!

Chase, NBC Mon 10:00— Not bad. I am typically not a crime show watcher, but I am committed to watching some new show styles this season. I actually stayed awake through the whole thing, but really do take issue with all of the crime and negativity. I honestly watch television to be entertained, not freaked out.

Glee, Fox Tues 8:00— Excellent! Loved the new character opposite Sue Sylvester and the music is spectacular. I am looking forward to another great season.

Raising Hope, Fox Tues, 9:00 — Unbearable to the point of disgusting. Smoking, vomiting and Cloris Leachman in her undergarments -enough said.

Running Wilde, Fox Tues 9:30 — This show was a little odd but I believe it has promise. I like Will Arnett and have liked Keri Russell since her “Felicity” days. It may not have the strength to last, but I would watch again.

Better With You, ABC Wed 8:30— Cute. I like the polar opposite sister dynamic

and the Mom, played by Debra Jo Rupp of “That 70’s Show,” is a likable supporting character. It fits well in the Wednesday line-up just before “Modern Family” and “Cougar Town.” Speaking of which...

Modern Family, ABC Wed 9:00 — Well worth their 6 Emmy’s! Keep it going — Best show on television.

Cougar Town, ABC Wed 9:30— So silly, but still liking it. I like that both Lisa Kudrow and now Jennifer Aniston have guest starred. Now we just need Joey, Ross and Chandler.

Hellcats, CW Wed 9:00 — This storyline is a little young for me, but I would imagine it is a big teen/tween sensation. It generally seems interesting and should successfully reach the younger market.

Grey’s Anatomy, ABC Thurs 9:00 — Looks like more of the same, but I am okay with that. The show has lost its pizzazz but is reliable in terms of typical hospital room drama.

What are you watching this fall? Look for “No Ordinary Family” starring Michael Chiklis and “The Good Wife” starring Julianna Margulies in upcoming reviews.

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

## Comedian Matt Kona makes the 300 club

In baseball, statisticians keep records of games played, plate appearances, runs, hits, doubles, triples, home runs, and so on.

Outside the diamond, comedians keep track of how many shows they have performed in. For comedian Matt Kona, he has reached 300 shows in eight months at the age of 28.

Before starting the day, Kona said he had a Large Iced Coffee, which he usually doesn’t do, as he prepared a set list.

“My 300th set was Sept. 3rd at The Gas, which is a weekly Friday night showcase put on by Rob Crean and the Anderson Comedy Group at Great Scott in Allston,” said Kona.

Getting word from Crean that he wanted him in the show from scouting his material out at the Middle East at 480 Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge, Kona said he was honored.

Starting the night off in front of a sold out room, Kona asked the audience from a round of applause, who was familiar with a standing ovation is. In his milestone mark, Kona talked about Indian food as he reflected on everything in 2010 that led up to show 300.

“It meant a lot for him to ask me to have my 300th there,” said Kona. “It was kind of a challenge to make it so the set fell on a Friday, but it was worth it.”

Performing alongside Crean, who hosted the show was Lucas Lewis, Tim Vargulish, Josh Gondelman, P.J. Westin,

Natalie Baseman, Chris Coxen, Meghan O’Keefe, and Alice Wetterlund.

After the show, Kona had a few celebratory drinks with some of his friends.

“I don’t get to see them that much and then I went over to Mottley’s Comedy Club in Faneuil Hall to catch the last of their show and to have some more drinks,” said Kona.

Reaching the 300 mark in comedy, Kona said it means that there are a lot of places to get up on stage, and work on comedy in the New England area. Since first standing up nearly a year ago, Kona feels he has improved his ability as a standup comic.

Before the tables turn from 2010-2011, Kona said he has a lot on his plate. Striving for 365 shows in a year, Kona said he has performed in 22 shows since hitting 300. Averaging nine shows a week, he says he doesn’t see himself slowing down.

“I might as well see how many I can fit into a calendar year,” said Kona. “I still don’t have much of anything else to occupy my time.”

Coming up, Kona will be performing at the Somerville Theater on Thursday, Oct. 14 at 8 p.m., and will be hosting with headliner Dan Crohn at the House of Blues on Landsdowne Street on Thursday, Oct. 28.

For more information about Kona, go to <http://mattkona.blogspot.com/2010/07/comedy-studio-debut.html>.

## Valley Patriot MOVIE REVIEW

## Devil: A Movie Review

Ben Flagg

VALLEY PATRIOT MOVIE REVIEWER

When I first saw the trailer for this movie, I was so excited. Scratch that, I was so excited up to the point where it said “From the mind of M. Night Shyamalan.”

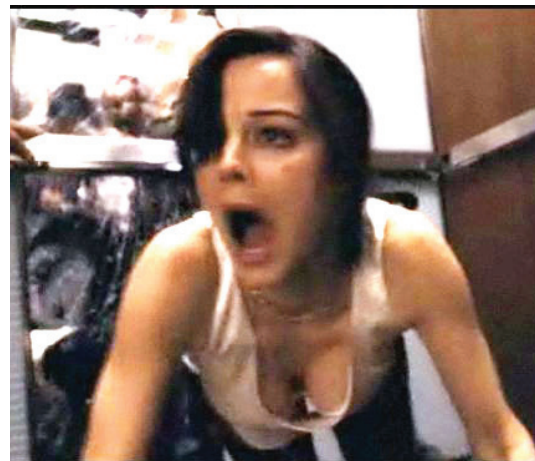
At that point, I sort of knew it was going to fail. And to my surprise... I was completely right! This is what’s known as a bottleneck movie. A bottleneck movie is a movie that basically has tunnel vision, where it’s a very forced, usually very small set, but a huge story that is all happening away from the characters. This movie completely misses almost all the fundamentals. It’s not a small cast, it’s a very bad, very small story, and it’s completely predictable.

This story manages to do the impossible, by making an extremely simple story muddled and sometimes even bordering on inconsistent. The main story, the “people stuck in an elevator and one of them is the killer” plot is as simple as possible. It’s when the backstory rears it’s ugly head that things get bad.

The backstory focuses on 2 cops and 2 security guards who are trying to figure out who the killer is in the elevator. The whole process involves a lot of list checking and going to a lot of one time characters. Because they never focus on one list for too long and there are a lot of them you really do lose track of what they’re talking about and where they’re getting

their conclusions from.

On top of all that, the movie is painstakingly predictable, to the point where you will know exactly when someone is about to die. They repeat the same signs right before someone dies. However, the



biggest problem in this movie is it’s just not scary. You can tell it’s trying to be scary though, which makes it borderline insulting. Just to make matters worse, this is some of the most stiff, wooden acting I’ve seen in a while. And the

fact that this is a bottleneck movie makes the acting seem even worse. Because it’s such a small, forced perspective you need something to entertain you, so you’re basically relying on the performances.

This movie straight up disappointed me. It had so much potential, just to be thrown down into the lowest depths of mediocrity by the man known as M. Night Shyamalan. All of the Shyamalan trademarks are here, from the plot holes to the lame twist at the end (which you saw coming), to M. Night’s favorite: extremely lazy writing. I will tell you now, unless you’re the most shallow type of moviegoer, you will not enjoy this. Don’t touch it with a 10 foot pole.



*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

## Weekend at The Wilbur

Taking a look back into September, the Red Sox lost 13 of 27 games demolishing their chances to get into the post season. With that said, our beloved Red Sox went 13-14 in the ninth month of the year.

With the unfortunate demise of the beloved BoSox in 2010, people who don’t know what to do with themselves should go to The Wilbur Theatre at 246 Tremont Street in Boston.

The weekend of Sept. 10 kicked off with Tom Green of the Tom Green Show on [www.tomgreen.com](http://www.tomgreen.com). Wow! That’s a lot of name dropping in one paragraph.

The time Green spent on stage was quite the scene as his high-energy kept the crowd on it’s feet. Pacing back, and forth, Green had a variety of topics that he shared with the crowd as he talked about Facebook, and how it was extremely difficult to find out information about ones life until this medium came into existence.

Green laughed at the matter saying if the FBI wants something, they can just go to the page of the suspect, and pretty much find what they’re looking for.

The next night at the same place at the same location, in the same city of Boston, Mitch Fatel came to The Wilbur Theatre.

Whispering into the microphone at first, Fatel said that he is so famous. Throughout the night, Fatel had everyone up in stitches with his adult-rated

comedy show saying how he likes being famous, because girls finally like him.

“I had my first threesome. That’s every guys fantasy, but I’ll tell you, after I did it, I realized that the fantasy is actually better then the reality,” said Fatel. “What I didn’t realize is that when you’re having a threesome, there’s always going to be one girl who is better looking then the other girl.”

Talking about a girl who approached Fatel after a show asking if he was ready to “hangout” with her and her friend, he went back to the hotel room by himself, waited for the two girls, and stared at the door like a mental patient for three hours.

The weekend spent at The Wilbur Theatre was great. Both Green, and Fatel interviewed for Shawn Hansen’s Comedy Corner after their shows, which will be on YouTube soon, as well as Burlington Cable Access Television.

For more information about Shawn Hansen’s Comedy Corner, go to [www.shawnhansen.weebly.com](http://www.shawnhansen.weebly.com). For The Wilbur Theatre, go to [www.thewilburtheatre.com](http://www.thewilburtheatre.com).



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)



FELDMAN: FROM 47

PROBATION: FROM 33

she said it was a way to become a more outgoing, confident person.

“In the acting world, I think before the Zohan, Fashion House is the first pilot that I ever tried out for,” said Feldman. “My agent said to me, pilot season is coming up, and can I send you out, and I was just kind of laughing, because living in Los Angeles, you always get business cards from all kinds of people trying to discover you.”

Growing up in California, Feldman thought being an actress wasn’t realistic because she didn’t have an interest in it at the time.

“We filmed 65 episodes in 13 weeks, and that was kind of like acting boot camp to me,” said Feldman. “It was really hard to film that much three months, but I think I can do anything now at this point.”

Getting involved in the show biz came a feeding frenzy of press. Feldman had a layout with Stuff Magazine as Adam Sandler saw the Feldman name.

Happy Madison Productions called Feldman’s agency, and she ended up going into casting for the role.

“This lady, and I hit it off, and said, ‘You know, I would like you to meet Adam right now, if you don’t mind.’ I said sure. He was sitting in an editing room, and we ended up chatting,” said Feldman, explaining that Sandler wanted her to play a Israeli girl instead of a Palestinian. Feldman said she could because that is where her family grew up.

With Hebrew being Feldman’s first language, she ended up auditioning, getting the part, and felt it was a good experience. Working alongside Sandler, Feldman said he is not a typical Hollywood person.

“It’s a family over there, so his wife, and children come to the set to visit, and he’s just really sweet, he’s almost shy,” said Feldman. “I think a lot of people in this business even though they seem really funny, or a girl seems like a Diva, they’re not really like that in real life. They’re just playing a character, so he’s just really kind of sweet, and quiet.”

In Feldman’s latest experience behind the camera, she appeared in the Visa Black Card commercial.

Acting as a female James Bond, Feldman said her character rode a motorcycle, did crazy stunts as she had to jump out of a helicopter into the Pacific ocean.

“I didn’t really realize what I was getting myself into, but I said yes, and I was ready for an adventure, and something new,” said Feldman. “I ended up getting the job, and really jumped out of a helicopter in a bikini into the really freezing cold Pacific Ocean. I think it’s some of the coolest footage that I have ever.”

Shooting the beginning of the commercial at a mansion worth \$30 million that was Tony Stark’s house in Iron Man in San Diego, the director needed an all black yacht, so flew out of the country to fulfill that need.

“We had to go to Monaco, South of France area to shoot that,” said Feldman. “It was a really cool experience, and I hope I can get a Bond type of role now after that.”

For more information about Feldman, go to [www.donnafeldman.net](http://www.donnafeldman.net). To see the Black Card commercial, go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=wit9LNEc6MQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wit9LNEc6MQ).

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 Minuteman.” To get in touch with sports journalist Shawn Hansen of The Valley Patriot, email him at [smharticle@gmail.com](mailto:smharticle@gmail.com)



multitude of people, as many as 38, who did nothing to help.

It gave rise to the notion of a “bystander effect,” a response explained by social scientists on a “diffusion of responsibility.”

In a sense, this same “diffusion of responsibility” haunts Debbie as well, although she survived her attacker, and no longer fears him because of her age.

Twelve years after Genovese’s murder, and 250 miles to the north, an anonymous hero responded to Debbie’s screams by pulling Potter off of her, by luring him away and enabling her to run to a nearby house, over a rock wall, to the front step where a resident opened the door, took one look at her, slammed it shut and walked away.

Which was somewhere between unforgiveable and understandable; here was a 16-year old girl hunched in the doorway panting and crying, dirty, in shock and disheveled, bleeding from everywhere and trying to stanch her dangling ear, not exactly primped for Picture Day at school.

She banged until it reopened. Police arrived. She spent three weeks in the hospital. Potter spent five years in jail. Then he got out and attacked another young girl. Did more time in jail.

Got sent to Bridgewater. On release, got picked up by another Level Three sex offender with whom he lived until finding a place of his own.

Moved out to Bullhead City.

Google him, see the house on the edge of the desert, the deserted side of a dense neighborhood full of families, a bike ride from Potter’s house to two other states.

<http://az.gov/app/sows/SowsOffenders.xhtml?sowsOffendersId=048919&orderS=name+asc&orderD=name+asc&cid=57763>

Anyway, Debbie just thought everyone should know.

Jeff Blanchard is a writer on Cape Cod-[jeffreysblanchard@msn.com](mailto:jeffreysblanchard@msn.com)

Laurie Myers is a resident of Chelmsford and the president of Community VOICES, a victims’ advocacy organization. [lmeyers@communityvoices.net](mailto:lmeyers@communityvoices.net)





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What victims and their advocates learned a long time ago is that sex offenders operate in networks, a much more communal affair than the stereo-typical image of a loner who stays in his elderly mother’s basement apartment at the end of a cul-de-sac in a house with the shades always drawn.

These networks grow from jail and from treatment centers such as Bridgewater, from organizations such as NAMBLA and the black market for hard core porn. Offenders know one another, they know who to hire to maintain their innocence and who will testify as to their dangerousness, or lack thereof.

In no time they know the system inside and out, not just the courts and the jails, but the prosecutors and judges whose focus on justice seems sharper for the guy who runs over a duck than for the guy who rapes the child who is too young to testify.

It complicates things for victims and others who advocate for greater public safety that so many people are in jail who shouldn’t be. You never know whether rampant public corruption or intellectual progressivism is to blame for the tragedy of the moment.

Thus, victims often take it upon themselves to fight the fight, as with Debbie and her political activism.

Her memories of 1976 are never far away. It was her 16th year, the same year Elton John had the hit song Someone Saved My Life Tonight, as if she is walking proof, her neck scars, various disfigurements, and the recurring mental images of a horror show that began with a walk in the woods on a hot summer day, taking a shortcut to a swimming hole...his hand over her mouth, the other one grabbing her body and then slashing, stabbing, molesting and assaulting and slashing some more until her screams were heard.

But for the involvement of the passerby, a stranger just walking along, who heard the screams and responded immediately, Debbie could have become another Kitty Genovese, the Queens, NY, woman whose middle-of-the-March-night, 1964 abduction, murder, robbery and rape, in that order, was witnessed at various times by a

Joyce, were invited to attend the Hall of Fame ceremony after Hilgendorf won a contest called “Bruce’s Biggest Fan.”

“The contest was that you had to submit a story about how you were a fan of Bruce, and the winner got two passes to go with Bruce to the Hall of Fame (Ceremony)” said Hilgendorf. “I called in and I told a story about I was a fan of Bruce during the Lou Marcell days. That impressed him enough to tell me that it would be an honor for us to join him at the ceremony.”

Family First - When he is not on-air, Arnold resides in his hometown of Lynn, at the home that he shares with his wife of forty-nine years, Lenora. Ironically enough, it was the radio that brought these two together.


“I met my wife, when I was on the air,” said Arnold. “I was doing a show, and this girl called up and she wanted to see the station. I showed her around, and then I asked her to the ice capades. And the rest is history. We have two daughters, six grandchildren, and now one great-

grandchild. Of course, I am very proud of all of them.”

His family also includes the entire staff from WCCM. During his induction speech, Arnold told current WCCM staff members in attendance to stand up and take a bow, which once again showed his true character as a man who puts others before himself.

One of the great joys in my career is waking up every Wednesday morning, coming into the WCCM studio with my father Ron, along with fellow hosts Tom Debenedictus, Frank DiMaria and Criff Critch, and hearing Bruce Arnold’s jubilant morning greeting. He takes pride in his job, he never complains, and always maintains a cool head. Which is a hard thing to do in media. Yet, it’s Bruce who is the consummate professional, and he is someone who we could all learn from.

*David Morrison is a freelance writer and radio host. He is the host of the David Morrison/ERA Morrison Real Estate Show, every Wed. from 9-10 AM on WCCM 1110 AM.*



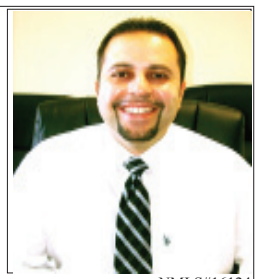
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# GOLD STAR MOTHERS: From page 1

thank them all.

The name "Gold Star Mothers" comes from the custom of families of servicemen hanging a banner called a service

flag in their windows. The service flag has a star on it for each family member currently serving in the military. Living servicemen are represented by a blue star and those who have lost their

lives are represented by a gold star. As you drive around, you can see these banners hanging in the windows throughout the community.

According to its website, in 1928, 28 mothers met in Washington D.C. and established the National Organization, American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Locally, there is the Merrimack Valley Military Family Support Group.

In honor of Gold Star Mother's Day, Eagle East Aviation sponsored a fundraiser at the Lawrence Airport called "Fly for freedom." Helping to coordinate the event was North Andover Veteran's

Affairs Director Ed Mitchell(Ret) USN.

There was food, entertainment and airplane rides for .15 cents per pound. All proceeds went to benefit the Merrimack Valley Military family Support Group and the food pantry at the Veterans

Northeast Outreach Center.

This year, U.S. Senator Scott Brown was the keynote speaker. Major General Carter, the Adjutant General of the

Massachusetts National Guard, along with State Senator Stephen Baddour, North Andover Selectman Dan Lanen and Lawrence Veteran's Affairs Director, Francisco Urena(Ret) USMC, also spoke. Urena read

off the names of the 36 local military killed and Baddour gave the closing address.

Baddour said, "We often thank our veteran's and servicemen and women for their patriotism and dedication; but, rarely do we have the opportunity to thank the families of members of our

armed forces. There are over 1,100 Massachusetts National Guard troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and tens of thousands of Massachusetts natives in the Armed Forces. For every one of these soldiers courageously defending our country and our freedoms, there is a mother, father, sibling, spouse, or child at home

praying for their safe return. With Courage and Character, our soldiers put their lives on the line defending our liberties; and so many make the ultimate sacrifice for their country. But the mothers, spouses, and family members of these



soldiers also make a significant sacrifice. Gold Star Mothers' Day is upon us, and it is with pride and honor that I thank each of our Gold Star Mothers' for their dedication to our nation, our freedom, and our future. All military mothers must share their sons and daughters with the Country, and the sacrifice of our servicemen and women is also your sacrifice. Thank you."

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell, (Ret) US Army and Vice Chair of the Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, said "the event was somber, but at the same time, family members of deceased service members were clearly comforted by being together." There was also a wonderful display of the portraits of the fallen soldiers by artist Gina Johnson.

As a result of legislation recently passed into law, family members were presented with the "Massachusetts Medal of Liberty", symbolic of the Purple Heart Medal given to members of our Armed Forces.

This recent legislation provides Massachusetts Service Members a "Welcome Home Bonus" for combat tours as well credit for transferring certain military skills to civilian occupations. Family members and Service Members needing additional information should contact their local Veteran Services Officer.

Since the beginning of Operation Iraqi

Freedom, there have been over 20 Gold Star Mothers in the Merrimack Valley, including Barbara Gallagher of North Andover, who's son LCpl. Sean Gallagher was killed in Beirut on October 23, 1983. On that fateful day in Beirut, a truck loaded with explosives crashed through the U.S. Marine Corps barracks, killing 241 United States military

personnel, including Sean. Barbara Gallagher received one of the Medals of Liberty.

It takes a very special mother to say good bye to a child to go off to war. A mother sharing her child with all of America

to defend and protect all of our freedoms. A true patron and hero in our midst.

The Valley Patriot wishes to thank all the mothers who allowed their sons and daughters to fight for the freedom of this country and tragically lost their sons and daughters to the perils of war.

We also want to thank all of the blue star and gold star families for the bravery and sacrifices of their children.



*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*



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## Citizenship has its responsibilities

John Lenotte  
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

With American citizenship comes the responsibility to vote in our elections. At least that what I was taught when I went to school many years ago. Too often this is taken for granted. It was only about 100 years ago that women were given the right to vote. The American Revolution was about self governance. Our founding fathers struggled with setting up the rights and responsibilities of the government and of citizens.

Since the original Tea Party and the shots fired at Lexington and Concord, men and women have been making sacrifices to ensure our liberty. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice. And we have troops today, and their families that continue to make sacrifices. Yet the turnout on election day is very poor. We have the lowest turnout of most nations. America is envied around the world for our way of life. But we take for granted one of the fundamentals, the right to vote.

There is much at stake in this election. The direction our elected officials will take depends on how we vote. And that is the key, for us to VOTE. If you are unhappy with how our state and national government officials are doing, then you need to vote. If you are happy with a particular elected official, then they need your support. They need your vote.

I do suggest that the media ads be ignored. Become an informed voter. There is a lot of information on the internet about how our elected officials have voted and conducted themselves.

And there are debates that are televised. This is what I suggest be looked at to determine where they stand. And you can then agree or disagree with them. Think about what issues are important to

you.

Let us remember that our democracy is one of the people, for the people, by the people. We the people have to be participants in this process! Will you be one of the complainers who criticizes constantly but does not vote? Or will you be an action oriented participant in this important process. If you do not vote does that mean you do not care? It would seem to be one interpretation.

Having interacted with some of our elected officials at all levels ( local, state, national ) over the last 2 years, I have seen first hand the impact of communicating with them. They want to know what you think. What better message than getting out on November 4th and voting. This election is as critical as the last presidential election because the balance in Congress will be impacted. And the state elections are important also.

Remember, we in Massachusetts were at the forefront of the American Revolution in 1775. The influence of John and Sam Adams, John Hancock and others was heard across the land. Let us continue the tradition of making our voices heard. Whoever you support deserves your vote. But more important is that each and every vote counts and sends a message. And do not be naïve, the world watches and wonders why the turnout is so low in the greatest democracy on this earth.

See you at the voting booth! May God protect the troops who serve to keep us free.



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](mailto:JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net)

## Veterans in MA can receive free legal advice November 17

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Veterans who have legal concerns or problems can call toll free from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to speak to volunteer MBA lawyers. If a caller gets a busy signal, they are asked to hang up and try again.

The Veterans Dial-A-Lawyer is provided at no charge as a public service of the MBA with the financial support of the Massachusetts Bar Foundation, the philanthropic partner of the MBA. The MBA acknowledges its partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services and thanks them for their important role in the success of the program.

Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit

organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.

In honor of its 100th anniversary, the MBA will be celebrating a century of service to the public, the profession and the rule of law throughout its 2010-11 association year.

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## MURANO: FROM PAGE 33

come into the world with a propensity to speak and to believe in something higher than what the five senses can experience; beyond what could ever be known empirically. Religious belief remains until or unless we are persuaded out of it; and this usually occurs today at the time of adolescence when the loud voice of cynicism in the media and academia make their pitch.

Every human propensity has an external object that satisfies it: hunger is a sign that there is food for the body, thirst that there is water, a mind that thinks and conceives ideas points to an immaterial dimension to the world, a heart that seeks perfect love is a sign there is a perfect Lover that will fulfill it, and hope for a happily-ever-after found in literature throughout history is a sign that there is a heaven. All of these desires are common and universal springing innately from human nature, and each points to an external reality that satisfies them.

Let's look at the debate's main question: Which holds the greater hope for humanity? Secular humanism claims that we can create a better and more peaceful existence without God. Let's see if this seems true. They would claim that religion has been the cause of many wars. I would say people are the cause of wars and religion has often been used as an excuse. Humanist utopias have been tried and failed, and in the past century the humanist man-centered movements of Communism and Nazism created the greatest number of killings in human history.

On the smaller scale secular humanists

would live their lives for ordinary goals that everyone does - developing talents, cultivating friends, loving one's spouse, caring for children, contributing to the community, etc. Mixed in with all this is the usual tragedy, heartbreak, sickness, suffering, and death. If we're lucky we may have eight or nine decades of this before we die. Then our body decays and within a couple of generations no one on earth will remember us.

Christian hope on the other hand is tied to eternity and eternity is tied to time. Life would be meaningless otherwise. It recognizes God who wants to help us through the injustice and pain we have caused ourselves so that those innate desires can be fully satisfied in a never-ending joy. The New Testament reminds us that all things work for good for those who love God; and that eye has not seen nor ear has heard the wonders that God has on store for those who love Him... where every tear will be wiped away and there will be no more death or mourning, weeping or pain, for this old order will have passed away.

So which of the two worldviews offers the greater hope? You make the call.



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)

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FORECLOSURE: FROM PAGE 35

DR. RUSTUM:FROM PAGE 37

Barton is a title insurance underwriter with CATIC in its Eastern Massachusetts office. She is also a member of the Real Estate Bar Association of Massachusetts, serving on its Title Standards Committee and Commercial Real Estate Finance Committee; a member of the Women’s Bar Association of Massachusetts, serving on its Membership Committee; and a member of the Merrimack Valley Bar Association. Barton lectures for Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, the MBA and REBA. She lives in Natick.

Vice Chair Laurel H. Siegel, Chair of the MBA Property Law Section Council, Siegel has practiced commercial and residential real estate law for 15 years. Prior to starting her solo practice in 2008, she was a principal at Siegel, Wagner & Swartz LLC in Boston, where she was the managing member of the real estate department. Previously, Siegel practiced at Kotin, Crabtree & Strong LLC. She was one of the real estate “Rising Stars” in Law & Politics Magazine’s Super Lawyers listings in 2006 and 2007. Siegel is a member of Real Estate Bar Association and serves on its legislative committee. The Medford resident is on the Board of Directors of the Medford Square Market and a member of the Medford Chamber of Commerce.

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this group of drugs can inhibit bone breakdown, preserve bone mass, and even increase bone density in your spine and hip, reducing the risk of fractures. Examples of these medications include alendronate (Fosamax), Boniva, risedronate (Actonel) and Reclast.

Bisphosphonates may be especially beneficial for men, young adults and people with steroid-induced osteoporosis. They’re also used to prevent osteoporosis in people who require long-term steroid treatment for a disease such as asthma or arthritis.

Side effects, which can be severe, include nausea, abdominal pain, difficulty swallowing and the risk of an inflamed esophagus or esophageal ulcers. Bisphosphonates that can be taken once a week or once a month may cause fewer stomach problems. If you can’t tolerate oral bisphosphonates, your doctor may recommend periodic intravenous infusions of bisphosphonate preparations.

There have also been reports of serious side effects with bisphosphonates, such as osteonecrosis of the jaw, irregular heartbeats and visual disturbances. Discuss the potentials risks and benefits of these medications with your doctor.

\* Raloxifene (Evista). This medication mimics estrogen’s beneficial effects on bone density in postmenopausal women, without some of the risks associated with estrogen, such as increased risk of uterine cancer and, possibly, breast cancer. Hot flashes are a common side effect of raloxifene, and you shouldn’t use this drug if you have a history of blood clots. This drug isn’t currently recommended for use in men, though a small study found that it may also be helpful for preserving bone density in men.

\* Calcitonin. A hormone produced by your thyroid gland, calcitonin reduces bone resorption and may slow bone loss. It may also prevent spine fractures, and may even provide some pain relief from compression fractures. It’s usually administered as a nasal spray and may cause nasal irritation in some people who use it, but it’s also available as an injection. Because calcitonin isn’t as potent as bisphosphonates, it’s normally reserved for people who can’t take other drugs.

\* Calcium: Calcium and vitamin D are needed to increase bone mass in addition to estrogen replacement therapy.

A daily intake of 1,200-1,500 mg (through diet and supplements) is recommended. Take calcium supplements in doses of less than 600 mg. Your body can only absorb so much at one time. The best way may be to take one supplement with breakfast and another with dinner.

A daily intake of 800-1,000 IU of vitamin D is needed to increase bone mass.

\* Hormone therapy

Estrogen, especially when started soon after menopause, can help maintain bone density. However, the use of hormone therapy can increase your risk of blood clots, endometrial cancer, breast cancer and possibly heart disease. Because of concerns about its safety and because other treatments are available, hormone therapy is generally not a first-choice treatment anymore.

\* Physical therapy

In addition to medications or hormones, physical therapy programs may help you build bone strength and improve your posture, balance and muscle strength, making falls less likely.


\* Prevention

Building strong bones during childhood and adolescence can be the best defense against developing osteoporosis later. The average woman has acquired 98% of her skeletal mass by 30 years of age.

There are four steps to prevent osteoporosis. No one step alone is enough to prevent osteoporosis:

- 1- Eat a balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D.
- 2- Engage in weight-bearing exercise.
- 3- Adopt a healthy lifestyle with no smoking or excessive alcohol intake.
- 4- Take medication to improve bone density when appropriate.

Sources: 1- Osteoporosis National Foundation, 2- Mayo Clinic, 3- WebMD



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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OZZY PROPERTIES: FROM PAGE 6

fied in the Clean Energy roadmap.

“Ozzy Properties is truly one of the pioneering companies in the Merrimack Valley, when it comes to energy efficiency and has taken the lead in assisting other companies as host of the Chamber’s energy conferences these past years,” said Joseph J. Bevilacqua, president and CEO of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce. “In recognition of this effort and of their ongoing interest to be energy efficient, we chose Ozzy Properties as the first program recipient.”

Daniel P. Leary, president and founder of Nexamp, lauded Ozzy Properties for its commitment to energy reduction. “Ozzy Properties has been a leader in clean energy initiatives and we’re excited to assist them in their ongoing sustainability efforts,” said Leary.

In June 2008, Ozzy Properties’ Osgood Landing facility in North Andover earned the distinction of having the most solar power of any privately-owned photovoltaic array in Massachusetts. At that time, Nexamp installed two solar arrays on Osgood Landing’s roof.

Osgood Landing is also home to a growing number of green technology

companies, including Nexamp’s main logistics center; PanelClaw, Inc., which develops mounting solutions for photovoltaic modules; Baystate Biofuels, a renewable energy company; and CPower, Inc., a top energy management services company.

Osgood Landing was formerly occupied by Lucent Technologies. Ozzy Properties acquired the facility in 2003 and continues to redevelop the property for multi-tenant use.

About Ozzy Properties, Inc:Ozzy Properties, Inc., formed in 1994 in Andover, Mass., is a premier property manager in the Merrimack Valley region of Massachusetts. Ozzy currently has 2.5 million square feet of office space and 100 residential units under management in the Massachusetts communities of Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, Boston and Methuen. Ozzy’s strength lies in its ability to significantly improve underutilized, distressed or foreclosed properties, and then return them to the rental market at aggressive rates. For more information, visit [www.ozzyproperties.com](http://www.ozzyproperties.com).





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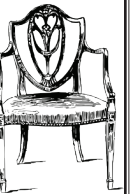
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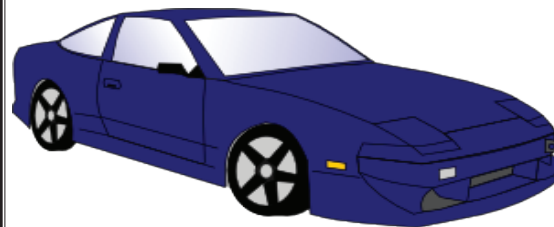
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